



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Governor to Sign Provisions Allowing Lawsuits Against Child Pornographers

Key Provisions of Sen. Loudon's Bill to Become Law

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, is pleased Governor Matt Blunt has announced he will sign [House Bill 583](#) on Thursday, July 12th. The bill contains portions of Sen. Loudon's Senate Bill 5 that would allow victims of child pornography to go after anyone who tries to profit off the illegal activity.

“The Internet makes a lot of material available for the entire world to see for a very long time,” said Sen. Loudon. “This new law will keep victims of child porn from being victimized again.”

The new law will provide that any person who, while a child or minor, was a victim of child exploitation or child pornography, would be allowed to bring a civil case against those who hurt them. The victim would have 10 years after turning 21 to file the suit, or three years after discovering the offense – whichever is later.

House Bill 583 also guarantees the state Department of Health and Senior Services will pay for forensic exams of certain victims of sexual offenses. In addition, victims of sexual assault or forcible rape will not be required to take polygraph tests or psychological stress evaluator exams as a condition for proceeding with the criminal investigation. Rape crisis centers and their employees would be required to keep their clients' identities confidential, and victims of crimes could keep their confidentiality in public hearings, such as the Board of Parole, by having a proxy deliver their remarks or testify themselves from behind a screen.

“We will be giving our citizens the right to fight back in court against the sick and depraved individuals who try to profit off the exploitation of their victims,” said Sen. Loudon. “This puts the power in the hands of the victims.”

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