



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 428
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

Kevin Engler
3rd Senate District

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Contact: Jarad Falk
(573) 756-5572

Sen. Kevin Engler's Volunteer Firefighter Job Protection Act Advances in Senate

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, today announced the Missouri Senate has approved his legislation protecting the jobs of volunteer firefighters. Senate Bill 47 creates the Volunteer Firefighter Job Protection Act, which prohibits businesses from firing employees who volunteer as firefighters or miss work due to emergency calls.

“Missourians who volunteer as emergency responders are putting their lives at risk — they should not have to do the same with their jobs,” Engler said. “Volunteer firefighters play a vital role in protecting the lives and property of Missouri citizens, and we should recognize their contributions.”

An employee fired in violation of the bill may file a civil suit against the employer in violation of the act and seek reinstatement of the employee's previous position, fringe benefits, back wages and seniority. In addition, if the employee prevails in the action, the employee is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and related costs. Employers are still allowed to deduct hours missed by the employee from the employee's compensation, and employees must also make a reasonable effort to notify their employers before they miss work.

SB 47 will now move to the House of Representatives for consideration, and if approved there, it will be sent to the governor to be signed into law.

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