



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Chris Koster
31st Senate District

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Sen. Chris Koster Offers Creative Initiative to Boost County Sheriffs' Salaries

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Chris Koster (D-Harrisonville) yesterday (2/26) took a step to increase the salaries of county sheriffs by introducing [Senate Bill 1193](#). The legislation would determine county sheriffs' salaries by a percentage relative to the salaries of associate circuit judges.

“County sheriffs hold a demanding position, which requires that a high level of responsibility be placed on their shoulders,” Sen. Koster said. “They are entrusted with that responsibility by the people who voted them into office and should be compensated accordingly.”

Currently, salaries for elected county officials, including sheriffs, are determined by county salary commissions and based on a salary schedule. Senate Bill 1193 exempts sheriffs from the schedule and instead determines their salary as a percentage of the salary of associate circuit judges. The actual salary percentage is based on the classification of the county, which is determined by its assessed value. County sheriffs whose salaries are greater now than they would be under Sen. Koster’s proposal would not have their salary reduced when the legislation is enacted.

“My legislation standardizes the salary determination for county sheriffs across the board, ensuring they are fairly paid county by county,” Sen. Koster said. “I hope my colleagues understand the importance of just compensation for our sheriffs and support this bill.”

Sen. Koster’s initiative will next be referred to a Senate committee for further consideration. Committee approval returns the bill to the Senate for debate by the full body.

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