



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Rob Mayer Pre-files Bills for the 2010 Legislative Session

Bills Regarding School Enrollment, County Classification, Library Tax & Water Usage Among First Group of Proposed Legislation

JEFFERSON CITY — During the first week that state senators could begin the pre-introduction of bills for consideration during the 2010 legislative session, Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, has offered several bills ranging from school enrollment to county classifications to proposing a sales tax to fund local library districts.

Senator Mayer, a member of the Senate Education Committee, pre-filed a proposal that would allow Missouri school districts to adopt an open enrollment policy. The proposed measure would allow students enrolled in a public school outside the Kansas City or St. Louis City school districts to transfer to another school district without moving. Open enrollment was the subject of special legislative committee convened earlier this year following the General Assembly's agreement during the 2009 legislative session to further study the issue.

A member of the Senate Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee, Sen. Mayer also pre-filed a proposal designed as a preventive measure to protect southeast Missouri farmers' access to vital groundwater for irrigating crops. The proposed bill would prohibit certain large users of water from unduly disrupting farm irrigation activities within the Southeast Missouri Regional Water District.

A proposal to prevent counties from automatically being forced into higher classifications and incurring additional costs for county services is addressed in another pre-filed bill offered by Sen. Mayer. The proposed legislation would increase the assessed valuation for counties of the first classification from \$600 million to \$1 billion. The assessed valuation for counties of the second classification would be increased from \$450 million to \$750 million, and all counties with an assessed valuation of less than \$750 million would be considered counties of the third classification.

Senator Mayer also pre-filed a bill that would allow public library districts to seek a voter-approved sales tax — of not more than one half of one cent upon voter approval — to help fund library operations and maintenance. Currently, public libraries are funded by local property taxes.

Each of the pre-filed bills highlighted was originally introduced during the 2009 legislative session.

In addition, Sen. Mayer has pre-introduced a bill that would designate a portion of State Highway 53 in Butler County as the "Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway." Hays was a MoDOT worker killed on the job.

The 2010 legislative session begins on Jan. 6, 2010, and runs through May 14.

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