



February 28, 2008

Village Law Repeal Passed by Senate

This week, the Missouri Senate passed [SB 765](#), a bill that repeals last year's controversial village law provisions.

I sponsored Senate Bill 765 in order to repeal changes made last session to the laws regulating the incorporation of villages. Many legislators are concerned with the unintended consequences of last year's bill because it allows even a single landowner to create a village that would essentially be independent of county regulations — including planning and zoning laws that were previously approved at the voting booth by county residents. Senate Bill 765 restores the original language of the law prior to the changes enacted in August of 2007.

This potentially disastrous law needed to be repealed as soon as possible to assure county residents that their neighbors are living by the same set of rules they are. I am pleased that my colleagues recognized the importance of correcting a mistake unknowingly made last session. This issue is too important for us to sit idly by as Missouri's citizens potentially lose the important protections of local control.

The law in question was part of a large bill passed in the final days of last year's session. When the provision was discovered, several other lawmakers and I immediately realized its potentially negative impact. I voted against the 2007 bill, and filed SB 765 to fix the problem as soon as legally possible after last year's bill became law.

As always, I welcome your ideas, questions and concerns about Missouri government. You may contact me at the Capitol as follows: (573) 751.2234, jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov or by writing to Senator Jack Goodman, Missouri State Capitol, Room 331A, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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