



Missouri House of Representatives

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Rep. Marty Joe Murray Files HB 899 to Expedite Filling Vacancies in the Missouri General Assembly

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – State Representative Marty Joe Murray has filed new legislation to ensure Missourians have consistent representation in the Missouri General Assembly. HB 899 would require the governor to issue a writ of election within seven days of being notified of the death of a member in the House or Senate, unless the vacancy occurs after the last Tuesday in March of an election year.

Murray's motivation for the bill comes from his own experience: House District 78 was without representation for over 630 days, leaving residents without a voice in the legislative process.

"Missourians deserve a government that works efficiently to ensure their voices are heard," said Murray, D-St. Louis. "When a seat is vacant, constituents lose their advocate in Jefferson City. That's unacceptable."

Currently, there is no fixed timeline for calling special elections to fill legislative vacancies, which can delay representation during critical legislative sessions. HB 899 sets a clear timeline and ensures voters' voices are prioritized.

"This is about accountability and fairness," Murray added. "Every day a seat is vacant, Missourians are left without the representation they deserve, even as they continue to pay taxes and follow laws enacted by a government in which they lack full representation."

Murray is urging his colleagues in the General Assembly to support HB 899 and uphold the principle that representation is a fundamental right of all Missourians.

Representative Marty Joe Murray, a Democrat, proudly represents part of St. Louis City (District 78) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2024. For more information, please contact Rep. Murray at 573-751-2383 or by email at Marty.Murray@House.Mo.Gov.

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