



## Missouri House of Representatives

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### **House Acts to Protect Missourians with Streamlined Emergency Response across Jurisdictional Boundaries**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – A bipartisan measure that aims to avoid confusion and define roles when law enforcement is called to action outside its jurisdiction, in Missouri, has been approved by the House.

House Bill 1707 would allow the chief law enforcement executive in a given jurisdiction to request assistance from another jurisdiction, even one from outside the state. The bill establishes a framework for how officers would operate in another jurisdiction, addressing issues such as how arrests would be handled.

The need for provisions like this are easily understood when one considers emergencies such as the 2011 Joplin tornado, or if Missouri would experience a bridge collapse like that which happened last week in Baltimore, but bill sponsor Representative Jeff Myers, R-Warrenton, said it is isn't just for disasters.

"The driving force behind this is the 2026 World Cup coming to the Kansas City Area. People will come to that region from around the world, and the security response will be intensive. This will pave the way for bringing in assets from outside the Kansas City and even outside the state, with clear guidelines for how agencies will work together and a clear definition of roles," Myers said.

Myers, who recently retired after nearly 30 years as a Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper, said having this legislation in place would prevent some of the guesswork and jumping through hoops that law enforcement has had to perform in past situations, "and anything that gives our men and women in blue clear direction will help keep them safe, and help them keep Missourians safe."

"It is our job as Missouri legislators to give our law enforcement officers the tools they need to do their jobs, to keep us safe and to ensure they get home safely every night," said House Speaker Dean Plocher, R-Des Peres.

HB 1707 would also modify Missouri law to establish that a law enforcement vehicle does not have to sound an audible signal nor display a visual signal when doing so would interfere with getting evidence of a speeding violation, responding to a crime in progress when it would result in destruction of evidence or the escape of a suspect, or the conducting of surveillance of a vehicle or passengers of a vehicle who are suspected of involvement in a crime. This provision would not exempt the operator of a law enforcement vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for all people's safety, or protect such an operator from the consequences of reckless disregard for others' safety.

With the vote of approval from the House, HB 1707 now heads to the Senate for consideration.

*Representative Jeff Myers, a Republican, represents Warren and Montgomery Counties (District 42) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Myers' office at 573-751-2689 or by email at [Jeff.Myers@House.Mo.Gov](mailto:Jeff.Myers@House.Mo.Gov).*

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