



**Senator
Luann Ridgeway**
17th Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Capitol Building, Room 221
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Senate Passes Sen. Ridgeway's Bill Allowing Local Restaurant to Keep Name

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate gave a final vote of approval yesterday to a bill sponsored by Senator Luann Ridgeway (R-Smithville) that would allow Smithville restaurant, “Justus Drugstore—A Restaurant,” to keep its name. [Senate Bill 394](#) now moves to the House for similar consideration.

The need for this legislation was demonstrated after the Missouri Pharmacy Board informed the owners last year that it was going to issue an order requiring the restaurant to either close its doors or change its name. The pharmacy board claimed that the restaurant was in violation of a 1950s law that prohibits the use of the word “drugstore” in a non-pharmacy business name. The restaurant’s owners, Jonathan Justus and his wife, Camille Eklof, chose the name to honor Justus’ family, who owned a pharmacy in Smithville in the same building where the restaurant is currently located.

Senate Bill 394 updates the law so that words such as “drugstore” or “pharmacy” may be used in the name of a building or business if such words have been historically used to describe the building or business.

“Excessive regulation can be just as debilitating to small businesses as a bad economy, and the situation with our Smithville restaurant perfectly illustrates this,” Sen. Ridgeway said. “It is government’s job to step out of the way and allow our businesses to flourish without unnecessary regulations. To think that an archaic law could affect this thriving restaurant is ridiculous, but without legislative action, business very well could have suffered. I am pleased that the Missouri Pharmacy Board has worked with us to resolve this matter in a timely and common sense manner.”

Senate Bill 394 was passed as a consent bill, which is a status reserved for non-controversial legislation that does not cost the state any money. Consent bills are typically more likely to pass than regular bills and are able to move through the legislative process more quickly. Passage in the House sends the bill to the governor’s desk.

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