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Sen. Jason Crowell's Constitutional Amendment to Protect Missouri Children Moves to House

JEFFERSON CITY— A constitutional amendment that would expand efforts to keep children safe from sexual predators, sponsored by Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today received final Senate approval. [Senate Joint Resolution 3](#) 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.

Missouri's sexual offender registry is open to the public and available through the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The list provides name, alias names, date of birth, alias dates of birth, physical description, addresses, offense, vehicle information, picture, and offense dates for registered sex offenders.

In 2006, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional to force sex offenders to register if they were convicted before the enactment of Megan's Law in 1995, due to language in the Missouri Constitution. This leaves a large number of sexual offenders off the state registry, including nearly 150 offenders in Southeast Missouri.

"This legislation gives Missouri voters the chance to amend the constitution so that our state is not a safe haven for sex offenders convicted before 1995," said Sen. Crowell. "Despite when the crime was committed, these sex offenders were convicted and the community deserves to be aware of where they are."

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

"I know that Missourians don't want to allow sexual predators to seek refuge in the Show-Me State," said Sen. Crowell. "Our children deserve that protection, and I look forward to the day when Missouri citizens will have their voices heard on the issue."

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