

# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Jason Crowell  
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## **Senator Crowell's Consumer Protection Legislation Advances**

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JEFFERSON CITY — Legislation drafted and advanced by Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, shielding Missourians from unwanted cell phone and fax solicitations has cleared the Senate as a major component to an omnibus consumer-protection bill.

Currently, only residential landline phone subscribers can block telemarketing calls by registering with the state's "No Call" list, which the Legislature established in 2000. Sen. Crowell's legislation expands the No Call registry by allowing for the inclusion of cell phone and fax numbers. The combined legislation keeps these important additions, for residential instances.

"Cell phone billing works in reverse compared to traditional landline billing; you have to pay for incoming cell calls – whether you want those calls or not," Sen. Crowell noted. "And receiving faxes isn't free, either; there is paper and there are toner cartridges to buy – plus having your fax line tied up. This legislation will provide more screening from unwanted solicitations and save Missourians money in the process."

The measure in its current form also prohibits automated political phone calls to anyone registered on the No Call list. For Missourians not on the list, it requires "robo-calls" to include a "paid for by" statement as part of the call so recipients know what person or group was behind the campaign.

"The last election cycle really brought to light how bothersome these automated calls have become," Sen. Crowell said. "Now there'll be a shield in place from these intrusions, too."

Having cleared the Senate, the measure (SB 49) now awaits similar consideration in the state House of Representatives. Joint legislative approval moves the legislation to the governor's desk.

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