



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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For Immediate Release:
June 29, 2006

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Sen. Frank Barnitz Selected to Serve on Several Interim Committees

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, this week was appointed to several interim committees by Sen. President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood. Interim committees are special legislative committees that meet to study issues during the summer and fall months when the legislature is not in session. Sen. Barnitz was appointed to the following interim committees:

- **The Senate Interim Committee on the Cost of a College Education** will study the state's role in funding a college education for students, consider alternative funding structures, as well as examine the mechanism by which tuition rates are set at Missouri institutions of higher learning.
- **The Senate Interim Committee on Pandemic Preparedness** will evaluate the state's preparedness along with state and local contingency plans with regard to a pandemic or epidemic, study the need for coordinated-response plans on local, state, and regional levels, and examine the role of health-care providers.
- **The Senate Interim Committee on Certificate of Need** will examine options that would limit or repeal the application of certificate of need requirements for hospitals and other health-care facilities and the potential consequences, evaluate the impact of physician ownership and self-referral in health care, and evaluate the effect of the current certificate of need law on consumer choice.

"Because each of these committees deals with a current issue that affects Missourians on multiple levels, I am excited to be involved in the first step of the legislative process," Sen. Barnitz said.

Over the next several months, these five-member committees will hold public hearings at various locations throughout the state. All three committees will issue a report to the General Assembly by January 26, 2007.

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