



Senator Matt Bartle – Serving Jackson County

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Expanding DNA Profiling

Five years ago, I worked to pass a ground-breaking bill establishing a DNA profiling system that requires all convicted felons in Missouri to submit DNA samples. Since its inception, this program has helped law enforcement solve numerous cases by providing concrete evidence as to who committed a crime.

The law requires all convicted felons to submit a DNA sample to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. These samples are then put into a database that contains thousands of DNA profiles from convicted offenders and unsolved cases.

Since Senate Bill 1000 became law, the new program has provided investigators with around 2,000 hits. It is chilling to think that before the enactment of SB 1000, many of these criminals would never have been caught—including murderers and rapists. Nearly 200 homicide investigations have been aided by the expansion of the law. Sexual offenses and burglary account for the highest percentage of investigations assisted by SB 1000.

In Jackson County, a DNA match last year linked a convicted drug offender to an unsolved rape that occurred in 2000. The sample he was required to provide when he was convicted of a drug crime led to his arrest. Without his DNA sample, the case most likely would never have been solved and he would have walked away to potentially hurt someone else.

The creation of this program was a victory for law enforcement and for all law-abiding Missourians. We now have an opportunity to expand the profiling system even further. This year the Legislature is revisiting the issue of DNA sampling by considering [House Bill 152](#), a bill that expands the profiling system. This bill would allow a DNA

sample to be collected upon an individual's arrest for certain felonies that involve sex crimes or other violent crimes (and first and second degree burglary), rather than at the point of conviction. We have taken measures to ensure that if the charges are dropped after a person is arrested, the DNA sample would be destroyed and all DNA records expunged.

Highlighting the need for this bill, we are told by law enforcement that many individuals picked up on property crimes, such as burglary, are also involved in crimes of an even more serious nature, such as sexual assault.

We expect the expansion of the DNA profiling system to build upon the program's initial success and lead to the arrest of many more criminals, who have so far managed to keep their identities secret. The bill was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week, and we will vote on the legislation next Monday.

If you have any comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov or by phone at (888) 711-9278. My web address is <http://www.senate.mo.gov/bartle>.

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