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December 1, 2010

## Senator David Pearce Prefiles bills for Upcoming Legislative Session

JEFFERSON CITY—December 1 is the date that lawmakers can begin prefiling bills for the First Regular Session of the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Today, Sen. David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) is prefiling three pieces of legislation.

One measure will require the State Board of Education to establish specific criteria for the admission or rejection of nonresident students who reside in an unaccredited school district that seek admission into an accredited district in the same or neighboring county. This is in response to the Missouri Supreme Court's decision in *Turner vs. School District of Clayton* last summer, in which students residing in the St. Louis Public School District were previously enrolled as tuition students in the Clayton schools prior to the St. Louis Public Schools losing its accreditation in 2007. The families of the six students sought billing and payment by the respective schools for their students' tuition.

Another bill Sen. Pearce prefiled will modify the elementary and secondary education foundation formula and state aid for summer school programs. It plans to extend the state's phase-in of the foundation formula modified in Senate Bill 287 back in 2005, through the 2013-2014 school year and eliminate summer school funding.

"While it would be desirable to be able to have adequate funding for all programs, the goal is to get information regarding the status of funding and summer school available to the school districts as early as possible so that they can make informed decisions for the future," Sen. Pearce said.

The third prefiled measure requires the Joint Committee on Education to oversee a task force on teacher compensation and effectiveness during the legislative interim between the First and Second Regular Sessions of the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The task force will consist of 11 people, including two senators and two representatives that serve on the Joint Committee on Education. The charge of this task force is to consider options and make recommendations regarding educator compensation and effectiveness to the General Assembly by December 31, 2011.

"We owe it to Missouri's citizens to ensure that every person is offered the same opportunities, whether it is students' educations or educators' abilities to provide that education," Sen. Pearce said. "These bills are a first step toward beginning dialogue to improve education in our state."

These three education-related measures are the first of other bills Sen. Pearce will offer for consideration during the upcoming legislative session. For a full list of prefiled bills, please refer to the Missouri Senate website at [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov), click on "Legislation," then on "List of 2011 Senate Bills."

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