



Missouri House of Representatives

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Missouri House Approves Comprehensive Bill to Emphasize Crime Prevention and Public Safety

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – In a proactive response to increasing crime and as part of a concerted effort to enhance public safety, the Missouri House this week passed an extensive public safety bill, designated as HB 1659, to protect Missouri citizens.

The comprehensive bill addresses various facets of crime prevention, focusing on juvenile justice reform, combating cyberstalking, and imposing stricter penalties for offenses such as celebratory gunfire. The bill, which builds upon the governor's concerns outlined in the previous veto letter, introduces various modifications to public safety provisions, and aims to create a safer environment for Missourians.

Following the tragic events in Kansas City last week, the passage of HB 1659 by the Missouri House signifies a commitment to enhancing public safety while safeguarding individual rights. The bill includes provisions addressing gun law violations, notably prohibiting celebratory gunfire under "Blair's Law" and increasing penalties for firearm-related offenses. Noteworthy changes to juvenile justice include adjusting certification hearings and mandating the segregation of offenders under 18 in the correctional system, along with the elimination of parole for underage individuals convicted of second-degree murder. Additionally, the legislation establishes the "Stop Cyberstalking and Harassment Task Force" to combat online threats through prevention measures, victim support, training, law enforcement coordination, and public education initiatives.

“One of our goals in passing this priority legislation was to strengthen criminal penalties and public safety provisions concerning the unlawful use of firearms without eroding the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens,” Rep. Patterson – Lee’s Summit, said. “The Second Amendment is crucial to Missouri and our nation, and Missouri House Republicans will be steadfast in protecting it. My caucus colleagues and I have never, and will never, advance laws such as red flag laws or other gun control measures that seek to infringe on our constitutional rights, all the while ignoring the problem of criminals using firearms to perpetrate acts of unspeakable violence.”

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration, and with the inclusion of an emergency clause, the legislation has the potential for swift passage into law, further emphasizing the urgency and importance of these public safety measures.

“The proposed changes in HB 1659 mark a significant step forward in addressing the evolving challenges faced by Missouri communities, and the state legislature remains dedicated to ensuring the well-being and security of its citizens,” Patterson said.

Representative Jon Patterson, a Republican, represents District 30, which includes parts of Lee’s Summit. He was elected to his first two-year term in November of 2018. Rep. Patterson currently serves as Majority Floor Leader. For more information, please contact Rep. Patterson’s office at 573-751-0907 or via email at Jonathan.Patterson@House.Mo.Gov.

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