



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Shields Announced Senate Approval of Economic Development Officials

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, today announced that the Senate has approved the nomination of David Kerr as the director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) and Kelley Martin as a member of the Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB).

The DED serves as Missouri's primary economic development agency and manages a wide array of programs to assist in job creation and business expansion in the state. As director, Kerr will be responsible for the administration and management of these programs and services.

"Job creation is a top priority for the Legislature and the state as a whole as we work to put Missourians back to work," said Sen. Shields. "I look forward to working closely with Mr. Kerr to improve the state's economy and help Missouri families thrive."

Kerr previously served as the Secretary of Commerce in Kansas, overseeing the administration of 50 federal and state economic development programs to create jobs and attract new investment. Before taking on that role, he held various management positions for AT&T in Missouri, Kansas and Texas.

The MDFB assists new and expanded infrastructure and economic development projects in Missouri by providing and approving economic incentives. These incentives can come in the form of low-interest or interest-free loans, grants, and tax credits.

For 25 years, Martin has served as the owner of Martin Financial Group, which provides financial planning, securities sales, and investment advisory services. He has also served on a variety of Kansas City boards and commissions, including the City Plan Commission and as co-chair of the Bond Finance Advisory Committee.

"Mr. Martin's professional and civic accomplishments will serve the Missouri Development Finance Board well as they continue their work to bring new projects to Missouri," said Sen. Shields. "The work of the board is an important part of stewarding economic development in our state."

Senator Shields served as sponsor for both gubernatorial appointments. The appointments were approved by the Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee on January 13; and the full Senate gave its consenting vote yesterday, January 19.

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