



MISSOURI SENATE

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**A Column for the Week
of February 11, 2008**

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Investing in Missouri Projects & People

JEFFERSON CITY — I am pleased to announce the Senate Appropriations Committee this week approved a supplemental bill that would provide additional money to two capital improvement projects in Poplar Bluff – the construction of a community supervision center and the installation of a new water tower at the W.E. Sears Youth Center.

House Bill 2020 would provide \$2 million to the Missouri Department of Corrections for the planning, design and construction of the supervision center. The center, similar to one in Kennett, is a transitional housing unit where offenders are required to work, attend school, receive treatment or fulfill any other obligations ordered by the Missouri Parole Board or the court. The bill would also provide \$428,482 to the Missouri Department of Social Services for the purpose of building a new water tower at the State Division of Youth Services alternative school. The bill is expected to move to the Senate floor for debate in a just a few days.

My Senate Bill 754 received favorable support from several of my Senate colleagues. It widens the safety net of protection for Missouri citizens by requiring juveniles found guilty of certain sex offenses, murder, and other heinous crimes to provide a DNA sample to a state depository. The bill expands the list of offenders whose names are added to the DNA Profiling System — a valuable resource that assists federal, state and local enforcement agencies in investigating serious crimes.

The Senate gave first-round approval to an initiative that would help county sheriff departments receive much-needed funding. Under the plan, sheriff departments would receive an additional \$10 fee for processing any civil summons, writ, subpoena or other court order. The added fee money would go

into a newly created “Deputy Sheriff Salary Supplementation Fund,” which would be used to bolster county deputy sheriff salaries.

Two of my agricultural measures were also considered. Senate Bill 805 expands the definition of the term “agricultural and horticultural property” for property tax purposes to include property used primarily for showing and boarding horses. Also advancing is a resolution that I sponsored calling upon the U. S. Department of Agriculture to add June 1 and September 1 as additional rice reporting dates on the Agricultural Statistics Board calendar. The information, used for farm income estimations and for determining government program payments, is essential to the rice industry so payments more accurately reflect the current market prices and rice stocks.

It was a very busy week in Jefferson City and I pledge to continue working hard to forward these and other initiatives that are important to the citizens of Southeast Missouri.

If you have comments or questions about this week’s column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (573) 751-3859.

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Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.