



MISSOURI SENATE

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DNA Legislation Passed in 2004 Leads to Arrest in 2001 Cold Case

JEFFERSON CITY—Legislation that Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, helped advance in 2004 has led to the arrest of a man accused of committing a violent crime in Cape Girardeau five years ago.

The 2004 law, which Crowell handled in the House of Representatives, expanded the DNA Profiling System by requiring the state to keep DNA samples of all Missouri felony offenders. Previously, the program sampled only certain violent or sexual offenders.

Because of the all-felon testing program, Ontario Reed, 23, this week was charged with forcible rape and forcible sodomy of a Cape Girardeau woman who was 22 years old at the time. Reed, who was in prison for an unrelated robbery charge in another county, was not a suspect in the rape-sodomy case until the Cape Girardeau Police Department matched his DNA to that of the 2001 assailant's.

"This heinous crime might never have been solved if law enforcement didn't have access to the suspect's DNA," Crowell said. "When this alleged violent offender goes to trial, the evidence will speak for itself and the courts will be able to administer justice accordingly."

Since the all-felon testing program was initiated in 2005, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of cold cases law enforcement has been able to solve. In the past year and a half, the expanded system has resulted in more than 400 positive matches that would not have been discovered under previous guidelines.

"The older system would not have produced these arrests, and many of these criminals could have been back on the streets," Crowell said. "The results of this law are concrete examples of legislators working with state and local law enforcement to keep our communities safe."

According to the Cape Girardeau County Prosecutor's Office, Reed will face trial in Cape Girardeau county on these new charges.

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