



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

PRESIDENT
Daniel K. Knight

www.moprosecutors.gov

200 Madison St., Ste. 1060
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102
T: 573-751-0619
F: 573-751-1171

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jason H. Lamb

April 8, 2015

Media Contact: *Dan Knight, 573-886-4100*
Kevin Hillman, 573-774-4770

MISSOURI PROSECUTORS UNIFIED IN SUPPORT OF STRUCTURE AND COMPENSATION BILL

Missouri's prosecutors have overwhelmingly voted to support a bill that will promote local control for multi-county prosecution services and a salary increase for Missouri's part-time prosecutors. The Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA) adopted the position relating to structure and compensation for Missouri prosecutors by a vote of 75-18. Previously this session, the association had been neutral on SB80, sponsored by Sen. Bob Dixon.

"Part-time prosecutors need raises," said **President and Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Knight**. "Counties need flexibility to provide high levels of prosecution services to their citizens. This approach provides that flexibility and keeps local control."

"This is the only issue that has divided us as an association," said **President-elect and Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney Kevin Hillman**. "That division is now gone. We have worked through our differences and emerged stronger for it."

The issue of multi-county prosecution has been part of internal MAPA discussions for decades. Last session, MAPA supported SB824, which would have allowed multi-county prosecution systems. Last fall, an internal committee explored transitioning to a state-paid district attorney system. While individual prosecutors held positions on the idea, both for and against, the MAPA Board of Directors decided to remain neutral to allow discussions to continue and evolve.

"This is a result of the process of dialogue," said **Executive Director Jason Lamb**. "This shows that when our membership collaborates, we find ways to unite and do what is best for the state as a whole."

Last week's compromise arose from discussions between prosecutors and Sen. Bob Dixon, who has sponsored SB80. The highlights of the proposal include:

- A multi-county prosecutor option would be available beginning at the 2022 general election;
- Two or more contiguous counties within a single judicial circuit could choose to join together by 4/7 of the popular vote of the people;
- If the measure does not pass, then no question shall again be submitted to voters within four years after the election at which it was defeated;
- Part-time prosecuting attorneys shall receive a minimum compensation of 40% of associate circuit judge beginning in 2018, with graduated increases;
- In each county the prosecuting attorney serves, the prosecuting attorney may represent state agencies in the collection of debt such as court costs.

Sen. Dixon has indicated that he will amend SB80 accordingly, and MAPA will work toward its passage.

###