

PRESS RELEASE



State Representative Rachel Storch District 64



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Representative Storch files pension reform legislation

Bill filed today would close Administrative Law Judge pension loophole.

JEFFERSON CITY – Representative Rachel Storch (D-St. Louis) announced today that she has filed legislation to prevent inappropriate abuses of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) retirement system. Storch's bill would close a state law loophole that allows appointees to ALJ positions to collect substantial pensions for even one day's service.

"Most Missourians work hard every day to make a living for their families," said Storch. "They don't have an opportunity to artificially inflate their pension benefits. Our public servants should be held to the same standard."

Under current state law, ALJ appointees are eligible for a significant increase in pension benefits on the day of appointment. Storch's bill would alter the current system so that ALJs accrue retirement benefits more gradually, based on years of service, similar to other state employees.

Storch's bill would also require confirmation of appointees by the Missouri State Senate before eligibility for benefits accrues. Currently, the Missouri Constitution requires that appointments made while the legislature is not in session must be confirmed within 30 days after the legislature reconvenes. Currently, however, appointees are allowed to retain the pension benefit even if he or she is not confirmed or if the individual resigns before any action is taken on the appointment.

"Missouri legislators need to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars," said Storch. "Our state economy has been strained in recent years. We need to make sure that every dollar is spent carefully and responsibly." Storch commented, "This bill is an important step in restoring public confidence in the legislature."

Senator Matt Bartle (R-Lee's Summit) has filed identical legislation in the Senate, SB 33.

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