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Engler Restates Support of Posting Blue Books Online

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Farmington, Mo – Sen. Kevin Engler (R-Farmington) renewed his call today to do away with the printing of Missouri Blue Books and make all the information available online. Blue Books, the Official Manual of the State of Missouri, cost the state a half a million dollars to print. The manuals have become a free advertisement for elected officials at taxpayer expense that are handed out by legislators.

“It is ridiculous that we spend a half a million dollars on these advertisements for elected officials while the governor cuts healthcare and lays off workers,” said Sen. Engler. “All of this information is either available or can be made available online. We should not be spending this much money on them, especially in these tough economic times.”

Engler has filed legislation in the past to do away with the Blue Books, but the legislation has failed to get much traction in the legislature. Engler said several legislators and the Secretary of State have continually opposed the legislation, which has prevented the bill from passing. Engler did note the Secretary of State’s online publishing of nearly 40 previous state manuals may be seen as a change in her position on the subject.

“We are not talking about withholding information from people. Everyone in the state has internet access, either in their home or at a local library,” Engler stated. “We are elected to be good stewards of taxpayer money, and if we can make this information available while saving the state a significant amount of money, it is our responsibility to take those steps.”

Engler has declined to receive any Blue Books this year.

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