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## Senator David Pearce Elected Chair of Senate “2020” Education Committee

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JEFFERSON CITY—Senator David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) was today chosen to serve as chairman of the Missouri Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee by fellow members during the committee’s first organizational meeting. Senator Pearce was appointed to the new committee earlier this year by Senate President Pro Tem Charlie Shields (R-St. Joseph).

The Missouri Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee is responsible for creating long-term plans and strategies for developing an educational system where students learn to be productive and successful citizens that are prepared for global competition. Members are assigned the task of defining where the state’s educational system should be by the year 2020.

“While there are many excellent public schools in this state, Missouri still has a long way to go, especially in improving accessibility to higher education,” Sen. Pearce said. “To get us to the level where we want to be in terms of economic prosperity and growth, we need to stress the importance of higher education and develop policy that makes it a priority. I would like to thank my colleagues for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading this committee and I look forward to discussing bold and innovative ideas in the months to come.”

The Missouri Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee is one of three “2020” committees charged with creating forward-thinking strategies for improving Missouri’s standing in the areas of education, job creation and health care coverage. The committee will serve through December 31, 2010.

Other committee members include Sen. Jeff Smith (D-St. Louis), who was elected vice-chair, Sen. Jane Cunningham (R-Chesterfield), Sen. Kurt Schaefer (R-Columbia), Sen. Wes Shoemyer (D-Clarence) and Sen. Robin Wright-Jones (D-St. Louis).

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