



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Jason Crowell  
27<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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## **Senator Jason Crowell Begins Effort to End Taxation on Social Security**

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JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri State Senate yesterday began debate on a bill that would allow social security benefits to be exempt from income taxation. House Bill 444, sponsored by Rep. Rod Jetton (R-Marble Hill), is being championed in the Senate by Sen. Jason Crowell (R-Cape Girardeau).

“This bill is common sense,” said Crowell. “By taxing social security benefits, we are taxing Missouri’s seniors twice, a practice that is just plain unfair.”

HB 444 phases out state income tax on social security benefits over the next six years beginning in 2007 with a 20 percent exemption. The percentage would continue to increase until 2012, when social security would no longer be taxed. Missouri is one of 15 states that still taxes social security.

“There is no reason why Missouri’s seniors shouldn’t have the same benefits that they would in other states,” said Sen. Crowell. “The income that seniors get from social security pays for medication, food, and other necessities. They deserve every cent.”

Along with Gov. Matt Blunt, the bill has received support from the Association of Retired Missouri State Employees, the Missouri Retired Teachers Association, and the Advisory Council of the Missouri Kidney Program. The bill received House approval in February and is currently being debated on the Senate floor.

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