

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Senators Reject Pay Increase Recommendations**  
*Lawmakers Act Before Deadline to Protect Taxpayers*

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JEFFERSON CITY –Protecting taxpayers in tough economic times, Missouri senators today rejected pay increases recommended for state lawmakers and judges. The vote on [House Concurrent Resolution 5](#) in the Senate was the final step to rejecting pay-raise recommendations made by the [Missouri Citizens' Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials](#).

Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, said it was the right thing to do.

“In no way should lawmakers get a pay increase while Missourians are hurting and struggling to find and keep their jobs,” he said. “We are facing tough economic times and will be making many difficult decisions in the days to come on how to balance our budget to protect taxpayers. But this decision was a no-brainer, absolutely no pay raises for elected officials.”

The commission recommended a \$1,500 annual pay raise to each of the state’s associate judges and a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for judges, legislators and elected officials *only if* the General Assembly were to approve the same COLA for state employees. The current salary of representatives and senators is \$35,915. Those in top leadership positions earn up to \$38,415.

Sen. Jim Lemke, R-St. Louis, handled the measure in the Senate.

“These are tough economic times,” Sen. Lemke said. “The last thing we need is to give ourselves a raise while jobs are being lost throughout the state.”

Missouri has a citizen legislature. State law requires a two-thirds majority vote in both the Missouri Senate and the House in order to overturn the committee’s recommendations. Otherwise, they will become law effective on February 1. The House on Monday voted 129-31 to scuttle the raise plan. The Senate voted today 32-1 to reject the pay raise.

To learn more about HCR5, or other legislation, visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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