



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact: Stacy Morse**  
**(573) 751-3599**

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**Local Control of Police Department  
Debated on Senate Floor**

JEFFERSON CITY – Speaking before the full Senate, Missouri Sen. Joe Keaveny (D-St. Louis) recently discussed [Senate Bill 643](#), which would dissolve the current Board of Police Commissioners and allow the city’s charter to be implemented. The Senate version is different than the House’s version of the legislation because it attempts to address concerns of the officers.

This was the first time in recent history that the local control issue has made its way to the Senate floor for debate. Senator Keaveny explained how the Senate bill would not affect officer pensions, benefits or residency requirements. In addition, the effective date of the bill has been moved back so there is ample time to change the charter by a vote if the citizens of St. Louis prefer a different appointment structure. Also discussed were the potential savings to the city of up to \$4 million through the combining of duplicative services.

The floor discussion was based around the need to restructure city government, which will need to occur at the local level.

Video of Sen. Keaveny introducing SB 643 to his Senate colleagues is now available on the Senator’s multimedia website, located at:

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/multimedia/keaveny/KeavenyMultimedia.html>

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