



**Senator Luann
Ridgeway**
17th Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Capitol Building, Room 221
Jefferson City, MO 65101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sen. Luann Ridgeway Introduces Bill to Penalize School Retirement Fraud

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Luann Ridgeway (R-Smithville) today (2/18) introduced a bill that prevents school boards and district administrators from colluding to illegally scam Missouri’s public school retirement system (PSRS).

[Senate Bill 395](#) makes it a class C felony for any school district employee or school board member to knowingly provide false information in conjunction with a school district employee’s application for public school retirement benefits or with any certification made regarding the employee’s employment status. The bill also makes it a class C felony for school board members to knowingly allow employees to circumvent the time and pay limits for retired members who are working part-time.

“The imperative need for this bill was illustrated last year with the events that transpired in the Liberty School District,” Sen. Ridgeway said. “We had an individual who was trusted with taxpayer dollars, yet blatantly took advantage of the system and collected retirement benefits that he wasn’t entitled to receive. My bill will hold our school boards and administrators accountable and help prevent schemes that siphon off funds meant for our teachers’ retirement and our children’s education.”

The Liberty School District is currently undergoing an audit by Missouri State Auditor Susan Montee’s office after several administrative officials were found to be involved in the purposeful mishandling of school finances.

Sen. Ridgeway also stated that the bill was developed in conjunction with Liberty area citizens, including William Carlin Walker, to promote accountability and reform in school administration.

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Contact: Mike Morris
(573) 751-2547