



WEEKLY OVERVIEW: This week all eyes were on the budget conference committee as they worked their way through the differences between the House and Senate budget bills. The committee met on Wednesday morning and made quick work of the conference by finalizing the budget by midafternoon. Friday the House and Senate worked their way through the budget bills and sent them on to Governor Parson for his approval. Highlights of the finalized budget are listed below.

There is a sense of urgency as we head into the final week of session and you will see in this report that many House and Senate bills are being loaded up with multiple amendments containing various subject matters. We ask that you read through the list of bills in this report and encourage you to click on the accompanied link to see the details of the bills. Many priority pieces of legislation still hang in the balance. The motor fuel tax increase, closing the online sales tax loophole (Wayfair), initiative petition reform, election reform, and the second amendment preservation act are all major issues that are waiting for the Senate to act on.

One of the biggest surprises of the week occurred on Thursday evening. The Senate brought up for debate HB 349 which is the education savings accounts (ESAs) bill sponsored by Rep. Christofanelli. Everyone in the building was expecting debate on this bill to last for hours, possibly well into the evening. However, the debate on the bill lasted only about ten minutes and the controversial bill came to an immediate vote. The measure was Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed by a vote of 20 yes and 13 no. This vote stunned many in the education world as three republicans who had previously voted against ESAs supported the bill. Clearing the hurdle of education reform is expected to open the doorway for the passage of Senate bills in the House and particularly legislation increasing the fuel tax and legislation relating to Wayfair.

Next Friday is the last day of the 2021 Missouri Legislative Session and you will not have a report next Friday. Your next and final report will be sent the following week.

This report is abbreviated as the House and Senate are working today to finalize the budget.

In the news...

- On Thursday, the House worked about three hours on HCS/SB 72 which relates to state designations. There were over two dozen amendments adopted, but here is a sampling:
 - July 25 is designated as “Christmas in July” day;
 - November 30 is designated as “Mark Twain Day”;
 - The fourth week in July is designated as “National Day of the Cowboy Day”;
 - August 31 is designated as “Random Acts of Kindness Day”;

- Designation of January 12 as “Rush Limbaugh Day”.
- An amendment designating the corn dog as the official Missouri State Fair food was defeated.
- This week, Governor Mike Parson issued an order to all state workers that they will return to “in-person” work no later than May 17. The directive also ordered all state buildings to be totally accessible to the public during normal business hours.
- Missouri budget leaders are in an enviable position of having more state and federal dollars to appropriate than in any time in recent memory. Of course, the majority of the new dollars in the state coffers are from the federal COVID recovery acts passed by Congress. But Missouri’s net state general revenue funds for April were 30% more compared to the same time last year. State Budget Director Dan Haug announced a 31.4 percent increase in revenues over April, 2020. Collections increased from \$725 million last year to almost \$953 million last month. Overall, Missouri revenue collections to date this year increased by 17 percent from \$7.5 billion to \$8.8 billion.

BUDGET UPDATE: This week the General Assembly finished crafting the \$35.1 billion FY2022 budget. Before the two chambers met in conference this week, they were roughly \$3.1 billion apart on their versions of the budget. The biggest item requested by the Governor was \$1.9 billion, of which roughly \$130 million was GR, for the expansion of Medicaid and was left out of the budget. Also included in the budget is funding for badly needed maintenance and repair and capital improvements across the state. The bills are now sent to the Governor for his signature or line-item veto.

HB 2

- **\$1.1 million GR for the Hillyard Tech Center in St. Joseph,**
- **\$20 million in GEER I funds for Emergency Education Relief Grants**
- **\$20 million GR and Federal Funds for transportation costs**
- **\$2 million GR Workforce Diploma Program**
- **\$2.7 million GR for Fast Track Program**
- **\$21,831,384 GR for MO Excells**

HB 3

- **A 3.7% core increase for public colleges and universities (\$823,130 for Missouri Western)**
- **\$10 million core increase for community colleges**

HB 4

- **\$500,000 for port authority AIM and TIME zones**
- **\$25 million for the road cost-share program**
- **\$20 million addition to the MoDOT core**

- **\$1.15 million federal funds to the Transit Program for the use of grants to non-urbanized areas**
- **\$2.85 million GR for Amtrak services**
- **Assessment Per Parcel increased from the statutory minimum to \$3.15 per parcel.**

HB 5

- **\$27 million for a driver's license modernization system**
- **\$442 million for non-entitlement municipal distributions**

HB 6

- **\$5 million additional for land acquisitions and donation of lands**
- **\$20 million for meat processing plant grants**
- **\$10 million for a multipurpose water resource plan**
- **\$10 million for a multipurpose water program**
- **\$300,000 other funds for Share the Harvest**

HB 7

- **\$150 million for MHDC for homeowner housing assistance**
- **\$15 million for rural broadband grant program**
- **\$300,000 for military reinvestment grants**
- **\$1.4 million for tourism with earmarks for specific programs**

HB 8

- **\$5 million for a volunteer firefighter cancer benefit pool**
- **\$7 million for veteran's home funding**

HB 10

- **\$4 million for an electronic medical record system**
- **\$12 million for community mental health block grants**
- **\$900,000 additional for FQHCs which already providing mental health services in the community**
- **\$10 million for rate standardization for providers**
- **\$60 million federal funds for consumer directed services**

HB 11

- **\$12 million for LIHDW and water utility bill assistance**
- **\$22 million for upgrades to current MEDES system**
- **\$88 million increase for rates within long-term care facilities**
- **\$50 million for Medicaid transformation programs**

HB 12

- **\$3.6 million and 53 FTE for the purpose of eradicating the wait list within the public defender's office**
- **\$ 5,102,383 million for Basic Civil Legal Services Fund**

HB 19

- **\$644,000 for Scanlon Hall Improvements**
- **\$2.5 million for infrastructure repair on Missouri Western University Campus**
- **\$2.5 million for Rosecrans Airport Improvements**

SENATE FLOOR ACTIVITY

LICENSE RECIPROCITY FOR MILITARY MEMBERS: This week the Senate Third Read and Passed 34-0 HB 476, sponsored by Rep. Derek Grier (R-Chesterfield). This legislation modifies provisions relating to license reciprocity to include military occupational specialties.

During debate six amendments were adopted. Those can be found here: [HB 476](#). The bill has been sent back to the House for their concurrence or conference.

SUNSHINE LAW: This week the Senate Third Read and Passed 32-1 HB 362, sponsored by Rep. Bruce DeGroot (R-Chesterfield). This legislation modifies several provisions relating to the Sunshine Law and closed records. The bill summary may be found here: [HB 362](#)

After the bill was returned to the House it was Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed 154-1. The bill has been sent to the Governor for his consideration.

ORDERS OF PROTECTION: This week the Senate Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed 32-2 HCS SS SCS SB 71, sponsored by Sen. Elaine Gannon (R-DeSoto). This legislation modifies provisions regarding pet protection, permanent restraining orders, and stalking. The full bill summary may be found here: [SB 71](#).

The bill has been sent to the Governor for his consideration.

PERSONAL DELIVERY DEVICES: This week the Senate Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed 27-6 HCS SS SB 176, sponsored by Sen. Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield). This legislation makes modifications to emerging technologies. The full bill summary may be found here: [SB 176](#)

The bill has been sent to the Governor for his consideration.

PACE ACT: This week the Senate Third Read and Passed 31-1 SCS HCS HB 697, sponsored by Rep. Bruce DeGroot (R-Chesterfield). This legislation modifies provisions relating to property assessment contracts for energy efficiency. The summary with the added senate amendments may be found here: [HB 697](#)

The bill has been sent to the House for their consideration.

PUBLIC OFFICE REQUIREMENTS: This week the Senate Third Read and Passed 30-1 HCS HB 685, sponsored by Rep. Jason Chipman (R-Steelville). This legislation modifies provisions relating to the duties and qualifications of certain public officers. An amendment was adopted which provides that, upon request, a county auditor in certain counties shall have access to any document pertaining to any account of an executor or administrator of an estate of a decedent in any proceeding of a public administrator.

The bill has been sent to the House for their consideration.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTIVITY

SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICTS: This week the House Third Read and Passed 152-0 HB 445, sponsored by Rep. Mike McGirl (R-Potosi). Currently, certain special road districts are restricted to expend not more than one-fourth the district's revenue within the corporate limits of any city within the district. This bill removes the restriction.

The bill has been reported to the Senate and First Read.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: This week the House Third Read and Passed 85-69 HCS HB 1202, sponsored by Rep. Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). This legislation changes the laws regarding state contracts, taxation, non-compete agreements, and the Department of Economic Development. The full bill summary may be found here: [HB 1202](#)

The bill has been reported to the Senate and First Read.

STUDENT LODGING: This week the House Third Read and Passed 102-50 HCS HB 682, sponsored by Rep. Jason Chipman (R-Steelville). This legislation modifies provisions regarding emergency powers, classification of essential workers, student lodging, child advocate office, safety reporting, business closures, petitions for school boards, and COVID-19 liability. The full bill summary may be found here: [HB 682](#)

The bill has been reported to the Senate and First Read.

UTILITIES: This week the House Third Read and Passed 98-43 HCS SS SB 141, sponsored by Sen. Jason Bean (R-Holcomb). Requires the Public Service Commission to create a renewable natural gas program. Numerous amendments were adopted and can be found here: [SB 171](#)

The bill has been reported to the Senate for their consideration.

MILITARY AFFAIRS: This week the House Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed 150-0 SS SCS SB 120, sponsored by Sen. Bill White (R-Joplin). This act modifies provisions relating to military affairs, including state designations, hiring preferences and classifications for state employment, state agency services, school designations, military protections for motor vehicle

insurance, and qualified military projects in the Missouri Works Program. The full bill summary may be found here: [SB 120](#)

The bill has been sent to the Governor for his consideration.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: This week the House Third Read and Passed 138-11 HCS SS SCS SBs 53 & 60, sponsored by Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer (R-Parkville). This act modifies provisions relating to the administration of justice. The full bill summary and the amendments may be found here: [SB 53](#)

The bill has been sent to conference to work out the differences between the two chambers.

BILLS REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE THIS WEEK: (This is a list of bills that have been reported out of either Rules Committees and the Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee)

[HB 85](#) sponsored by Rep. Jered Taylor (R-Republic). **The Right to Bear Arms**

[HS HB 432](#) sponsored by Rep. Hannah Kelly (R-Mountain Grove). **Birth Match Program**

[HB 488](#) sponsored by Rep. Ron Hicks (R-Dardenne Prairie). **Utilities**

[HB 507](#) sponsored by Rep. Don Rone (R-Portageville). **Excursion Gambling Boat**

[HB 554](#) sponsored by Rep. J. Eggleston (R-Maysville). **Taxation**

[HCS/SS/SCS/SB 27](#) sponsored by Sen. Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). **This act modifies provisions relating to political subdivisions.**

[SB 36](#) sponsored by Sen. Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City). **This act creates the Capitol Complex Tax Credit Act.**

[SB 38](#) sponsored by Sen. Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City). **This act creates a definition for electric bicycles of three classifications, and excludes electric bicycles from definitions for other types of vehicles.**

HCS/SCS/SB 40 sponsored by Sen. Eric Burlison (R-Republic). This act modifies provisions relating to natural resources.

HCS/SS/SB 44 sponsored by Sen. Bill White (R-Joplin). This act modifies provisions relating to utilities.

SS/SB 45 sponsored by Sen. Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield). This act allows for the creation of a Voluntary Firefighter Cancer Benefits Pool by three or more political subdivisions.

SS/SB 46 sponsored by Sen. Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield). This act modifies provisions relating to transportation.

SS/SCS/SB 57 sponsored by Sen. Karla May (D-St. Louis). This act creates provisions relating to funding to certain organizations to deter criminal behavior.

HCS/SS/SB 64 sponsored by Sen. Holly Rehder (R-Sikeston). This act modifies several provisions relating to health care, including: (1) "Sickle Cell Awareness Week"; (2) "Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome Awareness Day"; (3) "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week"; (4) emergency health care services; (5) ambulance districts; (6) health information networks; (7) communicable diseases; (8) forensic examinations; (9) MO HealthNet antipsychotic medication; (10) feminine hygiene products; (11) assistant physicians; (12) COVID-19 vaccine administration; (13) HIV postexposure prophylaxis dispensation; (14) "RX Cares for Missouri Program"; (15) child hearing aids; (16) prepaid dental plans; (17) special victims; and (18) syringe access programs.

SB93 sponsored by Sen. Bob Onder (R-Lake St. Louis). This act establishes April 18th of each year as "Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome Awareness Day" in Missouri.

HCS/SS#2/SCS/SB 202 sponsored by Sen. Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee's Summit). This act modifies provisions relating to the provision of electrical services.

SS#2/SCS/SB 262 sponsored by Sen. Dave Schatz (R-Sullivan). This act modifies provisions relating to transportation.

HCS/SS/SCS/SB 289 sponsored by Sen. Justin Brown (R-Rolla). This act modifies provisions relating to public safety employees.