



MISSOURI SENATE

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Missouri Senate Gives Final Approval to Sen. Mayer's *Rebuild Missouri Schools Program*

JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri Senate gave final approval today to a bill sponsored by state Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, that would allow the state board of education to distribute no-interest loans to school districts that have incurred significant building damage or destruction due to catastrophic events.

Sen. Mayer's [*Rebuild Missouri Schools Program*](#) (Senate Bill 1170) would allow school districts with one or more school facilities declared a disaster area by the governor or president to apply for no-interest loans through a 20-year repayment agreement.

"In recent years, residents in southeastern Missouri have experienced several natural disasters and incurred devastating property losses," Sen. Mayer said. "This program will provide school districts across the state in communities like Caruthersville with the financial means to recover and rebuild when their schools are affected by such a disaster."

Two years ago, a tornado ripped through Caruthersville and nearly destroyed the school. The school must be rebuilt to strict building codes in order to withstand an earthquake because it lies within the New Madrid Fault Zone.

Under the program, schools districts eligible for the *Rebuild Missouri Schools Program* must have experienced a pre-set level of damage or destruction as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) due to an act of God.

The proposed bill moves to the Missouri House for similar consideration.

"Schools are the heart of any community," Sen. Mayer said. "Equipping school districts with the means to recover and rebuild following a natural catastrophe is vital to keeping these schools open and available for students."

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