



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Chuck Purgason  
33rd Senate District

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Senate Advances Bill Keeping National Animal Identification System Voluntary in Missouri** *Sen. Purgason's Bill Prevents Changes without Legislative Approval*

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JEFFERSON CITY – The state Senate today advanced a bill that protects Missouri farmers' and ranchers' personal property rights by making sure the National Animal Identification System in Missouri remains voluntary-not mandatory. Legislation sponsored and advanced by Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield, makes sure the voluntary program state voluntary. Now it has cleared the state Senate, it moves to the House for similar consideration.

Sen. Purgason's bill – Senate Bill 931 – would prohibit the Missouri Department of Agriculture from taking part in the National Animal Identification System without specific statutory authorization, meaning the legislature must approve any changes before the Department of Agriculture can act.

"This is a voluntary program and should stay voluntary," Purgason said. "The choice to shift and make the animal I.D. program mandatory should not be in the hands of bureaucrats to decide. We've made sure they no longer have that power so the people elected to represent our farmers and ranchers can protect them."

The bill would prohibit the Missouri Department of Agriculture from mandating premises registration under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) program unless the state's department is specifically authorized to do so by law. Participants in the NAIS may withdraw from the program at any time and all of their personal information would be deleted at the time of withdrawal unless a participant is part of an ongoing disease investigation.

To track the legislation visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov) and do a "key word" search for SB931.

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