



*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2006

## **Missouri Senate Works to Increase Penalties for Sex Offenders and Create a Child-Safe Internet** *Senate Bill Better Protects Missouri Children from Sexual Predators*

---

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate today gave first round approval to advance a comprehensive bill that creates mandatory sentences for violent child sexual offenders and improves prevention measures including creating a Child-Safe Internet. The bill’s primary sponsor, Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee’s Summit, said the mandatory sentences are needed to make sure sexual predators are unable to become repeat offenders.

“With mandatory sentences for the most heinous and violent offenders we can make sure they will never harm another child again,” Bartle said. “This bill also makes sure that if these offenders are ever released that they will undergo lifetime monitoring using ankle bracelets.”

The measure, Senate Bill 588, creates a 25 year minimum prison sentence for anyone who commits forcible rape or sodomy against a child less than 12 years old.

Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, said prevention is also a key in protecting Missouri children from sexual offenders.

“We also want to make sure our kids are never hurt in the first place,” Gibbons said. “With this bill, sex offenders’ photos and information will be updated on the state’s sex offender registry giving parents and employers the opportunity to be better informed to protect their kids.”

Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, introduced the portion of the bill that creates a grant program to help local law enforcement catch predators trying to lure children on the Internet.

“One in five children are approached on the Internet with unwanted advances,” Loudon said. “Missouri needs more local programs that can help catch these sick people preying on our children.”

Internet companies will also be required to cooperate with law enforcement through warrants in cases of child pornography and sexual solicitation. The measure also sets up a Toll-Free Sexual Offender Hotline to be run by the Missouri Highway Patrol.

###