

Missouri House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 19, 2024

CONTACT: State Rep. Brad Christ
573-751-2150
Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov

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

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – State Representative Brad Christ has filed House Bill 494 to bolster law enforcement and ensure safer communities in Missouri, particularly in the St. Louis region. Filed on December 9, this legislation focuses on supporting police officers, streamlining oversight, and addressing compensation to enhance public safety.

HB 1481 seeks to protect law enforcement's ability to operate effectively by ensuring municipalities maintain adequate police staffing levels. The bill also aims to transfer control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) to the Board of Police Commissioners, consisting of the St. Louis Mayor and four members appointed by the Governor of Missouri, thereby providing increased local input while addressing the city's pressing crime challenges.

In addition to reinforcing local control and staffing levels, the bill outlines measures to:

- Simplify disciplinary processes within the police force.
- Address compensation concerns to retain and attract qualified officers.
- Protect the integrity of the Legal Expense Fund and ensure fair reimbursement for liability claims.

“We all should expect to feel safe in our neighborhoods,” Christ, R-St. Louis, said. “To achieve this, it is crucial to fully support our law enforcement officers and empower them to fulfill their duties effectively. Unfortunately, city officials have undermined these efforts by defunding and limiting our police. HB 494 is about protecting public safety and giving our officers the resources and support they deserve.”

“This is about solving a public safety crisis in St. Louis that is affecting the entire state,” Christ said. “We need to take the politics out of policing and build a stronger foundation for the SLMPD. This legislation is a step toward restoring order and safety in our communities.”

*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**.*

-###-