

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



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

MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2009

## **Senate Works to Fix Broken No-Call List** ***Bill Would Add Cell Phones, Faxes and Automatic Calls***

---

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Missouri Senate debated and passed a bill today that would bring residents one step closer to being able to add their cell phone numbers and fax numbers to the state's No-Call List. The measure is sponsored by Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville. The bill also protects those on the No-Call List from automated phone calls that are popular during election cycles. Rupp said the aim of Senate Bill 65 is to end unsolicited advertising that can actually cost the recipients money.

“These annoying, unwanted calls and text messages are costing Missourians money because they are having to pay for these calls and text messages they don't want on their cell phones, as well as having to pay for the paper, ink and other costs of receiving a fax,” he said. “Missourians should no longer have to foot the cost for these unsolicited ads.”

The bill covers phone calls and text messages to cell phones used for personal purposes as well as residential faxes. Rupp said many people receive calls, texts and even stacks of faxed advertisements.

The measure also prohibits automated phone calls, including political ones, to residents registered on the No-Call List. Any political committee making calls must register with the Missouri Ethics Commission, while non-committees or businesses making calls on a candidate's behalf must register with both the commission and Secretary of State.

Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, supports the bill. He said hundreds of consumers made official complaints about these types of calls during the November 2006 election. Thousands of other Missourians have been harassed by these types of calls.

"Consumers have asked to be protected from these disruptive intrusions in their daily lives and they deserve to be," Shields said. "People have a right to know who is making and paying for the calls, and we make those who break the law pay with this bill that we hope will advance in the House as well."

Violators could be fined up to \$5,000 for each violation.

The bill needs a second vote of approval before moving to the House for similar consideration. To track the bill, visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov) - "key word" search for SB65.

###