



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 323  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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

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**Contact: Joe Don McGaugh**  
**(573) 751-2459**

## **Senator Crowell Announces Approval of Bill Ending Taxation on Retirement Benefits**

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JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Jason Crowell (R-Cape Girardeau) announced today that the Legislature has approved a bill to end taxation on Social Security benefits, Social Security disability payments, and certain non-private retirement benefits. The bill will now move onto the governor's desk for his signature. House Bill 444, sponsored by Rep. Rod Jetton (R-Marble Hill), was championed in the Senate by Sen. Crowell.

"Today, we corrected an unfair taxation policy that made Missouri's seniors pay twice," said Sen. Crowell. "This exemption will keep the state out of senior's pockets."

The bill phases in an income tax exemption beginning with 20 percent for the 2007 tax year, eventually becoming a complete 100 percent exemption by the 2012 tax year. Seniors 62 or over and all disabled residents will be eligible for the exemptions. An income threshold of \$85,000 for an individual or \$100,000 for a couple applies. Qualifying non-private retirement benefits include those from plans for firemen and police officers, railroad workers, teachers, as well as veterans and certain federal employees. These pensions will also be exempt from state taxes up to the maximum Social Security benefit (currently \$32,500) by 2012.

"With the costs of fuel and medication rising, many of Missouri's seniors are struggling to make ends meet," said Sen. Crowell. "This bill will allow seniors in this state to keep the pensions and benefits that they deserve and depend on."

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