

*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*



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

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**Senate Advances Bill to Spur Job Creation Coupled with Tax
Credit Reforms to Protect Taxpayers**
Small Business to Benefit from Reduced Bureaucratic Red Tape

JEFFERSON CITY – Republican and Democratic senators joined today to advance a bill expanding tax incentive programs geared to spur job creation coupled with common sense tax credit reforms aimed at protecting taxpayers. Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, lauded senators for working together to reach a solution before the close of the legislative session.

“The Senate was committed to passing legislation that helps create quality jobs to put more Missourians back to work, while better protecting taxpayers by making tax credits more accountable.”

The Senate adopted its version of [House Bill 191](#) by a vote of 27-7. Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, handled the bill and said the Senate reached a good compromise on the priority shared by the governor to help put more Missourians back to work.

“It was a long road filled with potholes, but now folks will have more job opportunities.”

The bill expands the Quality Jobs Act, a proven program that provides tax incentives to businesses that create jobs that pay above the county average wage and foot the cost for at least half their employees’ healthcare benefits. The program’s annual cap increased by \$20 million, plus senators removed the per company cap to allow for even more job creation.

Sen. Brad Lager, R-Savannah, led the efforts to make sure tax credit reforms were coupled with the job creation bill. Lager said the Senate protected Missouri taxpayers by capping how many credits in the larger programs could be awarded annually.

Plus, the measure applies the Sunshine Law to awarded tax credits, meaning the Department of Economic Development must make tax credit awards public and searchable on the Missouri Accountability Portal website(www.mapyourtaxes.mo.gov). Another provision would phase out the corporate franchise tax on 3 out of every 4 Missouri businesses, totaling a \$12 million tax cut.

“By ending this tax on 12,000 of Missouri’s 15,000 companies, we free them up to reinvest the money they would have spent paying this tax on hiring new employees,” Lager said.

Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield, championed support for small businesses as more than 95% of Missouri companies employ less than 50 people. His “Big Government Get Off My Back” Act was included in the bill. It would ban increases in user fees and prevent new regulations on companies with less than 25 employees for four years.

“Most small businesses don’t rely on government handouts, they just want to be left alone to go to work, create jobs and provide for their families,” Purgason said.

The bill also caps the state’s largest tax credit program known as the Historic Preservation Tax Credit that was designed to encourage private investments in restoring historical residential and commercial buildings. The credit was capped at \$140 million annually. Projects with a cost of less than \$1.1 million remain unlimited to ensure projects in rural Missouri are awarded their fair share compared to larger, urban projects. Residential projects are capped at \$250,000.

The measure must now return to the House for the Senate language to be adopted before moving to the governor’s desk for his consideration.

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