

# THE GREEN WIRE

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## **Sen. Green Files Bill to Bar Governmental Lobbying**

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Sen. Timothy Green, D-Spanish Lake, introduced legislation that would bar the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority and the Greater St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority from hiring lobbyists.

“Taxpayer funded governmental agencies, especially those led by term limited political appointees, should not be allowed to spend tax payer dollars lobbying the Legislature or other branch of state government.” said Sen. Green.

In 2005, the Center for Public Integrity gathered the total number of lobbyists in each state and divided it by the total number of legislators. Missouri (1065 lobbyists:197 legislators) meets the nationwide average; there are five lobbyists for every state legislator.

The Jackson County Sports Complex Authority oversees operations of Royals Stadium and Arrowhead Stadium and was formed in 1996 to study location, feasibility and design of sports and recreational facilities for Jackson County. These duties include the acquisition, construction, design and funding of sports facilities, parking, concessions and other related facilities.

The Greater St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority oversees financing, design and construction of the domed stadium/convention center expansion in accordance with state statute, by-laws and bond indentures.

“The Center for Public Integrity’s State Lobby Disclosure Report Card ranks Missouri 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation. Some of the more egregious loopholes include: not required to report compensation/salary on spending report; campaign contributions allowed and not required to be disclosed on spending report/allowed during session; State does not have auditing authority over lobby registrations/spending reports; and a "cooling off" period required before legislators can register as lobbyists is not on the books.” said Sen. Green.

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