



CAPITOL REPORT – WEEK 7

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

Weekly Overview: Another week has concluded in the 2026 legislative session. The House continues to move methodically through its calendar, with the volume of legislation advancing toward passage steadily increasing. On Monday, the House took up for debate [HB 2989](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon). The measure, commonly referred to as the Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) bill, would establish a regulatory framework for so-called “gray machines.” Following extensive debate, the House approved the legislation. The bill now moves to the Senate, where President Pro Tem Cindy O’Laughlin (R-Shelbina) has publicly expressed reservations about the proposal. The House sent thirteen bills to the Senate for further consideration this week.

In contrast, the Senate operated on a shortened schedule this week, having not convened on Monday in observance of Presidents Day. Continuing its deliberate, line-by-line approach to floor debate, the chamber considered only a limited number of measures and ultimately Third Read and passed three bills.

Next week is expected to bring a marked increase in activity. Tuesday, February 24, marks the opening day of candidate filing, and prospective candidates are anticipated to gather at the Secretary of State’s Office to secure placement on the ballot. Additionally, the February 27 deadline for bill filing falls next Friday, and a surge of legislative filings is expected ahead of that cutoff.

In Brief

- Missouri State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick released the results of the nearly three-year audit of the state’s marijuana program this week. The report concluded that missteps in the 2019 licensing process triggered costly litigation and raised persistent questions about whether licenses were awarded fairly. Particularly the audit raised concerns about the “blind scoring” system used to determine who received licenses, saying weaknesses in the process make it difficult to verify whether inconsistent results stemmed from error or bias. You can find the full report, along with the Division’s rebuttal [here](#).
- MoDOT announced officials plan to hold two open houses in early March to provide important details about the \$441 million project to improve I-70 between Rocheport and Columbia. MoDOT announced the first open house will be held on March 2nd at Boone Electric and March 4th at Midway Golf and Games. These are free to the public and questions and comments can be made directly to MoDOT officials.
- On Wednesday, Boeing announced that the headquarters for its Defense, Space & Security business will relocate to Missouri. The office, which was housed in St. Louis from 1997 to 2017, has been in the Washington D.C. area for the past nine years. The move means there will now be more than 18,000 employees in the St. Louis regions.

Budget Update

The House Committee on Budget convened on Monday in executive session to discuss passage of [HB 2014](#), sponsored by Representative Dirk Deaton (R-Seneca). This is the FY2026 Supplemental budget. Included in the House Committee Substitute were nearly \$6 million in General Revenue of items inadvertently left out of the original governor's recommendation for food purchases for the Department of Corrections, an additional \$4.3 million for job development training, an additional \$3 million for outpatient competency restoration services, \$6.6 million for substance abuse disorder treatment and education programs, \$2.6 million for a nursing home staffing campaign and \$14.8 million for consulting services for the Capital Commission regarding the comprehensive master plan. On Wednesday, the bill was debated by the full House. Representative Dirk Deaton further amended the bill by reducing nearly \$15 million in excess authority within the MO HealthNet pharmacy and nursing facility programs. Once modified, the House gave the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. We anticipate the bill to be Third Read and Passed first thing next week. The legislature has until March 15th to pass the Supplemental budget or certain federal fund sources will no longer be eligible to be spent.

Additionally, appearing before the House Committee on Budget this week were the Departments of Corrections, National Guard, Higher Education and Workforce Development, the Offices of State Treasurer, Public Defender and the General Assembly who comprise the last of the budget presentations to be received by the committee. The House committee mark-up process has commenced with the committee expected to hold a public hearing to work through the remaining operating budget bills in two weeks.

The Senate has also continued to receive budget overviews from the various departments and is expected to begin the markup process for the Supplemental budget next week.

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911 Funding

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened on Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 1481](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre). Current law imposes a prepaid wireless emergency telephone three percent service charge, with the first \$15 of each transaction being exempt. This bill would repeal the \$15 exemption and increase the service charge to four percent on any retail transaction. Supporting testimony was provided by the State 911 Service Board, Missouri 911 Directors Association in MONENA, Chief of Police of the City of Versailles, Missouri Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, and the Fire Service Alliance. There was no opposing testimony presented to the committee.

Accounting Licensure

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [SB 1233](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Greene County). This legislation provides another pathway for accounting licensure that would include two years’ experience with a baccalaureate degree. It would still be required that they pass the Board exams. During debate, the sponsor offered substitute language modernizing licensure by shifting from credit-hour thresholds to degree-based education tied to experience, requiring exam applicants to hold a bachelor’s or post-baccalaureate degree, eliminating “substantial equivalency” in favor of defined mobility standards, transferring reciprocity review authority from NASBA to the board, and clarifying firm permit and peer review standards. Senator Mike Moon (R-Ash Grove) amended the bill to include a new section defining “AI” broadly to include any system capable of simulating human cognitive functions and producing data-driven outputs, and

expressly prohibits any AI system from being granted legal personhood or licensure status under Chapter 326. This amendment clarifies that only natural persons or qualifying entities, not artificial intelligence systems, may obtain CPA licensure. Senator Doug Beck (D-St. Louis) further amended the bill to make it a class A misdemeanor for CPAs or CPA firms to perform public accounting using AI. Once modified, the Senate gave the bill its first of two required approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

Adult Education

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 3239](#), sponsored by Representative Josh Hurlbert (R-Smithville). The bill proposes to expand options for adults to complete high school graduation programs virtually. Under the bill any adult age 21 or older in the state who has not completed a high school diploma program and has 12 or fewer credits remaining to complete may enroll in an adult virtual education program sponsored by a local education authority or approved provider of virtual diploma programs. Reimbursement to the virtual providers would be subject to the General Assembly fully funding the state Foundation Formula, and each course completed by a student will be eligible for reimbursement based on the current state adequacy target after funding the formula. During discussion several committee members expressed concerns over whether the Foundation Formula would be a sufficient funding source going forward due to the current budget constraints and whether we should fund this program within DESE or the Department of Higher Education. Supporting testimony was presented by the Graduation Alliance who stated this would expand access to an accredited high school diploma as there are currently 416,000 adults in Missouri that lack a diploma. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

AI Generated Content

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to receive public testimony on [HB 1887](#), [HB 1913](#), [HB 2035](#), [HB 2321](#), [HB 2350](#), [HB 2361](#) and [HB 2862](#), sponsored by Representatives Wendy Hausman (R-St. Peters), Cecelie Williams (R-Dittmer), Jeff Farnan (R-Stanberry), Bill Lucas (R-DeSoto), Sherri Gallick (R-Belton), Melissa Schmidt (R-Eldridge) and David Dolan (R-Sikeston), respectively. The bills all seek in some way to regulate and add civil penalties for the use of artificial intelligence regarding images and writings, revenge pornographic images. Additionally, [HB 2321](#) seeks to add a privacy component to AI generated images and [HB 2350](#) seeks to protect minors from sexually explicit AI generated images with criminal penalties. Committee members expressed concerns none of the bills had a sunset provision for a chance for further review and others were concerned the bills were all heard together as they deemed the issue too important to “lump together.” Supporting testimony was provided by Freedom Principle, the Missouri Catholic Conference, and private citizens. Opposing testimony was provided by a private citizen.

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened on Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 1012](#), sponsored by Senator Joe Nicola (R-Kansas City). This bill seeks to place guidelines on the currently unregulated field of Artificial Intelligence. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which further defined non-sentient entities, added provisions regarding the use of AI in elections and creates the offense of producing a deepfake. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

Alternative Therapies

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to receive public testimony on [HB 2817](#) and [HB 2961](#), sponsored by Representatives Matthew Overcast (R-Ava) and Richard West (R-Wentzville), respectively. The bills are similar and establish the “Veterans mental Health Innovation Act.” Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to award grants to conduct certified clinical trials overseen by the FDA on the use of ibogaine for any mental health condition that has demonstrated efficacy. Additionally, the bill outlines the specific reporting criteria and how the grants will be funded. Supporting testimony was presented by the Grunt Style Foundation who provided statistics on efficacies on other states that have passed similar legislation and stated the veteran rate of suicide is continuing to rise. Additional supporting testimony was provided by nurses, Psychedelic Association of Kansas City, doctors, Scientists Seeking Strategic Sustainable Solutions, Freedom Principle Missouri, Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions, Special Operations Charity Network, Transcend Ibogaine Clinic, Modern Health Coalition, first responders and veterans. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri State Medical Association who stated they do not support the use of non-FDA approved medications.

The committee then turned their attention to receive public testimony on [HB 1643](#) and [HB 1717](#), also sponsored by Representatives Matthew Overcast (R-Ava) and Richard West (R-Wentzville), respectively. The bills seek to allow the use of alternative therapies, including psilocybin, for treatment for veterans, those with PTSD, major depressive disorders, substance use disorders or require end-of-life care. Additionally, the bill outlines how alternative therapies, and psilocybin may be used and the reporting requirements for treatment. Finally, the bill requires a trial be conducted with the Department of Mental Health and the University of Missouri Health System on the efficacy of using alternative medicine therapies. Supporting testimony was presented by the Modern Health Coalition who stated the bills are critical to help promote access to alternative therapies for veterans in Missouri and nationwide. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Grunt Style Foundation, veterans and first responders, Thrive and Be Well, Psychedelic Association of Kansas City and mental health advocates. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri State Medical Association who stated they do not support physicians utilizing non-FDA approved medications. Informational testimony was presented by a physician who provided the committee stats on current national studies being performed on alternative therapies.

Angel Investment Incentives

The House Committee on Commerce convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 1845](#), sponsored by Representative Sherri Gallick (R-Belton). The bill creates the Missouri Angel Investment Incentive Act, which allows investors to claim a tax credit in an amount equal to 40% of an investment in a qualified Missouri business, or 50% of investment of a Missouri business located in a rural area. Supporting testimony was presented by Next Missouri who stated this legislation is critical to attract additional business investments and provided some recent examples of how this program has worked in other states. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, City of Kansas City, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City and Greater St. Louis Inc. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Animal Abuse and Neglect

The House Special Committee on Rural Issues convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1714](#), sponsored by Representative Greg Sharpe (R-Ewing). This bill expands animal neglect to include

failing to adequately control non-livestock animals and sets escalating criminal penalties when that failure causes property damage, injury, or death. It also removes the option for courts to waive fines and penalties for a first offense. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to clarify that the bill does not apply to hunting dogs. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 11-0 vote.

The House Special Committee on Urban Issues convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 2292](#), sponsored by Representative Holly Jones (R-Eureka). The bill requires animal control officers and animal humane investigators to be mandated reporters in cases of abuse and neglect of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable persons. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which modified the definition of animal as only dogs, cats, birds and rabbits. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

MU Health Care Expansion

The House Special Committee on Rural Issues met Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 3170](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Knight (R-Lebanon). The bill allows the University of Missouri's Board of Curators to acquire and operate health care facilities and grants antitrust immunity for those activities within a specified region, stating that the public benefits outweigh any reduced competition. Supporting testimony was presented by several MU Health Care professionals, the Hermann Area Hospital District, Capital Region Medical Center, and the Callaway Chamber of Commerce. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Insurance Coalition, Missouri Health Plan Association, and a state public advocate who expressed concerns that granting antitrust immunity could reduce competition, increase health care costs, limit patient choice, and lessen oversight and accountability in the regional health care market.

Anti-Spoofing

The House Committee on Utilities convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 2658](#), [HB 2546](#), [HB 2472](#), and [HB 2147](#), sponsored by Representatives Mike Costlow (R-Dardenne Prairie), Mitch Boggs (R-LaRussell), Jim Kalberloh (R-Lowry), and Travis Wilson (R-St. Charles). The bills are similar and establish a state telemarketing no-call list intended to protect both businesses and residents from unwanted telephone solicitations, including those using call-spoofing tactics, by prohibiting calls to numbers registered on the list. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which combined the bills into one legislative vehicle. Additionally, the substitute incorporated STIR/SHAKEN provisions, a suite of caller ID authentication standards aimed at combating illegal call spoofing, expanded the definition of "telephone solicitation" to include unsolicited offers to purchase real estate, and updated the definition of "spoofing" to include actions intended to "cause harm or wrongfully obtain anything of value." Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 20-1 vote.

Athletic Trainer Compact

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 1844](#), sponsored by Representative Sherri Gallick (R-Belton). The bill establishes the Athletic Trainer Compact, which allows licensed athletic trainers to practice in participating states through a mutual recognition system while maintaining state regulatory authority. The compact creates a multistate commission to oversee licensure standards, data sharing, disciplinary coordination, and rulemaking, and sets uniform eligibility requirements, background checks, and procedures for granting compact practice privileges. After a brief debate, the House gave its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

Audits of Political Subdivisions

The House Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [HB 3000](#), sponsored by Representative Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green). Currently, the number of signatures needed to request the State Auditor to audit a political subdivision is based on the number of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election and must be based on that election date. The bill seeks to lower this threshold to the number of voters in the political subdivision and modifies the date to prior to the election. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 12-0 vote.

Ballot Summaries

The House Committee on Elections convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 3146](#), sponsored by Representative John Simmons (R-Washington). The bill concerns Missouri's ballot summary statutes and aims to create provisions for preparing and reviewing summary language, expanding summary word limits, and addressing the role state officials and courts have in drafting, certifying, and challenging ballot summaries. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 10-2 vote.

Bi-State Development Appointments

The House Committee on Transportation convened Tuesday evening to receive public testimony on [HB 2837](#), sponsored by Representative Richard West (R-Wentzville). The bill removes the requirement that the governor select certain Bi-State Development Agency commissioners from nomination panels submitted by St. Louis City and County officials, instead allowing the governor to fill any vacancy directly. No supporting testimony was presented. Opposing testimony was presented by the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, Citizens for Modern Transit, who stated this would lead to a non-partisan commission becoming a political football.

Board of Education Annual Report

The Senate Committee on Education convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [SB 892](#), sponsored Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). This legislation would require the State Board of Education to publish its annual report on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) website. Additionally, it would require them to print 60 copies for DESE and the state library. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Cannabis Regulation

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday morning to debate [HB 2641](#), sponsored by Dave Hinman (R- O'Fallon). The bill aims to align Missouri's hemp and marijuana regulation more closely with federal law. The bill modifies the definition of 'industrial hemp' and also includes a definition of 'hemp'. Additionally, the bill creates the "Intoxicating Cannabinoid Control Act," requiring all hemp-derived cannabinoid products to be treated as marijuana and regulated exclusively through primarily by the Attorney General in coordination with state agencies. Additionally, the bill prohibits state agencies from disclosing medical marijuana cardholder information to federal authorities without a court order, allows consumers to request dispensaries not retain personal data, and restricts the use of the term dispensary. During debate, the sponsor amended the bill to replace the federal trigger with a fixed effective date of November 12, 2026, and clarified how the law will apply to certain products, including synthetic items, smokable or vapeable hemp with THCA, and certain THC-infused edibles. The amendment also removed language making the bill contingent on future federal action. Representative

Doyle Justus (R-Troy) then added a technical correction. Once modified, the House gave the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, after considerable debate, was Third Read and Passed by a 109-34 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Catalytic Converter Theft

The House Committee on Judiciary convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 2206](#), sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Crocker). The bill modifies several Missouri statutes related to commercial activity, scrap metal transactions, self-service storage liens, and theft offenses, with a focus on catalytic converters and organized retail theft. It expands requirements for salvage and scrap dealers, creates a felony for unlawful possession of a detached catalytic converter, increases related theft penalties, revises storage lien sale procedures, and repeals the Sunday sales law. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Police Chiefs Association, Missouri Sheriffs Association, the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, a state public advocate, and the Missouri Insurance Coalition who stated this would make tracking stolen materials easier for law enforcement. Opposing testimony was presented by Advantage Metals Recycling who informed the committee about current recycling business practices and document requirements. Additional opposing testimony was provided by Recycled Materials Association, Warden Publishing Co. Inc., Leader Publications, and the Missouri Press Association.

Child Sex Abuse Civil Actions

The House Committee on Commerce convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 1664](#), sponsored by Representative Brian Seitz (R-Branson). The bill modifies the definition of "childhood sexual abuse" to include sexual exploitation of a minor and modifies provisions relating to civil actions for childhood sexual abuse. Supporting testimony was presented by a victim's sister who recounted her family member's experience. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the American Tort Reform Association, National Association of Social Workers-Missouri Chapter, Missouri Network Against Child Abuse, Missouri Civil Justice Reform Coalition, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Missouri Insurance Coalition. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Child Sex Abuse SOL

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Criminal and Civil Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 1140](#), sponsored by Senator Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair). The measure is designed to ensure survivors can bring civil claims regardless of when the abuse occurred. Specifically, the bill eliminates the statute of limitations for civil childhood sexual abuse claims, allowing victims to file lawsuits at any time and voiding nondisclosure agreements in such cases. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill a 4-0 vote.

The House Committee on Judiciary convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HJR 130](#), sponsored by Representative Seitz (R-Branson). The bill is the House companion to [SJR 93](#). Supporting testimony was provided by survivors, a private attorney, the Missouri Network Against Child Abuse, and a state public advocate. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Insurance Coalition, American Tort Reform Association, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Missouri Civil Justice Reform Coalition who stated they opposed the structure of the bill and raised concerns the provisions effectively expand civil liability to include third parties.

Clean Water Commission

The House Committee on Agriculture convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 1885](#), sponsored by Representative Dean Van Schoiack (R-Savannah). The bill authorizes the Clean Water Commission to appoint more than one member with expertise in public owned water treatment works, requires members to recuse themselves in cases of conflict of interest, and removes restrictions related to members' prior income from certain permit holders or applicants. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 22-0 vote.

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 1009](#), sponsored by Senator Jamie Burger (R-Benton). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 1885](#), highlighted above. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 7-0 vote.

Community Service Commission

The House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 3279](#), sponsored by Representative Brenda Shields (R-St. Joseph). The bill moves the Community Service Commission under the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) from the Department of Economic Development and authorizes the staff of DHEWD to work with the Commission. Supporting testimony was presented by the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development who stated this commission fits perfectly with their current mission and helps citizens get connected with career and education resources. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Comparative Negligence

The House Committee on Commerce convened Monday evening to receive public testimony on [HB 2714](#), sponsored by Representative Dane Diehl (R-Butler). The bill would establish a modified comparative fault standard in Missouri. Under the bill, individuals in injury, property damage, or wrongful death cases could recover damages even if they are partially at fault. However, any award would be reduced by the person's percentage of fault. If a plaintiff is found to be 50% or more at fault, they would be barred from recovering any damages. The measure requires courts or juries to determine the total amount of damages and assign a percentage of fault to each party involved. In cases with multiple defendants, each defendant would be responsible only for paying their proportionate share of the damages. The proposed law would apply to causes of action arising on or after August 28, 2026. Supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers, Missouri State Medical Association, NFIB, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Associated Industries of Missouri, Missouri Association of Osteopathic and Physicians, Missouri Asphalt and Pavement Association, and Missouri Insurance Coalition who stated the bill limits liability exposure and provides greater predictability in civil litigation. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys and a private attorney who argued the bill makes it harder for injured people to recover damages and shifts more risk onto victims.

Construction Contracts

The House Committee on Economic Development convened Tuesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 1915](#), sponsored by Representative David Casteel (R-High Ridge). The bill sets new rules for private construction contracts signed on or after August 28, 2026, voiding provisions like excessive withholding, "pay-if-paid" clauses, out-of-state venue requirements, and adverse actions

without notice. It requires owners to pay contractors within 40 days and contractors to pay subcontractors within 7 days, with protections applying to lower tiers. Certain small, owner-occupied residential projects are excluded. The sponsor's intent with the legislation is to ensure contractors, subcontractors and laborers are paid timely for satisfactory work completion. Supporting testimony was presented by the St. Louis Chapter National Electrical Contractors Association who stated they are seeing protracted payment times with some being up to 120 days. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Site Improvement Association, American Subcontractors Association, National Electric Contractors Association-St. Louis Chapter, Construction Employers Coalition, Mechanical Contractors Association of Eastern Missouri, Mechanical Contractors of Association of Kansas City and the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association. Opposing testimony was presented by Ed Tweehouse Excavating and Associated General Contractors for Missouri who stated an update to the current prompt pay model is all that is needed, and most contractors already operate in good faith but need to retain some flexibility in payment terms depending on the project or contract. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the St. Louis Home Builders Association, Home Builders Association of Central Missouri, Associated Builders and Contractors-Heart of America, a private citizen, a state public advocate and the Associated General Contractors of Kansas City.

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [SB 1452](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). This is the Senate companion to [HB 1915](#), highlighted above. Committee discussion and testimony mirrored that of the House hearing.

Controlled Substance Delivery

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Criminal and Civil Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 1392](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon). The bill expands first-degree murder to include knowingly distributing fentanyl, carfentanil, or related substances when a death results. It remains a Class A felony, punishable by death or life without parole for offenders 18 or older. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

Controlled Substances – Xylazine

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Thursday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 1881](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Allen (R-Kansas City). This legislation would update Missouri's Controlled Substance to include Xylazine, a large animal tranquilizer that causes severe flesh-eating wounds. Currently, the health care industry is seeing overdoses of Fentanyl combined with Xylazine, resulting in death and if survived, typically amputation. Narcan does not reverse the effects of Xylazine. Supporting testimony was presented by a veterinarian who stated this product has been used safely on animals since 1972 and support the increased restrictions for human use. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Credit Union Boards/Membership

The House Committee on Financial Institutions convened on Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2586](#), sponsored by Representative David Casteel (R-High Ridge). The bill lowers the par value of credit union membership shares from \$25 to \$1 and allows the use of electronic or telephonic means to participate in credit union board meetings. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill with Consent status by a 14-0 vote.

Debt Collection

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [SB 835](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R–Buffalo). The bill updates Missouri’s garnishment and execution laws by increasing exemption amounts, raising the homestead exemption from \$15,000 to \$40,000, establishing periodic inflation adjustments to exemption amounts, and creating new procedures for bank account garnishments, with certain provisions taking effect January 1, 2027. During debate, the sponsor offered a Senate substitute revising provisions related to judgment debtor examinations, exemption amounts, the homestead exemption increase to \$40,000, inflation-based adjustments, and the framework governing garnishments of financial institution accounts. Senator Steve Webber (D–Columbia) further amended the bill to require that garnishments apply only to accounts identified in the order, mandate that financial institutions provide notice of the garnishment to each account holder within two days, and allow account holders to file objections or claims of exemption within thirty days, with disputed funds permitted to be paid into the court pending resolution. Once modified, the Senate gave the bill its first of two required 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 32-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

Defense/Energy Independence Act

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened on Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 1553](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). This bill establishes the “Missouri Defense and Energy Independence Act,” which would authorize the Department of Economic Development to award tax credits to qualified companies for certain project costs incurred. Additionally, the bill would modify the definition of “product” to include critical materials and critical pharmaceuticals. Supporting testimony was presented by Jost Chemical Company who stated they have been focused on getting various institutions and companies in Missouri to manufacture various types of critical chemicals and medicines that are currently made in adversarial countries, and this could help address material shortages. Additional supporting testimony was provided by University of Missouri System, Critical Materials Crossroads, Associated Industries of Missouri, API Innovation Center, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Doe Run Company, and a private citizen. Opposing testimony was provided by ArmorVine, who stated that regular people would fill the gaps in tax credit funds.

Disease Surveillance

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Thursday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 1855](#), sponsored by Representative Matthew Overcast (R-Ava). This bill would create tracking and surveillance of Alpha Gal and Lyme disease through the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). Through this it would add alpha gal and Lyme disease to the list of noncommunicable diseases and require the Department to enforce orders, findings, rules, and regulations to prevent spread and determine prevalence in the state. The Department would be required to follow up on reported cases and submit an annual report to the CDC. The committee expressed concern that we are giving the Department too much authority, in which it was addressed that the Department already has these authorities, and this legislation would not expand that. Supporting testimony was presented by the Alpha Gal Alliance who stated that funding on the Federal level is being worked on and it is important for the state to prove its cases through data to access that funding. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Cattleman’s Association and a number of private citizens affected by Alpha Gal. Opposing testimony was presented by ArmorVine who stated this legislation would open Pandora’s

box for what the Department could deem as a noncommunicable disease to be able to be tracked. Informational testimony was presented by a University of Missouri professor who provided who stated grants are actively being pursued to further study Alpha Gal and are actively working to perfect the testing done for Alpha Gal.

Division of Finance Fees

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday morning to debate [HB 2423](#), sponsored by Representative Philip Oehlerking (R-Ballwin). This bill is the same as [SB 1021](#) and aims to create a new fund under the Division of Finance for depositing revenue collected and paid from licensure fees. Additionally, the bill changes terminology for certain entities regulated by the division from being ‘registered’ to being ‘licensed.’ The bill also increases the fee that credit service organizations can be charged for filing a registration, from \$400 to \$1,000. After a brief debate, the House gave the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, after a brief debate, was Third Read and Passed by a 146-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

DNR Funds

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday afternoon to debate [SB 953](#), sponsored by Senator Jason Bean (R-Peach Orchard). The bill modifies provisions relating to the expenditure of moneys in certain Department of Natural Resource funds. Specifically, before June 30, 2026, any unexpended balance in the subaccounts of the Natural Resources Protection Fund exceeding the preceding biennium’s collections shall revert to the general revenue fund. Beginning July 1, 2026, any unexpended balance shall not be swept. The bill also repeals provisions that transfer funds from the Missouri Air Emission Reduction Fund. During debate, Senator Steven Roberts (D-St. Louis) offered an amendment to add [SB 960](#), which revises the membership requirements of Missouri’s Clean Water Commission by specifying designated representation (agriculture, industry or mining, wastewater treatment, and four public members), updating conflict-of-interest rules, and modifying meeting and attendance provisions. Following considerable debate, the amendment failed. The Senate then gave its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, after a brief debate, was Third Read and Passed by a 25-8 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

Domestic Violence Offender Registry

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of [HB 3012](#), [HB 2997](#) and [HB 3058](#), sponsored by Representatives Ann Kelley (R-Lamar), Raychel Proudie (D-St. Louis) and Tiffany Price (D-Kansas City), respectively. The bills are substantially similar and seek to create a public registry of persistent domestic violence offenders administered by the Department of Public Safety. Each requires registration for repeat offenders, establishes a \$150 fee to support a new Domestic Violence Prevention Fund and grant program, sets tiered removal periods, applies prospectively beginning January 1, 2027, and includes penalties and a six-year sunset provision. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which combined the bills into one legislative vehicle. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 17–0 vote.

Domestic Violence Offenses

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Criminal and Civil and Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 928](#), sponsored by Senator Patty Lewis (D-Kansas City). The bill increases the time a person may be held before being charged from 24 to 48 hours if they are

arrested for domestic violence. Additionally, the bill modifies the offense of assault and domestic violence and modifies the offense of stalking. Finally, the bill creates the offense of violation of a no contact order. The sponsor informed the committee a Senate Committee Substitute would be used for bill presentation which adds cyberstalking to orders of protection, allows the attorney general and prosecuting attorneys concurrent jurisdiction and removes the increase in holding. Supporting testimony was presented by the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence who stated this legislation strengthens protections for victims of domestic violence, assault and stalking by closing gaps in current law and ensuring that law enforcement and the courts have clearer more effective tools to intervene. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Synergy Services of Kansas City, the Jackson County Prosecutor Office's Special Victims Unit, the Mattie Rhodes Center, Kansas City Police Department and a state public advocate. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Drug Overdose Prevention

The House Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [HB 3113](#), sponsored by Representative Ann Kelley (R-Lamar). The bill modifies several provisions regarding drug overdose prevention. Specifically, the bill requires a supply of naloxone in all public buildings and make reasonable efforts to ensure this is known, designates October as "Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month," modifies the Drug-Free Schools Program to develop educational programs about fentanyl use and requires any drug-related deaths to be fully investigated regardless of whether criminal charges have been filed. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which clarifies the definition of public building and makes a grammatical correction. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 11-1 vote.

Employee-Employer Relationship

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday morning to debate [HB 1644](#) sponsored by Representative Matthew Overcast (R-Ava). This bill aims to clarify that franchisees and their employees are not considered employees of the franchisor unless the franchisor exercises direct and immediate control over hiring, firing, discipline, and employee direction. This bill attempts to align Missouri's statutes with federal law. After a brief debate, the House gave the first of two necessary votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, after a brief debate, was Third Read and Passed by a 103-45 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Empowerment Scholarships

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [HB 3037](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Allen (R-Kansas City). This bill allows taxpayers who make qualifying contributions to educational assistance organizations to carry the related tax credit back to the immediately preceding tax year, in addition to the existing four-year carryforward, for contributions made on or after January 1, 2028. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by an 8-4 vote.

Expungement

The House Committee on Economic Development convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 2747](#), sponsored by Representative Bishop Davidson (R-Republic) and [HB 2047](#), sponsored by Representative Marlene Terry (D-St. Louis). The bills seek to modify the expungement process. Specifically, the bill will provide automatic, technologically enabled, expungements for non-violent offenders who are already eligible. Additionally, this bill includes provisions for adjudication in death-penalty cases. As it stands, when the jury is not fully unanimous, Missouri gives discretion to judges for sentencing, allowing them to impose the death penalty. Under this bill, only unanimous juries can

sentence capital punishment. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which combined the bills into one legislative vehicle. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 14-0 vote.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Criminal and Civil Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 854](#) and [SB 1494](#), sponsored by Senators Brian Williams (D-Ferguson) and Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon). These are the Senate companion to [HB 2747](#), highlighted above with the only difference being the process for the expungement of the record. The committee was informed a Senate Committee Substitute would be forthcoming to address the fiscal note and clarify which populations will benefit from the automatic expungement process. Supporting testimony was presented by Empower Missouri who stated the justice system was not designed to punish offenders for their entire lives. Additionally, those with criminal backgrounds are 50% less likely to receive a call back from prospective employers and landlords and clean slate legislation is critical to successfully reintegrating former offenders back into society. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Criminal Justice Ministry, Sugar Bot Sweet Shop, Sugar Bot Creamery, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Missouri Justice Coalition, Manassas Ministry, St. Louis Integrated Health Network, Show Me Justice for All, Missouri Catholic Conference, the ACLU of Missouri and the Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Opposing testimony was presented by the Supreme Court Judicial Conference who stated their opposition is due to the misalignment of function and the information process and there needs to be a clear delineation of the timeline and who ultimately processes the expungement. Additional opposing testimony was provided by a state public advocate.

Federal Fund Coordinator

The House Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs convened Monday evening to receive public testimony on [HB 3006](#), sponsored by Representative Louis Riggs (R-Hannibal). The bill creates within the Office of the State Treasury the Coordinator of Federal Funds Recovery whose primary duty will be to monitor the status of all federal funds allocated to the state of Missouri. Additionally, the bill specifies the duties of the coordinator and reporting requirements for all federal funds. The sponsor's intent with the legislation is to have one focal person track these funds so departments are not continuously subject to verbal disparagement for not spending funds they never received. Opposing testimony was provided by several private citizens and a state public advocate. No supporting testimony was presented to the committee.

Financial Institution Safe Harbor

The House Committee on Financial Institutions convened on Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 3107](#), sponsored by Representative Philip Oehlerking (R-Ballwin). The bill provides protections from civil liability to financial institutions who follow and are in compliance with, or in good faith reliance on, written guidance issued by a regulatory agency, even if the guidance is later modified, rescinded, or held invalid by a court. After a discussion addressing that there are negotiations on the language currently ongoing, the committee passed the bill by a 10-1-3 vote.

Firearm Suppressors

The House Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 1730](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Costlow (R-Dardenne Prairie). The bill seeks to legalize the possession, manufacturing, transportation, repair or sale of a firearm suppressor. The bill specifies the firearm suppressor must be manufactured in Missouri and remain in Missouri to not be subject to current federal law. Supporting testimony was presented by a state public advocate who stated this

would protect from hearing loss from discharged firearms. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Firearms – Anti-Red Flag

The House Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday evening to discuss passage of [HB 2176](#), sponsored by Representative Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green). The bill nullifies red flag laws that direct the confiscation of a firearm, accessory or ammunition from law-abiding citizens within the Missouri borders. Additionally, the bill includes a \$50,000 civil penalty. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by an 8-4 vote.

Food is Medicine Act

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Thursday morning to hear public testimony on [HB 2355](#), sponsored by Representative Holly Jones (R-Eureka). In an effort to increase the health income of MO HealthNet participants, this legislation would establish the “Food is Medicine Act,” that would require the Department of Social Services to provide coverage for the “Food is Medicine” program for produce prescriptions and medically tailored meals. Committee members expressed concerns this could open the door for non-medical supplements. Supporting testimony was presented by Empower Missouri who stated produce prescription programs can reduce healthcare costs in the long-term and this legislation would further support the agriculture industry as it would create a stable and consistent market for locally produced food. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the American Heart Association, Kanbe’s Markets, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, several urban farmers, BJC Healthcare and Feeding Missouri. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Foreign Remittance Transfers

The House Committee on Financial Institutions convened on Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2412](#), sponsored by Representative Ben Keathley (R-Chesterfield). This legislation would prohibit a money transmitter licensee from initiating a foreign remittance transfer unless the licensee has verified that the sender is not an unauthorized alien. This would also require the licensee to submit confirmation on a quarterly basis. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which would improve clarity of the language to mirror the Senate version. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 10-5 vote.

Foster Care Children

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 1573](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill seeks to promote a more stable transition from childhood to adulthood for youths again out of foster care or custody of the division of youth services. The bill requires any guardians to be engaged in the transition planning process and all those leaving the system be provided with essential records and additional guidance before they exit care. Supporting testimony was presented by the St. Louis County Public Administrator who stated this legislation solves an essential problem for public administrators who have been assigned younger and younger individuals who are aging out of the children’s division care. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Barry County Public Administrator, Foster Adopt Connect and a private citizen. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Fuel Source Regulations

The House Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2774](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Knight (R-Lebanon). The bill prohibits the state and political subdivisions from making any laws, rules, regulations or ordinances that restricts the sale or use of any equipment, vehicles or tools based on their fuel source. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which exempts the City of Clayton. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 12-0 vote.

Garnishments

The House Committee on Financial Institutions convened on Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1870](#), sponsored by Representative Lane Roberts (R-Joplin). The bill seeks to update the bankruptcy and wage garnishment statutes, as they have not been adjusted for inflation in decades. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to further update examination of judgement debtors' statutes, include the compromise homesteader's exemption of \$40,000 and include language which would match federal law that ties judgements and garnishments to CPI. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 15-0 vote.

Gender Issues

The Senate Committee on Education convened on Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 1085](#), sponsored by Senator Joe Nicola (R-Grain Valley). The bill attempts to prohibit public school staff members from "encouraging minor students in their "social transition". If an educator assists or does not explicitly discourage a student from merely being perceived as their opposite 'biological sex', their license could be revoked. It could also be revoked from just engaging in discussion surrounding gender-queer issues. The bill advocates for school staff members reporting their fellow employees for engaging in such conversation. The attorney general may also bring civil action against a school district, school, or teacher for violating this act. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which adds charter schools to the definition of public schools, further clarifies the definition of social transition, adds provisions regarding minor student privacy, exempts staff and students from disciplinary action if they decline to use his or her pronouns and clarifies civil penalties. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 3-2 vote.

Good Time Credit

The House Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions convened on Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2695](#), [HB 2751](#), and [HB 2831](#), sponsored by Representative Jamie Gragg (R-Ozark), Representative Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green), and Representative Kimberly-Ann Collins (D-St. Louis), respectively. The bills are similar and would repeal current provisions of law for individuals convicted of felony offenses to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) if certain conditions are met and allow for good time and earned time credit. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which combines the bills into one legislative vehicle, made a grammatical correction, limits the amount of good time credit which may be earned and excludes certain violent felonies. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 14-1 vote.

Health Care Omnibus

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 841](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City). The bill modifies numerous provisions regarding health care. Specifically, the bill includes: (1) awareness days; (2)

hospital investments and service areas; (3) epinephrine products; (4) community paramedic services; (5) doula services; (6) telehealth; (7) Department of Health and Senior Services contracts for public health; (8) limits on the sale of over-the-counter drugs; (9) administration of medications; (10) hospital workplace violence; (11) inspections of long-term care facilities; (12) MO HealthNet coverage of certain clinical pathology services; (13) food-borne allergies; (14) the practice of dentistry in correctional centers; (15) the administration of certain vaccines; (16) licensure of wholesale drug distributors; (18) the "RX Cares for Missouri Program"; (19) 340B drugs; (20) insurance coverage of anesthesia services; (21) insurance coverage of alternatives to opioid drugs; and (22) prior authorization of health care services. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Primary Care Association, Centurion and Missouri Assisted Living Association who stated there are provisions which ensure reimbursements are not artificially lowered and the entities can capture the savings for themselves. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Haleon, Missouri Health Care Association, Missouri Public Health Institute, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Missouri College of Emergency Physicians, Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists, SSM Health, Katy Trail Community Health Center, Missouri Association of School Nurses, Jordan Valley Health, Missouri Nurses Association, Missouri Occupational Therapists Association, Missouri Society of Pathologists, Missouri Hospital Association, Consumer Health Products Association, Freeman Health System, Cox Health, BJC Health, Rankin Jordan, Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics, National Association of Social Workers, Reach Healthcare, Missouri State Medical Association, Missouri Ambulance Association, Missouri Pharmacy Association, Rx Outreach, Nurture Kansas City, Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Golden Valley Medical Healthcare and Mercy Health System. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Insurance Coalition who stated they object to the prior authorization language and the anesthesia provisions and planned to submit their remaining objects in writing to the committee. Additional opposing testimony was presented by America's Health Insurance Plans, Missouri Health Plan Association and ArmorVine.

Healthcare Prior Authorization

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Thursday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 3010](#), sponsored by Representative Melanie Stinnett (R-Springfield). The bill allows health providers to be audited if they have approval rates drop below a 90% prior authorization approval for healthcare services. The bill 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; when switching plans allows for a 90-day grace period for consumers; and adds a provision requiring healthcare providers to submit prior authorization requests via the API. Supporting testimony was presented by Phelps Health who stated this would allow for a reduction in staffing costs as many hospitals and healthcare providers have had to create dedicated prior authorization teams to navigate the process. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, MU Healthcare, Cox Health, Freeman Hospital, American College of OBGYNs, Washington University, Missouri Ambulance Association, BJC Healthcare, REACH Foundation, National Association of Social Workers-Missouri Chapter, Missouri Gastroenterology Association, State Orthopedic Association, Missouri Hospital Association, SSM Health, Missouri State Medical Association, Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physician and Surgeons, New Liberty Hospital Corporation, University Health Kansas City, Hannibal Regional Health System, Hannibal Regional Hospital, Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, Missouri Cardiac Medical Association and Mosaic Life Care. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri

Insurance Coalition who expressed concerns with the 90% threshold and the API provision. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri Health Plan Association and America's Health Insurance Plans. Informational testimony was presented by the Department of Commerce and Industry.

Hemp Beverage Regulation

The House Committee on Judiciary convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2765](#), sponsored by Representative Doyle Justus (R-Troy). The bill establishes a regulatory framework for hemp-infused beverages by requiring state licenses for manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers, limiting sales to adults aged 21 and older, and setting clear rules for how these products are manufactured, tested, labeled, and sold. The bill caps THC per serving, prohibits packaging and marketing that appeal to children, restricts where retailers may operate, authorizes inspections and penalties for violations, and imposes a 7% excise tax on retail sales, with a brief transition period to sell existing inventory after the law takes effect in 2026. During discuss, a House Committee Substitute was adopted that authorizes alcohol and tobacco control officers to be designated as peace officers with full power and authority, clarifies definitions for "delivery service" and "hemp beverage," requires the department to promulgate necessary regulations, specifies license renewal and prohibited locations, clarifies the license dispute process, and restricts free promotional distribution. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 10-0 vote.

Higher Education Governing Boards

The House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2896](#), sponsored by Representative Chris Brown (R-Kansas City). The bill updates Missouri statutes governing public higher-education boards by standardizing board composition, reinforcing political-party balance, and limiting how many members may come from an institution's home county. It removes detailed geographic appointment formulas in favor of simpler, more uniform rules and preserves student representation through nonvoting members, with the goal of modernizing and streamlining governance across public colleges and universities. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by an 8-1-1 vote.

Highway Project Cost Transparency

The House Committee on Transportation convened Tuesday evening to receive public testimony on [HB 2759](#), sponsored by Representative Sean Pouche (R-Kansas City). The bill would require the Missouri Department of Transportation to post the estimated cost and expected completion date for any state highway construction, maintenance, or repair project on its public website when contract bidding closes. Supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Asphalt and Pavement Association and a state public advocate who noted the measure reinforces openness and stability in the highway construction market. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Associated General Contractors of Missouri. Opposing testimony was presented by MoDOT who informed the committee of its existing procedures for handling projects and the bidding process.

Hospital Pharmacy Services

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [SB 1423](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill modifies provisions of rulemaking authority for pharmacy services within hospitals and attempts to streamline the process for licensure for physicians. Additionally, the bill modifies the definition of "hospital" for purposes of regulating the dispensation and distribution of controlled substances to include outpatient facilities owned and operated by a hospital. A hospital may obtain a separate registration for the distribution or

dispensation of controlled substances from the Department of Health and Senior Services for each outpatient facility owned or operated by the hospital in which behavioral health or substance abuse services are delivered. The sponsor informed the committee a Senate Committee Substitute would be forthcoming which would remove all provisions regarding unaccredited post-graduate pharmacy programs. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Hospital Association who stated this legislation is about streamlining and adding conformity to how other licensure boards operate. Opposing testimony was presented by ArmorVine who objected to changing good moral character to only requiring a background check. Additional opposing testimony was provided by a state public advocate. Informational testimony was presented by the Division of Professional Registration who informed the committee this legislation would not interfere with current professional licensure compacts in place but do have a concern this may remove some rulemaking authority.

Innovation, Public Safety and Accountability

The House Committee on Commerce convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 3231](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). The bill creates the “Missouri Innovation, Public Safety and Accountability Act.” Specifically, the bill allows cities to opt-in with an application to the Department of Economic Development. Additionally, the bill creates the Rural Development Fund to spur economic development in rural and small communities and creates the Innovation District Public Safety Fund which creates a sales-tax recapture mechanism for public safety investments. Finally, the bill creates a tax credit incentive for those who invest in commercial property with the intent to convert the property into residential housing. The sponsor stated the bill is a work in progress and he is seeking to address the lack of true economic development in the state. Supporting testimony was presented by the Goldman Investment Advisors who stated projects, no matter how small or large, cannot succeed without economic development incentives and Missouri is not currently growing at the same rate as the national average. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, St. Charles County, Historic Revitalization of Missouri, Next Missouri and the Site Improvement Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. Informational testimony was presented by Greater St. Louis Inc who stated they are supportive of the office building redevelopment provisions but are concerned about the local governance provisions contained in the bill. Additional informational testimony was provided by the City of St. Louis and the Missouri AFL-CIO who stated they will continue to work with the bill sponsor to find language that works for all stakeholders. Given the large amount of testimony provided the Chairman decided to continue the hearing on another date to allow stakeholders to continue to negotiate the language.

Ireland Trade Commission

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened on Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 1576](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). This bill would establish the Missouri Ireland Trade Commission under the Department of Economic Legislation. The sponsor stated the bill's intent is to study potential means of advancing bilateral trade and investment, policy issues, business and academic exchanges, mutual economic support, and mutual investment in the infrastructure of Missouri and Ireland. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

JCAR Authority

The House Committee on Government Efficiency moved into Executive Session to vote on [HB 1641](#), sponsored by Representative Matthew Overcast (R-Ava). The bill expands the joint committee on Administrative Rule’s authority, allowing the committee to review more than just formally promulgated

rules, issue subpoenas, swear-in witnesses before the committee and referring noncompliance to the appropriate authorities. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute which made a technical correction. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 12-1-4 vote.

Land Banks

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened on Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 843](#), sponsored by Senator Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield). This legislation seeks to modify provisions relating to the board of directors of newly established land bank agencies. This would create an entity that properties can be placed into to be repurposed and spur property sales. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which would ensure this would apply statewide. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

Legal Expense Fund

The House Committee on Children and Families convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 2610](#), sponsored by Representative Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis). The bill allows funds in the Legal Expense Fund to be used for the payment of claims required by any final judgement rendered against any entity that provides foster care case management or residential services under contract, including members, officers and employees of the entity. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which places a cap of \$1 million for aggregate payments in the case of any claim or judgement arising. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 17-0 vote.

Library Materials

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to receive public testimony on [HB 3005](#), sponsored by Doyle Justus (R-Troy). The bill updates several definitions including “digital library material,” “library material,” and “reconsideration.” The bill requires all public and public school libraries to establish a public policy outlining the process for library materials to undergo reconsideration based on a complaint received about specific library materials. Supporting testimony was presented by EBSCO Information Services who stated this legislation is a collaborative effort to provide transparency, codify the reconsideration approach for libraries and create a safe and sure environment for children to learn. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Library Association, librarians, EveryLibrary Institute, and the Missouri Association of School Librarians. Opposing testimony was presented by Intact who stated the bill is a form of censorship. Additional opposing testimony was provided by several private citizens.

License Reciprocity

The House Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing convened on Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 2300](#), sponsored by Representative Philip Oehlerking (R-Ballwin). This legislation would increase reciprocity of licensed professions in Missouri with states that do not license or carry lower standards of licensure. This would allow anyone coming into Missouri to work in a licensed profession under a two-year temporary license, with three years’ experience, after passing the licensure exam. The applicant would have those two years to meet Missouri’s full licensure requirements. If an individual has had disciplinary issues in other states, they will not qualify, and the license cannot be used for interstate reciprocity. Supporting testimony was presented by FGA Action who focused their testimony on the differing standards or non-requirement of licensures in other states, citing that there are twenty-five professions that other states either do not license or have lower standards. This gives them an avenue to come into the state and start practicing while working on

meeting all licensure requirements. Informational testimony was presented by the Knee Regulatory Research Center who provided statistics on research on the effects of occupational licensing laws and the supply of professionals, wages and prices and interstate mobility. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

The House Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing convened on Wednesday morning to receive public testimony of [HB 1813](#), sponsored by Representative Mark Nolte (R-Higginsville). In 2020, the legislature passed the reciprocity language currently in statute, which allowed certain professions to come in and receive expedited licensure. In the final hours of session, the legislation was amended to include all licensed professions. This legislation is a housekeeping bill to address unintended consequences for architects, professional engineers, professional land surveyors and professional landscape architects. Under current legislation, the Board of architects, professional engineers, professional land surveyors and professional landscape architects cannot deny a license or temporary or probationary license if the applicant does not meet the qualifications of licensure. This legislation would allow the Board to deny licensure if the applicant does not meet the state licensure qualifications. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Division of Professional Registration who stated that the previously passed legislation created unintended consequences that has led to 495 individuals, now licensed in Missouri, that do not meet qualifications for licensure. Opposing testimony was presented by FGA Action who stated that if this bill was passed, we would see multiple professions coming forth wanting to retract the reciprocity laws. Informational testimony was presented by the Missouri Division of Professional Registration who provided background about the intent and process of the previous reciprocity bill passed.

License Reciprocity – United Kingdom

The House Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing convened on Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 2649](#), sponsored by Travis Wilson (R-St. Charles). Currently, a person with a professional license for at least one year from another state, branch of military, US territory or District of Columbia can apply for a license in the same profession. This legislation seeks to add licenses acquired in the United Kingdom to be added to current reciprocity laws in Missouri. Committee members expressed concerns over adding the United Kingdom stating that they are not familiar with the trainings and standards and how they compare. The question was also asked but not answered if the UK recognizes Missouri's licenses. Supporting testimony was provided by a Missouri resident who had recently moved from the United Kingdom. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri State Medical Association who stated that this is a loophole that we as a state do not want to go down. Additional opposing testimony was provided by a state public advocate.

License Reciprocity Waivers

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [SB 895](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). The bill provides that any person with at least 3 years of work experience in an occupation or profession in another state that does not use a license to regulate that occupation or profession may submit an application for licensure in Missouri. Additionally, the relevant oversight body shall require applicants to take a profession-specific exam. If a license is issued, it shall be a one-time, non-renewable temporary license for two years. Finally, upon the temporary license expiring, the person shall be required to apply for a permanent license. Supporting testimony was presented by FGA Action who stated this legislation has been passed in 22 other states

and can assist in reducing barriers to occupational licensure. Additional supporting testimony was provided by United WE. Opposing testimony was presented by a state public advocate.

Limited Liability Company Series

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened on Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 1142](#), sponsored by Senator Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair). Each series of a limited liability company (LLC) will be profiled, maintained and searchable as a business entity on the website of the Secretary of State, similar to that of a non-series entity. Additionally, this would allow for a series of an LLC to obtain a stand-alone certificate of good standing from the Secretary of State in the name of the series. The sponsor informed the committee a Senate Committee Substitute would be forthcoming which would add to ensure consistency throughout the statute. Supporting testimony was provided by the Polsinelli Law Firm, Lockton Companies and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Masked Intimidation Offense

The House Committee on Judiciary convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2848](#), sponsored by Representative David Dolan (R-Sikeston). The bill makes it a crime to harass, intimidate, or threaten someone while wearing a mask to conceal their identity and cause fear. The offense is generally a misdemeanor but can be enhanced to a felony if motivated by protected characteristics, and it includes exceptions for lawful mask use such as health, religious, or occupational purposes. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

Medical Malpractice Insurance

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [SB 1310](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). The bill allows Missouri to create or restart a Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association if medical malpractice insurance is not reasonably available in the private market. All authorized insurers in the state must participate. The association can issue policies, handle claims, and manage reinsurance under a state-approved plan, and it may suspend operations if coverage later becomes reasonably available privately. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Insurance Coalition. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Melanie's Law

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 1740](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Griffith (R-Jefferson City). The bill strengthens Missouri's driving while intoxicated (DWI) laws in a manner similar to "Melanie's Law" in Massachusetts by expanding mandatory ignition interlock requirements, increasing license suspension and reinstatement conditions, and enhancing penalties for repeat and high-blood alcohol concentration (BAC) offenders. It restructures DWI felony classifications, imposes stricter sentencing and parole eligibility rules, and increases penalties in cases involving serious injury or death, with the overall goal of reducing repeat intoxicated driving and improving public safety. Supporting testimony was presented by Melanie's mother and sister. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Byrnes Mill Police Department, the Kansas City Police Department, MoDOT, Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Missing Persons Alert System

The House Committee on Children and Families convened Tuesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 1840](#), sponsored by Representative Sherri Gallick (R-Belton). The bill seeks to establish the Purple Alert System whose purpose is to aid in the location of missing persons with developmental disabilities. Supporting testimony was presented by a disability advocate who stated time is critical when person missing is developmentally disabled and the Purple Alert System is a clear and effective communication tool for both first responders and families. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Woodhaven, parents, Foster Adopt Connect, Sherwood Autism Center in Kansas City, the Kansas City Fire Department and the Missouri Association of County Developmental Disability Services. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

MO HealthNet Work Requirements

The House took up and dedicated floor time Thursday morning to revisit [HJR 154](#), sponsored by Representative Darrin Chappell (R-Rogersville). The resolution, if approved by voters, would mirror what has been done at the National level taking effect with the Big Beautiful Bill on January 1, 2027, requiring the MO HealthNet Division to implement work requirements for applicable individuals between the ages of 19 – 65 exempting those with disabilities. The applicant must comply with the work requirements for three consecutive months preceding the date of application. Those seeking an exemption must provide documentation to MO HealthNet. The resolution also bars the Department of Social Services from accepting exemption designations by managed care organizations. After a lengthy debate, the bill was Third Read and Passed by a 99-48 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Motor Vehicle Child Restraints

The House Committee on Children and Families convened Tuesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 2170](#), sponsored by Bruce Sassmann (R-Bland). The bill seeks to make changes to the statutes regarding child passenger restraint systems. Specifically, the bill states that children under three years of age should be secured in a rear facing child restraint system rather than a forward facing child restraint system. The bill also defines the age, size and weight of children placed in forward facing child seats, booster seats or those required to wear a seat belt. Finally, the bill removes the exception that allows a child to travel unrestrained. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics who stated they began working on this legislation in Missouri in 2017 and they do not want to criminalize parenting but are seeking to have their safety recommendation codified. Additional supporting testimony was provided by MoDOT, Kids Win Missouri, St. Louis Children's Hospital, the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians, Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the Missouri State Medical Association and a state public advocate. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Motor Vehicle Registration

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 2189](#), sponsored by Representative Bob Bromley (R-Carl Junction). The bill modifies motor vehicle registration laws by authorizing the Department of Revenue to offer optional five-year vehicle registrations beginning January 1, 2027, for certain newer vehicles, with fees collected upfront on a prorated basis. The bill also allows issuance of five-year registration tabs and makes conforming changes to license plate and registration provisions. During debate, Representative David Dolan (R-Sikeston) amended the bill to allow a person to pay \$45 for a five-year registration. Once modified, the House gave the bill its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

Motor Vehicle Safety Inspections

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to revisit [HB 1838](#), sponsored by Representative Ann Kelley (R-Lamar). The bill revises Missouri motor vehicle safety and emissions inspection laws by reducing routine inspection requirements for many noncommercial vehicles while retaining inspections for commercial vehicles, school buses, salvage or rebuilt vehicles, and vehicles involved in accidents. It also makes conforming changes to registration and titling statutes and takes effect January 1, 2027. During debate, Representative Mazzie Christensen (R-Bethany) successfully amended the bill by requiring rebuilt salvage vehicles to undergo a safety inspection. After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 104-43 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Nuclear Clean Power Act

The House Committee on Utilities Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 2122](#) and [HB 1626](#), sponsored by Representatives John Black (R-Marshfield) and Willard Haley (R-Eldon), respectively. The bills are identical and establish the “Missouri Nuclear Clean Power Act” and would allow utilities, with approval from the Public Service Commission, to recover certain construction costs—commonly referred to as construction work in progress (CWIP)—for new natural gas plants and small nuclear plants (600 megawatts or less) before the facilities are placed in service. The legislation creates exceptions to the general prohibition on charging customers for CWIP, includes prudence review and claw-back provisions requiring refunds with interest if costs are later found imprudent, and sets sunset dates of 2035 for the natural gas provisions and 2036 for the nuclear provisions, with the possibility of extension. Support testimony was provided by Associated Industries of Missouri, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ameren Missouri, City Utilities of Springfield, and the Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities. Proponents noted the importance of grid reliability, an increase in economic development benefits, and the importance of maintaining Missouri’s competitiveness. They also highlighted the inclusion of claw-back protections and noted that CWIP authority has saved municipal ratepayers millions of dollars on large infrastructure projects. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. Informational testimony was provided by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources regarding federal nuclear energy policy, permitting timelines, and national energy direction. Additional informational testimony was provided by Ameren Missouri and the University of Missouri.

Online Minor Protection

The House Committee on Children and Families convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 1839](#), [HB 2921](#) and [HB 3015](#), sponsored by Representatives Sherri Gallick (R-Belton), Melissa Schmidt (R-Eldridge) and Jeff Farnan (R-Stanberry), respectively. The bills are identical and require websites that have more than 33% of their published material deemed harmful to minors to verify if a person is at least 18 years old. Additionally, the bill excludes bona fide news sites or public broadcasts and prohibits the retention of any identifying information of an individual. Finally, the bill outlines the civil penalties. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which combined the bills into one legislative vehicle. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 17-0 vote.

Organ Harvesting Act of 2026

The House Committee on Health and mental Health convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 2309](#), sponsored by Representative Holly Jones (R-Eureka). The bill prohibits insurance companies

from covering human organ transplant or post-transplant care from organs harvested from China. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

Osage Beach Entertainment District

The House Committee on Commerce convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 2057](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Verneti (R-Camdenton). This bill seeks to designate an entertainment district located in Osage Beach, Missouri. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the City of Chesterfield. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 10-0 vote.

Personal Property Assessments

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday morning to revisit [HB 1766](#), sponsored by Representative Mike McGirl (R-Potosi). Currently, county assessors determine increases in personal property valuation based, in part, on the total value of property compared to the prior year. The bill changes the definition of “new construction” to stop statewide increases in total personal property value from being counted as “new construction.” Instead, only actual new construction, not just higher valuations, would count when calculating growth for assessment purposes, beginning January 1, 2027. After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 94-50 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Personal Property Tax Reduction

The House Committee on Ways and Means convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [HB 2329](#), sponsored by Representative Richard West (R-Wentzville). The bill would gradually reduce personal property taxes by lowering the assessment rate on tangible personal property from 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent to 18 percent over three years starting in 2027. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-4 vote.

Physician Assistant Licensure

The House Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing convened on Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 3129](#), sponsored by Representative Ben Keathley (R-Chesterfield). This bill creates the “Physician Assistant Licensure Compact,” which would allow physician assistants licensed in states participating in the interstate compact to practice in Missouri given they meet licensure standards. After no discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted that would define the definition of physician assistant and ensure they operate under the scope of Missouri statute. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 14-0-2 vote.

Postconviction Counsel Requirements

The House Committee on Judiciary convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 2254](#), sponsored by Barry Hovis (R-Whitewater). The bill updates Missouri’s postconviction procedures in death penalty cases by requiring courts to determine if a defendant is indigent and, if so, appoint two qualified attorneys to handle postconviction motions. It sets experience requirements for appointed counsel and bars them from having represented the defendant at trial or on direct appeal. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Attorney General’s Office, a state public advocate, and several citizens. Opposing testimony was presented by Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty who opposed the bill on the principal the death penalty is morally wrong.

Post-Secondary Education Grants

The House Committee on Economic Development convened Tuesday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 2151](#), sponsored by Representative Travis Wilson (R-St. Charles). The bill seeks to increase the maximum income threshold from \$80,000 to \$100,000 for those filing jointly and \$30,000 to \$50,000 for single filers to be eligible for the Fast Track Workforce Development Incentive Grant program. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Community College Association who stated this program is intended for those aged 25 and older and has been tremendously successful. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Ozark Technical Community College, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Metropolitan Community College. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Prison Terms – Minimum

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday afternoon to debate [HB 2637](#), sponsored by Representative John Black (R-Marshfield). This legislation has been a work in progress for the past two years and is better known as the “Transparency on Sentencing” bill. This legislation will establish a minimum sentence that is served for felony offenses. After a lengthy debate, the House gave the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, after a brief debate, was Third Read and Passed by a vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Criminal and Civil Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 882](#), [SB 894](#) and [SB 1294](#), sponsored by Senators Curtis Trent (R-Springfield), Jill Carter (R-Granby) and Joe Nicola (R-St. Charles), respectively. These are the Senate companion bills to [HB 2637](#), highlighted above. The committee was informed a Senate Committee Substitute will be forthcoming which would combine the bills into one legislative vehicle and change the effective date to December 31, 2027. Supporting testimony was presented by the Department of Corrections who stated the bills bring transparency at the time of sentencing, provides more predictability within the system and should allow a sentencing structure in the future that is easier for policy makers to adjust based on shifting policy desires. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and a state public advocate. Opposing testimony was presented by Forward.US who stated these bills directly impact minimum parole eligibility and lead to increased costs for the Corrections system as offenders will remain incarcerated longer. Additional opposing testimony was provided by Empower Missouri, Show Me Justice for All, Missouri Justice Coalition and the ACLU of Missouri.

Property Development

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to revisit [HB 2384](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Jones (R-Kansas City). The sponsor’s intent with the legislation is to ensure more affordable housing for citizens. Specifically, the bill prohibits political subdivisions from enacting or maintaining any policies that require builders, developers or owners to implement green or excessive building designs for sustainability, allows for the building of apartments that are six stories or less and removes the requirement these dwellings have two staircases. Additionally, the bill sets permit approval or denial timelines. Additionally, the bill clarifies a single copy of municipal ordinances must be kept on file at the municipal clerk’s office if the municipal ordinances are available online and free to the public.

After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 92-61 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Property Tax Assessment Definition

The House Special Committee on Property Tax Reform convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2415](#), sponsored by Representative Dean Van Schoiack (R-Savannah). The bill changes how Missouri taxes real estate by clarifying property types and how they are valued. It defines residential, agricultural, and commercial/industrial property, including urban gardens, small bed-and-breakfasts, and certain sawmills. It sets rules for calculating property value and allows local governments to adjust taxes if reclassifying property reduces revenue. Multi-use and vacant properties are assessed based on their main economic use, while forest croplands are taxed separately. The changes apply to assessments after December 31, 1994. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to provide grammatical corrections and clarify language. Additionally, the substitute specifies that assessors shall use all applicable valuation approaches when determining property value and adjusts the compliance threshold from 90-110% to 70-100%. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 14-2 vote.

Property Tax Assessment Procedures

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 2178](#), sponsored by Representative Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green). The bill revises Missouri property tax laws by updating assessment and appeal procedures. The bill requires physical inspections before certain real property assessment increases over 15 percent, places the burden of proof on assessors in specified appeals, removes the presumption that an assessor's valuation is correct, limits certain motor vehicle assessment increases, phases in large equalization increases ordered by the State Tax Commission, and authorizes attorney's fees in certain appeal cases. During debate, the sponsor amended the bill to cap real property tax increases from general reassessments at 15 percent per two-year cycle by spreading larger increases over time and requiring assessors to apply a credit to limit a taxpayer's liability accordingly. Representative Chris Brown (R-Kansas City) further amended the bill to include [HB 1768](#), short-term rental tax clarity. Representative Fowler then amended the bill to include [HB 2925](#), to establish new requirements for property tax ballot measures, including standardized labeling, majority-vote approval for tax increases, detailed ballot disclosures beginning in 2027, restrictions on advertising claims, and a requirement that ballot language be fair and impartial. Representative Carolyn Caton (R-Blue Springs) also amended the bill to include provisions from [HB 2607](#) requiring earlier completion of physical inspections, expanded notice requirements when property valuations increase (including projected tax liability disclosures), changes to board of equalization membership and procedures in certain large counties, expanded taxpayer recovery of attorney's fees and costs in specified appeals, and revised procedures for protesting and refunding disputed property taxes. Once modified, the House gave its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

Property Tax Assessment Ratios/Limits

The Senate Select Committee on Property Taxes and the State Tax Commission convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 1301](#), sponsored by Senator Rick Brattin (R-Harrisonville). The bill requires the State Tax Commission, in its ratio studies of county property assessments, to ensure that no county's assessed value ratio exceeds 1, meaning counties cannot be considered as assessing property at more than 100% of market value. Supporting testimony was provided by a state public advocate. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Property Tax Limits/Credits

The Senate Select Committee on Property Taxes and the State Tax Commission convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 919](#), sponsored by Senator Joe Nicola (R-Grain Valley). The bill updates Missouri property tax law by limiting how much home values can be increased for tax purposes (no more than 15% per reassessment) and creating a statewide tax credit starting in 2024 that caps yearly real estate tax increases at 2.5% or inflation, whichever is lower. It also prevents taxes on individual items of personal property, like cars, from rising above what was owed on those items in 2024. Supporting testimony was presented by a Jackson County legislator, a state public advocate, and several citizens, many of whom cited significant reassessment increases and reclassification issues in Jackson County. Witnesses described sharp valuation increases, tax delinquencies rising after 2023 reassessments, and lengthy appeal backlogs, arguing that [SB 919](#) would provide meaningful taxpayer protections and prevent residents—particularly seniors and agricultural property owners—from being taxed out of their homes or land. Opposing testimony was provided by the Howell County Assessor who raised concerns about how the reclassification provisions would function in practice and whether the bill could complicate statutory use-based assessment requirements. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri Council of School Administrators.

Property Tax Reform

The House Special Committee on Property Tax Reform convened Thursday morning to reset the direction of the property tax legislation following floor debate. The previously combined bill has been separated into two measures in an effort to simplify the proposals and improve their path forward. [HB 2780](#), sponsored by Representative Tim Taylor (R-Bunceton), will focus on levy-by-subclass provisions, commercial property protections (including the 15% inspection threshold), adjustments related to the \$2.75 levy floor, a Hancock-related fix, and language addressing tax abatements. [HB 2668](#), sponsored by Representative Ben Keathley (R-Chesterfield), will include ballot language clarifications, provisions related to no-tax-increase ballot measures, [SB 190](#) clarifications, and related statutory updates. The intent is to avoid overlap and move more streamlined legislation through the process. Committee members engaged in detailed discussion regarding the treatment of tax abatements, particularly TIFs, and how foregone revenue should be reflected in levy calculations. There was also significant conversation surrounding the treatment of new construction under Hancock and the broader fiscal impact on local taxing jurisdictions. While additional policy ideas were raised, leadership emphasized the importance of narrowing the scope to ensure viable, actionable reforms this session. As this was an informal committee discussion, no public testimony was accepted during the hearing.

Public Assistance Benefits Reporting

The House Committee on Government Efficiency convened Thursday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 1817](#), sponsored by Representative Becky Laubinger (R-Park Hills). The bill seeks to mandate the Department of Health and Senior Services compile aggregate data and produce a report, which will be made available on their website, of all public assistance programs utilized in political subdivisions with more than 1,000 people. Additionally, the bill outlines the data to be collected. Committee members were confused as to the purpose of the legislation and what need it fills. Supporting testimony was presented by FGA Action who stated the bill would ensure accountability and transparency of public assistance benefits. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Recording Fees

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [HB 2830](#), sponsored by Representative Kimberly-Ann Collins (D-St Louis). This bill increases the recording fee on certain instruments from \$3 to \$9, with the additional revenue continuing to be deposited into the Missouri Housing Trust Fund. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 12-0 vote.

Regional Planning Commission Funding

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened on Wednesday morning to hear public testimony on [SB 1084](#), sponsored by Senator Jamie Burger (R-Benton). This bill would authorize more state funds to go to regional planning commissions, provides that the maximum grant amount for each regional planning commission shall be adjusted according to the consumer price index, and would remove certain regional planning commissions while adding others. Supporting testimony was presented by the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission who provided background information on how regional planning commissions operate. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Callaway County Presiding Commissioner, the Missouri Association of Counties, Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, Missouri Municipal League and a state public advocate. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

The House Committee on Local Government convened Wednesday morning to hear public testimony on [HB 2096](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Farnan (R-Stanberry). This is the House companion to [SB 1084](#), highlighted above. Committee discussion and testimony mirrored that of the Senate hearing.

Religious Freedom Protection Act

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [HB 1778](#) and [HB 2760](#), sponsored by Representatives Cathy Jo Loy (R-Carthage) and Sean Pouche (R-Kansas City), respectively. The bills are similar and seek to limit the authority of state and local officials to restrict or prohibit religious services or gatherings, particularly during emergencies, while preserving exceptions for public safety concerns such as imminent danger and compliance with building and fire codes. After no discussion, the committee passed both bills separately by an 8-4 vote.

SAPA Revisions

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 3105](#), sponsored by Representative Jim Schulte (R-New Bloomfield). This bill repeals prior Second Amendment Preservation Act provisions and replaces them with new sections barring Missouri officials from knowingly violating the firearm rights of defined “law-abiding citizens”. It requires investigation and possible discipline of violators, allows the attorney general or local prosecutors to seek injunctive relief, and permits cooperation with federal authorities when there is reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct. Supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Sheriff's Association, Missouri Sheriffs Constitutional Firearm Alliance, the Police Chief of the City of Versailles, the Law enforcement Legislative Coalition and the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police. Opposing testimony was provided by Women for Gun Rights and several private citizens.

School Curriculum - Agriculture

The Senate Committee on Education convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [SB 1383](#), sponsored by Senator Barbara Washington (R-Kansas City). This legislation would extend the current agricultural education program in Missouri. The sponsor informed the committee a Senate

Committee Substitute will be forthcoming that will mirror the House version of this bill that will make this program an opportunity a school can opt in to for elementary schools rather than a mandate. Supporting testimony was provided by Missouri Farmers Coalition, Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri NEA, Poultry Federation, Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Corn Growers Association and Missouri Pork Association all echoing the importance of agricultural education. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

School Curriculum - American History

The Senate Committee on Education convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [SB 1238](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon). This bill seeks to require teachers of American history at public schools and charter schools to provide instruction on the positive impacts of religion on certain events in American history. Members expressed concern that the use of the word "shall" and that this is specific to one religion and may not be appropriate to be teaching religion in school. Supporting testimony was presented by ArmorVine. Opposing testimony was presented by the ACLU of Missouri who stated that this legislation violates the Constitution on grounds of religious freedoms. Additional opposing testimony was provided by a Baptist minister.

School Discrimination Policies

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to revisit [HB 2061](#), sponsored by Representative George Hruza (R-S. Louis). The bill defines "antisemitism" and requires that public schools, school districts, and public institutions of higher education integrate the definition of antisemitism into codes of conduct and prohibit antisemitic conduct. During debate, Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon) successfully amended the bill to include Title VI language to ensure free and political speech were protected. After another lengthy debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 109-21 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

School District Online Records

The Senate Committee on Education convened on Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 1029](#), sponsored by Senator Rick Brattin (R-Harrisonville). The bill requires that each school district in Missouri maintain an easily accessible online record of all financial transactions the district conducts, including all income and expenditures. Under the bill, every district must post a readily identifiable financial ledger on its publicly accessible website, and each public school must display a direct link to the district's financial ledger on its own site. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which added a definition of financial ledger and specifies what information must be included and where it must be accessible to the general public. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

School Protection Officers

The House Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 2504](#), sponsored by Keith Elliott (R-Doniphan). The bill expands those that can be designated as school safety officers to other school personnel beyond just teachers and administrators. Additionally, the bill allows for the additional school personnel to carry a weapon on school grounds if a concealed carry endorsement has been obtained. Supporting testimony was presented by Strategos International who stated nothing in the bill changes the existing school officer program structure and the bill simply extends opportunities beyond teachers and administrators. Additional supporting testimony was

provided by Thayer R-2 School District, the Pettis County Sheriff's Office and a state public advocate. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

School Technology

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2230](#), sponsored by Representative Tricia Byrnes (R-Wentzville) and [HB 2978](#), sponsored by Representative Marlene Terry (D-St. Louis). The bills are similar and place restrictions on the use of technology in elementary schools. Specifically, the bills limit a school's use of technology for instructional purposes to no more than 45 minutes per day for students in grades K-5, require at least 70% of assignments to be completed using a paper and pencil, mandate instruction and demonstrable proficiency in cursive writing by grade 5, and direct schools to emphasize the use of textbooks as the primary source of instructional material, rather than technology. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which combined the bills into one legislative vehicle and transfers a requirement for schools to provide instruction in cursive writing to all students to the Literacy Advisory Council to develop a model policy in coordination with school district governing boards. Additionally, the substitute requires local school boards that asks data be studied before adopting to adopt policies which emphasize the limitation of screens and technology in instruction as well as at home instruction and allows the total screen time of students to be made publicly available for review. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 18-1 vote.

Self-Insured Health Plans

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday morning to debate [HB 2596](#), sponsored by Representative Peggy McGaugh (R-Carrollton). The bill modifies provisions relating to multiple employer self-insured health plans, changing the definition of these health plans to include plans established for the purpose of offering benefits to two or more self-employed individuals. The bill also modifies details of reports submitted by the department of Commerce and Insurance to mandate the report is in compliance with Section 375.041. The bill also changes standing law to allow for reserve accounts in health plans to be no greater than \$600,000 or two times the authorized control level of risk-based capital. After a brief debate the House gave the first of two necessary votes and Perfected the bill by voice note. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, without further debate, was Third Read and Passed by a 145-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Servicemember Civil Relief Act

The House Committee on Veterans and Armed Forces convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1993](#) and [HB 2771](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Irwin (R-Lee's Summit) and Representative Stephanie Boykin (D-Florissant). The bill extends Federal protections of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) currently in Federal law for Federal servicemembers to members of the Missouri National Guard who are called to active state duty by the Governor and any Missouri employees who are members of the National Guard of another state and are called to active state duty by the Governor of that state, upon being relieved of such duty. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which combined the bills into one legislative vehicle. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 21-0 vote.

Sex Offender Registry

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 3049](#) and [HB 3068](#) sponsored by Representatives Lane Roberts (R-Joplin) and Jeff Myers (R-Warrenton), respectively. These bills restructure Missouri's sex offender registry by

classifying offenders into Tier I, II, or III categories based on their offense, including offenses from other states or jurisdictions. It updates registration requirements for nonresidents who live, work, or attend school in Missouri and revises procedures for tier determinations and removal from the registry. The bill also changes program certification rules, petition timelines, exemption standards, and administrative duties for entering and maintaining registry information, including updates to public record provisions. Supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and the Missouri Alliance of Family Restoration. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

The committee then turned its attention towards [HB 2311](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Costlow (R-Dardenne Prairie). The bill is similar to [HB 3068](#) and [HB 3049](#) in that it restructures Missouri's sex offender registry by implementing and refining a tier-based classification system, updating registration requirements for residents and nonresidents, and revising petition and exemption procedures for removal from the registry. However, [HB 2311](#) differs in scope by also amending underlying criminal statutes, including changes to age thresholds and offense classifications for certain sexual offenses, and by modifying specific tier designations and reporting obligations rather than fully repealing and replacing the registry statutes in their entirety. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Sex Offender Restrictions

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony [HB 3186](#), sponsored by Representative Renee Reuter (R-Imperial). This bill expands the definition of "public swimming pool" under the 500-foot restriction for certain sexual offenders. It adds community-based pools owned for the private use of five or more households, including pools at apartment complexes or housing communities, to the list of restricted properties. Supporting testimony was presented by two different condominium owners who stated this would allow them to protect their resident's children. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Alliance for Family Restoration who stated offenders already face difficulties finding housing.

Sheriff Powers/Duties

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HJR 124](#), sponsored by Representative Bennie Cook (R-Houston). Upon voter approval, the resolution would amend the Missouri Constitution to require most counties to elect a sheriff to a four-year term, designate the sheriff as the county's chief law enforcement officer, define core duties, and limit removal to a writ of *quo warranto* initiated by the Attorney General. The measure would not apply to St. Louis City, St. Louis County, or St. Charles County, and would be submitted to voters in 2026. Supporting testimony was presented by the Osage County Sheriff. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday to consider passage of [SJR 87](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The resolution is identical to [HJR 124](#), highlighted above. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-2 vote.

Short-Term Rental Classifications

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 1066](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington) and [SB 1088](#),

Sponsored by Senator Maggie Nurrenbern (D–Kansas City). These bills are identical and seek to address the unfair practice of classifying single family residence as commercial properties and taxes commercial property taxes. The activity of the residence is what dictates what tax structure they fall under. Currently a residential home used as a short-term rental could not sell their property as commercial property. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which combined the bills into one legislative vehicle and ensures large corporations are excluded from the bill’s provisions. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

The House Special Committee on Property Tax Reform convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 2060](#) and [HB 1768](#), sponsored by Representatives Jeff Verneti (R-Camdenton) and Chris Brown (R-Kansas City), respectively. These bills are identical and seek to address the unfair practice of classifying single family residence as commercial properties and taxes commercial property taxes. The activity of the residence is what dictates what tax structure they fall under. Currently a residential home used as a short-term rental could not sell their property as commercial property. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to combine the bills into one legislative vehicle. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 12-0 vote.

Show Me Success Program

The Senate Committee on Education convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [SB 1194](#), sponsored Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington) and [SB 1653](#), sponsored Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). The bills are similar and would establish the “Show Me Success Program,” which establishes an incentive-based growth program, establishing new accountability measures for all public and charter schools, DESE and school districts. The embargoed report card for each school will be posted on the DESE website and seeks to grade elementary and secondary schools on their student outcomes on an A through F scale. Through this, each school will have the opportunity to earn performance-based funding. Finally, any school that does not test at least 95% of their students will automatically drop a grade. Supporting testimony was presented by representatives from Mississippi and Louisiana who shared the success that their schools have had after implementing the same program stating that this program builds a solid foundation for transparency and accountability and creates meaningful data and growth. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Charter Schools Association, Excel in Education Action, the Progressive Policy Institute, Show Me Institute, Aligned, Missouri Charter Public Schools Association and multiple private citizens. Opposing testimony was presented by St. Louis Public Schools and the Kansas City School District who stated while they support the transparency portion, it creates unfair advantages over schools in areas of poverty, who need assistance the most. Additionally, they feel that there should be language that considers societal issues as well. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri Equity Education Partnership, Missouri NEA and Missouri State Teachers Association. The Missouri Council of School Administrators provided informational testimony stating that they have committed to this program but feels they need to also focus on the social economic basis of a school as well to evaluate things outside of the control of the school.

SLPSRS Board Revisions

The House Committee on Pensions Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 3208](#), sponsored by Representative Barry Hovis (R-Whitewater). The bill expands the St. Louis Public School Retirement System board from 11 to 13 members by adding two charter school representatives and changes voting rules so that seven members constitute a quorum and board actions may be approved by

a majority of those present, replacing the prior fixed six-vote requirement. Committee members questioned whether changing the board's voting requirement from a fixed six-vote threshold to a majority of a seven-member quorum could effectively lower the standard for approval, potentially allowing as few as four trustees to make decisions and raised concerns about whether that shift could enable a single voting bloc to control outcomes. Supporting testimony was presented by the St. Louis Public Schools Retirement System who noted the language mirrors attorney guidance and board rules. Additional supporting testimony was provided by a state public advocate. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Social Workers Licensure

The House Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing convened on Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 1963](#), sponsored by Representative Tara Peters (R-Rolla). This legislation would add another avenue for licensure for a social worker, which includes a bachelor's degree and 3,000 hours of experience. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill with Consent status by a 16-0 vote.

Solid Waste Disposal Setbacks

The House Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [HB 2288](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia). The bill seeks to allow County Commissioners to set maximum setbacks before new landfills are developed in their counties. The bill also specifies the maximum setbacks that may be set or adopted by local ordinance. After no discussion, the committee failed to pass the bill by a 5-7 vote.

Solid Waste Management

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources convened Thursday morning to receive public testimony on [SB 1586](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). The bill, as filed, requires a person selling, conveying or transferring title of property that contains a solid waste disposal site to disclose its existence to the buyer and the Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, the bill increases the tipping fee for solid waste sanitary landfills and transfer stations from \$1.50 per ton accepted to \$2.50 per ton accepted and solid waste demolition landfills from \$1.00 per ton accepted to \$2.50 per ton accepted. The bill also specifies \$5 million be directed to the Department of Natural Resources for the purposes of testing, remediating and managing solid waste disposal sites. Finally, the bill eliminates solid waste management districts and the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee. The sponsor informed the committee that a House Committee Substitute will be forthcoming which is intended to fix the repetitious sale of abandoned landfills; clarifies any tipping fee increases, last adjusted in 2005, will be tied to the CPI and, only at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Natural Resources; and gives statutory authority to the Department of Natural Resources to be able to test, remediate and manage abandoned landfills. The sponsor informed the committee a Senate Committee Substitute would be forthcoming as negotiations are still ongoing. Informational testimony was presented by the Department of Natural Resources who informed the committee the grants dispersed currently have no administrative cap, the department is better positioned to oversee the grants and can more effectively oversee the prioritizing, testing and remediation of the abandoned landfill sites. Additional informational testimony was provided by the Mid-Missouri Solid Waste Management District, Solid Waste District F & T, North Missouri Solid Waste Management District Region B and a private citizen. Supporting testimony was presented by a private citizen who gave background information on the landfill discovered on his property and the steps he has taken to

remediate the property. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the University of Missouri and private citizens. Opposing testimony was presented by the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments who stated solid waste districts provide a critical function by dispersing grants in their local communities and assist with recycling programs to reduce landfill inputs. Additional opposing testimony was provided by Region G Solid Waste District, Missouri Solid Waste Advisory Board, St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District, MARC Solid Waste Management District, Missouri Gateway Green Building Council, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, Solid Waste Management District O, Energy Resources Group, North Missouri Solid Waste District and Kanbe's Markets.

Special Education Records

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 2304](#), sponsored by Representative Phil Oehlerking (R-Ballwin). The bill requires schools that utilize individualized education programs (IEPs) develop written consent policies. Additionally, if an agreement cannot be reached only the agreed upon portion may be implemented by the school. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Disability Empowerment Foundation who stated this would allow for greater collaboration between parents and local education agencies and the bill addresses concerns of students who disrupt class time and need removal. Additional supporting testimony was provided by a parent, a student, a private physician and the Missouri NEA. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

St. Louis Law Library

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Criminal and Civil Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 945](#), sponsored by Senator Karla May (D-St. Louis). The bill allows the circuit court of St. Louis City to increase the filing fee from civil cases from \$15 to an amount not to exceed \$20. The funds are to be used for certain uses, including the maintenance of a law library. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

St. Louis Police Retirement

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened on Wednesday morning to hear public testimony on [SB 1572](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Henderson (R-Desloge). This bill seeks to modify the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Police Retirement System of St. Louis. Supporting testimony was provided by the St. Louis Police Retirement System who stated this is necessary to ensure timely decisions may be made by the board to maintain fiduciary responsibility. Opposing testimony was provided by a state public advocate.

State Fund Oversight

The House Committee on Legislative Review convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 3090](#), sponsored by Wendy Hausman (R-St. Peters). The bill addresses oversight of state funds within the Missouri Treasury. The legislation would require the state treasury to generate a report that identifies any funds that have not been used within the past 5 years and indicates whether the funds have been transferred to the General Revenue Fund. The bill also includes text that systematically reviews funding previously established, modifying the language to allow those allocated funds, if unused, to revert to general revenue. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Statutes of Limitation Revisions

The House Committee on Commerce convened Monday evening to receive public testimony on [HB 1645](#), sponsored by Representative Matthew Overcast (R-Ava). The bill revises Missouri's statutes of limitation by setting a two-year limit, effective August 28, 2026, for personal injury and certain insurance claims, extending the filing period for childhood sexual abuse claims to twenty years after age twenty-one, or three years from discovery, whichever is later, and making related nondisclosure agreements unenforceable. Supporting testimony was provided by Healthcare Services Group, American Tort Reform Association, NFIB, Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Missouri Insurance Coalition, Missouri RV Parks and Campgrounds, and the Missouri Canoe and Floaters Association. Opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, ArmorVine and a private attorney.

The committee then turned its attention to receive public testimony on [HB 1610](#), sponsored by Representative Hardy Billington (R-Poplar Bluff). The bill would shorten the statute of limitations from five years to three years for filing many civil lawsuits, including contract, property, and certain injury claims. Supporting testimony was provided by Healthcare Services Group, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NFIB, Associated Industries of Missouri, and the Missouri Railroad Association. Opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys. Informational testimony was presented by the Missouri Insurance Coalition who informed the committee they were supportive of two-year limits instead of three.

Finally, the committee turned its attention to receive public testimony on [HB 2182](#), sponsored by Representative Ian Mackey (D-St. Louis). While similar to [HB 1610](#) highlighted above in that it revises Missouri's statutes of limitation, [HB 2182](#) takes a narrower approach. It retains the five-year deadline for most contract claims, certain statutory liabilities, property damage, and fraud claims, subject to a ten-year discovery cap, but reduces the limit to two years for defamation, assault, battery, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, certain wage claims, and beginning August 28, 2026 most personal injury claims and lawsuits involving uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage. Supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Insurance Coalition, Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers, Missouri Hospital Association, NFIB, Missouri Canoe and Floaters Association, Missouri RV Parks and Campgrounds, Associated Industries of Missouri, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Missouri Railroad Association, and Missouri Farm Bureau. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys.

Tax (Sales) - Gross Receipts

The House Committee on Commerce convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 1707](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Coleman (R-Grain Valley). This bill would modify the definition of "gross receipts" for the purposes of sales tax, to provide that charges related to the extension of credit will include applicable credit/debit card fees. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 10-0 vote.

Tax (Sales) – Park District Funding

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened on Wednesday morning to hear public testimony on [SB 1145](#), sponsored by Senator Adam Schnelting (R-St. Charles). Current law allows certain counties to authorize a sales tax for funding a multi-county metropolitan park and recreation district, with 50% of sales tax revenues to be returned to the home county for park purposes.

This legislation provides that park purposes may include storm water management projects. Supporting testimony was provided by St. Charles County who stated there are two major watersheds that converge in the county, and this has led to the occasional water issues such as flooding, and they would like to buy the flooded properties and return them back to a natural state. Opposing testimony was provided by a state public advocate, who stated that flooding concerns are not the county's role, it is FEMA's role.

Tax Credit – Capital Investments

The House Committee on Economic Development convened Tuesday Morning to discuss passage of [HB 2654](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Knight (R–Lebanon). This legislation authorizes the Department of Economic Development to issue tax credits, not to exceed 2.5%, to qualify companies that spend at least \$50 million in new capital investments within two years of submitting a notice of intent. Currently, Missouri Works is the number one tool used in Missouri to help keep Missouri competitive with other states in workforce development. This will create a new track within the already existing track. This is incentive based and can only be earned back after they have invested. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 14-0 vote.

Tax Credit – Child Care

The House Committee on Economic Development convened Tuesday Morning to discuss passage of [HB 2409](#), sponsored by Representative Brenda Shields (R–St. Joseph). Currently Missouri has a childcare desert, leaving a lack of safe, affordable, and reliable childcare. This has become a leading issue for businesses in recruiting and retaining employees. This legislation seeks to remedy this issue by establishing tax credits for the employer, employee and the childcare provider. These include the “Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act,” “Employer Provided Child Care Assistance Tax Credit Act,” and “Child Care Providers Tax Credit Act.” After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 14-0 vote.

Tax Credit – Disabled Veterans

The House Special Committee on Tax Reform convened Thursday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 2869](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Jones (R-Kansas City). The bill creates the “Missouri Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit Act,” allowing counties, starting in 2027, to grant up to a 100% local property tax credit on a primary residence valued at \$500,000 or less for Missouri veterans with a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability. The program is optional for counties and veterans, the credit is nonrefundable and cannot be combined with other property tax relief, and it may continue for a surviving spouse under certain conditions. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations and the Missouri VFW. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. Informational testimony was presented by the Missouri Department of Revenue who noted potential savings due to reduced circuit breaker claims and raised concern about late fiscal note requests limiting agency review time.

The committee then moved to receive public testimony for [HJR 115](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Griffith (R-Jefferson City). The bill proposes a constitutional amendment to fully exempt from property taxes the homesteads of Missouri veterans who are 100% permanently and totally disabled and, under certain conditions, their surviving spouses. The exemption applies to a primary residence of up to two and one-half acres, excluding commercial-use portions. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) and the Missouri VFW who emphasized the need to provide meaningful property tax relief to disabled veterans who often live on fixed incomes.

Informational testimony was presented by the Missouri Special Districts Association who noted the proposal offers inter-county consistency, which benefits districts operating across county lines. While expressing a general preference for a statutory approach over constitutional amendments for long-term policy flexibility, the association acknowledged the clarity and straightforward structure of the resolution.

Tax Exemption – Homestead

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened on Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SJR 73](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Moon (R-Ash Grove). This resolution would establish the Missouri Homestead Act which would provide an exemption on property tax for a citizen's primary residence for those who pay five years of property tax in advance and own their home outright. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

Tax Exemption – Legislators

The House Special Committee on Tax Reform convened Thursday morning to receive public testimony on [HB 3303](#), sponsored by Representative Cecelie Williams (R-Dittmer). The bill updates Missouri law to exempt state senators and representatives from paying any state or local sales or use tax on tangible personal property purchased for official business using funds from their state expense accounts. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee. Informational testimony was presented by the Missouri Department of Revenue who raised concern about late fiscal note requests and noted administrative workload concerns from duplicative bills.

Tax Levies – Political Subdivisions

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [HB 1790](#), sponsored by Representative Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis). The bill revises Missouri law on property tax levies by political subdivisions. It requires tax ballot measures to be labeled only numerically or alphabetically and to state real property tax changes in dollars per \$100,000 of market value. The bill updates procedures for adjusting tax rate ceilings after reassessment or voter approval, mandates state auditor review for compliance, and provides enforcement and refund remedies for improper levies. During debate, the sponsor amended the bill to correct a grammatical error. Once modified, the House gave its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

Tax Levies – School Districts

The Senate Select Committee on Property Taxes and the State Tax Commission convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SJR 111](#), sponsored by Senator Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair). The proposal would ask voters to amend the Missouri Constitution to revise how certain school district and local property tax levies are calculated. It would phase out the special levy authority for Kansas City Public Schools—whose 1995 levy was set by federal court order—and, beginning in 2027, reset the levy based on the prior year's revenue plus inflation, after which it would be subject to standard constitutional limits. The resolution also requires automatic reductions in property tax levies when assessed real property values increase to prevent excess revenue growth. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri State Assessors Association, Missouri Association of Counties, and a state public advocate who advocated for the rollback provisions but recommended a “beta test” of calculations to avoid unintended harm to political subdivisions. Opposing testimony was provided by the Kansas City Public Schools, Missouri Council of School Administrators and Missouri Special Districts

Association who expressed concern about reduced funding stability, unintended fiscal consequences, and impacts on school and special district financing.

Tax Revenue Withholding

The Senate Select Committee on Property Taxes and the State Tax Commission convened Wednesday morning to receive public testimony on [SJR 102](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The proposed constitutional amendment would, upon voter approval, prohibit state agencies from penalizing or withholding local tax revenues from counties whose property tax assessments fall below the upper allowable assessment range. Counties that exceed the maximum allowable levels could still face legal penalties, but not the withholding of local tax revenues. The measure will appear before Missouri voters in 2026. Supporting testimony was presented by the Newton County Assessor who noted prior experience with having state funds withheld over assessment levels. Additional supporting testimony was provided by a state public advocate. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Council of School Administrators who expressed concerns that limiting the state's enforcement authority over property tax assessments could affect funding equity and compliance. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the Missouri Special Districts Association and the State Tax Commission.

Teacher Civil Liability Immunity

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 2913](#) and [HB 3228](#), sponsored by Representatives Bill Irwin (R-Lee's Summit) and Kathy Steinhoff (D-Columbia). The bills are identical and seeks to provide certified teachers, and their districts or charter schools, immunity from civil liability when they intervene in an incident involving violence. The bill also specifies the protocols, training and procedures that must be obtained and followed before such immunity is extended. Supporting testimony was presented by the Raymore-Peculiar School District who stated when a teacher acts reasonably to ensure student safety, legal repercussions should never be at the forefront of their thinking but did ask that clear coordination with federal special education and restraint laws be included. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri NEA and the Missouri State Teachers Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Third-Party Litigation Financing

The House Committee on Legislative Review convened Tuesday afternoon to receive public testimony on [HB 3205](#), sponsored by Representative David Casteel (R-High Ridge). The bill aims to limit foreign influence on litigation occurring within Missouri. The bill would prohibit entities from countries the U.S. designates as foreign adversaries to be prohibited from investing in or supporting litigation costs as litigation funders. This proposal excludes family members, attorneys with pre-existing client relationships, pro-bono organizations, and entities that provide financial assistance to parties for purposes unrelated to litigation funding. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Insurance Coalition who noted the main concern with foreign funding of litigation is the use of litigation funding as a way to steal proprietary or confidential information from corporations. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Associated Industries of Missouri, NFIB, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, the Missouri Civil Justice Reform Coalition and the Missouri State Medical Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Time-Limited Demands

The House Committee on Commerce convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 2927](#), sponsored by Representative Cameron Parker (R-Campbell). This bill would replace the term "time-

limited demand” with “settlement demand” and includes three requirements to make a settlement demand. First, the demand must be in writing. Second, the demand must be open for at least 90 days, and finally, it must reference Section 537.058, RSMO. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 9-1 vote.

The Senate Committee on General Laws also convened Wednesday afternoon to consider passage of [SB 1120](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). The bill is identical to [HB 2927](#), highlighted above. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-2 vote.

Tort Victims Compensation Fund

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 980](#), sponsored by Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold). The bill updates Missouri’s victim-compensation laws by tightening who qualifies and how the funds are paid back. It creates/updates rules for the Tort Victims’ Compensation Fund (funded partly by the state taking 50% of final punitive-damages awards) to help certain people who still aren’t fully paid after a lawsuit or insurance settlement, while sending 26% of that fund to civil legal services. It also changes the Crime Victims’ Compensation Fund to require claimants to be U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, or lawfully present on a valid visa, and it strengthens the state’s right to recover money if victims later get restitution or settlements, cutting the allowed attorney fee share on recovered (subrogated) amounts from 15% to 10%. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-2 vote.

Tourism Supplemental Revenue Fund

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate [SB 1000](#), sponsored by Senator Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair). The bill reestablishes the “Division of Tourism Supplemental Revenue Fund” and allows all funds to be used by the Division of Tourism within the Department of Economic Development to carry out its statutory duties. During debate, the sponsor offered substitute language removing the prior automatic funding formula tied to growth in tourism-related sales taxes, eliminating the historical budget base structure, and deleting the 2020 sunset provision. Instead, the substitute establishes the fund as a permanent fund consisting of amounts appropriated by the General Assembly and any gifts or grants received, converting it from a formula-driven revenue mechanism to a discretionary, appropriation-based fund. Senator Maggie Nurrenbern (D-Kansas City) further amended the bill to remove the word “special” from the fund’s description, eliminating its designation as a “special fund” in the state treasury. Once modified, the Senate gave the bill its first of two required approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

Trial Certification - Juveniles

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday afternoon to debate [HB 2498](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). The bill modifies when fingerprints would be taken for juvenile offenders and requires juvenile fingerprint cards to not reveal the juvenile’s name to the central repository. Additionally, the bill authorizes the court to order a hearing to determine if a juvenile should be certified as an adult if the juvenile is being prosecuted by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the Office of Attorney General. Juvenile Officers and the courts are required to report all adjudication, delinquency and custody information to the central repository and this information will be available to criminal justice agencies through MULES. Finally, the bill allows for parents, guardians or other persons legally charged with the care or custody of a child who does not exercise reasonable diligence in the care or control of a child will be charged with endangering the welfare of a child. During debate, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to address that only A and B felonies would cause a prosecutor to

certify a juvenile as an adult unless the same felony is committed multiple times within 180 days. Additionally, Representative Mazie Christensen (R-Bethany) further amended the bill by removing provisions regarding repeat minor offenses committed by juveniles so as to keep the bill narrowly tailored. Finally, Representative John Dolan (R-Sikeston) amended the bill to clarify the appeal process after a juvenile has been certified as an adult. Once modified, the House gave the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, after a brief debate, was Third Read and Passed by a 100-44 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Utility Eminent Domain

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 954](#), sponsored by Senator Jason Bean (R-Peach Orchard). The bill limits when utilities can take land through eminent domain, protects property already used by other utilities, restricts certain transmission projects, and completely bans eminent domain for wind and solar facilities. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute which incorporated negotiated language clarifying that the exemption would not apply to existing connecting equipment. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-1 vote.

Video Lottery Regulatory Act

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday evening to debate [HB 2989](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon). The bill creates a new legal and regulatory framework for video lottery game terminals (VLTs) in Missouri by establishing the “Missouri Video Lottery Regulatory Act,” with a severability clause. Specifically, the bill authorizes the State Lottery Commission to license, regulate, and oversee video lottery machines and the businesses connected to them, such as manufacturers, operators, distributors, and retail locations, while setting licensing fees, technical standards, and enforcement rules. It also imposes taxes on video lottery gaming revenue, directs portions of that revenue to state and local funds, and creates an Illegal Gaming Enforcement Fund to help crack down on unauthorized machines. During bill progression, numerous changes to the underlying bill were made. Specifically, the Missouri Gaming Bureau was removed, the bill now clarifies when a third party must report winnings for tax purposes to comply with federal law, specifies 20% of gaming tax funds would be directed to public school and the opt out period for municipalities and local governments was extended from 90 days to 120 days. Additionally, the bill now clarifies the process for loss of license due to low sales, extended the effective date from August 2027 to August 2028, lowered the penalty provision from a Class C felony to a Class C misdemeanor, raised the fee for interest from a casino from \$2 to \$4 and specifies the additional \$2 is directed to the Missouri Veterans Commission, and added a standard severability clause. Finally, bill addresses the line of sight view for any games for the front entrance and specifies that no device previously deemed an illegal gaming device by the Missouri Gaming Commission shall be licensed as a video lottery game terminal. During debate, members adopted amendments to create a Developmental Disability Community Support Fund funded in part by \$250 per terminal fee; expand local authority to impose certain fees, limit the number of terminals per location (with limited exceptions), restrict operating hours, and modify opt-out provisions; accelerate the effective date of certain criminal provisions to August 28, 2027; clarify that retailers remain subject to property taxes; require gaming areas to be clearly designated and inaccessible to individuals under 21; increase signage lettering requirements; revise excursion gambling boat provisions including fees and revenue distributions; and require certain operators to submit financial and installation records for review before August 28, 2027, while allowing voluntary device removal with

limits on replacement. Once modified, the House gave the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by a narrow 68–60 vote. On Wednesday, the House revisited the bill and, following extended debate, passed the bill by a vote of 83–65. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Voter Registration

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened on Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 983](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). This legislation would require that the Secretary of State and the Director of the Department of Revenue match their information from their databases. This would also require that those applying for a driver’s license with the Department of Motor Vehicles provide proof of citizenship before they can register to vote. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which requires the DMV to assist applicants who lack the proof of identity to vote to obtain those materials. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

Water District Detachment

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to revisit [HB 1917](#), sponsored by Representative David Casteel (R-High Ridge). The bill, as filed, applies only to Jefferson County, establishing an alternative process for certain land within a public water supply district to be detached when specified criteria are met. After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 148-2 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 1060](#), sponsored by Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 1917](#), highlighted above. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted to add an emergency clause. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-2 vote.

Upcoming Hearings:

House

Elementary and Secondary Education

Chair: [Ed Lewis \(6\)](#)

House Hearing Room 7

2/25/2026 - 12:00 PM or upon morning recess (whichever is later)

[Submit Witness Form](#)

[Submit Written Testimony](#)

Public Hearing Executive

Bills To Be Heard during the Hearing

Public Hearing	Executive Session	Bill String	Short Title
		HB 2195 - Reedy	DRIVER EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
		HB 2396 - Bromley	RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

[Senate](#)

Committee: [Education, Senator Rick Brattin, Chairman](#)

Date: Tuesday, February 24

Time: 8:00am

Room: Senate Lounge - 3rd Floor

[SB 1617](#) - Brattin

Establishes the "Accountability for Low-Earning Outcome Degrees in Higher Education Act of 2026" to prohibit the allocation of state funds for low-earning outcome academic degree programs

[SB 1121](#) - Trent

Creates the "Missouri Higher Education Funding Policy Prioritization Act" and creates and modifies provisions relating to higher education workforce policy prioritization

[SB 1130](#) - Carter

Prohibits state colleges and universities from employing individuals or engaging contractors who hold H-1B nonimmigrant status

[SB 967](#) - Mosley

Establishes the Black History Education and Awareness Act and designates the first week in February as Black History Week

Executive Session:

SB 1653, 1194

SB 1404

SB 1383

Calendars:

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

Key Upcoming Dates:

- **February 24, 2026** – First day of candidate filing
- **February 27, 2026** – Last day to file legislation
- **March 13-23, 2026** – Legislative Spring Break – No Session
- **March 31, 2026** – Last day of candidate filing
- **April 6, 2026** – Easter Holiday – No Session
- **April 8, 2026** – Municipal Election Day
- **May 8, 2026** – Last day for floor action on Appropriation bills
- **May 15, 2026** – Last day of Session – 6 pm adjournment
- **August 4, 2026** – Primary Election Day
- **September 16, 2026** – Veto Session
- **November 3, 2026** – General Election Day



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