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Goodman's Bill Strengthening Punishment for Child Rape Becomes Law

JEFFERSON CITY—Child rapists will soon be punished to the full extent of the law in Missouri after the governor signed [Senate Bill 36](#) today, sponsored by Senator Jack Goodman (R-Mt. Vernon).

SB 36 increases the maximum sentence for forcibly raping or sodomizing a child younger than 12 to life in prison with no possibility of parole, probation or release. Previously, such criminals would be eligible for parole after serving 30 years.

“As a legislator and former prosecutor I have always supported measures that toughen penalties for sexual predators and other criminals who would harm our families” Sen. Goodman said. “Those who harm innocent children have no place in our society and this legislation ensures they will never have the opportunity to prey on our children again.”

During the last two years Senator Goodman has worked diligently to pass legislation that would strengthen the sentences faced by sexual predators. Last year Goodman proposed legislation that would have allowed Missouri to impose the death penalty in especially heinous cases. Senate Bill 36 was crafted as a response to a subsequent ruling by the United States Supreme Court that struck down a Louisiana law containing similar language regarding the death penalty.

Now that it has been signed by the governor, Senate Bill 36 officially becomes law on August 28.

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