



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Frank Barnitz Works to Keep Taxpayer Money from Funding Sports Businesses

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, during debate last night on the floor of the Missouri Senate, attempted to prohibit the Missouri Development Finance Board from granting tax credits to sports stadiums or sports authorities.

Sen. Barnitz offered an amendment on Senate Bill 718, which modifies the authority of the Development Finance Board to grant tax credits. Although this amendment failed, Sen. Barnitz is sponsoring SB 923, which precludes any professional athletic team or sports authority from receiving any funding from the Development Finance Board. That bill has been referred to the Financial, Governmental Relations, and Elections Committee.

“While I recognize the benefits of the income from these facilities, there is an overwhelming groundswell of public opinion that the owners of sports teams should fund their own projects,” Sen. Barnitz said. “Missourians continue to think that if stadiums are built or improvements are made, funding should come directly from the owners of those sports teams.”

If the owners of professional sports teams and/or representatives of the sports authorities would like to use state funds for their projects, Sen. Barnitz welcomes them to come to the State Capitol so that a legitimate capital improvement project can be presented to the General Assembly, instead of relying on a board to questionably grant those entities tax credits.

“To circumvent the Legislature and the voters of Missouri to try and get this funding in place is wrong,” said Sen. Barnitz. “We have to let our legislators know that Missourians don’t want their tax dollars spent in that manner.”

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Audio information: Senator Frank Barnitz has audio clips of his commentary on the defeated amendment on his website, <http://www.senate.mo.gov/06info/members/mem16.htm>. An earlier press release (sent via e-mail to radio stations in the 16th Senatorial District) included three sound files. If you did not receive these clips, please contact the Senator’s office.