

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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Hindering Meth Production & Boosting Deputy Pay

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri will soon become the second state to enact legislation that will make Missouri's fight against meth among the strongest in the nation. Anti-methamphetamine legislation passed during the recent legislative session strengthens the monitoring procedures for purchases of over-the-counter drugs that contain pseudoephedrine — a key ingredient used in the production of methamphetamine.

Under current law, pharmacies are required to maintain a paper log and document any transactions when the customer purchases products that contain pseudoephedrine. The newly passed legislation requires pharmacies to upgrade to an electronic log for recording when pseudoephedrine products are purchased and by whom. The act also requires identification shown prior to the purchase of pseudoephedrine products to now be only state- or federal government-issued photo IDs.

Widespread meth use and production in Missouri — which accounted for the second largest number of meth lab busts in the nation last year at 1,285 — demanded that we take the law even further to help put a stop to meth activity in our communities. Individuals intent on producing meth had found a way to get around current laws. This legislation ensures that people purchasing pseudoephedrine to make meth cannot buy more than is allowed by law. Just as importantly, it provides a more effective electronic trail of pseudoephedrine purchases that will assist law enforcement officials in capturing and convicting people who are producing one of the most destructive drugs out there today.

Better County Sheriff Deputy Pay

County sheriff deputies will receive better pay for their public service thanks to a bill I co-sponsored and the Missouri State Legislature recently approved that allows sheriffs to receive an additional \$10 fee for processing any civil summons, writ, subpoena or other court order. This money will go into the newly created “Deputy Sheriff Salary Supplementation Fund,” which will be used to bolster the pay of county deputy sheriffs.

I'm pleased we were able to put a new plan in place so these hard-working men and women will receive a respectable salary for the important work they do to ensure the safety of our citizens and property. I believe the measure shows that we value their dedication and commitment to law enforcement and appreciate the risks they take each and every day.

Our county sheriff departments cover thousands of Missouri miles to protect our citizens. Providing adequate pay is the right answer to attracting and retaining some of the best and brightest law enforcement officers for these areas.

Not surprisingly, county sheriff department personnel are often among the law enforcement officers serving on multi-jurisdictional drug task forces fighting to curb meth production — which often occurs in rural areas where detection is less noticeable.

Strengthening our resolve to fight meth production at its roots and ensuring decent salaries for our county sheriff departments are two important measures that I believe effectively demonstrate our state's commitment to providing better protections and investments for Missouri families.

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