



PRESS RELEASE

State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

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SEN. SHOEMYER NAMED TO SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON FUNDING FOR COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICES

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today expressed his appreciation for being selected as a member of the Senate Interim Committee on the Funding for County Sheriff Offices.

Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, created the interim committee to study current funding levels for county sheriff offices across Missouri. The five-member Senate Interim Committee on Funding for County Sheriff Offices will:

- Review current court costs, fees and other funding mechanisms relating to the operation of law enforcement or civil justice-related activities of county Sheriff departments;
- Study the current compensation formulas for deputy sheriffs in Missouri counties;
- Compare compensation of deputy sheriffs across different county classifications in Missouri and neighboring states.

Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, has been named chairman of the interim committee.

“I am honored to have been chosen to serve on this important committee and I look forward to working with my good friend, Chairman Griesheimer,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “One of the largest increases in county budgets has been in law enforcement. We need to ensure the safety of our constituents, and to do that we need to find ways to help the people who dedicate their lives to serving and protecting others.”

Other members of the interim committee include Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter; Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau; and Sen. Ryan McKenna, D-Crystal City.

Sen. Shoemyer says the committee should consider ways to increase the per diem counties receive for housing prisoners. He also notes sheriff’s deputies are among the lowest paid people working in law enforcement.

“I know some deputies are even asked to pay for their own weapons or use their own vehicles to patrol,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “We need to do a better job of supporting our local law enforcement officers.”

The bi-partisan panel will issue a report of their findings for any legislative action to the General Assembly no later than January 1st, 2008.

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