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JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Kevin Engler's Bill to Protect Missourians Right to Bear Arms Passes General Assembly

JEFFERSON CITY- A bill protecting citizens' 2nd Amendment rights during times of a disaster passed the House today and will soon be signed into law. Senate Bill 257, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, upholds Missourians' right to bear arms in to order protect themselves and their property during emergency situations.

"Disasters create a time of crisis when law enforcement is stretched thin and the possibility of looting and other dangerous situations are possible," said Sen. Engler. "If such horrible events were to strike Missouri, it is important that families have the right to protect themselves and their homes."

The bill, also called the Missouri Disaster Recovery Protection Act, was prompted by the actions of the New Orleans Police Superintendent after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the area. At that time, the police confiscated the firearms of New Orleans residents after declaring the area was under a state of emergency. This left many of the citizens with no way to protect their homes, property, and themselves from looters, thieves and other criminals.

SB 257 prohibits any state or local government from restricting the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transportation, storage, display, or use of firearms or ammunition during a state emergency.

"Such tragic and traumatic times are not an excuse for the revocation of 2nd Amendment rights," said Sen. Engler. "In actuality, such disasters and emergencies are the very occasions when those rights are so important."

Gov. Matt Blunt is expected to sign the bill into law on Friday during the NRA convention in St. Louis.

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