



## MISSOURI SENATE

Rob Mayer  
25th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release**  
**May 15, 2009**

**Contact: Irene Murray**  
**(573) 751-3859**

### General Assembly Passes Sen. Rob Mayer's Measure Ensuring Gaming Revenues Reach Missouri Schools *Southeast Missouri Legislator Helps Advance Wide-ranging Education Bill Passed by the Missouri General Assembly*

JEFFERSON CITY — The General Assembly approved a wide-ranging education bill late Thursday (5/14) containing a major proposal sponsored by Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, that would change the state's school funding formula so that money derived from the passage of Proposition A last November by Missouri voters will go to students in Missouri classrooms as intended.

Senator Mayer's proposal to fix an error in the proposition language so additional money generated by the removal of loss limits for casinos would be distributed more effectively and efficiently to school districts was among several measures included in [Senate Bill 291](#) — an education reform bill that, among other things, seeks to expand virtual classrooms and give school districts the option of moving to a four-day school week.

"This education reform bill is very progressive and I am pleased that lawmakers were able to successfully advance these measures that will improve the quality of our state's education system, benefit our Missouri students, and ensure our future workforce is the most educated in the nation," said Sen. Mayer, who serves as chair of the Senate Education Committee.

Senator Mayer's proposal on the education funding formula would also allow for the removal of the current 5 percent growth cap in the state adequacy target calculation in the school foundation formula. Through Sen. Mayer's proposal, state funds would flow more quickly to school districts through the school formula and allow hold harmless school districts to receive additional state funds.

Other provisions in Senate Bill 291 include:

- Expanding virtual classrooms for use by Missouri school district students and charter school students for any grade and allowing private, parochial, and home school students to participate in virtual courses offered in the school districts where they live;
- Enacting statewide performance standards for Missouri teachers;
- Establishing a Parents' Bill of Rights to ensure every school district informs parents of children requiring an individualized education program of their educational rights; and
- Ensuring school districts hammered by inclement weather will now only have to make up a total of 10 school days, regardless of how many days are cancelled each year. This measure affecting students in the school districts of Malden, Kennett, and Senath-Hornersville who missed more than two weeks of school during the snow and ice storms in January was also passed in [House Bill 682](#).

The education bill now moves to the governor's desk for his consideration. An emergency clause was adopted for many provisions of the bill, including the fix to the gaming funding, meaning those sections will take effect upon the governor's signature.

###