Kirksville joins Missouri cities in lawsuit against cell phone service providers

A Missouri legislative bill that must be passed by the 2003 legislative session would allow Missouri counties and city ordinances to define what types of telecommunications services are, or are not, to pay a 5 percent tax for provided telecommunications service.

The bill would make the city of Kirksville the latest Missouri city to file a lawsuit against wireless phone service providers. The suit, which already has been filed in the Missouri circuit court, would cost more than $1 million in legal expenses depending on the number of cities that are successful with their lawsuit.

“With the amount of new technology out there, we’re not really clear on what’s going on,” said Brian Gabbert, agent for AT&T.