



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Kevin Engler
3rd Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 428
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:
February 25, 2008

Contact: Mike Lodewegen
(573) 751-3455

Sen. Kevin Engler Seeks to End Patronage System in Fee Office Contracts

JEFFERSON CITY –Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, today (2/25) announced that his bill to modify the process in which contract fee offices are awarded has been heard in the Senate Financial & Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee. Senate Bill 808 would allow contracts to be awarded only to non-profit organizations or for-profit entities that receive the contracts through a competitive bidding process.

“This bill will bring an end to the final remnants of the patronage system, and ensure that these jobs are awarded to those who deserve them and can provide good service,” said Sen. Engler. “Incentives based on political loyalty do not ensure good customer service for citizens.”

In Missouri, there are approximately 180 local fee offices where residents can get driver’s licenses, registration or plates for vehicles, and other motor vehicle transactions. Fee agents, who are selected by the governor and contracted with the Department of Revenue, operate local license offices and make profits from the fee charged by each transaction. Senate Bill 808 would change the process of awarding the fee offices so that only non-profit organizations such as municipalities, school districts, charitable organizations, or for-profit entities that receive the contracts through a competitive bidding process could be contracted.

“In our district we have a few offices who are operated by non-profits but that is not the case in other parts of the state,” said Sen. Engler. “This bill would make sure that these contracts are awarded in the fairest way rather than through a system of political patronage that has been in effect for far too long.”

Committee approval sends the bill to the Senate floor for debate by the full body. Majority approval in the Senate moves the bill to the House.

-END-