



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 227
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

John Griesheimer
26th Senate District

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Contact: Chris Sutherland
(573) 751-3678

Governor Signs Bill Making License-Renewal Process Easier for Senior Citizens

JEFFERSON CITY— Gov. Matt Blunt this week signed into law legislation sponsored by Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, making it easier for senior citizens to show proof of lawful presence when renewing their driver's licenses.

Senate Bill 1001 includes an emergency clause, so the new law became effective with the governor's signature. Now Missouri citizens who are currently 65 or older and do not have a birth certificate to substantiate lawful presence when renewing their driver's license can use a previously issued Missouri driver's license, instruction permit or non-driver's license.

"The lawful-presence requirement was part of the Show-Me Proof program that Missouri established in line with a federal mandate following the 9/11 attacks," Griesheimer said. "Although the program was created with the best of patriotic intentions, this requirement has been an obstacle for many law-abiding senior citizens wanting to get their licenses renewed and has also significantly drained state resources."

Griesheimer said many of his constituents do not have birth certificates because they were born in other states, at home or before birth certificates were established. If they do have one, many are laced with inaccuracies, which bog down the license-renewal process even more and create a cumbersome caseload for the Department of Revenue and the Department of Health's Division of Vital Records.

The legislation also allows those younger than 65 who have had a driver's license for at least 15 years, but do not have the necessary documents to prove lawful presence, to apply for a one-year driver's-license extension for a nominal fee.

"I feel better knowing that many of my constituents will have fewer hassles in their daily lives because of this measure," Griesheimer said. "That is what lawmaking is about — writing new laws and fixing already-existing laws to improve the lives of Missourians."

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