



PRESS RELEASE

State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

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SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON FUNDING FOR COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICES TO MEET IN SHELBYVILLE

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today announced the Senate Interim Committee on the Funding for County Sheriff Offices will meet with local law enforcement officials in Shelbyville, in Shelby County, on October 30.

“I thought it was important for the committee to meet in northeast Missouri to see the challenges many rural districts are having with sheriffs pay and keeping deputies on staff,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “Deputies in 91 of 114 Missouri counties qualify for public assistance, which is a pretty good indication we have a problem.”

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 is:

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

“One of the largest increases in county budgets has been in law enforcement,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “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.”

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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