



MISSOURI SENATE

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Sen. Griesheimer's Bill To Fund Sheriff Departments Earns First-Round Approval

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, today announced that Senate Bill 935, which would help sheriff departments receive much-needed funding, has received first-round approval from the Senate. A report submitted by the Senate Interim Committee on Funding for County Sheriff Offices recommended the measure to help county sheriff departments.

“We have a responsibility to assist county sheriff departments whose deputies put their lives at risk every day to protect Missouri residents yet earn an inadequate salary,” said Sen. Griesheimer. “In 91 Missouri counties, current pay is at or below the public assistance level.”

The average salary for county deputies is just more than \$22,000, with most taking home only about \$15,500 per year.

Senate Bill 935 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.

This summer, Senate Leader Mike Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, created a committee of lawmakers from across the state who met with county law enforcement officers to consider the problem of low pay for many deputies in county sheriff departments. Due to an enthusiastic response from officials, the committee also held a series of field hearings to gather more information on the issue.

“Our deputy sheriffs are enforcing state laws in their counties, many times having to make split-second decisions on their own while on duty in remote areas with backup miles away,” Gibbons said. “This is a good remedy that will help our counties fairly pay our deputies.”

A final Senate vote next week would send the legislation to the Missouri House for similar consideration.

“I sincerely hope that the Senate and House recognize the value of supporting these brave men and women who take on the important work of protecting citizens and property in our rural areas of Missouri,” said Sen. Griesheimer.

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