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## **Sen. Crowell Files Constitutional Amendment to Make Missouri Children Safer**

JEFFERSON CITY—To expand efforts to keep children safe from sexual predators, Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, discussed [Senate Joint Resolution 3](#) in the Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee meeting on March 2. The resolution would give voters the power to uphold the original intent of Megan’s Law, which went into effect in 1995, requiring that all convicted sex offenders register with local sheriff’s departments.

Due to conflicting language in the Missouri Constitution, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in 2006 that it is unconstitutional to force sex offenders to register if they were convicted before the enactment of Megan’s Law in 1995. This leaves a large number of sexual offenders off of the state registry.

“Despite when the crime was committed, these sex offenders were convicted and the community deserves to be aware of where they are,” Crowell said. “I want to give Missouri voters the chance to amend the constitution so that Missouri is not a safe harbor for those who harmed children before 1995.”

Upon voter approval, SJR 3 would allow Megan’s Law to be applied retrospectively. The Missouri Constitution is one of only five in the nation that includes wording that essentially protects pre-1995 convicted sex offenders.

“Without this change to Missouri’s constitution, our state is effectively providing a loophole to protect the identity and whereabouts of those who committed these crimes before 1995,” Crowell said. “Our children deserve this protection, and I urge my colleagues to show strong support for ensuring that Megan’s Law remains a comprehensive shield for the innocent.”

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