

*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

April 16, 2009

Senate Advances Consumer Protection Bill ***Proposed Bill Would Require Consumer Notification of Security Breaches***

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – To help consumers ward off identity theft in the case of a security breach of financial information, the Missouri Senate advanced today a bill that would make sure Missouri consumers are notified by Missouri businesses when their personal or financial information has been breached. [Senate Bill 207](#), sponsored by Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, seeks to inform consumers of security breaches that could result in identity theft or financial harm.

“This is an effort to provide better protections for Missouri consumers so they can take the appropriate action when their personal information has been compromised,” Rupp said.

If approved, Missouri would join a national movement of states to have passed similar laws requiring notification to consumers when personal data is stolen.

Last month, a top Department of Justice official testified to Congress detailing new techniques used by cyber-criminals to steal personal data, putting millions of Americans at risk for identity theft.

The proposed Senate bill in Missouri would work to curb cyber crimes by requiring companies to inform Missouri consumers of the type of information compromised, the steps being taken to protect further breaches, and provide them with certain advice and contact information. Notifications would be made without delay by telephone, via email, or in writing. If the personal information of more than 1,000 Missourians has been breached, companies would be required to notify the Attorney General’s office that would have the authority to seek civil penalties up to \$150,000 per security breach.

Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, supports the consumer protection.

“Missourians have a right to know if their information has possibly been stolen so they can take steps to protect themselves from having their identity stolen,” Shields said. “As cyber criminals threaten the integrity of data in this virtual age, we must work to stay ahead of them and give consumers the tools they need to protect their information if a company’s data is breached.”

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 - "key word" search for SB 207.

###