

THE GREEN WIRE

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Senate GOP increases public debt by \$120 Million for prison

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Republican-controlled Senate voted to increase Missouri’s debt by \$120 million on Tuesday, despite efforts by Sen. Tim Green (D-Spanish Lake) to call attention to the expenditure and stop the further public indebtedness.

“I believe the public should know that the Senate voted to sink our state further into debt.” Sen. Green said. “We continue to mortgage our state’s future by spending money which we really cannot afford.”

Sen. Green’s amendment to a facilities management bill (SB 904) was defeated on a voice vote, so the cumulative cap for the Board of Public Buildings bond projects would be raised from \$825 million to \$945 million total. The state first began issuing bonds from this source in 1966. The additional \$120 million will be used to replace and expand the women’s correctional facility at Chillicothe.

“I have no doubt that the prison expansion is needed, but there are many things in my personal life which I need and cannot afford,” Sen. Green noted. “I feel a strong responsibility to Missouri’s taxpayers to adhere to a tight budget and not spend against future generations, especially when we find it necessary to take funding away from programs which seek to assist our most vulnerable citizens.”

Total public debt is over \$2.5 Billion, not including interest, with the taxpayer repaying over \$44 Million in 2006 alone. To become debt free, every Missourian would have to pay \$431.00 this year.
