

NEWS

From the Office of Rep. Terri Violet District 104

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 9, 2025 CONTACT: Rep. Terri Violet 573-751-2250 Terri.Violet@House.Mo.Gov

State Representative Terri Violet Celebrates Passage of Major Tax Reform Bill Supporting First Responders

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – State Representative Terri Violet is pleased to announce the passage of House Bill 594, which includes language from her legislation HB 1268, a measure that expands the ability of fire protection and ambulance districts to seek local sales tax support—an important reform for public safety across Missouri.

Under current law, these districts can impose a local sales tax upon voter approval in all counties except St. Louis, St. Charles, Clay, Platte, and Greene. HB 594 removes this prohibition, giving these districts in Missouri's largest counties the same authority to ask voters for a sales tax to fund essential emergency services. The bill also ensures that, if such a tax is imposed, the district will reduce property tax levies in a way that returns half of the sales tax revenue back to taxpayers through property tax relief.

"I'm very pleased to see this critical change being made to the State Statutes," Rep. Violet, R-St. Peters, said. "Serving First Responders has been a priority of mine for a long time, and I'm honored to have been able to do so in the Legislature. I want to thank House Speaker Jon Patterson, Speaker Pro Tem Chad Perkins, and Local Government Chairman Dave Hinman for their unwavering support in passing this legislation."

The broader HB 594 package delivers a sweeping set of tax and economic reforms designed to help Missouri families, seniors, and small businesses. Among its key provisions:

- Eliminates state sales tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products
- Ends the capital gains tax on sales of homes, farms, retirement funds, and other major investments

- Expands property tax relief for senior citizens, tying new thresholds to inflation via the Consumer Price Index
- Invests in local law enforcement and public safety infrastructure
- Supports the final-mile expansion of rural broadband
- Removes state sales tax on broadband equipment

"This legislation is a win for both families and first responders," Violet added. "It gives local districts more flexibility to fund critical emergency services while reducing the burden on property owners. It's a commonsense, community-focused solution."

House Bill 594 now heads to the Governor's desk for signature.

Representative Terri Violet, a Republican, proudly represents part of St. Charles County (District 104) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was elected to her first two-year term in November 2024. For more information, please contact Rep. Violet at 573-751-2250 or by email at <u>Terri.Violet@House.Mo.Gov</u>.

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