

*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*



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

MISSOURI SENATE
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**Senate Leader Takes Action to
Advance Job Manufacturing Act**

***Senate Leader Shields Temporarily Removes Sen. Chuck Purgason as Chairman of
Senate Committee on Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight***

JEFFERSON CITY – Senate Leader Charlie Shields today announced he has removed Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight in order to advance legislation that would provide tax incentives for automotive manufacturing companies in Missouri that create new good-paying jobs with benefits. The Special Session measure, House Bill 2, stalled last month in Purgason’s committee when the chairman adjourned the committee without voting to advance the bill in the legislative process.

Shields said he understands and appreciates Purgason’s personal philosophies when it comes to economic development, but noted he cannot risk putting Missouri in a vacuum that is incapable of competing for jobs with other states.

“Chuck is a good friend and senator,” said Shields. “Unfortunately, his philosophies and decision to not vote on this bill hinder Missouri from competing for jobs in today’s world. Some may not like it, but we must pursue tax-incentive programs to compete with other states to keep and bring new jobs to Missouri. Until Washington, D.C., does something to create a level playing field, it is our job as our state’s leaders to keep Missouri competitive in economic development in the reality we face.”

Shields said he took this action because a vote was not even allowed to consider the advancement of the bill. Shields said he planned to reappoint Purgason to his role as chairman of the committee following the Special Session.

“Sen. Purgason is a consistent, well-respected chairman, but in this circumstance, I believe taking action to protect thousands of Missourians’ jobs is the right thing to do.”

The measure would allow auto manufacturing employers to keep half their withholdings tax for each job they create that pays above the average county wage and foots at least half the employee’s healthcare benefits. The program is capped at a cost of \$15 million a year for ten years. Reports cite the measure could save more than 3,000 jobs at the Ford manufacturing plant based in Claycomo, Missouri.

An affirmative vote in committee would advance the bill to the Senate floor for final approval. The committee is scheduled to meet at 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 13, in Senate Committee Room 1 located on the first floor of the State Capitol. Senators are expected to reconvene at noon the same day.

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