



CAPITOL REPORT – WEEK 13

APRIL 5, 2024

Weekly Overview: This was a short legislative week because the General Assembly did not meet on Monday due to the Easter Holiday. The House spent a majority of floor time Perfecting and then Third Reading the seventeen budget bills, sending them to the Senate on Thursday. This will put some pressure on the Senate Appropriations Committee and Chairman Lincoln Hough to finalize the Senate’s version of the bills and conduct conference committee meetings with the House to finalize the budget by the constitutional deadline of May 10th.

Activity in the Senate was fairly normal this week. On Wednesday, the chamber spent over nine hours debating a bill which is intended to halt a proposed land fill in the Jackson County area. The debate pitted area senators who want to protect property values against others who considered this to be a property rights issue involving the landfill developers. In the end the bill was laid over without conclusion. On Thursday, the Senate Third Read and sent to the House nine Senate bills, including two proposed constitutional amendments.

Next week, the House chamber will not be in session on Monday due to the 2024 total eclipse. House members are planning on traveling to the southeast region of the state to participate in several local events and to experience the total eclipse, the Senate plans on conducting businesses per usual. With time quickly running out, any lost time will surely be made up with continued late nights.

In the news...

- On Tuesday, Kansas City voters resoundingly defeated a measure to extend a sales tax that would have been dedicated to make major renovations to Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs. The money would also have been used to build a new stadium in downtown Kansas City for the Kansas City Royals. The measure was defeated with 58% voting against. The current sales tax remains in place until 2031 and the measure would have extended it until 2064. Both the Chiefs and the Royals have indicated that they are looking at all options, which could include moving the franchises out of the Kansas City, Missouri area.
- Three Missouri Republican Senators, Senators Rick Brattin, Denny Hoskins and Nick Schroer, are being sued for defamation over social media posts incorrectly identifying a Kansas man as an undocumented immigrant and the shooter at the

Kansas City Chief's Super Bowl victory celebration. The suit, brought by Denton Loudermill of Olathe, KS, is similar to a complaint filed last week against U.S. Congressman Tim Burchett of Tennessee. No hearings have been scheduled in any of the lawsuits.

- St. Louis is one of the three cities the Department of Justice has identified as “most in need” of additional crime-fighting resources resulting in Attorney General Merrick Garland to send in additional law enforcement resources to help. The effort is part of the DOJ's Criminal Division Violent Crime Initiative (VCI) which launched in September 2022. The VCI utilizes prosecutors from the Criminal Division's Violent Crime and Racketeering Section to work alongside prosecutors from the U.S. Attorneys' offices, as well as dedicated agents, analysts and forensic experts from the ATF, FBI, DEA and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. In addition to St. Louis, Jackson, MS and Hartford, CT have been announced as the next VCI cities.
- Jackson County's county offices remain closed after a ransomware attack occurred Tuesday morning which disrupted multiple county services. Measures are actively in place to prevent further compromise to the county's network as the County, in conjunction with federal law enforcement and contracted cybersecurity specialists, continues its investigation into the origin of the attack. The impact on the county does not include taxpayers' personal and sensitive financial information.

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Budget Update

The full House finished crafting their version of the \$50.7 billion FY25 budget this week. The House version contains \$1.9 billion less than the Governor's recommendation. On Tuesday, the House debated the budget for nine hours before finally giving initial approval to the 17 appropriation bills. Over 400 amendments were filed for the appropriation bills with 109 of those being adopted. Some of the failed amendments included restoring Governor Parson's recommendation of a 3% increase in funding for colleges and universities, rather than keep the committee recommendation of a 2% increase, an increase in rates for services for people with disabilities through centers for independent living, a cut to children's health premiums and a removal of the cap on a key variable that determines how much money is given to public schools.

Some amendments that did pass include a cut of \$53.4 million in federal funding for COVID-19 mitigation and prevention, \$1 million in federal funding for Lincoln University for an Industrial Hemp program, \$300,000 for an environmental impact study for I-70 for improvements between Blue Springs and Grain Valley, a restoration of a \$2 million transfer for tourism, increases to grants to provide education on opioid abuse and over \$25 million dedicated to establishing an engineering program and facilities at UMSL.

All eyes will now turn to the Senate as they begin to craft their version of the budget. Sweeping changes are expected as the Senate does not have the same balancing rule as the House. The Senate also only has five weeks to mark-up the bills, debate them before the full Senate and work out the differences with House before the constitutional deadline of May 10th.

Alcohol Direct Shipments

The House Special Committee on Small Business convened Tuesday morning to discuss [HB 2332](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Knight (R-Lebanon). Currently, no person 21 and over shall be required to obtain a license to manufacture intoxicating liquor for personal or family use. The bill repeals beer brewed for personal or family use and adds intoxicating liquor produced for personal or family use. Additionally, the bill decreases the amount of alcohol that may be produced from 200 gallons to 100 gallons. Finally, the bill allows for an intoxicating liquor direct shipping license. Copper Mule Distillery, Missouri Ridge Distillery, Wood Hat Spirits and Our Farm Distilling Company provided supporting testimony stating wineries are currently allowed to ship wine directly, support the number of cases which can be shipped and support limiting this to Missouri craft distillers only. Wine and Spirit Wholesalers of America, Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits, Breakthrough Beverage and Missouri Beer Wholesalers Association provided opposing testimony stating there are five states which accept out of state distillery shipments, there are no age checks with direct shipping and the regulatory aspects are costly to the state.

Angel Investment Incentive Act

The Senate Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [SB 1178](#), sponsored by Senator Denny Hoskins (R-Warrensburg). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 2226](#), sponsored by Representative Travis Smith (R-Dora) and establishes the "Missouri Angel Investment Incentive Act." Beginning January 1, 2025, the bill would permit a tax credit for an investor's cash investment in a qualified business in the amount of 40% of the investor's cash investment in any qualified business. The credit will be equal to 50% of the investor's cash

investment if the business is located in a county meeting the rural area classification in the bill. Additionally, the bill contains provisions concerning allocation of the tax credits, factors MTC may consider as part of its assessment, and qualifications for designation as a “qualified business. Finally, the bill caps the amount of tax credits that may be issued. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to align the bill with the House companion by changing the start date of the program, delayed the dates the credit would automatically increase, shortened the sunset to six years and changed “region” to “county.” Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 3-1 vote.

Ballot Measurers

The House Elections and Elected Officials Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [SJR 74](#), sponsored by Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold). Currently, constitutional amendments must win a simple majority of voters statewide. As originally filed, the resolution, upon voter approval, would require amendments to receive a majority vote in at least five of the state’s eight congressional districts. During the bill’s progression through the Senate, the bill was amended to remove all of the previously proposed changes and limiting the resolution to voter thresholds and the resolution now only requires all such proposed constitutional amendments and new amendments to receive a majority of the votes cast statewide as well as a majority of the votes cast in at least a majority of the Congressional districts, with such approved amendments to take effect at the end of 31 days after the election. During lengthy committee discussion, substitute language was adopted prohibiting foreign interference including sponsoring, contributing to a campaign committee, electioneering or anyone accepting any of the same from a foreign individual or political party. Additionally, the owner of petitions and votes must be residents of the state. Finally, the “ballot candy” language was also added which specifies only U.S. citizens may vote. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 11-5 vote.

Banks and Financial Institutions

The Senate dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit [SB 835](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). This bill updates two provisions relating to lending. First, it repeals an existing prohibition against parties agreeing in writing to any rate of interest, fees, and other terms and conditions in connection with any loan of less than \$5,000 secured by real estate used for agricultural activity. Second, the bill permits lenders to charge consumers for the cost of a credit report or reports. Finally, the bill repeals a provision enacted in 1883 that requires description of a woman’s status as “wife” when executing a notary’s certificate of acknowledgement form in the course of a real estate transaction with her husband. During previous debate, the bill was amended to include [SB 736](#), relating to the Linked Deposit Program; [SB 753](#), which establishes the Commercial Financing Disclosure Law; [SB 1518](#), which prohibits any public entity from discriminating or giving preferential treatment to any bidder, offeror, or vendor when engaged in procuring or letting contracts for any purpose, based on an environmental, social and governance score; prohibits the State of Missouri from accepting payments using central bank digital currency; and [SB 735](#), specifically exempts all purchases of bullion and investment coins from all state and local sales taxes and requires the State of Missouri to accept gold and silver as legal tender. After no further debate, the Senate passed the bill by a 23-9 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

Broadband Grants/Video Services/Small Wireless

The Senate dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit [SB 872](#), sponsored by Senator Karla Eslinger (R-Wasola). Currently, a taxpayer may deduct from state income tax 100% of any federal grant

money received for the purpose of providing or expanding access to broadband internet to areas of the state that lack access. This bill expands the deduction to include state or local grant money and limits the deduction only to money dispersed for this express purpose. During previous debate, the bill was amended to include three additional provisions. Specifically, [SB 947](#), which modifies the definition of “video service” for provisions of law relating to video service providers to include the definition of streaming content; [SB 1411](#), which extends the sunset on the Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2029; and [SB 896](#), which creates a state and local sales tax exemption for utilities, equipment, and materials used to generate or transmit electricity. After no further debate, the Senate passed the bill by a 30-2 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened Tuesday morning to consider passage of [HB 2057](#), sponsored by Representative Ben Keathley (R-Chesterfield). The bill is the House companion to [SB 947](#), which was included into [SB 872](#), highlighted above. After no committee discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 7-3 vote.

Business Development

The Senate dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit [SB 894](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Fulton). The bill establishes provisions relating to the promotion of business development. Specifically, the bill creates the Regulatory Sandbox Act which provides small businesses creating innovative products in all industries a way to waive or suspend certain regulations for two years by applying to the Regulatory Relief Office created within the Department of Economic Development. The bill also eliminates the Small Business Fairness Board because they have not had a quorum or the capability to meet over the past ten years. Additionally, the bill includes the Right-to-Start Act, which requires the Commissioner of Administration, in conjunction with the Office of Entrepreneurship, which is established by the act, to file a report with the General Assembly making recommendations on improving access and resources for new Missouri businesses that have been in operation for less than three years and also creates the Office of Entrepreneurship to promote policies and initiatives to support growth in Missouri. After no further debate, the Senate passed the bill by a 31-1 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

The Senate Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [HB 1960](#), sponsored by Representative Alex Riley (R-Springfield). The bill is similar to [SB 894](#), highlighted above and creates the Regulatory Sandbox Act and also eliminates the Small Business Fairness Board. The Opportunity Solutions Project, MO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Economic Development Corporation of KC, Associated Industries of MO, City of KC, Civic Council of KC, UnitedWe, Greater KC Chamber of Commerce, Springfield Chamber of Commerce, MO Retailers Association, and the MO Grocers Association supported the bill. No opposing testimony was presented.

Businesses Operating Hours

The House Transportation Accountability Committee convened Thursday morning to consider passage of [HB 2533](#), sponsored by Representative Richard Morse (R-Dexter). The bill prohibits any political subdivision from adopting a law, ordinance, resolution, and business remain open for business on Sundays. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 10-1 vote.

Candidate Filing Dates

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [HB 1604](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Hinman (R-O’Fallon). Currently, the filing period for candidates, unless otherwise specified, is from the 17th Tuesday prior to the election through the 14th Tuesday prior to the election. The bill moves the filing period by one week, from the 6th Tuesday to the 13th Tuesday prior to the election. The bill also provides that if the 13th Tuesday is a holiday, the next day will be the last day of filing. City of St. Peters, the MO Municipal League, Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, Lee’s Summit, MO Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities supported the bill. No opposing testimony was presented.

Car Dealership Inspections

The House Special Committee on Government Accountability convened Wednesday morning to discuss [HB 2317](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Knight (R-Lebanon). The bill would exempt established dealerships from having to do a prior sell inspection on vehicles that are less than three years old, with less than 40,000 miles. During bill presentation, the sponsor stated he will be offering a committee substitute to reduce to less than 36,000 miles, since that is the minimum warranty coverage provided on a vehicle. Additionally, the committee substitute would allow an established dealership to do their own odometer reading and VIN inspections. Carvana supported the bill. A private citizen provided opposing testimony.

Child Protection Omnibus

The Senate dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit [SB 862](#), sponsored by Senator Holly Thompson-Rehder (R-Sikeston). The bill modifies provisions relating to money held by the Children’s Division for the benefit of a child. During previous debate, the bill was amended to include [SB 899](#), relating to child care providers; [SB 1133](#), relating to the placement of a child; [SB 863](#), modifies provisions relating to medication-assisted treatment and child placement; [SB 878](#), court shall not award custody, guardianship, or unsupervised visitation in a paternity action to a parent who has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, specified offenses when a child is a victim; and [SB 1026](#), modifies provisions relating to child custody arrangements. After no further debate, the Senate passed the bill by a 29-1 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

Classical Education Grant Program

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened Thursday morning to consider passage of [SB 1290](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The bill establishes a classical education fund for the purpose of assisting school districts with grants in providing a classical education which is defined as education in the liberal arts and sciences. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

Commercial Transactions

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 2780](#), sponsored by Representative Justin Hicks (R-Lake St. Louis). The bill makes several updates and modifications to commercial statutes. Specifically, the bill prohibits public entities from accepting payments using any central bank digital currency, modifies definitions for central bank digital currency and updates the Uniform Commercial Code. Additionally, the bill makes hybrid transactions subject to the Uniform Commercial Code and defines hybrid transactions. Finally, the bill modifies when and how a person has control of electronic document of title, modifies when a purchaser has control of security entitlements and

modifies definitions of secured transactions. During debate, the bill was successfully amended to include [HB 1478](#), which establishes the Money Transmission Modernization Act of 2024, [HB 1948](#), which modifies the requirements of notice for sale by an operator of a self-service storage facility and includes a provision which allows an increase of self-storage insurance from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes.

Community College Transferable Credit

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 2310](#), sponsored by Representative Cameron Parker (R-Campbell). This bill increases from 42 to 60 the number of semester credit hours that shall be approved as "transferable core of lower-division courses" from community colleges and four-year universities. By the 2025-26 academic year the coordinating board for higher education shall identify an additional 18 credit hours to be included in the transferable core of lower-division courses. During bill progression, substitute language was adopted that stated all the different four-year colleges and university systems would collectively decide on 5 additional classes that would be transferable. After a brief debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes.

Compassionate Care Visits

The House Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss [HB 2869](#), sponsored by Representative Ed Lewis (R-Moberly). The bill modifies the "No Patient Left Alone Act" by adding penalty provisions for any facility found to have violated the Act. A facility in violation will be subject to suspension or revocation of its license or certification by the Department of Health and Senior Services, and will be liable to the State for a civil penalty of \$1000 for each day the violation occurs. Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri Healthcare Association, Missouri Assisted Living Association, St. Lukes Health System and NHS Management provided opposing testimony stating this enacts strict liability standards without a review or fact-finding process. A state public advocate provided supporting testimony.

County Committee Meeting Location

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [HB 1909](#), sponsored by Representative Tim Taylor (R-Bunceton). The bill repeals the requirement that county committees hold their meetings within the seat of the county in advance of primary elections. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

County Officials

The House General Laws Committee convened Wednesday evening to discuss [SB 1363](#), sponsored by Senator Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill includes several provisions relating to county officials. Specifically, upon the approval of the salary commission, the bill allows counties to increase coroners' salaries. Additionally, the bill allows county corners that fill the slot of sheriffs to receive that salary, allows salary commissions to amend the base salary schedule, allows county collectors to conduct tax sales via electronic media, allows county auditors to audit and examine claims, excludes the Boone County sheriff from the current salary schedule, and changes statutes concerning public administrators. During bill progression, the bill was amended to clarify a St. Louis City sheriff shall be required to hold a valid peace officer license within two years of being elected as sheriff and also clarifies the annual salary for a sheriff shall be no less than \$50 thousand dollars a year. Missouri Association of Public Administrators, Missouri Association of County Auditors, Department of the Office of the Sheriff of the City of St. Louis, Missouri County Collectors Association, and a state public advocate provided

supporting testimony stating this clarifies public administrators may be moved to the Salary Commission, ensures auditors have access to all records for which they have a fiduciary responsibility and eases some of the duties for county officials. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

County Planning Board Hearings

The House General Laws Committee convened Wednesday evening to consider passage of [HB 1992](#), sponsored by Representative Sherri Gallick (R-Belton). The bill requires that notices of county planning board hearings be posted on the county's website, and it repeals the requirement that the notices be posted at least 15 days in advance of the hearing in at least two places in each township. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

Credit Union Membership

The House Financial Institutions Committee convened Tuesday morning to discuss [HB 2452](#), sponsored by Representative Richard West (R-Wentzville). The bill modifies those who may be credit union members and duties of credit unions. The sponsor stated he is seeking to expand access to credit unions. United Credit Union, Telcom Credit Union, Mississippi Credit Union, First Missouri Credit Union, and United Consumers Credit Union provided supporting testimony stating this would allow credit unions to better serve consumers and their communities and fill gaps for those who cannot receive loans through traditional banks. Missouri Bankers Association, First Federal Bank of Kansas City, Regional Missouri Bank provided opposing testimony stating the legislation allows credit unions to grow and operate similarly to banks without having to follow the same regulations and have the same oversight and this could negatively impact smaller independent banks.

Department of Revenue Omnibus

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 1775](#), sponsored by Representative Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green). The bill exempts homeless children, homeless youth, and unaccompanied youth from certain fees collected by Department of Revenue fee offices related to intermediate driver's license fees and their first nondriver identification card. During debate, several amendments were successfully added to create an omnibus Department of Revenue bill. Specifically, the bill now includes:

- [HB 1459](#), which modifies provisions relating to disabled American veterans' special license plates;
- [HB 2843](#), expands provisions relating to confidentiality of motor vehicle or driver registration records for parole personnel;
- [HB 2589](#), which modifies provision of the "Champion for Children" tax credit and the "Donated Food" tax credit relating to tax credit award denials;
- [HB 1451](#), which modifies provisions relating to the issuance and renewal of license plates and placards for person with disabilities;
- A provision allowing for alternative fuel decals to be purchased for up to two years;
- A provision altering personal vehicle registration fees to \$25 and motorcycles to \$10;
- A provision altering farm fleet vehicle registrations; and
- A provision modifying vehicle emission inspections.

Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes.

Drones

The House Special Committee on Homeland Security convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss [HB 1415](#), sponsored by Representative Dan Stacy (R-Blue Springs). The bill prohibits the purchase or use by a government agency of a drone, or any related service or equipment produced by a manufacturer domiciled in a country of concern. All communications from and to a drone shall utilize a federally compliant encryption algorithm. State Armor Action provided supporting testimony. The St Charles County Chief Security Officer, Monarch Fire Protection District, Lodge 15 FOP, Cape Girardeau Fire Department, Agri-Spray Drones, Boone County Fire Protection District, Cape Girardeau Sheriff's Office, Wright City Fire Chief, Law Enforcement Legislative coalition, MO Police Chiefs Association, City of Branson Police and Fire Chiefs, Wright City Fire Protection District Chief Pilot, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Kansas City Fire and Police Departments, Fire Service Alliance and the St Louis County Police Association provided opposing testimony. The Council on Public Higher Education testified for informational purposes citing confusion as to whether or not the proposed law would apply to Universities and Colleges.

Education Stabilization Fund

The House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss [HB 1758](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia). The bill proposes to establish an "education stabilization fund" within the state treasury subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. For any fiscal year revenue collections fall below the consensus calculation estimate on which the appropriation for public education is based, the Governor may transfer funds to the foundation formula. Additionally, the fund is restricted to a balance of no more than ten percent of the previous fiscal year appropriation to the formula. The Missouri NEA and Missouri School Boards Association provided supporting testimony stating it would help to keep education funding stable during times of decreasing revenue. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened Thursday morning to consider passage of [SB 1164](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). The bill seeks to provide additional funding for the foundation formula in years where revenues are less than estimated by establishing the "Education Stabilization Fund." This allows the Governor to transfer the necessary funds to ensure the free public schools are funded as closely to the fully appropriated amount as practicable. If the balance within the fund exceeds more than 10% of the appropriated foundation formula, the excess funds revert to General Revenue. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

Election Judges

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [SB 1415](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). Currently, only registered voters in this state are able to serve as election judges. The bill allows military service members on active duty and nonresident military spouses to also serve as election judges. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to clarify in order for a military service member to serve as an election judge must be on active duty within this state. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

Electric Transmission Facility Construction

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss [SB 805](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). The bill specifies, in the event the PSC approves the construction of an electric transmission facility, the entity that owns the easement will have first right of refusal to build transmission projects requested and approved by the Regional Transmission Authority. Additionally, electric corporations that seek to build Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO) approved lines shall attempt to co-locate these lines with existing infrastructure. Lastly, the bill includes that same provisions found in [SB 1262](#), which prohibits the use of eminent domain by electrical corporations for the construction or erection of any plant, tower, panel, or facility used for wind and solar farms that are owned by public utilities. Edison Electric, DeKalb County, MO Electric Cooperatives, MO Cattlemen's Association, Burns McDonnell, MO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Liberty Utilities, and a private citizen supported the bill and highlighted if adopted this would align MO with the majority of other states that have adopted these laws and on a bipartisan basis. LS Power Grid, Americans for Prosperity, Consumers Council of MO, MO Industries Energy Consumers, MO Sierra Club, Renew MO, and the Midwest Energy Consumers Group opposed the bill, stating the language would prohibit transmission competition in Missouri.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installations

The Senate Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [HB 1511](#), sponsored by Representative Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis). The bill requires political subdivisions that require the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at certain businesses to pay the costs associated with the installation, maintenance, and operation of such stations. Additionally, the bill caps any political subdivision from requiring more than five EV stations per parking lot. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 3-1 vote.

Electric Vehicles Road Use Fee

The House Transportation Accountability Committee convened Thursday morning to consider passage of [HB 1921](#), sponsored by Representative Herman Morse (R-Dexter). The bill allows the Department of Revenue to collect an electric hybrid vehicle road use fee of 4% of the list price and 2% of the list price road use fee for new plug-in electric hybrid vehicles. These fees are to be collected upon the initial registration for each vehicle and funds collected will be deposited into the State Road Fund. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 7-0 vote.

Elementary and Secondary Education

The House Special Committee on Education Reform convened Tuesday morning to discuss [SB 727](#), sponsored by Senator Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester). The bill expands the Empowerment Scholarship Account Program (ESA) statewide and increases the cap from \$25 million to \$75 million. Additionally, the bill includes a charter school expansion to operate in St. Louis County, St. Charles County, and Boone County. During the bill's progression in the Senate, substitute language was adopted which added language related to four-Day school week, includes language related to teacher pay, includes language related to the foundation formula and makes part of it based on enrollment rather than daily average attendance. Additionally, there is funding to go towards helping teacher recruitment and retention by increasing teacher pay and also creating a scholarship program to promote being a teacher as a possible career path for individuals. After little discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-2 vote.

Emergency Department Staffing Requirements

The House Professional Registration and Licensing Committee convened Wednesday afternoon to consider passage of [HB 2548](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). The bill requires hospitals with emergency departments to have at least one physician on site, on duty and be responsible for the duration the emergency department is open. During discussion, substitute language was adopted which requires signs be posted to advise if a physician is on premise or not. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-3 vote.

Employment of Youth

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Tuesday afternoon to discuss [SB 1057](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon). The bill repeals a requirement for children between the ages of 14 and 18 to obtain a work certificate issued by a government entity as a condition of employment, includes certain regulations for the employment of children in the entertainment industry, and requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to develop a standardized permission document for parent or guardian consent of any individual between the ages of 14 and 16 who are employed annually. The MO Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Associated Industries of Missouri, Missouri Grocers Association, and Missouri Retailers Association provided supporting testimony saying it reduced administrative barriers to employing part time youth in low-skill jobs and provided opportunities for families to grow out of poverty. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Entertainment District

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [SB 1431](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 2068](#), sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Crocker) and upon voter approval, the bill creates an entertainment district within the Bagnell Dam area. The City of Lake Ozark, and the Lake Economic Alliance Development (LEAD) supported the bill. No opposing testimony was presented.

Eviction Moratorium

The House Special Committee on Small Business convened Tuesday morning to consider passage of [SB 895](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). The bill prohibits any Missouri county, municipality, or political subdivision from imposing a moratorium on eviction proceedings unless specifically authorized by state law. Additionally, the bill requires all transfers of title of real property for rental properties with outstanding collectible judgements to be filed in the circuit court within thirty days after transfer of title. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

Expungement

The House General Laws Committee convened Wednesday evening to consider passage of [HB 2555](#), sponsored by Representative Justin Hicks (R-Lake St. Louis). The bill modifies several provisions relating to expungement. Specifically, the bill closes records and files maintained by any court pertaining to clean slate eligible offenses without the filing of a petition and requires the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) to identify and transfer on a monthly basis all clean slate eligible offenses records to the Central Repository and every prosecuting agency in the state within 30 days of the offense becoming eligible for expungement. Additionally, OSCA shall report on a yearly basis to certain committees of the General Assembly the number of records expunged and creates the "Missouri Expungement Fund" to provide system upgrades and staffing needs to provide and implement these

provisions. Finally, the bill allows credit bureaus to report records of arrests, indictments pending trial and convictions of crimes for no longer than 7 years from final disposition, unless the records have been expunged or the person pardoned. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted which added [HB 2108](#), sponsored by Representative Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Peters), which is identical, to create one legislative vehicle. Additionally, the substitute specifies when expungement of records occurs, only the highest offense is removed. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

Extended Care Facility Licenses

The Senate dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit [SB 1111](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). The bill creates a prescribed pediatric extended care facility license issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services. During previous debate, the bill was amended to include [SB 899](#), which modifies provisions relating to child care provider licensing requirements for certain providers and include language that clarifies and limits the MO Department of Social Services authority when inspecting the conditions of places; and [SB 811](#), relating to the temporary child care provider licenses. After no further debate, the Senate passed the bill by a 30-2 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

Foreign Entities Divestment

The House Pensions Committee convened Tuesday morning to consider passage of [HB 2143](#), sponsored by Representative Brian Seitz (R-Branson), which establishes the "Foreign Adversary Divestment Act." All state-managed funds would be prohibited from holding investments in any foreign adversary and would be required to immediately, in good faith, begin divestment of any such holdings and to complete divestment within two years of the legislation's effective date. State-managed funds would be further prohibited from investing or depositing public funds in any bank domiciled or principally located within a foreign adversary. Additionally, "foreign adversary" includes the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro, the Syrian Arab Republic, and any other entity designated by the governor in consultation with the Attorney General. Finally, this bill is not to be construed to inhibit, conflict, impede, or otherwise interfere with any required financial safeguards, fiduciary requirements, or other sound investment criteria to which a state-managed fund is subject. After no discussion, the committee passed the by a 5-3 vote.

The committee then turned its attention towards [HB 1869](#), sponsored by Representative Dirk Deaton (R-Noel). The bill requires the public retirement and benefit systems to not knowingly invest in a restricted entity or a restricted investment product and divest any investment that the system has on behalf of a fund, including particular investments publicly confirmed to be controlled by the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party. Additionally, the retirement system boards would be required to make a good faith effort to identify all restricted entities and restricted investment products in which the system holds an investment. Finally, the divestment requirements included in the bill do not apply to private market funds. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

General Assembly Term Limits

The House Elections and Elected Officials Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [HJR 69](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Stephens (R-Bolivar). Currently, members of the General Assembly can serve no more than eight years total in any one chamber. Upon voter approval, this

resolution would allow for members to serve no more than sixteen years total in any one chamber. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 15-1 vote.

Geology and Land Survey

The Senate dedicated floor time Tuesday afternoon to debate [SB 1351](#), sponsored by Senator Tony Luetkemeyer (R-Parkville). According to the bill, all information obtained by the Missouri Geological Survey shall remain confidential and shall not be released to the public in response to any request, including a records request, except certain information relating to water usage. During debate, the sponsor amended the bill to modify the title to reflect the proper department that oversees the program and provide clarifying language that provides the provisions of the act shall only apply to information obtained from major water users relating to water used on agricultural land. Once modified, the Senate provided its first of two necessary approval votes. The Senate dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit the bill. After no further debate, the Senate failed to pass the bill by a 16-16 vote.

Gold and Silver

The House Financial Institutions Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [HB 1955](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon). The bill allows the State Treasurer to keep in the custody of the state treasury an amount of gold and silver greater than or equal to 1% of all state funds. The bill also exempts capital gains tax from the sale or exchange of gold or silver. Finally, the bill requires that gold and silver be accepted as legal tender for the payment of any debt at the discretion of the receiving entity. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted which combined the bill with [HB 2257](#), which is identical, to create one legislative vehicle. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 8-3 vote.

Human Trafficking

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 2688](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Myers (R-Warren). The bill establishes a twenty-year statute of limitations for certain trafficking offenses. Additionally, the bill creates an “aggravating circumstance” for human trafficking offenses and adds additional penalties of up to five years imprisonment. The bill establishes the “Council on Human Trafficking” within the Department of Public Safety and develop plans related to providing victims of human trafficking with services, provide training and seek solutions to human trafficking. Finally, the bill allows those convicted of prostitution to seek expungement of the record. During debate, the bill was further amended to prohibit any state funded insurance plans from providing coverage for any organ transplants that take place in or organs that originate from China. Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes.

Individualized Education Plans

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee convened Wednesday morning to consider passage of [HB 1663](#), sponsored by Representative Tara Peters (R-Rolla). The bill requires written parental consent for any modification of a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that differs more than 25% from the originally agreed-upon IEP as approved by a student's IEP team and parent or guardian. During discussion, substitute language was adopted which establishes a timeline of 10 business days for resolving disputes between schools and parents and outlines the process for extending this timeline in the event a dispute cannot be resolved before the deadline. Additionally, the substitute includes a delayed effective date of 2 years in order for school districts to develop new and update current IEP processes in order to comply. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 16-0 vote.

Initiative Petition Reform

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday morning to revisit [HJR 86](#), sponsored by Representative John Black (R-Maysville). The bill seeks to end the simple majority rule and replaces it with concurrent majority requirements, requires a public forum be conducted by the Secretary of State for initiative petitions and requires those proposing initiative petitions to be U.S. Citizens. After a lengthy debate, the House passed the bill by a 106-49 vote.

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [HB 1749](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Haffner (R-Pleasant Hill). The bill modifies the circulated petition to include dark ink and 12-point font and margin settings. In addition, the bill also requires signatures to be disqualified if the summary statement is altered by the courts. Finally, the bill also gives the Attorney General and Secretary of State unprecedented authority to determine if the proposed language is constitutional. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

Interior Designers

The House Professional Registration and Licensing Committee convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss [HB 2158](#), sponsored by Representative Sherri Gallick (R-Belton). The bill modifies the licensing of registered interior designers by defining the practice of registered interior design along with establishing a personal seal for registered interior designers. The personal seals shall be in a form prescribed by the Division of Professional Registration and shall be affixed to all final interior technical submissions, as provided by the act. The personal seal shall be the legal equivalent of the registered interior designer's signature whenever and wherever used. Helix Architecture Kansas City, International Interior Design Association, Council for Interior Design Qualification, IIDA Gateway, and several registered interior designers provided supporting testimony stating having an additional professional review and seal documents is a costly and duplicative process. Tao & Lee Associates, Inc., AIA Springfield, AIA Missouri, American Council of Engineering Companies and Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, AGC of Missouri, Branco Enterprise provided opposing testimony stating interior designers are not cross-trained the way architects are required to be and although the testing requirements have been changed to be more rigorous, there has not been time to assess if the testing is sufficient to sign and seal drawings for permits.

Jail Districts

The Senate dedicated floor time Tuesday afternoon to debate [SB 900](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Sullivan). Currently, any two contiguous counties may form a regional jail district. This bill specifies if a regional jail district levies a sales tax and a new county wish to join the district, the county seeking to join must vote to enact the sales tax. If the sales tax is not approved, the county will not be allowed to join the jail district. Additionally, the bill allows the districts to equip and maintain the facility, as well as lease any properties. Finally, the bill also repeals a provision, which allows the sales tax to be used for court facilities within the jail district. During debate, the sponsor offered a substitute to include [SB 1353](#), which mandates that the Department of Corrections compensates counties or St. Louis City for the duration an individual was held in custody before being transferred to a correctional center, with a per diem cost cap of \$37.50. The procedure requires the sheriff of the county or St. Louis City to report the total days an offender spent in jail to the county clerk or the chief executive officer of St. Louis City. This report must then be forwarded to the Department of Corrections within two years of when the claim is eligible for reimbursement. The Department is tasked with verifying the expenses.

Senator Steve Roberts (D-St. Louis) further amended the bill to include [SB 1098](#), which establishes caps on phone rates for calls made in jails by inmates. The legislation says no correctional facility shall charge no more than 12 cents per minute for a domestic phone call of an inmate. Additionally, no jail may charge a fee of more than 14 cents per minute for a phone call for any jail with an average daily population of more than 1,000 inmates or more than 21 cents per minute for any jail with an average daily population of fewer than 1,000 inmates. Once modified, the Senate provided its first of two necessary approval votes. The Senate dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit the bill. After no further debate, the Senate passed the bill, with an emergency clause, by a 23-9 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

Judicial Salaries

The House Pensions Committee convened Tuesday morning to discuss [SJR 71](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). This proposed constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, provides that the administration of justice shall include levying costs and fees to support salaries and benefits for sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, and circuit attorneys. The Livingston County Prosecutor, the MO Sheriff Retirement System, and a sheriff supported the bill. The NAACP opposed the bill stating that imposing fees that are not directly related to being in court, is a disincentive and creates an unfair system.

Library Boards

The House Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss [HB 2648](#), sponsored by Representative Jamie Gragg (R-Ozark). The bill seeks to modify local public library boards by providing local communities the option to elect members instead of being appointed. During committee discussion, committee members expressed concern with candidate involvement and questioned who would fund the election and campaigns. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 7-3 vote.

Military Service Member Compensation

The House Special Committee on Homeland Security convened Wednesday afternoon to consider passage of [HR 4210](#), sponsored by Representative Hardy Billington (R-Poplar Bluff). This resolution states the support of the members of the Missouri House of Representatives for remedies to fully compensate military service members who were wrongfully terminated for their choice not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

Missouri Emergency Response Commission

The Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss [SB 1356](#), sponsored by Senator Brian Williams (D-University City). Under current law, fees collected and paid to the Missouri Emergency Response Commission shall be collected until August 28, 2024. This act repeals such sunset provision. The MO Petroleum and Convenience Association, Fireservice Alliance, MO Ambulance Association, Boone County Fire Protection District and State Emergency Management provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Missouri Sunshine Law

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [HB 1720](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph). The bill seeks to protect the personal

identifiable information of minors that is held by a public governmental body that is a city, town, village, or park board. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to change the title to “relating to the closure of certain public records” and includes SB 1019, which authorizes the closure of certain park records. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

MO Bucks

The House Financial Institutions Committee convened Tuesday morning to discuss [SB 736](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 1803](#), sponsored by Representative Terry Thompson (R-Lexington) and raises the aggregate amount the state treasurer may invest in linked deposits with a cap of \$1.2 billion. The current cap is \$800 million. The bill also changes the calculation basis from “dollars” to “percentages”. During bill progression, it was amended to include [SB 735](#), which creates and modifies provisions relating to gold and silver, and also prohibit the state treasurer from accepting payments using central bank digital currency. Missouri Bankers Association, FSC Financial, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Missouri Credit Union Association, Missouri Farm Bureau, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City and Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City provided supporting testimony stating this would help lower interest rates on loans for bank consumers and are supportive of expansion of the MO Bucks program. Missouri State Treasurer’s Office provided informational testimony regarding the MO Bucks program. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

MO Contracts

The House Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss [HB 1827](#), sponsored by Representative Cyndi Buchheit Courtway (R-Festus). Currently in making purchases, the Commissioner of the MO Office of Administration shall give preference to commodities and tangible personal property produced within Missouri. The bill will add Missouri based businesses to the list of businesses that are given preference for purchases made by the state. The Missouri based business is defined as a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership or limited liability partnership formed or domiciled in Missouri, whose principal place of business has a physical location within the state. Citing the Department was previously contracting with several MO based business and unexpectedly have canceled the contracts and moved the services to out-of-state companies, the intent of the legislation is to promote Missouri businesses and keep taxpayer money within the State. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 10-0 vote.

Motor Vehicle License Plate Temp Tags

The House General Laws Committee convened Wednesday evening to consider passage of [HB 1754](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia). The bill authorizes law enforcement officers to stop, inspect, or detain someone solely to determine whether a temporary permit is current. If it has expired, the law enforcement officer must seize the expired temporary permit and assess a penalty of \$200. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted which requires the stop be based on a reasonable suspicion that a violation occurred and allows if the citation to be removed if the taxes on the plates are brought up to date. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

Natural Gas Safety Standard Mandates

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss [SB 1470](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee’s Summit). The bill repeals certain provisions relating to maximum penalties for violations of federally mandated natural

gas safety standards and provides that the maximum penalties shall not exceed an amount as determined by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States. The MO Public Service Commission, and Spire MO supported the bill and informed committee members that the MO Pipeline Safety Authority is a delegated authority, and they are required to have a civil penalty provision that is as adequate as the federal provisions, and currently Missouri is at risk of losing their authority because we have not adhered to this requirement. A private citizen opposed the bill.

Net Metering

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened Wednesday morning to consider passage of [SB 855](#), sponsored by Senator Cindy O’Laughlin (R-Shelbina). The bill pertains to net metering of solar power. In 2007, the legislature created a framework for MO citizens to sell back power to the prospective utility provider in excess of their immediate onsite needs and only be billed for the net amount of power used during that billing cycle. Since the passage of the law, there has been considerable sustained growth in the number of members connecting personal energy generation sources to the electric grid and with current law, local member co-op member boards are denied the flexibility necessary to ensure the fixed costs to maintain the electrical system are shared fairly between member generators and members that choose not to connect their own energy sources. This bill clarifies the Public Service Commission or the governing body of an electric cooperative or a municipal utility are to offer net metering to customers who generate their own electricity at rates identical in certain ways to rates if the customer did not generate electricity. During committee discussion, committee members stated that interested parties are still working together to draft a substitute to offer during floor debate and in order to keep things moving, the committee passed the bill by a 7-2 vote.

Paramedic Services

The Senate Government Accountability Committee convened Thursday morning to discuss [SB 1382](#), sponsored by Senator Barbara Washington (D-Kansas City). This is the senate companion to [HB 2627](#), sponsored by Representative Bennie Cook (R-Houston), which requires community paramedic services seeking to serve outside their originating boundaries to have memorandums of understanding with existing emergency service providers to ensure the proper coordination of care. Missouri Ambulance Association and Ambulance District Association of Missouri provided supporting testimony stating this would allow for continued expansion of the program. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Peer Review Committees

The Senate Governmental Accountability Committee convened Thursday morning to consider passage of [SB 1248](#), sponsored by Senator Justin Brown (R-Rolla). The bill includes emergency medical service providers as a health care provider for the purpose of liability and disclosure of materials for review by a peer review committee. During discussion, substitute language was adopted to include physician assistants, ambulatory personnel, such as EMTs. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

Political Advertisements

The House Elections and Elected Officials Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [HB 2544](#), sponsored by Herman Morse (R-Dexter). The bill requires a source citation of the original source on

campaign material near the “Paid By” section of the literature. The Press Association provided informational testimony. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Political Subdivision Omnibus

The House Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee convened Wednesday morning to reconsider passage of [HB 2206](#), sponsored by Representative Richard West (R-Wentzville). The bill as originally filed requires political subdivisions to adopt a meeting speaker policy by July 1, 2025, to allow for public comments and prohibits a political subdivision from banning or removing individuals from a meeting. The bill had previously been voted out of committee, however as we near the end of session, members start to look for every opportunity to amend bills to include their priorities. Through a series of procedural moves, the committee brought back to the bill to reconsider and to offer a committee substitute ultimately creating an omnibus bill relating to political subdivisions. The bill now includes over 20 new provisions, specifically:

- [HB 2381](#), which establishes the Protecting Small Business Act;
- [HB 1512](#), which modifies provisions relating to the powers of libraries;
- Bars political subdivisions from imposing or enforcing a moratorium on eviction proceedings unless specifically authorized by state law;
- [HB 1511](#), which requires political subdivisions that require the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at certain businesses to pay the costs associated with the installation, maintenance, and operation of such stations;
- [HB 2282](#), which establishes the Building Permit Reform Act;
- [HB 2057](#), which modifies provisions relating to video service providers;
- [HB 1995](#), which repeals the expiration date of the Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act;
- [HB 2286](#), which specifies that certain residency requirements of a city of the fourth classification may be satisfied by certain conditions;
- [HB 2571](#), which modifies provisions relating to financial statements of certain local governments;
- [HB 2104](#), which modifies provisions relating to elections;
- Any local public health agency that imposes a fine or other monetary penalty against an individual, business, or church, shall return all monies collected.
- [HB 1522](#), which modifies provisions relating to the establishment of alternative county highway commissions in certain counties;
- [HB 1751](#), which modifies provisions regarding solid waste disposal permits;
- [HB 2265](#), which modifies provisions relating to pet shop operations;
- [HB 1460](#), which changes the law regarding industrial development corporations by terminating provisions applicable to only Lewis County;
- [HB 1484](#), which modifies tobacco product regulations;
- [HB 2380](#), which prohibits political subdivisions from requiring a home inspection before the sale of residential property;
- [HB 1514](#), which modifies provisions regarding homeowner’s association restrictions on pasturing chickens;
- Modifies filings for transfers of real property with outstanding collectible judgments; and,
- [HB 1720](#), which modifies provisions of the sunshine law.

Additionally, the bill was further amended by removing the provision regarding fire protection services in Hazelwood. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 8-4 vote.

Primary Election

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [SB 1120](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The bill reinstates the presidential preference primary election, to be held on the first Tuesday in March of each year in which a presidential election is held. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to provide technical clean-up changes. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

Public Service Commission

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened Wednesday morning to consider passage of [SB 1280](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee's Summit). The bill as filed seeks to modify the duties of the Public Service Commission. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to simplify the bill by removing all provisions except for language to allow water, sewer, and gas utilities to use a future test year as part of the traditional 11-month rate case process. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 8-3 vote.

The House Utilities Committee convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss [HB 2167](#), sponsored by Representative Micheal O'Donnell (R-St. Louis). The bill is the House companion to [SB 1280](#), highlighted above. During bill presentation, the sponsor stated he plans to offer a committee substitute to align the bill with the Senate changes. Burns & McDonnell, Liberty Utilities, Summit Utilities, MO American Water, MO Energy Development Association, and Spire MO supported the bill. AARP, Consumers Council of MO, MO Coalition for the Environment, MO Industrial Energy Consumers, and the MO Sierra Club opposed the bill, stating the future test ratemaking scheme would raise rates on Missouri businesses and residential ratepayers.

Reinsurance Contract Disposition

The Senate dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit [SB 834](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). This bill relates to the disposition of reinsurance contracts reinsuring policies of life or health insurance or annuities issued by insurers that have been placed into conservation, rehabilitation, or liquidation, with terms governing continuation or termination of such contracts. The bill also addresses a guaranty association's election to assume the liquidated insurer's rights and obligations under reinsurance contracts and a receiver's continuation of policies of life or health insurance or annuities issued by an insolvent insurer. The bill was previously amended to include [SB 1348](#), relating to insurance documents; and [SB 1359](#), relating to mutual insurance companies. After no further debate, the Senate passed the bill by a 25-6 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

The Senate then turned its attention towards [SB 1359](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). This is the Senate companion bill to [HB 2524](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Knight (R-Lebanon) and creates the "Protecting Missouri's Mutual Insurance Companies Act", which establishes standards regarding reinsurance coverage and company examinations. The bill exempts Missouri mutual insurance companies from acquiring or carrying reinsurance greater than adequate reinsurance and unlimited reinsurance would be optional. The bill was previously amended to mirror [SB 834](#),

highlighted above. After no further debate, the Senate passed the bill by a 25-6 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

Reinsurance Contracts

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 2440](#), sponsored by Representative Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Peters). The bill outlines the process under which life or health reinsurance contracts are disposed of, in the event the issuing insurer becomes insolvent. During debate, the bill was successfully amended to add provisions establishing confidentiality for documents during market conduct investigations, added the 340B mutual fix and allows self-storage insurance amounts to increase from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Additionally, the bill also was further amended to add provisions from HB 2453, which modifies provisions regarding uninsured motorists. Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes.

Retirement – Public Employee

The Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Pensions Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [HB 2431](#), sponsored by Representative Barry Hovis (R-Whitewater.) The bill modifies provisions relating to the board of trustees for the Missouri Local Government Employees’ Retirement System (LAGERS). Currently, the board consists of 3 employer members, 3 worker members, and one civilian trustee. As the Lagers program has grown with time, retirees now represent a large portion of their members, and the bill seeks to add a retired member. During the bill’s progression, substitute language was adopted which removed the provisions regarding times of service, clarifies the CPI used is determined by the LAGERS board, clarifies the extent of Sunshine Law compliance, narrowed the provision regarding the scope of closing old funds, and removed obsolete provisions. Additionally, the bill exempts monies received from judgements and civil actions for emergency responders if the payout received is for a higher rank. St. Louis Police Retirement System and LAGERS provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Retirement - Schools

The Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Pensions Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [SB 1504](#), sponsored by Senator Karla May (D-St. Louis). This is the senate companion bill to [HB 2846](#), sponsored by Representative Doug Clemens (D-St. Ann), which modifies the current rate payable by employers from 9% to 14% beginning in 2025 and requires the rate be adjusted by an actuary thereafter so long as the rate does not increase more than 1% in a year or decrease ½% in a year. The Public School Retirement System of City of St. Louis provided supporting testimony stating this is necessary to ensure the system remains actuarially sound and recipients receive promised benefits. The Board of Education of the City of St. Louis provided opposing testimony. The American Federation of Teachers provided informational testimony asking for a stipend for retired teachers.

Right-of-Way Task Force

The House Local Government Committee convened Tuesday morning to consider passage of [HB 2409](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph). Originally, the Task Force on the Future of Right-of-Way Management and Taxation was established to study best methods for right-of-way management, taxation of video services, and the future revenue needs of municipalities and political subdivisions as such revenue relates to video services. The task force was required to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2023, however the task force never met, therefore never

submitted a report. The bill seeks to extend the deadline to December 31, 2026. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a unanimous 9-0 vote.

School Accountability Measures

The House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee convened Wednesday morning to consider passage of [HB 2184](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Haffner (R-Pleasant Hill). The bill modifies school accountability metrics to emphasize student growth and achievement for public and public charter schools in the state. During previous committee discussion, substitute language was adopted which modifies the definition of "school building" and requires DESE to define a standard for attainment of grade level achievement by students. Through a series of procedural moves, the bill was returned to the committee of origin for further modification. During discussion, the bill sponsor stated his intent was to find compromise language to streamline assessments and accreditation for schools but was unable to do so and returned the bill to its original form, with a focus on modifying school accountability metrics to emphasize student growth and achievement for public and public charter schools in the state. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 12-2 vote.

School Bus Endorsements

The Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee convened Wednesday morning to debate [HB 1626](#), sponsored by Representative Danny Busick (R-Newton). The bill would raise the age to 77 from 70 for those with school bus endorsements, would waive the renewal fee and may only renew the license for one year at a time. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

School Curriculum on Marginalized Communities

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Tuesday afternoon to discuss [SB 1446](#), sponsored by Senator Brian Williams (D-University City). The bill requires the State Board of Education to convene a work group called the "Humanity Education Curriculum Framework Work Group" to develop a curriculum framework that teachers may use when teaching students in grades 6-12 about the dehumanization of marginalized groups in Missouri, with a specific emphasis on the violation of a person's human rights or bodily autonomy and members of communities who have been subjected to dehumanization for reasons such as their national origin, race, or sex. Additionally, the act requires DESE to develop a pilot program to study the impact and success of the curriculum framework in consultation with the work group in up to 25 school districts or schools within the state, and to develop a professional development program for teachers in public and charter schools of the state which includes age-appropriate content, curriculum, and school activities to inform students. The Missouri NEA, Missouri Branch of the NAACP, PROMO, and several individuals provided supporting testimony stating it would help Missouri students better understand the history of the state and the role of marginalized communities in its past. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

School Staff Training Materials

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Thursday morning to consider passage of [SB 1203](#), sponsored by Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold). The bill requires school districts and charter schools to post staff training, instructional aides, and curricular materials on topics including nondiscrimination, diversity, equity, and inclusion on the district's website and expands the purview of the Missouri Attorney General's Office to enforce

provisions of the law and investigate allegations of noncompliance. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-3 vote.

Schools - Distribution of Sexual Materials

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Tuesday afternoon to discuss [SB 950](#), sponsored by Senator Rick Brattin (R-Harrisonville). The bill classifies the distribution of sexual materials in schools as a Class A Misdemeanor for any person employed or affiliated in an official capacity within a public or public charter school in the state who knowingly distributes, provides access to, or otherwise encourages the viewing of material which depicts or describes sexual activity in a patently offensive manner or is predominantly designed to appeal to an individual's prurient interests to a student. Three individuals provided supporting testimony saying pornographic and inappropriate content was proliferating schools in Missouri with encouragement from teachers. The ACLU of Missouri, PROMO, and Missouri Equity Education Partnership provided opposing testimony saying the bill was vague and would result in unnecessary litigation expenses. The Missouri NEA testified for informational purposes regarding the process school districts utilize to determine appropriate content reading material and curriculum instruments.

Sexually Oriented Businesses

The House Special Committee on Public Policy convened Wednesday morning to consider passage of [HB 1650](#), sponsored by Representative Mазzie Christensen (R-Bethany). The bill establishes the offense of engaging in an adult cabaret performance if the performance is on public property or is in a location where the performance could be viewed by a child. The penalty provisions created include a class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a class E felony for a second or subsequent offense. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 3-1 vote.

Solar Farm Construction

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss [SB 892](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). The bill establishes county procedures for the construction of solar farms, creates uniformity in tax rates between the counties and the assessors for solar energy systems, and provides the Public Service Commission rule making authority relating to the construction of electric transmission lines on agricultural land. The Commissioner of DeKalb County, Callaway County Commissioner, Commissioner of Camden County, the MO Farm Bureau along with several private citizens supported the bill and advocated the need for guidelines. The Clean Grid Alliance, MO Solar Energy Association, Renew MO, Arevon Energy, Ameren MO, MO Coalition for the Environment, and the MO Sierra Club opposed the bill.

The House Utilities Committee convened Wednesday afternoon to consider passage of [HB 2651](#), sponsored by Representative Kent Haden (R-Mexico). The bill is similar to [SB 892](#) and seeks to create and clarify new provisions relating to electric utilities associated with a project that uses solar energy. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to modify provisions relating to land assessment, by clarifying the land will be assessed as commercial property and will remain on local tax rolls. Additionally, the committee substitute provides upon the approval of a county, the 2% cap of real property associated with solar within a county, can be expanded to an unlimited amount to provide local control, however the county cannot go less than 2%. Lastly, the committee substitute clarifies property setback boundaries and allows property owners to negotiate with solar companies for any easements and

removes the requirement for solar materials be made in the USA. During committee discussion, committee members expressed concerns with the setback limits established with the committee substitute and stated they are higher than the national average and ultimately failed to pass the bill by a 7-7 vote.

Solar Pilot Program

The House Utilities Committee convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss [HB 2574](#), sponsored by Representative Aaron McMullen (R-Independence). The bill creates the community solar pilot program, which enables communities or people that want to utilize solar to participate in a subscription service in order to reduce a portion of their bill. The Coalition for Community Solar Access, Nodules Solar Energy, and a private citizen supported the bill. Evergy, and Ameren opposed the bill. The MO Association of Municipal Utilities provided informational testimony highlighting the peak loads in small rural areas and the impact solar can provide in communities.

Solid Waste Permits

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [HB 1751](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Haffner (R-Pleasant Hill). The bill relates to solid waste permits. Currently, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is prohibited from issuing a permit for the operation of a solid waste disposal area designed to serve a city with a population greater than 400,000 inhabitants located in more than one county, if the site is located within one-half mile of an adjoining municipality without its approval. No supporting testimony was presented. Jenny Monheiser opposed the bill and highlighted the need for an additional landfill in the KC area. Specifically, she addressed weekly trash bag limits residents face, the lack of landfill infrastructure in the region and that she is committed to a long-term plan that works for the region.

The Senate dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [SB 739](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee's Summit). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 1751](#), highlighted above. During debate, the sponsor offered a substitute to prohibit the Department of Natural Resource from issuing a permit for the operation of a solid waste disposal area located in the city of Kansas City without receiving approval from an adjoining municipality in the event the landfill is located within one mile of the municipality, instead of ½ mile. After almost ten hours of debate, the bill was returned back to the calendar to be debated further another day.

St. Louis County Early Childhood Education Tax

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Tuesday afternoon to discuss [SB 1447](#), sponsored by Senator Brian Williams (D-University City). The bill authorizes St. Louis County to impose a sales tax on all retail sales of up to .25% for the purpose of funding early childhood educational services in the county, subject to approval by a vote of the residents. WEPower provided supporting testimony stating it would allow St. Louis County to provide early quality childhood educational opportunities to families and better serve the St. Louis community. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

State Auditor Powers

The Senate Government Accountability Committee convened Thursday morning to discuss [HB 2111](#), sponsored by Representative Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Peters). The bill provides that the Auditor may audit all or part of any political subdivision or government entity if, after an investigation, the auditor

believes improper governmental activity has occurred. The Office of State Auditor provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

State Board of Education Annual Report

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Thursday morning to consider passage of [SB 1208](#), sponsored by Senator Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester). The bill removes a requirement for the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education to print copies of the Annual Report of the State Board of Education for distribution and instead requires the Department to post the Annual Report on its state website. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

State Preemption

The House Special Committee on Government Accountability convened Wednesday morning to discuss [HB 1509](#), sponsored by Representative Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis). The bill prohibits local governments from interfering in the course of practice with any medical professional, including the practice of veterinary medicine. During bill presentation, the sponsor informed committee members that the State sets the guidelines citing boards and commissions are already established to regulate the professions. A private citizen provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Tax Credit – Homeless

The Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee met Thursday morning to discuss [SB 794](#), sponsored by Senator Barbara Washington (D-Kansas City). For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, the bill authorizes a tax credit not to exceed \$10,000 a year, for providing employment or housing to a homeless person. Shelter KC provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Tax Credit – Senior Citizen Property

The House Special Committee on Property Tax Reform met Wednesday afternoon to discuss [SB 756](#), sponsored by Senator Tony Luetkemeyer (R-Parkville). Last year [SB 190](#), which authorized a property tax credit on any property taxes on primary residents for people that are 65 years of age or older and eliminated taxes on social security benefits, was signed into law. There was some confusion once [SB 190](#) passed rather if a person had to qualify for and be eligible to receive social security benefits in order to qualify for the tax exemption. The bill seeks to clarify that any person 62 years or older, regardless of if they qualify for benefits, is eligible for the tax exemption. Additionally, the bill clarifies that the tax credit is calculated when an individual turns 62 and the county has also adopted an ordinance adopting [SB 190](#). Additionally, the bill clarifies that new construction and property improvements shall be increased to reflect the real property tax liability and clarifies property tax liability shall be increased in the event a homestead is annexed into a taxing jurisdiction. During committee discussion, committee members questioned the sponsor on the possibility of amending the bill to expand the provisions statewide instead of leaving it to individual local governments to adopt the provisions and also questioned the possibility to include new provisions, like language relating to the circuit breaker. The sponsor informed committee members of the complexity of the Senate and the potential difficulties of getting approval from the Senate and advocated the need to keep the bill intact, without any modifications. The Collector of Revenue for Greene County, St. Charles County, AARP, and Warren County supported the bill. The ShowMe Institute opposed the bill. The Boone County Auditor provided

informational testimony stating how to calculate the tax is not defined in the bill, which would provide each county the ability to calculate differently and advocated the need to standardize that calculation.

Tax Exemption – Military

The Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Pensions Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [HB 1713](#), sponsored by Representative Adam Schnelting (R-St. Charles). Currently, certain military income is tax free. The bill would add military sign-on bonuses to that list of tax-free income. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Tax Refund - Sales

The Senate Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [SB 1233](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Moon (R-Ash Grove). The bill requires the Department of Revenue to authorize a sales tax refund to taxpayers in the event a judgement is ordered against the Department by the Administrative Hearing Commission for over-assessment or negligence in confirming the accuracy of information on the part of the Department, as revealed by an audit. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

Taxes - Income

The Senate dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [SJR 50](#), sponsored by Senator Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester). Upon voter approval, the resolution places a 5.5% cap on income taxes. The resolution also modifies a provision prohibiting sales taxes levied on transactions not taxed as of January 1, 2015, by providing an exception for sales and use taxes on subscriptions, licenses for digital products, and online purchases of tangible personal property. After no further debate, the Senate passed the resolution by a 31-1 vote. The resolution now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

Taxes - Earnings

The Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee met Thursday morning to discuss [SB 1475](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 1516](#), sponsored by Representative Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis) and modifies provisions relating to earnings taxes. Currently, the cities of Kansas City and St. Louis levy earnings taxes, which are imposed on salaries, commissions, and other compensation earned by nonresidents for work or services performed in the city. This proposal disallows earnings taxes from being assessed on work rendered outside city limits through telecommuting or other remote means and allows all residents of impacted counties to request refund for any earnings tax levied. Additionally, effective September 30, 2024, as long as the City of St. Louis imposes an earnings tax, the bill requires the City of St. Louis to submit a quarterly report detailing receipts from the earnings tax. Associated Industries of MO supported the bill. The City of St. Louis opposed the bill.

Taxing Districts

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to revisit [HB 2058](#), sponsored by Representative Ben Keathley (R-Chesterfield). The bill includes three provisions. Specifically, the bill seeks to adjust the definition of video service providers to exempt streaming platforms. Additionally, the bill requires community improvement districts to be approved by a 2/3 vote before being established and also requires 2/3 approval for transportation development districts prior to the construction or funding of any project. Lastly, the bill specifies that if a political subdivision submits a tax proposal for a new or increased tax authorized under a specific statute and it does not pass, the proposal cannot be submitted

again for two years following the rejection. During the bill's progression, substitute language was adopted to clarify language regarding the election cycle and to include a provision to allow a political subdivision to resubmit to voters before two years in the event there is a federal or state declared natural disaster. Additionally, a provision from [HB 1517](#) which requires any new tax levy voted on by the people to have clear and concise ballot language regarding any new tax levies implemented or extended and to include any sunset date provisions was added to the bill. During debate, the bill was successfully amended to add and additional provisions from [HB 1517](#) to close a loophole within the Hancock Amendment to ensure approved levies do not surpass expenditure limitations and allows ballot measures to be added before the two-year moratorium if a change is made to the ballot proposal. Additionally, language was adopted which clarifies that the 2/3 majority threshold still applies if a sales tax is the funding mechanism and special taxing districts are not affected. After little debate, the House passed the bill by an 86-55 vote.

Teacher Salary Increases

The House Ways and Means Committee met Thursday morning to consider passage of [HB 1810](#), sponsored by Representative Louis Riggs (R-Hannibal). The bill creates the "Matching Grants for Teachers Plan" which would enable every school district in Missouri to increase teacher salaries by matching state funds with funds of district reserves, up to \$1 million for any school district. This is a voluntary program subject to appropriation, just for certified teachers. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted which requires the state treasurer to invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds and any interest and monies earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 8-0 vote.

Trespass in the First Degree

The House Special Committee on Public Policy convened Wednesday morning to discuss [HB 2896](#), sponsored by Representative Phil Amato (R-Arnold). The bill adds when a person knowingly or intentionally enters and refuses to leave the vacant real property or vacant structure of another after having been prohibited from entering or refuses to leave after having been asked to leave the real property by a law enforcement officer to the offense of trespass in the First Degree, which is a class E felony. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Underground Facilities

The Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee convened Wednesday morning to consider passage of [SB 1315](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). The bill seeks to update the current 8-1-1 system, otherwise known as Dig Right, and requires any underground facility owner to ensure that all new and active underground facilities installed on any real property after August 28, 2024, be installed with a detectable underground location device unless the facility is currently capable of being detected from above ground with an electronic locating device. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 3-1 vote.

Uniform Easement Relocation Act

The House Local Government Committee convened Tuesday morning to consider passage of [HB 2862](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph). The bill establishes the Uniform Easement Relocation Act. During bill presentation, the sponsor stated if you have a landlocked piece of property and there is already an existing easement and the easement needs to be modified, the intent of the legislation is to provide a set of guidelines for each property owner. During committee discussion, a

committee substitute was adopted to clarify the language only applies to private easements, not a public utility or conservation easements. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

Utility Facility Relocation

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened Wednesday morning to consider passage of [SB 1018](#), sponsored by Senator Justin Brown (R-Rolla). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 2056](#), sponsored by Representative Ben Keathley (R-Chesterfield) and requires municipalities and the State to reimburse all internet and video service providers for all relocation costs whenever the state or a municipality requires a broadband or a video service provider to relocate their telecommunications infrastructure installed for the purpose of delivering internet and video service to customers. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to modify references to “broadband” and “video service providers” to “nonrate regulated utility provider” in order to include facilities that are not owned by the utility. Additionally, the committee substitute included two new provisions specifying the State Road Fund and the MO Department of Transportation shall reimburse nonrate regulated utility providers for any costs associated with facility relocation. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-1 vote.

Vehicle Towing

The House Committee on Transportation Infrastructure convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss [HB 2214](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Griffith (R-Jefferson City). The bill sets forth the procedures for claiming the contents of towed abandoned property and sets the security required for the release of a commercial vehicle at 30% of the total charges for towing and storage. Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Missouri Trucking Association and a state public advocate presented supporting testimony stating that this is the first step that needs to be taken against nonconsensual towing that puts people out of business and cited instances where accident victims have had their vehicles towed and held at unreasonably high charges. Missouri Tow Truck Association and JNI Hauling presented opposing testimony.

Veterans Medal Program

The Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Pensions Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss [HB 1496](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Griffith (R-Jefferson City). The bill establishes the Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and Operation Allies Refuge Program. The Department of Public Safety provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Virtual School Program

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Tuesday afternoon to consider public testimony on [HB 2287](#), sponsored by Representative Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Peters). The bill modifies provisions relating to the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program to add clarification for the required enrollment process of virtual course programs for parents and specify a payment schedule for resident districts when calculating attendance of virtual students. Parents for Public School Options, Missouri NEA, Excel Schools, and Connections Academy provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. The committee reconvened Thursday morning in executive session to consider [HB 2287](#). After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

Water Exportation

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 2153](#), sponsored by Representative Jamie Burger (R-Benton). The bill seeks to limit or ideally eliminate shipping water out of the State of Missouri. Additionally, the bill requires the Clean Water Commission to provide oversight of all applications of water exportation rather than the General Assembly and grandfathers in any current contracts of water exportation. During debate, the sponsor attempted to amend the bill to narrow the geographic area water can be shipped for up to 20 miles of the state border. After a lengthy debate, the bill was ultimately laid over for possible debate at a later date.

Waterways and Ports Trust Fund

The Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee convened Thursday morning to consider passage of [SB 1263](#), sponsored by Senator Steve Roberts (D-St. Louis). In 2023, [SB 265](#), sponsored by Senator Jason Bean (R-Holcomb) was passed and signed into law. The bill established the “Waterways and Ports Trust Fund”, and provided that land eligible for projects under the fund be owned or held in a long-term lease by the Missouri Port Authority. Due to an oddity of the control of the City of St. Louis, the St. Louis Port Authority does not own their leased land, but instead manages the land, which in turn is owned by the City of St. Louis. This bill simply clarifies the language to ensure that the St. Louis Port Authority is included in the Trust Fund. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted to provide clarity in the language in order to ensure that the funds are only for the Port Authority as intended. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

House: <https://house.mo.gov/AllHearings.aspx>

Senate: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/hearingsschedule/hrings.htm>

Chamber Floor Calendars

House: <https://house.mo.gov/Session.aspx>

Senate: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/24info/pdf-cal/cal.htm>

Key Upcoming Dates

- May 10, 2024 – Last Day to Constitutionally pass the FY 2025 Budget
- May 17, 2024 – Last Day of the 2024 Legislative session
- August 6, 2024 – Missouri Primary Elections
- September 11, 2024 – Veto Session
- November 5, 2024 – Missouri General Elections



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