



# NEWS

## Missouri House of Representatives

Rod Jetton, Speaker

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 3, 2007

**From the Office of:**  
**State Representative Bob Dixon**  
Majority Caucus Chairman

(573) 751-9809 Office  
(417) 343-9560 Personal Cell

### **Rep. Bob Dixon: Statement on Springfield Crime Lab Funding**

**Jefferson City** – The following is a statement released by Rep. Bob Dixon (R-Springfield) regarding House Bill 19.

“My full effort and energy for the remainder of this legislative session will be spent fighting for the much needed crime lab for Springfield and joint engineering compact included in the House Capital Improvements Bill. I am committed to bringing people together and getting the job done, so we can speed up the process of justice and offer enhanced educational opportunities in Southwest Missouri.

Thus far, this legislative session has gone fairly well, but we always have a few issues that start to cause some concern when they stall in the process. At this time, my utmost concern is with HB 19. This legislation is extremely important for the Springfield area because we have the potential to gain funding for a much needed, new crime lab in Greene County and nearly a million dollars in start-up money for a joint engineering compact between Missouri State University and the UM Campus at Rolla.

Presently HB 19 is in the House Rules Committee, but is somewhat tied down because of the legislative process. There are nearly 20 budget bills that must be passed each year. House Bills 1 – 13 compose the primary operating budget. This portion of the budget must be passed before we can take action on any of the other budget bills, including HB 19, which deals with capital projects.

Additionally, the Missouri Constitution requires that we pass a balance budget, so in order to reach HB 19, which contains funding for new projects such as these; we have to pass all other budget bills and make sure they are within the framework of a balanced budget. For instance, HB 17 & 18 insures funding to maintain existing facilities the state owns and these must be passed before we can look at creating new projects contained in HB 19.”

###