

## CAPITOL REPORT – WEEK 15

APRIL 25, 2025

**Weekly Overview:** This was a shortened week due to the Easter holiday. The House continues to debate and send House bills to the Senate while they await the Senate to move on House priority legislation. The Senate pace slowed to a crawl this week and they only managed to Third Read one House bill and one SJR to send to the House for further consideration. We expect the FY2026 budget to dominate the Senate floor next week, while the House should continue to take action on the few Senate bills on the calendar. There are only three weeks remaining in the 2025 legislative session.

### ***In Brief...***

- Tuesday marked the first 100 days of Governor Mike Kehoe. Since taking the oath of office on January 13, 2025, Governor Kehoe has focused on strengthening public safety, expanding educational opportunities and workforce availability, stimulating economic growth and bolstering agricultural resilience. To date, Governor Kehoe has signed 22 executive orders, signed two policy bills and the supplemental appropriations bill and made nearly 100 appointments to various boards, commissions and the judiciary.
- Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey has joined a bipartisan coalition of 39 attorneys general in urging Congress to take decisive action against Pharmacy Benefit Managers, citing their role in inflating prescription drug prices and limiting access to life-saving medications. The coalition has called for legislation that would prohibit PBMs and their parent companies from owning or operating pharmacies. The coalition includes attorneys general from across the country, including California, New York, Texas, and Illinois, alongside U.S. territories such as American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### **Budget Update**

All eyes have been on the Senate this week, as the May 9<sup>th</sup> constitutional deadline to pass the FY2026 operating budget swiftly approaches. Thursday finally saw the Senate Appropriation Committee changes be reported so we expect the full FY2026 operating budget and CI bills (once they have been through the Senate Committee process) to be debated on the Senate floor early next week. This will leave the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> for the chambers to work out their differences in Conference Committee before the May 9<sup>th</sup> constitutional deadline.

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### **Banking Codes**

The House Committee on Financial Institutions convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 97](#) sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill updates and modernizes the state's current banking codes to provide efficiency and clarity. Additionally, the bill includes [SB 99](#), which allows any bank to report suspected fraudulent activity or financial exploitation targeting any of its customers to a federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency and be immune from civil liability for reporting; [SB 657](#), which creates an alternative for banking institutions serving as depositaries for public funds to secure their deposits in lieu of the method provided by current law, known as the "single bank pooled method"; updates exemptions from the Commercial Financing Disclosure Law; and repeals a provision of law relating to dormant accounts that requires certain financial institutions to notify the account holder of such dormancy. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

### **Born-Alive Act**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 195](#), sponsored by Representative Brian Seitz (R-Branson). The bill establishes the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act". The bill mandates that a child born alive during or after an abortion, or attempted abortion, will have the same rights, privileges, and immunities as any other person, citizens, and resident of Missouri, including any other live-born child. Additionally, any person who purposefully performs, or attempts to perform, an overt act that kills a child born alive is guilty of first degree murder. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-2 vote.

### **Brokerage Services**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 596](#), sponsored by Representative Chris Brown (R-Kansas City). The bill requires a real estate broker acting as a single agent for a buyer or tenant to enter into a written agency agreement with the buyer or tenant before engaging in any actions. Currently, a broker is allowed to enter into such a written agency agreement while already engaging in such acts. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Building Permit Applications**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 1264](#), sponsored by Representative David Casteel (R-High Ridge). The bill seeks to provide a fast-track process for building permit applications. Specifically, the bill requires political subdivisions must approve or deny permit applications within 30 calendar days and if no response is given to the applicant, the permit is deemed approved. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 96-37 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Burglary Offense**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 1218](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Hinman (R-O'Fallon). The bill modifies the offense of burglary in the second degree to include when a person knowingly enters unlawfully or knowingly remains unlawfully in a restricted area of a commercial business. The burglary is a class B misdemeanor for a first offense and a class A misdemeanor for a second or

subsequent offense. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Retailers Association and the Missouri Grocers Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Charter School Property**

The Senate Committee on Education convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 1363](#), sponsored by Representative George Hruza (R-St. Louis). The bill prohibits ordinances, resolutions and policies that prohibit school districts from leasing, selling or transferring property to a charter school for a lawful educational purpose. Additionally, the bill requires that deed restrictions or affirmative-use deed restrictions include educational use and that any agreement for the sell, lease, or transfer of property include provisions related to the maintenance and upkeep of the property. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Charter School Public School Association who stated not all deed restrictions are enforced but this legislation would lend certainty and not leave the enforcement at the whim of the districts. Additional supporting testimony was provided by a state public advocate. Informational testimony was presented by the St. Louis Public Schools who stated this legislation is a solution in search of a problem. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Child Protection Omnibus**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Thursday to debate [HB 737](#), sponsored by Representative Melissa Schmidt (R-Eldridge). The bill requires the Children's Division to place into trust any benefits administered by the Railroad Retirement Board, the Social Security Administration, or the Veterans Administration and to assist children in state custody with applying for and receiving such benefits within 60 days after placement into custody. Additionally, the bill requires the Children's Division to attempt to place foster children within a home of the same faith and modifies the abuse and neglect statutes to clearly define independent activities do not constitute abuse. The bill now includes:

- Requires the Department of Social Services to establish a program to provide a comprehensive system of service delivery, education, and residential care for youth with severe behavioral challenges or severe developmental disabilities;
- Indemnification clauses in certain service provider contracts;
- Removes youth with severe developmental disabilities and youth subject to a voluntary placement agreement from the program;
- Removes references to facilities owned and operated by the Department of Mental Health or the Division of Youth Services;
- Adds language allowing qualified service providers to be certified; and modifies qualified service provider liability;
- Modifies implementation date to start at the beginning of January 1, 2028, unless a judge is participating in a pilot project;
- Changes "shall" to "may" regarding the appointment of separate counsel in cases where a guardian ad litem is determined to be necessary;
- Authorizes the creation of a pilot project;
- Nondisclosure agreements in the event a child is sexually abused;
- Requiring law enforcement agencies to enforce visitation or custody agreements;
- Raises the age for sexual misconduct and marriage to 18,
- Increases the tax credit from 50% to 70% for contributions made to the Youth Opportunities and Violence Prevention Fund;
- Requires a caseworker investigating child abuse to identify themselves;
- Requires the appointment of GAL in the event a child's guardian is incarcerated;

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- Removes liability from a service provider;
- Allows not-for-profits and for-profits to participate in certain programs; and,
- Adds language to the Amber Alert System to ensure awareness is brought to missing or abducted African American youth.

After a lengthy debate, the Conference Committee Report was adopted and then Third Read and Passed by a 129-14 vote. The bill requires one final vote from the Senate before being sent to the Governor for signature or veto.

### **Child Sex Abuse NDAs**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 709](#), sponsored by Representative Brian Seitz (R-Branson). The bill provides that a nondisclosure agreement by any party to any child sexual abuse claim is not judicially enforceable in a dispute involving any child sexual abuse claim, and must be null and void. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 148-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Childcare Complaints**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 339](#), sponsored by Representative Ann Kelley (R-Lamar). Currently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is required to keep a record of substantiated complaints against licensed childcare facilities. The bill prohibits DESE from releasing information to the public about those who make complaints. Additionally, the bill contains an emergency clause. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Children's Home Licensing**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 525](#), sponsored by Senator Adam Schnelting (R-St. Charles). This bill adds provisions relating to child protections for certain children's homes. Instead of applying for a license with the Department of Social Services, residential care facilities or organizations may register with a qualified association, provided the facility or organization meets the requirements. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which clarifies the definitions throughout the bill. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

### **Civil Jurisprudence Omnibus**

The Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 176](#), sponsored by Representative Cameron Parker (R-Campbell). As originally filed, the bill modifies provisions relating to estate planning, including notice for principal place of administration transfers, statutes of limitations for actions against trustees, electronic wills, and estate planning during the COVID-19 emergency. During the bill's progression, the following provisions were added:

- Specifies the fee for a birth, marriage or death certificate may be waived if requested by a circuit attorney, public defender or prosecutor.
- Adds the Uniform Fiduciary and Income Principal Act.
- Modifies the caps of attorney fees in worker's compensation cases.
- Allows for certain documents to remain confidential during certain civil matters.
- Removes the sunset on the Basic Civil Legal Services Fund.

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- Provides a funding source for the St. Louis Law Library.
- Increases the compensation for jurors.
- Modifies provisions regarding confidentiality documents drafted by the Missouri Bar.
- Adds the Uniform Discovery Act.
- Modifies the Crime Victim Compensation Fund; and,
- Adds provisions protecting artistic expression in certain civil matters.

During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which added [SB 221](#) which modifies the standard of review for agency interpretation of statutes, rules, regulations, and subregulatory documents. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Commercial Practices – Scrap Metal/Storage**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 757](#), sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Crocker). The bill requires the Department of Revenue to issue licenses for those who buy or sell catalytic converters. It also requires scrap metal dealers to require proof the catalytic converter came from a licensed repair shop or was obtained legally and contains penalty provisions for those who are found knowingly purchasing, obtaining, or possessing stolen catalytic converters. Lastly, the language contains provisions instructing the Department of Revenue to create purchase forms that all licensees must complete and remit to the department every 30 days. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 126-16 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Conceal Carry**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 328](#), sponsored by Representative Tim Taylor (R-Bunceton). The bill allows a concealed carry permit holder to lawfully carry firearms on public transportation as well as in houses of worship. The bill also allows those who have been convicted of violent crimes or pled nolo contendere to obtain a concealed carry permit. Finally, the bill lowers the age to apply for a concealed carry permit from 19 to 18. During bill progression, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to remove provisions relating to concealed carry in places of worship and the provision granting special carry allowances for Judges and elected officials. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Firearms Coalition who stated they firmly support lowering the age of the concealed carry permits. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Wester Missouri Shooters Alliance and the Arnold Rifle and Pistol Club. Opposing testimony was presented by the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and the City Utilities of Springfield who stated both riders and operators of transit do not want this legislation and with the World Cup taking place this could place visitors in jeopardy. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the City of Kansas City, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, City of St. Louis and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense.

### **Conservation Omnibus**

The House Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 105](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City). The bill prohibits the sale or distribution of any viable portion or seeds of an invasive plant unless the Director of the Department of Agriculture provides written approval. It requires the Director of the Department of Agriculture to develop an "Invasive Plant List" and create a "Potentially Invasive Plant Watchlist."



During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to include [HB 1116](#), which allows real property owners building a fence to enter an adjoining property up to ten feet without liability for trespassing; [HB 169](#), modifies provisions relating to cotton trailers; and [HB 1555](#), which implements an agriculture program statewide. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

### **Constitutional Sheriff**

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Thursday to revisit [SJR 40](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). Upon voter approval, the resolution provides that each county and St. Louis City shall elect a sheriff for a term of four years. The sheriff shall be notified of federal investigations in his or her jurisdiction and may be removed from office by a quo warranto petition brought by the Attorney General. During Perfection, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to provide a grammatical change and modify the ballot summary. After a brief debate, the Senate Third Read and Passed the bill by a 26-7 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

### **Construction Contracts**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [SB 615](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). The bill establishes a framework on enforceability and nullification of construction contracts if certain conditions are met. Additionally, the bill requires owners to pay contractors within 40 days, who would then have 7 days to pay their subcontractors. Finally, the bill will not apply to any owner-occupied properties of four units or less. Supporting testimony was presented by TGA Waste Contracting and the American Subcontractor Association who stated this legislation would assist with cash flow for contractors of all sizes. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Site Association of St. Charles, the Painting and Decorating Foundation, Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association of St. Louis and the Missouri and Kansas Labors District Council. Opposing testimony was presented by the Associated Builders and Contractors Heart of America Chapter who stated this bill overreaches in a way that threatens the flexibility, viability and competitiveness of the construction industry. Additional opposing testimony was provided by Branco Enterprises, AGC of Missouri, HTH Companies, Thermaltek, CV Contractors, St. Louis Homebuilders Association and AGC of Kansas City.

### **County Officials**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [SB 1](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill includes several provisions relating to county officials. Specifically, 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. After a brief debate, the House Truly Agreed to and Finally the Passed the bill by a 125-23 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto.

### **County Treasurers**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 810](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The bill requires that only the county treasurer's name appear on checks drawn upon the county depository. The sponsor's intent with the legislation is to protect taxpayer funds and ensure accountability. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

## **Court Proceedings - Juvenile**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 736](#), sponsored by Representative David Dolan (R-Sikeston). Currently, the Division of Youth Services is prohibited from keeping a youth beyond the youth's 18th birthday. This bill allows the Division to keep a youth until the youth's 19th birthday. Additionally, the bill also raises the age a youth can be considered for dual jurisdiction from 18 to 19 years old. Finally, the bill modifies the definition of “child” and “adult.” After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 149-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

## **Criminal Background Checks**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 992](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Myers (R-Myers). The bill specifies that, if an application for a license or permit requires a fingerprint submission, the applicant must submit his or her fingerprint to the State Highway Patrol (MSHP) for the purpose of undergoing State and Federal criminal background check. Additionally, the bill lists the boards and committees of which this bill applies. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri State Highway Patrol who stated this is federally mandated language to allow MSHP to continue to have access to federal databases for licensee background checks. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Ambulance Association and the Division of Professional Registration. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

## **Design-Build Contracts**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections, and Pensions convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 513](#) sponsored by Representative John Voss (R-Cape Girardeau). The bill repeals the sunset date of September 1, 2026, for political subdivisions’ authority to utilize the design-build method for construction. As the bill advanced through the House, [HB 536](#) was added to [HB 513](#). While the language in [HB 536](#) is very similar to that of [HB 513](#), it contains the construction management at risk provision. Supporting testimony was presented by JE Dunn, the Missouri Municipal League, Burns McDonnell Engineering, Nabholz Construction, Builders AGC-Kansas City, AGC of Missouri, Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities, and Associated General Contractors of Missouri. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

## **Driving Privileges – Limited**

The House Committee on Judiciary convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 206](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Hinman (R-O’Fallon). The bill adds attending worship services and to and from essential business to the list of places for which limited driving privileges may be granted. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to correct a spelling error. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-4 vote.

## **Drug Trafficking**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 49](#), sponsored by Representative Willard Haley (R-Eldon). The bill aims to stiffen penalties for fentanyl use and distribution by increasing the penalties for various amounts of fentanyl at the time of arrest. After a brief discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.



## Education Omnibus

The House took up and dedicated floor time Thursday to debate [SB 68](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre). The bill requires local education agencies (LEA's) to report all safety incidents or threats to student safety to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) annually and requires DESE to produce a publicly searchable database of all safety threats. Additionally, the bill bans the use of electronic devices by students during instructional time, requires local school boards to develop processes and policies governing allowable electronic device use in schools and appropriate punishment for students found in violation of the policy. During bill progression, the requirement for DESE to maintain a regularly updated database of school safety incidents was removed and an August 28, 2032 sunset was added. During debate, several amendments were added as follows:

- AED clean up language which requires schools to be able to alert emergency response teams where AEDs are in building;
- Allows adjacent states to assist with IEP students and students with disability to continue to receive assistance but cannot rely primarily on adjacent states;
- [HB 331](#), creates a Career-Tech Certificate Program;
- Exempts gifted education from Teach for Tomorrow;
- Establishes a Principal-Administrator Academy;
- Exempts those on active duty from required practice standards to play/attend in student activities;
- [HB 1017](#), requires in-state public educational institutions to grant undergraduate course credit for students who score 4 or higher on international baccalaureate examinations;
- Missouri Religious Liberty in Schools Awareness Act; Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act; modifies the teacher representative on the State Board of Education;
- Allows students to attend schools where family members work and includes charter schools;
- Adds the STEM Career Awareness Activity Program and modifies provisions regarding recovery high schools;
- [HB 329](#), modifies the total cost of living adjustments for members of the Public School Retirement System and the Public Employee Retirement System;
- Modifies provisions regarding master key boxes for schools; and,
- Specifies the determination of young child with developmental delays shall not inhibit a child from receiving special education services.

Once modified, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 130-15 vote. The bill now will be returned to the Senate for final approval or conference.

## Elections Omnibus

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 507](#), sponsored by Representative Peggy McGaugh (R-Carrollton). This is the House companion bill to [SB 182](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo), and modifies several provisions regarding elections and election authorities. Specifically, the bill includes the following provisions:

- 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 16th 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.
- The bill allows election notifications to be sent electronically.

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- Specifies that lists of absentee voters with permanent disabilities shall be kept confidential and shall not be posted or displayed in an area open to the public nor shown to any unauthorized person.
- Current law provides that votes for write-in candidates are only counted for candidates who have filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. This bill provides an exemption to this requirement in instances where no candidate has filed for the office in question. This repeals the exemption so that write-in candidates are only counted when a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate has been filed with the proper election authority.
- Adds threatening to harm or engaging in conduct reasonably calculated to harass or alarm an election official or a member of one's family as a class one election offense.
- Expands a provision of law governing the casting and counting of provisional ballots to all public elections, rather than just primary or general elections.
- Adds provisions allowing election challengers in charter and first-class counties to be physically present and requires those who file for office in St. Louis City to be able to provide a no tax due statement.

Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities who stated this legislation is necessary to update outdated statutes, opens voting options for those with disabilities and gives additional protections to election authorities and volunteers. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Municipal League, Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, and Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. Opposing testimony was presented by Liberty Link Missouri who specifically oppose the section in the bill that makes poll workers a protected class.

### **Employment Security**

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 202](#), sponsored by Representative David Casteel (R-High Ridge). The bill establishes the “Employment Security Program Integrity Act of 2024” to establish methods to ensure identity verification, outlines the responsibility of companies regarding new hires and their wages, and adds to the reasons a claimant is disqualified for unemployment compensation by adding that if the designated representative of the Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations finds that a claimant failed to appear for a scheduled job interview or skills test for suitable work three times. Supporting testimony was presented by Associated Industries of Missouri, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, FGA Action, Missouri Grocers Association, and the Missouri Retailers Association who stated this legislation helps incentivize people to join the workforce while also protecting the employer trust fund. Opposing testimony was presented by a state public advocate.

### **EMS State Advisory Council**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 313](#), sponsored by Representative Bennie Cook (R-Houston). The bill modifies provisions relating to the State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services. Specifically, the bill changes the amount of council members from 16 to no fewer than 13 and removes the requirement that one member must be from St. Louis City. Additionally, the bill alters the procedure for electing a chairperson and removes the provision that the regional EMS advisory committees must serve as resources for identifying potential members of the council. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

## **Entertainment Districts**

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 1524](#), sponsored by Representatives David Casteel (R-High Ridge). The bill is a targeted effort to enhance public safety, economic viability and tourism within the city of St. Louis by creating an entertainment district in the downtown and central business corridor. Supporting testimony was presented by Husch Blackwell who stated they represent several entities located in the proposed district. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Greater St. Louis Inc, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a state public advocate. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee went into executive session to discuss passage of the bill. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

The committee then turned its attention towards [SB 782](#), sponsored by Senator Steven Roberts (D-St. Louis). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 1524](#), highlighted above. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted to align the language to mirror [HB 1524](#). Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

## **Environmental Protection Omnibus (2)**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 200](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph). Currently, a state standard for the location, size of sewage tanks, and length of lateral lines is based partially on the percolation or permeability rate of the soil, as well as other specified factors. This bill modifies this provision to state that the standard is based partially on soil properties and also establishes the costs associated with testing. Additionally, the bill creates a mandatory registration program requiring continuing education for on-site wastewater treatment system professionals. During debate, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to change the title to environmental protection. Additional provisions were successfully amended onto the bill and include:

- [HB 1271](#), which modifies provisions governing county sales taxes for park purposes to allow tax revenues to be used for storm water management projects in parks;
- [HB 1306](#), which increases the cap of the fee imposed for the repair of lateral sewer service lines in certain areas upon a vote approving the increase;
- [HB 516](#), modifies criteria of hazardous waste investigations and increases the hazardous waste fund appropriations; and,
- [HB 1124](#), which requires wind energy systems to apply to the FAA for light-mitigating technology.

After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 101-47 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 627](#) sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Crocker). Under this bill, local authorities would be required to verify that all local codes and ordinances are in compliance when the Department of Natural Resources is considering a preliminary or final permit. The bill also states that the Department cannot deny a preliminary or final permit based on local codes or ordinances if they were enacted following the filing of the application. During debate, several amendments were adopted which created an environmental protections omnibus package. Specifically, the bill now includes:

- Changes the title to environmental protections;

- [HB 70](#), modifies provisions relating to certain fees collected by the Missouri Emergency Response Commission;
- Prohibits the sale of invasive plants by nurseries, with the exception of the Callery pear;
- [HB 1534](#), modifies provisions relating to water projects constructed by certain cities; and,
- [HB 1461](#), creates a revolving loan program to assist homeowners' associations with erosion control.

Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Financial Institution Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Banking convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 707](#), sponsored by Representative Phil Oehlerking (R-Ballwin). The bill creates the offense of financial institution accounts fraud and establishes non stackable criminal provisions. During Perfection, several amendments were successfully added to the bill. These included a title change, allowing campaigns and candidates to transfer funds by electronic means and exempts small payroll companies from certain regulations. Additionally, the bill now includes provisions from the Perfected version on [HB 754](#) which is the omnibus financial institutions package. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Bankers Association, Missouri Credit Union Association, Independent Payroll Providers Association and the Revenue-Based Finance Coalition. Opposing testimony was presented by a state public advocate. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the committee immediately moved to discuss passage of the bill. After no further discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Fire Protection Services - Crestwood**

The House Committee on Local Government convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 1385](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). The bill seeks to allow Crestwood the ability to offer fire protection services from an annexed area from Afton with reasonable recompense. Supporting testimony was presented by the Municipal League in Metro St. Louis who stated this legislation addresses a long-standing issue of government inefficiency affecting the City of Crestwood and a small portion of residents by forcing the city to make ongoing payments to the Afton Fire Protection District for fire and EMS service in a portion of the city which was annexed in 1997. Additionally, the payment obligation is permanent and does not include a phase-out period or transition mechanism. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Mayor of the City of Crestwood. Opposing testimony was presented by the Afton Fire Protection District who stated the citizens this issue directly affects do not pay the fire district any money, the City of Crestwood does, and the rules currently being operated under were created and drafted by the City of Crestwood. Additional opposing testimony was presented by a private citizen. Due to time constraints the hearing will be continued next week to allow for all the public testimony to be received by the committee.

### **Firearms Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Safety convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 328](#), sponsored by Representative Tim Taylor (R-Bunceton). The bill allows a concealed carry permit holder to lawfully carry firearms on public transportation. The bill also allows those who have been convicted of violent crimes or pled nolo contendere to obtain a concealed carry permit. Lastly, the bill lowers the age to apply for a concealed carry permit from 19 to 18. The committee reconvened Thursday morning to discuss passage of the bill. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted to change the title to Public Safety, adds the attorney general and

staff to the exception of the offense of unlawful use of a weapon, modifies the offense of unlawful use of a weapon to correspond with the age eligibility for CCW permit, and includes provisions of [SB 473](#) which modifies provisions relating to reporting requirements of law enforcement agencies. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

### **Gold and Silver**

The House took up and dedicate floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 433](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon). The bill exempts from state income tax the portion of capital gain on the sale or exchange of gold and silver specie that are otherwise included in the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income. Additionally, the bill creates the "Constitutional Money Act" and declares that specie legal tender and electronic currency shall be accepted as payment for all public debts and may be received as payment for all private debts contracted for in the state of Missouri, at the discretion of the receiving entity. After a lengthy debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Healthcare Prior Authorization**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Banking convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 618](#) sponsored by Representative Melanie Stinnett (R-Springfield). The bill allows health providers that have achieved 90% prior authorization approval for healthcare services during a six-month evaluation period shall not be required to submit prior authorization for the six months following that evaluation period. During bill progression, compromise language was added which delays the effective date; allows hospitals to participate with a value-based agreement in place; excludes critical access hospitals; ensures denials by insurers are not penalized if it is for a service not offered; allows health carriers to perform internal auditing; requires similarly credentialed professionals to review prior authorizations; and, when switching plans allows for a 90-day grace period for consumers. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Higher Education Omnibus**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to debate [HB 606](#), sponsored by Representative Willard Haley (R-Eldon). The bill modifies provisions relating to the department of higher education and workforce development. Changes throughout the bill include changing the "Division of Workforce Development in the Department of Economic Development" to the "Office of Workforce Development in the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development" to reflect the current governance. The bill also changes the currently named "Show-Me-Heroes" program to the "Missouri Heroes Connect". The bill repeals the following statutes relating to: The "Career Readiness Course Task Force", Graduate students teaching assignments, The "Missouri Guaranteed Student Loan Program" and the "Lender of Last Resort Revolving Fund", The "Vietnam Veteran's Survivor Grant", The "Marguerite Ross Barnett Competitiveness Scholarship Program", The pilot project "International Economic Development Exchange Program and the Advisory Council", Higher education faculty hiring practices, The "Advantage Missouri Program", The "Missouri Youth Service and Conservation Corps Act" and the "Youth Service and Conservation Corps Fund". During Perfection, several provisions were added to create a higher education omnibus package. Specifically, the bill now also includes:

- Requires tax credits for 529 plans to be claimed for Missouri plans only;
- [HB 1172](#), modifies provisions governing the seminary fund of the University of Missouri;
- [HB 90](#), allows Missouri State University to confer certain degrees outside of the University of Missouri;



- [HB 331](#), establishes the Career-Tech Certificate Program; and,
- [HB 1071](#), modifies provisions regarding international baccalaureate examinations.

Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, with no further debate, Third Read and Passed by a 115-37 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Industrial Hemp**

The House Committee on Agriculture convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 422](#), sponsored by Representative Matthew Overcast (R-Ava). The bill seeks to modify the definition of commercial animal feed to allow industrial hemp specifically for equine, pet, specialty pet, and laying hens. The sponsor stated there is an FDA risk currently with the language as an operator for selling products across state borders and the intent is to provide regulatory authority at the state level. During committee discussions, committee members questioned the potential losses in federal grant funding for agriculture programs if the bill were to be implemented since it is not federally legal. Supporting testimony was presented by AST Genetics, Missouri Hemp Trade Association and several hemp farmers. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Intimate Digital Depictions**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 362](#), sponsored by Representative Cecelie Williams (R-Dittmer). The bill seeks to address the issue of the unauthorized disclosure of intimate digital images. Individuals impacted may bring a civil action against the person who disclosed the image without their consent. Violators can be charged with a class E felony on the 1st offense and a class C felony on a subsequent conviction. During debate, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to add a liability carve out for telecommunication network and broadband providers, mobile radio services and interactive computer services. Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Judicial Proceedings Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 1259](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon). This legislation would ensure that resident trusts and estates receive the same income tax deduction as nonresident trusts and estates and only applies to the extent that it is not a determinant of the federal distributable new income of the estate or trust. During the bill's progression, several provisions were added, including:

- Changes the title to Civil Liability;
- Adds a circuit judge in the 25<sup>th</sup> judicial district and an associate circuit judge in Miller County;
- [HB 723](#) Repeals provisions of law establishing the "Missouri Incarceration Reimbursement Act"; and,
- [HB 543](#) Modifies provisions relating to civil detention procedures; and allows for electronic wills for estate planning, defines electronic wills and sets up the framework for procedure on electronic wills.

During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which added several provisions to create an omnibus judicial proceedings package. Specifically, the substitute made the following changes:

- Changes the title to Judicial Proceedings;



- Adds provisions regarding the Eastern District Court of Appeals;
- Adds the Judicial Privacy Act;
- Removes the sunset on the Basic Civil Legal Services Fund;
- Adds [SB 221](#), modifies the standard of review for agency interpretation of statutes, rules, regulations, and subregulatory documents;
- Adds the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act;
- Adds the Anti-SLAPP Act;
- Removes the requirement to have a title search performed before it can be placed into a trust.
- Modifies provisions regarding the Crime Victims Compensation Fund; and,
- Extends the sunset on the Cyber Crimes Investigation Fund.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **KC Transportation Authority**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [SB 679](#), sponsored by Senator Maggie Nurrenbern (D-Kansas City). This is the companion bill to [HB 858](#), sponsored by Representative Sean Pouche (R-Kansas City) and changes provisions relating to the Kansas City area transportation authority. The legislation states if there is a commissioner vacancy on the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority that was appointed from Platte or Clay County, the mayor of Kansas City must appoint a successor from the panel submitted by the county commission of the county wherein the vacancy occurred. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Safety reconvened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 679](#), sponsored by Senator Maggie Nurrenbern (D-Kansas City). After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

### **Library Materials**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1146](#), sponsored by Representative Doyle Justus (R-Troy). The bill establishes a framework regarding the reconsideration of materials in public libraries or public school libraries. Additionally, the bill defines “digital library material” and requires all public libraries and public school libraries to establish a publicly available policy outlining the process for reconsideration of materials based on complaints made. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which clarified the definition of digital materials and ensures the provisions of the bill do not apply to public schools. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 20-1 vote.

### **License Fee Offices**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 207](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Hinman (R-O’Fallon). The bill increases the fees on certain transactions and applies one dollar from every increased fee to the newly created “License Office Distribution Fund.” Additionally, the bill specifies the Director of the Department of Revenue is prohibited from awarding fee office contracts to entities affiliated in any manner with a current employee of the Department or with a former employee of the Department for the one-year period following the employee's termination of employment. During bill progression, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to ensure the \$3 fee remains in the fee office performing the

service. Representative John Black (R-Marshfield) further amended the bill by requiring non-profits be given 5% credit in valuation when awarding contracts for license fee offices. Supporting testimony was presented by Missouri Association of License Offices who stated the last fee increase was in 1999.

### **Liquor Omnibus**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 1041](#), sponsored by Representative Dane Diehl (R-Butler). Currently, the Department of Revenue collects \$1.86 per barrel for all malt liquors. The bill requires \$.62 per barrel be collected for all malt liquor manufactured in an American brewery and \$1.86 per barrel for all foreign import malt liquor. The fees collected are for the inspection and gauging of malt liquors. During Perfection, Representative Sherri Gallick (R-Belton) successfully amended the bill by changing the title to alcoholic beverages and added [HB 1265](#) which authorizes a temporary extension of hours for alcoholic beverage sales by certain liquor licensees for the duration of the 2026 FIFA World Cup Tournament. Additional amendments adopted included the addition of [HB 1340](#) which modifies provisions relating to the donation of alcoholic beverages to certain organizations for nonresale purposes and added provisions allowing beer to provide consumer cash rebate coupons. After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 136-7 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Liquor Rebates**

The House Committee on General Laws convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 964](#), sponsored by Representative Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis). Currently, manufacturers of intoxicating liquor, other than beer or wine, are permitted to offer consumer cash rebate coupons. This bill allows beer and wine manufacturers to offer consumer cash rebate coupons. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which removes beer manufacturers. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

### **Local Employment Ordinances**

The House Committee on Local Government convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 443](#) sponsored by Representative Sherry Gallick (R-Belton). This bill prohibits political subdivisions from passing ordinances, policies or resolutions relating to certain employment laws. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which removed references to subcontractors. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 8-6 vote.

### **Maternity Benefits**

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 842](#), sponsored by Representative Tara Peters (R-Rolla). This is the companion bill to [SB 539](#), sponsored by Senator Maggie Nurrenbern (D-Kansas City). The bill requires both MO HealthNet and health benefit plans providing for maternity benefits must provide coverage for a home blood pressure monitoring device and home blood pressure monitoring device services for pregnant and postpartum women. The sponsor informed the committee a House Committee Substitute will be forthcoming to focus exclusively on private insurance companies as MO HealthNet has just begun offering a similar service. Supporting testimony was presented by a critical care cardiologists-OB who stated this is an important preventative diagnostic and care management tool. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Missouri Right to Life,

Opposing testimony was presented by America's Health Insurance Plans who stated this adds additional mandates on plans which could increase premiums for members. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri Insurance Coalition.

### **Memorial Designations**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 1284](#), sponsored by Representative John Hewkin (R-Cuba). The bill allows for memorial roads to be named for emergency personnel and members of the Armed Forces in addition to law enforcement officers. Additionally, the bill also repeals the requirement to maintain fingerboards at road forks and crossings and the requirement to lay down planks while crossing bridges to protect the roadway. Finally, the bill repeals the prohibition of driving animals across recently repaired roadways, bridges or culverts that have not been open to traffic. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 148-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Motocross Liability**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Safety Committee convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 626](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The bill establishes provisions relating to liability for inherent risks of motocross activities. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 3-1 vote.

### **Motor Vehicle Omnibus (2)**

The Senate Committee on Transportation convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 378](#), 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 issue a citation and assess a penalty of \$250. Additionally, if the person fails to register the vehicle within 30 days, the person's driving privileges will be suspended. Finally, if the person receives additional citations for a temporary permit the vehicle may be impounded until properly registered. During debate, several amendments were adopted to create a motor vehicle omnibus package. Specifically, the bill now includes the following provisions:

- Title changed to motor vehicles;
- [HB 799](#), phases in a repeal on motor vehicle inspections and allows for the creation of a Space Force license plate;
- Modifies the process for renewal of disability placards;
- Includes trailer dealers and modifies the maintenance fee for the point of sale system;
- [HB 1048](#), allows occupational therapists who may issue a statement for a patient to receive temporary and permanent disabled placards; and,
- Modifies the third-party fee system for those seeking a Heritage Conservation Foundation license plate.

Supporting testimony was presented by Carvana who stated they specifically supported the provisions regarding delivery of vehicles and being able to verify VINs. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

The House took up and dedicate floor time Wednesday to debate [SB 28](#), sponsored by Senator Jason Bean (R-Holcomb). The bill increases, from 40mph to 65mph, the maximum speed at which cotton trailers may travel, and repeals a requirement that cotton trailers be used exclusively for transporting cotton. Additionally, cotton trailers shall not be in violation of the law regulating the securing of loads

provided that certain conditions are met, no portion of the load becomes dislodged and falls from the cotton trailer, and the goods or material is secured. During debate, several amendments were adopted to create an omnibus motor vehicle package. Specifically, the bill now also includes:

- Changes the title to motor vehicles;
- Modifies provision regarding the integrated system house at the Department of Revenue to remove the need for temporary tags;
- Modifies the definition of trailers;
- Modifies provisions regarding manufacturer and franchisee agreements;
- Changes the speed limit maximums from 65 to 70; and,
- [HB 799](#), which phases out motor vehicle inspections and creates a Space Force license plate.

Once modified, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 148-2 vote. The bill now will return to the Senate for final approval or conference. On Thursday, the House refused to recede from its position on the amendments and requested the Senate grant a conference to work out the differences.

### **Motor Vehicle Wrong-Way Detection**

The Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 672](#), sponsored by Senator David Gregory (R-Ballwin). The bill, known as the Alexander Whalen Safe Highways Act, requires Missouri's Department of Transportation to install wrong-way vehicle detection systems (WWVDSs) at high-risk interchanges by March 1, 2026. These systems will alert nearby drivers, notify emergency responders, and be supported by a statewide education campaign. The Department must also submit annual reports on the implementation and effectiveness of the systems. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which modified the definition of wrong-way vehicle detection system, modifies the description of which interchanges to prioritize, requires MoDOT to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of other driver and emergency responder notifications and requires MoDOT to provide educational material and produce a report. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

### **Pensions Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 147](#), sponsored by Representative Barry Hovis (R-Whitewater). The bill, as filed, modifies the calculation of earned compensation for members of the City of St. Louis Police Retirement System to include any compensation awarded as part of a judgement or settlement to a member of the system who is involved in a legal challenge based on rank. During bill progression, numerous provisions were added to create an omnibus pensions package. Specifically, the bill now includes the following provisions:

- [HB 976](#), which adds corrective language for LAGERS.
- [HB 44](#) that equalizes the tax burden for private and public pensions.
- [HB 657](#), which modifies provisions related to proxy voting and fiduciary investment duties for certain public employee retirement and pension systems.
- [HB 1504](#), changes the employer contribution rates for the St. Louis Public School Retirement System by increasing it from 9% to 14%.
- [HB 977](#) that modifies provisions regarding divestments in foreign entities or funds on the federal adversarial watch list.
- [SB 255](#), relates to the administration of the two firefighter retirement systems serving firefighters in the City of St. Louis would permit the two systems – the Firemen's Retirement System (FRS)

and the Firefighters' Retirement Plan (FRP) – to be administered together, with the same Board of Trustees serving and investing the funds of both systems.

During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which removed [HB 1504](#) regarding teacher's pensions. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

### **Political Subdivision Omnibus**

The House Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs convened Thursday morning to reconsider [SB 2](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill allows certain counties to file abbreviated financial statements, requires publishers to charge market rates for this publication, and changes the publication date requirements. Additionally, the bill allows for a one-time fine forgiveness program for cities and counties that fail to timely file financial statements. During previous discussion, a House Committee Substitute and a series of amendments were offered but ultimately defeated by an 8-9 vote. During Thursday's discussion, a new House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- [HB 352](#), modifies provision relating to financial statements of certain local governments;
- [HB 708](#), authorizes provisions to allow local taxing entities to establish totaled motor vehicle personal property tax proration programs for certain taxpayers to reduce property tax bills;
- [HB 749](#), modifies provisions governing annual budgets of political subdivisions;
- [HB 816](#), modifies provisions relating to motor vehicle assessment valuations;
- [HB 1086](#), modifies provisions relating to the classification of certain residential real property used for short-term rentals;
- [HB 1271](#), modifies provisions governing county sales taxes for park purposes to allow tax revenues to be used for stormwater management projects in parks; and,
- [HB 999](#), modifies provisions relating to the state tax commission's equalization authority and enforcement authority, authorizing withholding of certain revenues as a result of noncompliance.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 11-2 vote.

### **Postconviction Relief**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 741](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon). The bill seeks to modify provisions regarding postconviction relief when the death penalty is applied. Specifically, the bill seeks to expedite cases and the review process for death penalty cases. The sponsor stated currently the national average for postconviction relief of death penalty cases is 19 years. After a brief discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Pregnancy Resource Centers**

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 681](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). Current law authorizes a taxpayer to claim a tax credit in an amount equal to seventy percent of contributions made to pregnancy resource centers. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, this act authorizes such tax credit in an amount equal to one hundred percent of such contribution. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.



### **Principal and Income Act**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 608](#), sponsored by Representative Terry Thompson (R–Lexington). The bill makes a wide range of technical changes to the Principal & Income Act, to resemble the latest version of the Uniform Income & Principal Act, and establishes the Missouri Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act (MUFIPA). The bill provides that the MUFIPA applies to a trust or estate and a life estate or other term interest in which the interest of one or more persons will be succeeded by the interest of one or more other persons, except as otherwise provided in the terms of a trust or in MUFIPA. The MUFIPA also applies when Missouri is the principal place of administration of a trust or estate or the situs of property that is not held in a trust or estate and is subject to a life estate or other term interest. The bill also addresses fiduciaries’ duties and actions. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 139-9 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Prison Dental Care**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration [HB 122](#), sponsored by Representative Rudy Veit (R-Wardsville). The bill exempts corporations contracted with the state to provide dental care in correctional centers from the requirements for corporation licensure to practice dentistry. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Private Contractor Immunity**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 559](#), sponsored by Senator Jamie Burger (R-Benton). The bill provides private contractors with sovereign or governmental tort immunity as a public entity when acting within the scope of a government contract. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-2 vote.

### **Product Liability Immunity**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 918](#), sponsored by Representative John Black (R-Marshfield). The bill specifies that, in any civil action for personal injury, death, or property damage caused by a product, the plaintiff must prove that the defendant designed, manufactured, sold, or leased the actual product that caused the injury. Designers, manufacturers, sellers, or lessors of products not identified as having been used, ingested, or encountered by an injured party will not be held liable for any alleged injury. During bill progression, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the phrase “mislabeling fraud deceptive merchandising practices” to the liability provisions to ensure this could capture the opioid industry. After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Professional Registration Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 268](#), sponsored by Representative Brenda Shields (R-St. Joseph). Currently, an individual can become a social worker if he or she has received a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work. The social work programs must be accredited and approved by the Council on Social Work Education. This bill allows individuals to get a master's degree from a social work program in pre-candidacy for accreditation that is recognized and approved by the committee for social workers. During debate, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to add several provisions regarding professional registration to create an omnibus bill. Specifically, the bill now includes the following provisions:



- Changed the title to professional registration;
- Adds fingerprinting and background check modifications for certain professions;
- Adds license reciprocity for law enforcement spouses;
- Adds a dietitian compact and license reciprocity;
- Modifies provisions regarding the practice of dentistry within correctional facilities; and,
- Modifies educational and apprenticeship requirements for the practice of embalming and funeral directors.

Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Dental Association, Missouri Ambulance Association, the Speech, Language and Hearing Association, Missouri Academy of Nutritionists and Dietitians and Cox Health. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Proprietary School Closure**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 1269](#), sponsored by Representative Barry Hovis (R-Whitewater). The bill requires proprietary schools that close to forfeit their deposit on record with the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, so the department may use the funds to help the students affected by the closure. Additionally, the bill clarifies the exemption category for those wishing to offer postsecondary training as part of a registered apprenticeship program. Supporting testimony was presented by the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development who stated this legislation would ensure students and their investment in their educations are protected. Additional supporting testimony was provided by a state public advocate. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Pseudoephedrine Sales**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 726](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre). This is the companion bill to [HB 1036](#), sponsored by Representative Tara Peters (R-Rolla). Current law prohibits the sale, purchase, or dispensation of ephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, or pseudoephedrine to the same individual in a 12-month period in an amount greater than 43.2 grams. The bill changes that yearly limit to 61.2 grams. Additionally, the bill requires any manufacturer of compounds, mixtures, or preparations specified in the bill to pay monthly fees to the administrator of the real-time electronic pseudoephedrine tracking system. Supporting testimony was presented by the Consumer Health Care Association who stated the legislation would allow consumers greater access to over-the-counter medications and solidify the validity of the NCLEX system. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Haleon. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Public Contracts**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 199](#) sponsored by Representative Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph). This legislation would give political subdivisions the option of issuing a payment bond for development projects or they could decide to go with a lien. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Municipal League, Missouri Economic Development Financing Association, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jefferson City Regional Economic Development Partnership, and St. Joseph Legislative Coalition who told the committee that the original law was passed to help protect contractors and subcontractors from developers that fail to pay them. In addition, Chapter 100 supports growth in communities that creates a chain reaction of community benefits. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

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### **Public Institutions Omnibus**

The House Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions convened Wednesday evening to discuss passage of [SB 50](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). The bill requires jails and correctional centers to provide inmates with reasonable access to phone services during confinement, prohibits institutions from charging exorbitant amounts for domestic phone calls and seeks to place a cap on the amount per minute. Additionally, the bill allows contiguous counties to form regional jail districts. Finally, the bill provides a mechanism to streamline the jail reimbursement process. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to change the title to public institutions and removes provisions relating to inmate phone calls and pregnant offender shackling. Additionally, the committee substitute included language that requires city councils and school board members to receive their operating budgets at least a week in advance of voting and also requires cities to have one hard copy of ordinances available in city hall, if they do not post them online. Lastly, the committee substitute added [HB 73](#), which seeks to change the requirement of being a resident of the city to be appointed to a non-elected local board or commission for political subdivisions with certain populations. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

### **Public Safety Omnibus (3)**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [SB 81](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). The bill modifies several definitions regarding fireworks standards, manufacturers and sellers of fireworks and other pyrotechnic definitions and updates the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory from the 2012 edition to the 2022 edition. A House Committee Substitute was adopted which made a technical change to ensure the word licensure was included in the legislation. During Perfection, several amendments were adopted to create a public safety omnibus package. Specifically, the bill now also includes:

- Changes the title to public safety;
- Extends the sunset for the Emergency Response Commission and reauthorizes the ability to collect the fee;
- [HB 946](#), provides for certain license reciprocity waivers for spouses of Missouri law enforcement officers;
- [HB 992](#), modifies provisions regarding criminal history background checks;
- Extends the sunset and capacity for the Line of Duty Compensation Fund and adds an Emergency Clause;
- Modifies anti-bully programs for public schools; and,
- [HB 709](#), modifies nondisclosure agreements for victims of childhood sexual abuse.

Once modified, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 123-22 vote and adopted the Emergency Clause. The bill now will return to the Senate for final approval or conference.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 971](#), sponsored by Representative Cecelie Williams (R-Dittmer). The bill seeks to establish the offense of unlawful tracking of vehicle without the owner's consent. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- Changes the title to public safety;
- Modifies provisions regarding the Line of Duty Compensation Fund;
- Adds provisions regarding mental health treatment courts;
- Modifies provisions regarding admissibility of evidence in certain criminal cases;

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- provisions pre-trial witness protection program;
- [HB 1218](#), which modifies the offense of burglary in the second degree;
- [SB 167](#) modifies the offense of hazing; and,
- Modifies provisions regarding the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

The House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 189](#), sponsored by Senator Justin Brown (R-Rolla). This bill adds vehicles operated by county or municipal park rangers to the definition of "emergency vehicle" applicable to yielding the right-of-way and the display of emergency lights. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- [HB 1464](#), modifies provisions relating to the protection of children and vulnerable persons;
- [HB 225](#), allows the chief law enforcement executive in any jurisdiction to request assistance from another jurisdiction;
- [HB 121](#), establishes the "Safe Place for Newborns Fund;"
- [HB 49](#), modifies the offense of drug trafficking in the first and second degree;
- [HB 543](#), modifies provisions relating to civil detention procedures;
- [HB 313](#), modifies provisions relating to the state advisory council on emergency medical services;
- [HB 622](#), modifies provisions relating to community paramedic services;
- [HB 365](#), modifies provisions relating to line of duty compensation awards;
- [HB 70](#), modifies provisions relating to certain fees collected by the Missouri Emergency Response Commission;
- [HB 1190](#), establishes the "Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act";
- [HB 615](#), modifies provisions relating to judicial proceedings regarding the human trafficking and testimony of children;
- [HB 1037](#), creates new provisions relating to the sale of kratom products;
- [HB 893](#), requires law enforcement officers to receive training on officer-canine encounters and canine behavior;
- [HB 591](#), modifies provisions relating to reporting requirements of law enforcement;
- [HB 1489](#), modifies provisions relating to enforcement of laws relating to the use of electronic communication devices; and,
- [HB 757](#), modifies provisions regarding catalytic converters.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 11-2 vote.

### **Radon Safety**

The House Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 881](#), sponsored by Representative LaDonna Applebaum (STL). The bill creates the seven-member, Governor appointed, "Board of Radon Safety" which promotes or prohibits persons or business entities from conducting radon testing or mitigation in Missouri homes, schools, and businesses based on licensing and credentials. Additionally, the bill specifies costs and fees associated with obtaining licensure and the required credentials from a nationally recognized radon proficiency program, including continued education. Supporting testimony was presented by the American Lung Association, and Allison Thornton, Executive Lung Cancer Connection, the Missouri Lung Cancer

Coalition Lung and a licensed radon tester who stated while cancer as a whole is the leading cause of death in Missouri, Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Association of Home Inspectors who stated this legislation would force many certified home inspectors to completely re-certify or abandon the practice of radon testing completely.

### **Real Estate Transactions**

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to debate [HB 595](#), sponsored by Representative Chris Brown (R-Kansas City). The bill seeks to prohibit local governments from requiring owners to accept Section 8 vouchers. Additionally, the bill also prohibits a local government from enacting an ordinance that will prohibit landlords from using income-qualifying methods and criminal records from determining whether to rent or lease a property or limits the amount of security deposit required from a tenant. During debate, the bill handler successfully offered a Senate Substitute which modifies the title to “real estate transactions” and includes [SB 478](#), relating to the timing of service agreements between designated real estate brokers and buyers or tenants. Senator Stephan Webber (D-Columbia) further amended the bill preventing any ordinances or landlords from discriminating against a tenant that is a recipient of veterans’ benefits. Senator Patty Lewis (D-Kansas City) then amended the bill to carve out Kansas City and Senator Rick Brattin (R-Harrisonville) amended the bill to carve out Platte County. Once modified, the Senate passed the bill by a 21-9 vote. The bill now will return to the House for final approval or conference.

### **Regional Planning Commissions**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to debate [HB 837](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Farnan (R-Stanberry). Under current law, state funds for the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council and for the Mid-America Regional Council are not to exceed \$65,000 and state funds for other regional planning commissions must not exceed \$25,000. This bill changes the sums to \$130,000 and \$50,000, respectively. Additionally, the bill removes the regional planning commissions of Show-Me, Missouri Valley, Ozark Gateway, ABCD, and Lakes County and adds Harry S. Truman, MO-Kan, Pioneer Trails, and Southwest Missouri. After a brief debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, with no further debate, Third Read and Passed by a 120-30 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Residential Property Registration**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 1316](#), sponsored by Hardy Billington (R-Poplar Bluff). The bill prohibits a political subdivision from requiring the owner of residential property that is offered for rent to license, register, or obtain certification for the property at any time or for any reason. The provisions of the bill do not apply to commercial property. After a lengthy debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **School Curriculum**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1180](#), sponsored by Representative Philip Oehlerking (R-Ballwin). The bill requires students to complete at least one half unit credit of personal finance in order to graduate high school. Additionally, the bill codifies current DESE guidelines which requires curriculum be updated

every seven years and whom shall be allowed to serve on the board recommending the changing curriculum. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added [HB 968](#), which establishes the “Missouri Financial Empowerment Commission.” Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 17-3 vote.

### **School Discrimination Protections**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Thursday morning for a public hearing on [HB 937](#), sponsored by Representative George Hruza (R-St. Louis). The bill defines “antisemitism” and requires public school districts and public higher education institutions integrate the definition into codes of conduct and prohibit antisemitic conduct. During bill progression, a language was adopted which clarifies discriminatory conduct, clarifies the Title VI coordinator would be investigating the institutions where incidents occur and removed the requirement that employees receive antisemitism awareness training. Supporting testimony was presented by the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement, Jewish Federation of St. Louis and a private citizen. Opposing testimony was presented by Jewish Voices for Peace, Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation and private citizens.

### **School Safety Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Education convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 232](#), sponsored by Representative Sherri Gallick (R-Belton). The bill requires public schools to develop a cardiac emergency response plan. During bill progression, an omnibus school safety package was created. Specifically, the bill now contains:

- A recommendation that AED machines be accessible within 3 minutes of a cardiac event;
- Requires a comprehensive school safety plan for all school districts and charter schools; and,
- Removes the zero-tolerance bullying policies from school districts.

Supporting testimony was presented by the School Boards Association Center for Education Safety who stated currently there are no safety standards and emergency preparedness is critical for faculty and students. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the American Heart Association, Missouri Nurses Association, Missouri Ambulance Association, a state public advocate, Kids Win Missouri and BJC Children’s Hospital. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Second Amendment Preservation Act 2.0**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1175](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon). SAPA was originally passed by the Missouri General Assembly as [HB 85](#) in 2021 but was struck down by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2024 over the supremacy clause and is now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. The bill seeks to reenact certain portions of the original legislation that were not struck down by the court. During bill progression, language was adopted which removed some of the old language distinct to federal firearms laws that was struck down to more closely mirror the Senate companion bill [SB 23](#) and narrowed the civil standings under which lawsuits may be filed. Additionally, the bill ensures those who hire federal employees, namely veterans, were not penalized. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-2 vote.

### **SNAP Benefits**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 662](#), sponsored by Senator Rick Brattin (R-Harrisonville). The bill would require



Missouri to apply for a waiver annually to prohibit the use of SNAP benefits for purchases of candy and soft drinks. Supporting testimony was presented by FGA Action who stated this legislation ensures users of the program are able to make healthy choices as the program intended. Additional supporting testimony was provided by a state public advocate. Opposing testimony was presented by Empower Missouri who stated decisions on allowable products should be made at the federal level as that is where the funding originates. Additional opposing testimony was provided by Feeding Missouri, Missouri State Conference of the NAACP, Ozarks Coca-Cola, Missouri Beverage Association, Missouri Grocers Association, Missouri Retailers Association, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Missouri Petroleum and Convenience Store Association and Associated Industries of Missouri. The committee revisited the bill on Thursday morning to discuss its passage. After a brief discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-2 vote.

### **SOS Fee Collections**

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 770](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Banderman (R-St. Clair). Currently, numerous fees collected by the Secretary of State and credited to the Secretary of State's Technology Trust Fund are set to expire in 2026. The bill extends the date of expiration on these funds to 2030. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted to change the title to relating the functions of the Secretary of State. Additionally, the substitute included [SB 280](#) relating to the Secretary of State's responsibilities concerning voter registration and adds a provision repealing the expiration date for the Secretary of State's subpoena power concerning the investigation of election offense. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

### **Sports Omnibus**

The House Committee on Legislative Review convened Thursday morning for a public hearing on [SB 80](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). The bill extends eligibility for a high school student athlete to earn compensation for the use of the Name, Image, or Likeness, if they have signed a letter of intent with an accredited university or college and intend to participate in athletics sponsored by the signing institution. The bill also allows student athletes who attend public schools to use their image or likeness as identified by the high school they attend for the purpose of negotiating compensation with a college or university. During previous debate, the bill was amended to include [SB 713](#), relating to Clay County sports complex authorities, [SB 676](#), relating to convention and sports facility authorities, and [SB 184](#), relating to tax credits for certain sporting events. Supporting testimony was presented by the Clay County Presiding Commissioner, St. Louis Sports Commission and Greater St. Louis Inc. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **STL Fireman's Retirement**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to debate [HB 205](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Hinman (R-O'Fallon). The bill allows the boards of trustees of The Firemen's Retirement System of St. Louis City to act as trustees and administer other pension plans. After a brief debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, with no further debate, Third Read and Passed by a 134-12 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.



## **Student Associations**

The Senate Committee on Education convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 875](#), sponsored by Representative Darin Chappell (R-Rogersville). This is the companion to [SB 160](#), sponsored by Senator Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair) and provides that any ideologic groups of students, have the same ability as all other student organizations in the university systems to be able to exist, have access to spaces, and allows the leadership of these organizations to be selected based on a limitation criteria that the leadership will hold the same position/belief as the group they are leading. Supporting testimony was presented by a private citizen who stated that forcing any organization to allow leadership which disagrees with their own tenets and public positions is to force a message on that organization that violates its own freedom of speech collectively and of its members individually. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Chi Alpha Campus Ministries USA, Americans for Prosperity, the First Amendment Partnership and the Missouri Catholic Conference. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri State Conference of the NAACP and PROMO who stated they would be neutral if the compromise language offered on the senate bill was added. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri Equity Education Partnership, ACLU of Missouri, Warden Way and a private attorney.

## **Tax Credit – Hospital Foundations**

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 364](#), sponsored by Representative Phil Amato (R-Arnold). The bill authorizes a non-refundable tax credit for donations made to local hospital foundations. The credit is capped at \$2 million per year. The sponsor's intent with the legislation is to help hospitals offset the costs incurred by those who are indigent and assist with equipment purchases. Supporting testimony was presented by BJC, Cox Health, Rankin Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital who stated hospital foundations help address unmet needs in their communities. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

## **Tax Credit Omnibus (2)**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 326](#), sponsored by Representative Brenda Shields (R-St. Joseph). The bill modifies the “Champion for Children Tax Credit” by altering the timeframe for when the applications must be filed and modifies provisions regarding denials of the tax credit when the maximum amount for the credit is claimed. Additionally, the bill modifies the “Donated Food Tax Credit” by altering the day by which the director of the Department of Revenue must establish a procedure to apportion the cumulative amount of tax credits and modifies provisions regarding denials of the tax credit when the maximum amount for the credit is claimed. During Perfection, Representative Becky Laubinger (R-Park Hills) successfully amended the bill to modify the definition of “diaper bank” and modify the tax credit. Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis) further amended the bill by adding [HB 501](#) which modifies provisions relating to tax credits for sporting events. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 102-45 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

The House Committee on Ways and Means convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 163](#), sponsored by Senator Adam Schnelting (R-St. Charles). The bill adds National Guard state active duty and state emergency duty pay to income that is tax-exempt. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions to create an omnibus tax package:

- [HB 45](#) which modifies the “circuit breaker” tax credit by increasing the maximum upper limits and adjusting the property tax credit income phase-out increment amounts;
- [HB 594](#) which authorizes a tax deduction for capital gains;

- Language which modifies the remaining income tax reduction triggers;
- [HB 828](#) modifies relating to penalties on tax credits;
- Eliminates the working families tax credit;
- [HB 629](#) which modifies provisions relating to personal property assessments; and,
- [HB 517](#) which adjusts the inflationary growth factor for assessment growth from 5% to the CPI or 3%, whichever is lower.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-3 vote.

### **Taxation – Earnings**

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 499](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). Currently, St. Louis and Kansas City imposes a flat 1% local income tax, also known as the earnings tax, on individuals and businesses. The bill establishes “earnings tax opportunity zones,” which are zones that are federally designated and are St. Louis’ most distressed communities. These zones will be mapped and maintained by the city and will be exempt from the earnings tax. The bill applies only to St. Louis and the sponsor’s intent is to provide targeted earnings tax relief to encourage investment and job creation in the City of St. Louis. Supporting testimony was presented by a state public advocate who stated the earnings tax discourages economic development. Opposing testimony was presented by the City of St. Louis, the City of Kansas City, Northland Chamber of Commerce, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City who stated the earnings tax is beneficial and has not discouraged growth. Informational testimony was presented by the Kansas City Police Department who stated the current operating budget would be directly impacted if the earnings tax is eliminated. At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee went into executive session to discuss passage of the bill. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

The committee then turned its attention towards [SB 381](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 499](#), highlighted above however varies slightly by including Kansas City and St. Louis. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to align the language to mirror [HB 499](#), which applies only to St. Louis. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

### **Taxation – Private Pensions**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 44](#), sponsored by Representative Mike McGirl (R-Potosi). The bill increases the maximum amount to be subtracted from a taxpayer's adjusted gross income for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, to the first \$12,000 of any retirement allowance received from any privately funded sources. The current maximum is \$6,000. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Time-Limited Demands**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Thursday morning for a public hearing on [HB 437](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon). The bill replaces the term "time-limited demand" with "settlement demand". The bill specifies that, in any lawsuit alleging damages outside of the norm of the contracted insurer, any prior settlement demand to settle a claim will not be considered to have been a reasonable opportunity to settle the claim unless the demand was made in writing, was sent certified mail, or remained open for acceptance by the liability insurer for at least 90 days from the date the

demand was received by the insurer. Supporting testimony was presented by the Health Care Services Group of Jefferson City, Missouri Hospital Association and Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers, Missouri Civil Justice Reform Coalition, Missouri Property Casualty Insurance Association, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, Missouri Insurance Coalition and Associated Industries of Missouri. Opposing testimony was presented by a private attorney who stated this is a special privilege law for insurance companies only.

### **Tobacco Regulations**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Thursday morning for a public hearing on [HB 344](#), sponsored by Representative Ben Keathley (R-Chesterfield). This is the companion to [SB 231](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington) and specifies that the state shall preempt any local laws, ordinances, orders, rules, or regulations enacted by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state regulating the sale of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which enacts a statewide standard raising the age for selling and consuming tobacco products from 18 to 21, also known as Tobacco 21, and still allow local ordinances to be enforced which match state standards. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Retailers Association, Missouri Petroleum and Convenience Association, Maverick Convenience Stores, Associated Industries of Missouri and the Cigar Association of America who stated this legislation provides uniformity and consistency for tobacco products across the state. Opposing testimony was presented by the American Cancer Society Action Network who stated this bill pre-empts local ordinances and nothing in the legislation provides additional protections for minors. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the American Heart Association, Missouri Public Health Association, Greene County Public Health Department, Missouri State Medical Association, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, City of Kansas City, St. Louis County and a private citizen.

### **Tort Liability Payments**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to revisit [HB 952](#), sponsored by Representative Matthew Overcast (R-Ava). The bill provides that a portion of a plaintiff's claim for damages can be satisfied by a reimbursement from a defendant or a defendant's insurer or authorized representative if all or any part of the plaintiff's deductible and damages are reimbursed to the plaintiff's insurer by the defendant or his or her insurer or authorized representative and if the plaintiff would have a potential double recovery. After no further debate, the House FAILED to pass the bill by a 37-107 vote.

### **Utility Omnibus**

The House Committee on Local Government convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 144](#) sponsored by Representative Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph). The purpose of the bill is to establish guidelines for all property owners in situations where an existing easement on a landlocked property needs to be modified. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted that includes language regarding an exemption for railroads, a tax exemption on broadband, and adds [HB 1135](#) relating to the removal of abandoned lines. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 14-1 vote.

### **Veteran Wellness Checks**

The House Committee on Veterans and Armed Forces convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 948](#), sponsored by Representative Micheal Johnson (D-Kansas City). The bill establishes the “Veterans Well-Being and Resource Outreach Act” and requires the Veterans Commission, in

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collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, to establish a program that provides wellness checks for at-risk veterans. The bill requires the wellness checks to be conducted twice a month and be performed by a veteran or a person who has received training in medical, mental health or vocational needs of veterans. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which removed the responsibility from the Veteran's Commission to begin the program and specifies local veteran's organizations will implement the wellness checks. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 18-1 vote.

### **Veterans – Disabled**

The House Committee on Veterans and Armed Forces convened Thursday morning for a public hearing on [SJR 46](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). Upon voter approval, the resolution expands the current exemption from real property taxes for former prisoners of war with a total service-connected disability to all disabled veterans. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the committee immediately moved to discuss passage of the bill. After no further discussion, the committee passed the bill by an 18-1 vote.

### **Virtual Currency**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Banking convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 779](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). This is the companion to [HB 1428](#), and seeks to establish requirements and regulations pertaining to virtual currency. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Virtual School Assessments**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon for a public hearing on [SB 266](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). The bill allows any virtual school provider participating in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program to administer statewide assessments virtually under the supervision of a video proctor of no more than ten students to each proctor. Supporting testimony was presented by Pearson who stated it is a challenge to get kids to one location for on-site testing. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Public School Options. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Vital Records Disclosure**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 598](#), sponsored by Senator David Gregory (R-St. Louis). The bill repeals a provision of law permitting the Department of Health and Senior Services to disclose a listing of persons who are born, or who die, on a particular date upon a person's request. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Vulnerable Persons Omnibus (3)**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to debate [HB 916](#), sponsored by Representative Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green). The bill modifies several provisions pertaining to vulnerable persons. Specifically, the bill addresses incarcerated offenders accessing SNAP benefits, releasing of inmates from the Department of Corrections' procedures, raising the age from 14 to 18 on statement admissibility, procedures for pregnant inmates and admissibility of certain evidence in criminal cases. A House Committee Substitute was adopted which added compromise language on the shackling provisions and added a provision allowing certain offenders committed to the Department of Corrections

to earn good-time credits. During debate, eighteen amendments were offered and adopted before the bill was ultimately laid over for further debate another day.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 1464](#), sponsored by Representative Ed Lewis (R-Moberly). The bill modifies several provisions for the protection of children and vulnerable persons. Specifically, the bill replaces the term “child pornography” with “child sexual abuse material” throughout statute; establishes the Statewide Council Against Adult Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children which will be housed under the Office of Attorney General; creates the Anti-Trafficking Fund; modifies permissible statements for those under seventeen in legal proceedings; modifies the statute of limitations for child abuse damage recovery; modifies the penalty provisions for sexual child trafficking; and, increases the penalty for prostitution. During bill progression, the following provisions were added to the bill:

- Changes the Anti-Trafficking Fund designation for the council to the actual budget language and strikes court ordered restitution from trafficking offenses;
- Allows prosecutors to access the Pretrial Witness Protection Services Fund;
- Adds an expungement provision for prostitution offenses;
- Ensures juvenile ex parte language is updated regarding the definition of a child;
- Requires members of House and Senate to allow a minority member of each chamber on the council;
- [HB 145](#), closes personal identifiable information of those 17 and under who participate in municipal activities; and,
- [HB 709](#) Trey’s Law which modifies provisions relating to nondisclosure agreements in childhood sexual abuse cases.

During discussion, a Senate Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- [SB 143](#), modifies provisions regarding juvenile detainment;
- Modifies the offense of trespass by illegal aliens;
- [SB 718](#), modifies the use of restraints on children in juvenile court;
- Adds provisions regarding childhood sexual abuse actions;
- [SB 295](#), modifies provisions regarding adult cabaret performances; and,
- Modifies the penalty in the offense of trafficking a child.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 850](#), sponsored by Representative Melissa Schmidt (R-Eldridge). The bill allows the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to grant a temporary child care license that will be valid for up to 12 months to a provider upon submission of a completed application. Additionally, the bill allows the provider to expand an existing site or add a new location, provided a fire-safety and sanitation inspection has been submitted. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which adds [SB 681](#), provides a tax credit for pregnancy resource centers. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

### **Water Resources Omnibus (2)**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 1346](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Steinmeyer (R-Sugar Creek). The

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bill expands opportunities for private investments for Port KC. The sponsor stated his intent with the legislation is to remove restrictions and provide Port KC additional tools it needs to drive an even greater economic impact for Missouri. During bill progression, language was adopted which expanded the provisions to include all ports instead of limiting to just Port KC, and added [HB 928](#) which provides a fix for the St. Louis Port to access the Waterways and Ports Trust Fund. Additionally, the bill now contains language regarding job creation in AIM Zones. Supporting testimony was presented by Port KC who stated this legislation would benefit ports in a way that creates government efficiency, enhances economic growth, aligns port processes with modern state procurement methods and allows each port to respond to the needs of their own communities. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hunt Midwest, the Missouri Port Authority Association, BNSF Railway and J. Eaton Construction. Opposing testimony was presented by the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council who stated they are being excluded from any port projects and this directly impacts growing a workforce. Additionally, they noted this removes oversight from taxpayer funds and places it in the hands of unelected officials. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri and Kansas Laborers District Council, Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri AFL-CIO and the Kansas City School District. The committee reconvened Thursday morning to discuss passage of the bill. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted to change the title to water resources, includes an exception on the prohibition against port authorities exercising certain powers regarding property located within boundaries of another port authority, and includes [SB 82](#) which specifies that it is unlawful for any person to withdraw from any water source inside the state of Missouri for export of more than 30 miles outside the state unless a water export permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources is held or a special exemption has been granted. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

The House Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 82](#), sponsored by Senator Jamie Burger (R-Benton). The bill specifies that it is unlawful for any person to withdraw from any water source inside the state of Missouri for export of more than 30 miles outside the state unless a water export permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources is held or a special exemption has been granted. The bill also establishes a 120-day review process with a public comment period and requires all permit holders to annually file a publicly available report detailing the volume, withdrawal rates, and end use of all exported water. Finally, the bill outlines the process for renewing issued permits and establishes a civil review process for the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute complaints against permit holders. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to include [HB 995](#), which modifies certain provisions requiring annual testing of school drinking water sources for lead and [HB 928](#), which provides a fix for the St. Louis Port to access the Waterways and Ports Trust Fund. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

### **Workers' Compensation**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 497](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). The bill seeks to modify several provisions relating to workers' compensation by clarifying the prevailing factors standards to ensure injuries, medical conditions, and disabilities, and the need for treatment are truly the result of a workplace accident and not preexisting conditions that may have been exacerbated. Additionally, the bill adjusts how insurance savings are considered in awards, to prevent situations where employees receive compensation for medical expenses that were already covered by other sources. Finally, the bill creates



an early motion to dismiss mechanism for cases that are fundamentally deficient such as those filed untimely, employee was intoxicated, or the accident did not occur during the course of employment. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

**Hearing Schedules:**

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

**Calendars:**

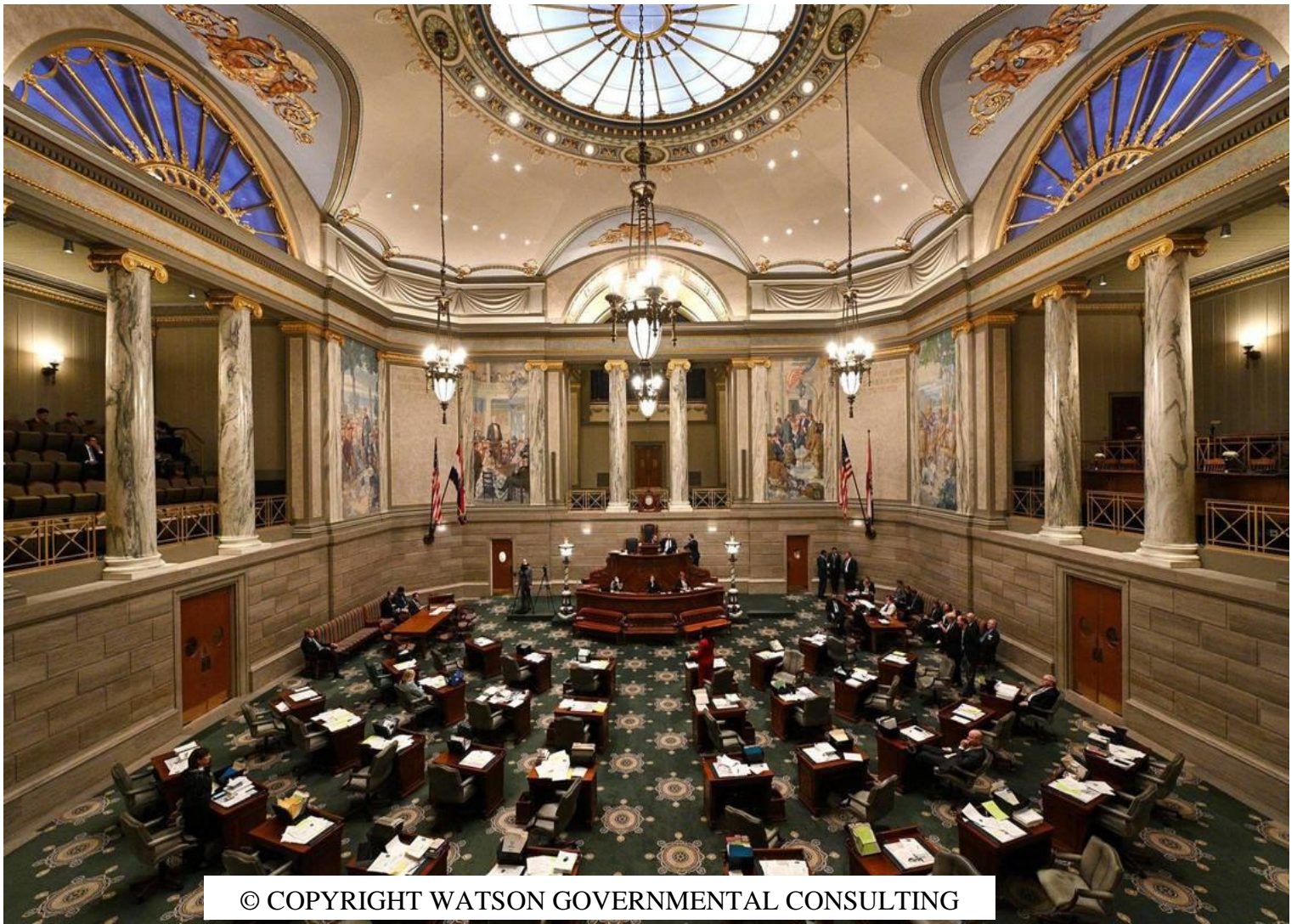
[House](#)

[Senate](#)

**Key Upcoming Dates:**

- May 9, 2025 – Fiscal Year 2026 budget bills must be passed by 6 pm
- May 16, 2025 – Last day of Legislative Session – adjourn by 6pm
- July 14, 2025 – Last day for the Governor to sign or veto legislation
- September 10, 2025 – Veto Session

*-End of Report-*



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