



Missouri House of Representatives

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Missouri House Passes 'Valentine's Law' to Safeguard Citizens from Fleeing Motorists

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – In a step toward improved public safety for Missourians, the Missouri House of Representatives has passed HB 1692, a bill aimed at addressing the escalating concerns surrounding fleeing suspects.

The bill, sponsored by Representative Justin Sparks, was inspired by the unwavering dedication and sacrifice of fallen St. Louis County Police Detective Tony Valentine, whose life was tragically cut short in the line of duty.

HB 1692, also known as "Valentine's Law", stands as a testament to Detective Valentine's courageous service and aims to prevent similar tragedies by addressing the challenges faced by law enforcement officers in apprehending fleeing suspects. HB 1692 introduces comprehensive measures to combat fleeing suspects, streamline penalties for resisting arrest, and establish stricter consequences for aggravated fleeing. The bill aims to support law enforcement in their effort to make our communities safer by deterring reckless criminal behavior.

In his statement following the passage of the bill, Representative Justin Sparks emphasized the importance of prioritizing public safety. He remarked, "Today, we honor the memory and service of Detective Tony Valentine by taking concrete steps to protect our communities and ensure that those who endanger public safety are held accountable. Doing what any police officer would, Detective Valentine knew what was coming and willingly took the hit to prevent a chase from causing any further risk or harm. Valentine's Law is a testament to our commitment to upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the brave men and women who serve on the front lines."

"This legislative effort to support our law enforcement from suspects fleeing custody began several years ago because of an incident involving the Cass County Sheriff's Office," House Speaker Dean Plocher, R-Des Peres, said. "HB 1692 underscores our unwavering commitment to supporting law enforcement and keeping our communities safe. Valentine's Law pays tribute

to Detective Tony Valentine's legacy and serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers across the state each day."

With the passage of this legislation, Missouri takes a bold step forward in honoring the memory of Detective Tony Valentine and reaffirming its commitment to the safety and security of all its residents.

Representative Justin Sparks, a Republican, represents part of St. Louis County (District 110) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Sparks' office at 573-751-0562 or via email at Justin.Sparks@House.Mo.Gov.

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