



## MISSOURI SENATE

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# Senator Engler's Volunteer Firefighter Job Protection Act Moves to Governor

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, today announced that Senate Bill 47 has been approved by both the Senate and the House. The legislation, which creates the Volunteer Firefighter Job Protection Act, will now go to the governor for his signature.

“The firefighters in our communities volunteer to put themselves in dangerous situations for our benefit,” said Sen. Engler. “During times of emergency, we need these brave men and women to be available without fear of losing their jobs.”

Senate Bill 47 prohibits employers from firing employees for joining a volunteer fire department or for missing work while performing in that capacity. The legislation also requires the employee to make reasonable effort to give notice to the employer and allows the employer to deduct missed hours from wages.

Volunteer firefighters that do lose their jobs can file a civil suit to get their jobs back, reinstate benefits or seniority, and receive back wages. Such suits need to be filed within a year after employment is terminated. The firefighter could also have the employer pay court costs if the suit is won.

“Firefighters do more than fight fires. They also serve as first responders and rescue personnel,” said Sen. Engler. “They are out there saving lives, and now they have a guarantee that their jobs will be safe too.”

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