



MISSOURI SENATE

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For Immediate Release
May 18, 2009

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Senator John Griesheimer Advances Major Legislation Spurring Job and Economic Growth and Sustaining Missouri's Unemployment Trust Fund

JEFFERSON CITY —Senator John Griesheimer, R-Washington, played a key role in advancing two of the General Assembly's major economic bills of the 2009 legislative session: a jobs bill aimed at spurring job creation coupled with tax credit reforms ([HB 191](#)) and legislation to sustain the state's unemployment insurance fund and expand and extend unemployment benefits to Missourians hard-hit by the struggling economy ([HB 1075](#)).

As the Senate handler of both bills, Sen. Griesheimer worked with lawmakers throughout the session to advance these vital measures, which were passed on the legislative session's final day.

Senator Griesheimer, chairman of the Senate Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee, worked closely with lawmakers throughout the session to find a compromise for passing the highly debated jobs bill, which initially hit roadblocks in the Senate when a small group of senators did not support the bill without tax credit reforms.

"More job opportunities will be created for Missourians through the passage of this bill, and I'm pleased the General Assembly could ultimately work together to make good on our promise to help put more Missourians back to work," Sen. Griesheimer said.

The proposed jobs bill expands the state's successful Quality Jobs Act and caps how many credits in the larger tax credit programs can be awarded annually, including the Historic Preservation Tax Credit. It also applies the Sunshine Law to awarded tax credits, phases out the corporate franchise tax on 3 out of every 4 Missouri businesses, and bans increases in user fees and prevents new regulations on companies with less than 25 employees for four years.

Senator Griesheimer also led the effort to finding solutions for maintaining the state's beleaguered unemployment trust fund, with many of his proposals incorporated into HB 1075. The proposed legislation expands a financing option the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations has to meet Missouri's unemployment insurance fund — which is on the verge of insolvency — and relies on \$133 million in federal stimulus funds to expand the eligibility and extend the length of time Missouri workers can collect unemployment benefits.

"This measure would allow Missourians who are out of work to continue receiving unemployment funds and would provide eligible families with several more weeks of unemployment compensation," Sen. Griesheimer said.

Both bills await the governor's signature. HB 191 contains an emergency clause meaning it becomes effective upon the governor's signature.

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