



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Cauthorn
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 426
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
PHONE (573) 751-6858
TDD (573) 751-3969
FAX (573) 751-6900
EMAIL john_cauthorn@senate.state.mo.us

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Contact: Steven Cowen
(573) 751-6858

PRESS RELEASE

Speed Trap Communities ‘Get Ticketed’ by Missouri Senate

Cauthorn’s Bill Clamps Down on Ticketing Abuse

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Cities becoming known as speed traps are one step closer to being curtailed. Yesterday, the Missouri Senate passed SB 951 which tightens the limits on the share of a community’s budget that can come from speeding tickets.

Sen. John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, sponsored the measure. Curryville has long been known as a speed trap city. Eolia has recently joined the ranks as a hot spot. Both are in the 18th Senate District.

“These communities are earning a bad reputation for themselves,” said Cauthorn. “We are all aware of what Macks Creek did years ago, and these towns are becoming today’s Macks Creek.”

Under current law, a city, town or village making more than 45 percent of its total revenue from fines for traffic violations send all excess revenues to the Department of Revenue. SB 951 lowers the threshold to 35 percent.

“The primary responsibility of law enforcement is to enforce laws and protect the public’s safety – not to generate revenue,” said Cauthorn.

Eolia has garnered national attention as a new speed trap point in the country. USA Today recently wrote an article about the small town’s speed trap.

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri’s 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6858. You can also visit his web page by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.

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USA Today Article can be found at: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-03-25-speed-trap_x.htm