



Missouri House of Representatives

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State Rep. Brad Christ Files Legislation to Enhance Public Law Enforcement and Address St. Louis Public Safety Crisis

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – In an effort to improve public safety throughout the Show-Me State, Representative Brad Christ has filed House Bill 495, a comprehensive legislative effort designed to enhance public safety measures, improve law enforcement accountability, and address critical issues affecting the communities across Missouri. The bill, which covers topics ranging from police department oversight to stricter penalties for dangerous activities, underscores a commitment to making Missouri's cities safer and more secure for all residents.

"HB 495 is a necessary step toward restoring order, accountability, and safety in our communities," Rep. Christ, R-St. Louis, said. "This legislation ensures that public safety resources are managed effectively, protects our children from harmful substances, and addresses emerging challenges such as stunt driving and rioting."

Some of the key provisions of HB 495 include:

Restoring Oversight of the St. Louis City Police Force

HB 495 returns the St. Louis City Police Department to state oversight through the Board of Police Commissioners, beginning August 28, 2025. The Governor will appoint four commissioners to work alongside the President of the Board of Aldermen. The Board will:

- Assume control of all department assets and contractual obligations.
- Ensure no reduction in rank, salary, or benefits for existing personnel.
- Establish a police force with a minimum of 1,313 officers, including specific ranks:
 - 76 officers at lieutenant rank or above,
 - 200 sergeants,
 - 1,037 patrolmen.

This measure aims to eliminate political interference and improve operational efficiency. Any city officials who obstruct the Board's duties face a \$1,000 penalty per offense and disqualification from office.

Crackdown on Stunt Driving and Street Takeovers

HB 495 also prohibits dangerous stunt driving and street takeovers, introducing stricter criminal penalties for offenders. Repeat violations will incur enhanced sentencing to deter this reckless behavior and protect public safety.

Protection from Dangerous Substances

The bill expands the offense of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree to include fentanyl and carfentanil. Those convicted of this offense will face mandatory imprisonment of 5 to 10 years, with no option for suspended sentences or parole until at least five years are served.

Strengthening Penalties for Rioting and Resisting Arrest

HB 495 increases penalties for rioting, making the first offense a Class D felony and subsequent offenses a Class C felony. Additionally, those guilty of felony resisting arrest will have their vehicles impounded and forfeited under the law.

Enhancing School Safety

The bill establishes a Committee on School Safety within the Department of Public Safety. This committee will develop guidelines to prevent school firearm violence and submit quarterly reports to the Governor, Senate, and House leadership to ensure transparency and progress on safety initiatives.

“HB 495 addresses some of the most pressing public safety issues facing our state,” Rep. Christ stated. “With this legislation, we are prioritizing law and order, protecting our most vulnerable, and ensuring that our police forces operate effectively and without undue interference.”

Representative Brad Christ, a Republican, represents part of St. Louis County (District 96) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Christ at 573-751-2150 or by email at Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov.

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