



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senate Gives Full Support to Sen. Mayer's Proposal to Add Juveniles to the DNA Profiling System

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Rob Mayer's (R-Dexter) proposed legislation that will widen the safety net of protection for Missouri citizens received full Senate support this week. The bill, which works by expanding the state's DNA Profiling System to include the state's worst juvenile offenders, moves to the House for similar consideration.

Senate Bill 754 expands the state's DNA profiling system by requiring juveniles found guilty of certain sex crimes, murder and other heinous crimes to provide a DNA sample to the state's depository. The DNA profiling system is a valuable tool that assists federal, state and local law enforcement agencies with the identification, investigation and prosecution of individuals. In 2005, it was expanded to include DNA samples of all convicted felony offenders in the state.

"The ability of law enforcement to identify, catch and prosecute criminals will be significantly enhanced by adding this important information to the DNA profiling system," Sen. Mayer said. "Unfortunately, some criminals start very young and law enforcement agencies need all of the resources available to identify, track, and prosecute these and all other violent offenders."

If a person who is required to provide a DNA sample refuses to do so or if someone tampers with a DNA sample, he or she would be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

Since adult felony offenders were added to the database, a number of cold cases were solved, with hundreds of dangerous criminals finally being brought to justice. In addition, police officers and sheriff's departments report they are getting hits on new rape or homicide cases every week.

"Our ultimate goal is to keep the citizens of Missouri safe from criminals by providing law enforcement personnel with all the information, resources and technologies they need to do that," Sen. Mayer said.

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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.