



## CAPITOL REPORT – WEEK 14

APRIL 18, 2025

**Weekly Overview:** There are only four weeks left in the 2025 legislative session. To date, 46 omnibus bills have been created as legislators continue to look for opportunities to attach priorities to moving legislation. The House spent the week finalizing their version of the three remaining FY2026 capital improvement bills and working methodically through their Perfection calendar and Truly Agreeing to and Passing one Senate bill regarding class actions.

The Senate, meanwhile, managed to Third Read some Senate bills before conducting no business on the floor Tuesday in order to allow the Senate Committee on Appropriations to conduct the mark-up process for the FY2026 operating budget bills. By Wednesday, the Senate mark-up process was completed and the Senate returned to the floor to begin debate on [HB 567](#), which is a partial rollback of Proposition A that increase the minimum wage and adding a sick leave benefit. Democratic Senators held the floor for nearly ten hours before the bill was ultimately placed on the Informal calendar to be debated another day.

Due to the Easter holiday, there will be no Session on Monday. Please have a safe and happy and happy holiday weekend.

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

- On Monday, the City of St. Louis filed a federal lawsuit against the recently passed law putting a state-appointed board back in control of the local police department. The lawsuit argues the law violates a provision of the Missouri Constitution which prohibits unfunded mandates. Additionally, the lawsuit contends the new law violates city rights through vague and overly broad provisions that prohibit city officials from taking any actions that interfere or impede the new board and could subject them to fines. The city first lost control of the police department in 1861 and did not regain the right to control its own police force until voters approved an amendment in 2012.
- Beginning May 7<sup>th</sup>, non-REAL ID driver's licenses will no longer be accepted to board regulated domestic flights. Military cards and US passports will still be valid. According to the Missouri Department of Revenue only 45% of Missouri licenses are REAL IDs. The REAL ID requirement started after the REAL ID Act was passed by Congress in 2005.
- Northwest Missouri State University announced the federal government has revoked the legal status of 43 international students. Five of those are current students and the remaining 38 are "optical practical training students" who graduated but remained in the country for employment associated with their visas. A spokesman for the University stated they began learning about the revocations last week and the reasons for the revocations was not immediately clear. This comes amid a wave of similar revocations for student visas across the US and more than 150 colleges and universities have identified more than 800 international students and recent graduates who have had their legal status changed by the federal government.

- The Port Authority of Kansas City's development committee voted Monday to recommend the issuance of up to \$10 billion in bonds for a data center under the codename Project Mica, or, reportedly, for Google. The 500-acre 1.56 million-square-foot complex will house five "hyperscale" data center buildings. The site will be off the northeast corner of Interstate 435 and 169 highway in Clay County. The full Port KC Board of Commissioners will have to approve the plan. If approved, construction could begin this year with the first building taking roughly 18 months to complete.

### **Budget Update**

The House took up and dedicated floor time this week to craft their version of the remaining \$3.7 billion FY 2026 capital improvements (CI) bills. These include HB 18-maintenance and repair, HB 19-capital improvements and HB 20-ARPA. Few substantive changes were made on the floor, although Budget Chairman Representative Dirk Deaton (R-Seneca) successfully amended [HB 19](#) by making technical corrections to ensure expenditures could be made as allocated and successfully amended [HB 20](#) by reducing \$62 million across several sections as better information became available and funds had already been expended by several of the projects. The bills will now be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

There is currently a healthy general revenue surplus of \$3.7 billion, as of March 31<sup>st</sup> and another \$1.5 billion that, like general revenue, is unrestricted. However, revenue is declining in the current fiscal year, and only modest growth is projected for the future, the Senate budget plan would utilize approximately \$1.6 billion from the surplus. The largest uncertainty for budget makers this year is whether there will be substantial cuts in available federal spending.

The Senate Committee on Appropriations completed their mark-up process on the FY2026 operating budget bills. Technical delays caused what is typically a one day marathon hearing to be split into two days of hearings. To show his displeasure with the continued failures of the state's new accounting system, Chairman Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield) cut nearly \$13 million out of OA's budget, who signed off on the software system, specifically targeting the accounting division. While final totals of the Senate plan were not available at the time of this report, it is anticipated the Senate FY2026 budget plan will exceed Governor Kehoe's \$50.1 billion proposal.

The Senate added \$300 million to the foundation formula for public schools and stripped the \$50 million for the MoScholars program, a major Governor Kehoe priority. The Senate also restored \$107 million for childcare subsidies the House had stripped. A plan to hire an architect to expand the capitol for \$10 million was also removed. Senator Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee's Summit) also removed 25 vacant FTEs that equated to a \$684,000 reduction from the Office of Secretary of State. The Senate also restored Governor Kehoe's state employee pay raise to a 1% raise for every two years of state employment, capped at a 10% raise. Additionally, the committee increased the base funding for each college and university by 3% rather than the recommended 1.5% endorsed by Governor Kehoe and the House but did cut almost \$28 million the House approved for one-time maintenance needs. The Senate plans to begin debate on the operating bills the week of April 29<sup>th</sup>. This will leave one week for the House and Senate to work out their differences before the May 6<sup>th</sup> constitutional deadline.

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## **Air Ambulance Services**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday to revisit [HB 991](#), sponsored by Representative Brandon Phelps (R-Warrensburg). This legislation makes several changes to the laws relating to air ambulance membership agreements. During bill progression, a House Committee Substitute was offered which changed the “shall” to “may” regarding notification of enrollment in Medicaid and requesting prorated refunds of air ambulance service plans. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 148-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

## **Animal Control Officer Reporting**

The House dedicated floor time Monday to revisit [HB 1298](#), 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. After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 143-4 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

## **Anti-Red Flag Gun Seizure Act**

The House Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday evening to revisit the passage of [HB 434](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon) and [HB 459](#), sponsored by Representative Mazzie Christensen (R-Bethany). These are the companions to [SB 142](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O’Fallon) and establishes the "Anti-Red Flag Gun Seizure Act" which provides that any federal order of protection or other judicial order issued by a court to confiscate any firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition from any law-abiding citizen shall be considered an infringement on the people's right to keep and bear arms. During previous discussion, a House Committee Substitute combines the bills together to create one legislative vehicle and ensures law enforcement have the ability to remove firearms from persons in custody, convicted of a felony or as a condition of bond. During Wednesday’s discussion, a new House Committee Substitute was adopted to combine the bills together to create one legislative vehicle and ensure the provisions regarding law enforcement’s ability to remove firearms from certain persons in custody were placed correctly throughout the bill. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-4 vote.

## **APRNs**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 144](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O’Fallon) and [SB 179](#), sponsored by Senator Patty Lewis (D-Kansas City). The bills are similar and allow APRNs delegated prescriptive authority for Schedule II stimulants for behavioral health patients. Additionally, the bill modifies current collaborative practice provisions. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which combined the bills into one legislative vehicle. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

## **Ballot Language**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday to debate [SB 22](#), sponsored by Senator Rick Brattin (R-Lee’s Summit). The bill prohibits the court from rewriting summary statements on joint resolutions, constitutional amendments or statutory language which requires a vote of the people if an official summary statement is submitted by the General Assembly. Additionally, in the event a summary statement is challenged in court, the Secretary of State may rewrite the summary statement after two initial re-writes have occurred, if the General Assembly does not pass a resolution ten weeks before the

election. Finally, the bill allows the Attorney General to immediately appeal injunctions granted by the courts and applies this provision retroactively. After a lengthy discussion, the House Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed the bill by a 109-26 vote and passed the Emergency Clause 109-46. The bill now will be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto.

### **Ballot Measures – Foreign Spending**

The House Committee on Government Efficiency convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 152](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). The bill seeks to create new provisions to restrict access from foreign entities to spend monies on local ballot measure elections. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to include [HB 794](#), which prohibits any government entity from soliciting, accepting, or using any funds or in-kind goods or services for election administration, unless the funds or in-kind goods or services are of minimal value or provided by another government entity. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 14-1 vote.

### **Ballots – Absentee**

The House Committee on Elections convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 1055](#), sponsored by Representative Barry Hovis (R-Whitewater). The bill seeks to provide a process for absentee ballot voters to provide any missing or incomplete information on an absentee ballot envelope to the local election authority before the deadline passes. Additionally, the bill requires only employees of the local election authorities to contact voters about any missing or incomplete information. Finally, the bill modifies when the local election authorities may begin preparation of the absentee ballots. The sponsor informed the committee he would like to work with them to create a substitute which would better reflect the differences between the smaller and larger counties. Supporting testimony was presented by Secure Democracy who stated the intent is not to punish voters or election authorities but to allow more people to have valid ballots in elections. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Easter Seals Midwest, Secure Election Project, Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, Starling, AARP, Missouri Association of County Disability Services Board and the Gateway Coalition of Service Providers. Opposing testimony was presented by Liberty Link Missouri who stated this legislation provides preferential treatment for certain voting classes and is a solution in search of a problem. Informational testimony was presented by the Greene County Election Authority who answered the committee's technical questions on absentee voting procedures. Additional informational testimony was provided by the Secretary of State's Office.

### **Banks**

The House Committee on Financial Institute met Wednesday afternoon for a public hearing on [SB 97](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill updates and modernizes the state's current banking codes to provide efficiency and clarity. Additionally, the includes [SB 99](#), which allows any bank to report suspected fraudulent activity or financial exploitation targeting any of its customers to a federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency and be immune from civil liability for reporting; [SB 657](#), which creates an alternative for banking institutions serving as depositaries for public funds to secure their deposits in lieu of the method provided by current law, known as the "single bank pooled method"; and updates exemptions from the Commercial Financing Disclosure Law and repeals a provision of law relating to dormant accounts that requires certain financial institutions to notify the account holder of such dormancy. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Bankers Association, Missouri Credit Union Association, Revenue Base Finance Coalition and the Missouri Municipal League. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

## **Born-Alive Act**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 195](#), sponsored by Representative Brian Seitz (R-Branson). The bill establishes the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act". The bill mandates that a child born alive during or after an abortion or attempted abortion will have the same rights, privileges, and immunities as any other person, citizens, and resident of Missouri, including any other live-born child. Additionally, any person who purposefully performs or attempts to perform an overt act that kills a child born alive is guilty of first degree murder. Supporting testimony was presented by Missouri Right to Life, Campaign Life Missouri, Missouri Catholic Conference, ArmorVine, Liberty Link Missouri and a private citizen. Opposing testimony was presented by Abortion Action Missouri.

## **Brokerage Services**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 596](#), sponsored by Representative Chris Brown (R-Kansas City). The bill requires a real estate broker acting as a single agent for a buyer or tenant to enter into a written agency agreement with the buyer or tenant before engaging in any actions. Currently, a broker is allowed to enter into such a written agency agreement while already engaging in such acts. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Association of Realtors who stated this legislation is necessary to align Missouri statute with the terms of the National Settlement Agreement. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

## **Child Protection Omnibus**

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 60](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). Under current law, a person commits the offense of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree if he or she unlawfully manufactures or possesses amphetamine, methamphetamine, or any of their analogues in the presence of the child. This act adds fentanyl and carfentanil. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to change the title to "Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons, with Penalty Provisions" in order to include [HB 1464](#), which is an omnibus child protection bill that includes several provisions seeking to modify sex crimes, increasing the age of offenses, provides protections for victims, updates terms, and provides additional resources to prosecuting attorneys. Additionally, the committee substitute extends the sunset on the "Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program". Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 19-0 vote.

## **Child Sex Abuse Disclosure Liability**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing [SB 706](#), sponsored by Senator Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair). The bill seeks to provide civil liability protection for charitable organizations and employees for making good faith disclosures reasonably believed to be true regarding allegations an individual has engaged in sexual misconduct. Supporting testimony was presented by a private citizen who stated this legislation would embolden more organizations and employees to report incidents of sexual abuse. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

## **Child Sex Abuse NDAs**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 709](#), sponsored by Representative Brian Seitz (R-Branson). The bill provides that a nondisclosure agreement by any party to any child

sexual abuse claim is not judicially enforceable in a dispute involving any child sexual abuse claim, and must be null and void. After a brief debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Childcare – In-Home**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 835](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Farnan (R-Stanberry). Current law allows up to two children who are related within the third degree of consanguinity, adopted by, or under legal custody of a child care provider who runs a daily child care home to not be included in the number of children counted toward the maximum number of children for which the family child care home is licensed. The bill repeals this provision and allows any in-home licensed day care provider qualifies for an exemption for up to two children who are related to the individual who runs the day care. Opposing testimony was presented by Missouri AYEC who stated while attempting to address the childcare crisis is a noble goal, altering the current ratios of children is not the way and could lead to safety concerns. Additional opposing testimony was provided by Kids Win Missouri, Childcare Aware of Missouri and the Children's Trust Fund. No supporting testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Childcare Complaints**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 339](#), sponsored by Representative Ann Kelley (R-Lamar). Currently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is required to keep a record of substantiated complaints against licensed child care facilities. The bill prohibits DESE from releasing information to the public about those who make complaints. Additionally, the bill contains an Emergency Clause. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Childcare Facility Licensure**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 850](#), sponsored by Representative Melissa Schmidt (R-Eldridge). The bill allows the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to grant a temporary child care license that will be valid for up to 12 months to a provider upon submission of a completed application. Additionally, the bill allows the provider to expand an existing site or add a new location, provided a fire-safety and sanitation inspection has been submitted. Supporting testimony was provided by Missouri's YMCAs who stated this legislation would allow quality providers to move faster through the licensure process and allow more access to families that need childcare. Additional supporting testimony was provided by Kids Win Missouri and a private citizen. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Civil Detention**

The Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 543](#), sponsored by Representative Bennie Cook (R-Houston). The bill modifies provisions relating to civil detention procedures, allows for electronic wills for estate planning, defines electronic wills and sets up the framework for the procedure for enacting electronic wills. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Hospital Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

## **Civil Jurisprudence Omnibus**

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

- Specifies the fee for a birth, marriage or death certificate may be waived if requested by a circuit attorney, public defender or prosecutor.
- Adds the Uniform Fiduciary and Income Principal Act.
- Modifies the caps of attorney fees in worker's compensation cases.
- Allows for certain documents to remain confidential during certain civil matters.
- Removes the sunset on the Basic Civil Legal Services Fund.
- Provides a funding source for the St. Louis Law Library.
- Increases the compensation for jurors.
- Modifies provisions regarding confidentiality documents drafted by the Missouri Bar.
- Adds the Uniform Discovery Act.
- Modifies the Crime Victim Compensation Fund; and,
- Adds provisions protecting artistic expression in certain civil matters.

Supporting testimony was presented by the Judicial Conference of Missouri, the Missouri Bar, the Institute for Free Speech and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. No opposing testimony presented to the committee.

## **Collaborative Practice Arrangements**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 832](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). The bill permits advanced practice registered nurses ("APRNs") and physician assistants to have delegated controlled substance prescriptive authority, pursuant to a collaborative practice arrangement, may prescribe hydrocodone and Schedule II medications for patients of providers designated as administrative entities by the Department of Mental Health. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

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

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 757](#), sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Crocker). This bill expands regulations on catalytic converter sales by requiring licensure for those buying or selling converters or their parts, mandating detailed transaction records, and establishing stricter penalties for unlawful possession or sale. It also updates rules for self-storage facility auctions, addresses deceptive solicitations, and modifies Sunday sales restrictions for certain items. After a short discussion, the House provided its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

## **County Jails**

The House Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions convened Wednesday evening for a public hearing on [SB 50](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). The bill requires jails and correctional centers to provide inmates with reasonable access to phone services during confinement, prohibits institutions from charging exorbitant amounts for domestic phone calls and seeks to place a

cap on the amount per minute. Additionally, the bill allows contiguous counties to form regional jail districts. Finally, the bill provides a mechanism to streamline the jail reimbursement process. Supporting testimony was presented by L.J. Hardin Company and St. Louis County. Opposing testimony was presented by NCIC Correctional Services who stated the FCC is currently formulating new rules regarding phone call rates.

### **County Treasurer Duties**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Monday afternoon for a public hearing on [SB 810](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The bill requires that only the county treasurer's name appear on checks drawn upon the county depository. The sponsor's intent with the legislation is to protect taxpayer funds and ensure accountability. Supporting testimony was presented by the Benton, Pettis and Newtown County Treasurers who stated this provides integrity and protection for county treasurers. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Court Operation Omnibus**

The House Committee on Judiciary convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 218](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). The bill includes within treatment courts, a specific authorization for mental health courts. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which changed the title to Court Operations and included the following provisions and create an omnibus judiciary package:

- [HB 736](#), increases the age from seventeen to eighteen as it relates to proceedings involving orders of protection.
- [HB 182](#), modifies provisions relating to fees and expenses for an interpreter or translator in certain proceedings.
- [HB 143](#), establishes provisions relating to the removal of certain court records from automated case management systems
- [HB 1457](#), modifies provisions relating to judicial security.
- [HB 124](#), repeals the expiration date of funding of basic civil legal services for certain person.
- [HB 83](#), modifies provisions relating to civil jurisprudence; and
- [HB 93](#), authorizes additional judgeships in certain judicial circuits.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

### **Dietitian Compact**

The Senate Emerging Issues and Professional Registration Committee convened Tuesday for a public hearing on [HB 397](#), sponsored by Representative Tara Peters (R-Rolla). The bill establishes the Dietitian Licensure Compact, allowing licensed dietitians to practice across participating states. It creates a governing commission to oversee the Compact and outlines licensing standards, including a temporary supervised license for first-time applicants. Missouri's existing license reciprocity laws remain unaffected. Supporting testimony was provided by several private registered dietitians, Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Associated Students of the University of Missouri, and Cox Health. Supporters argue it will benefit Missourians by addressing the shortage of dietitians, improving healthcare access, and supporting workforce development. The bill allows recent dietetics graduates to practice under supervision while awaiting licensure, helping hospitals—especially in rural areas—stay staffed and enabling students to begin their careers sooner. It also allows Missouri to join an interstate licensure compact, expanding telehealth services, reducing licensing burdens, and supporting military

families and small businesses. Overall, the bill strengthens healthcare delivery, retains skilled professionals, and ensures Missouri remains competitive. No opposing testimony was presented.

### **Disabled Veterans**

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to revisit [SJR 46](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). Upon voter approval, the resolution expands the current exemption from real property taxes for former prisoners of war with a total service-connected disability to all disabled veterans. After no further debate, the Senate Third Read and Passed the resolution by a 32-0 vote. The resolution now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

### **Dissolution of Marriage**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 243](#), sponsored by Representative Cecelie Williams (R-Dittmer). The bill requires MO HealthNet to pay the fee for the portion of clinical pathology services that involves the pathologist's professional expertise in interpreting and supervising laboratory tests, excluding the technical component of performing the laboratory tests that are provided by hospital-based pathologists for inpatient services. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **DNR Funds**

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to revisit [SB 120](#), 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. 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 previous debate, the bill was amended to include [SB 586](#), which provides that federal funds designated for highway purposes shall be deposited in the "Federal Road Fund," created in the act, rather than the State Road Fund. His amendment also modifies several transportation funds to provide that revenues intended for highway purposes shall be allocated to the Federal Road Fund; and [SB 125](#), which makes a simple change in the law relating to the MO Ports Trust Fund to include property owned by the City of St. Louis and managed by a Missouri port authority. After no further debate, the Senate Third Read and Passed the bill by a 28-5 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

### **Drug Trafficking**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 49](#), sponsored by Representative Willard Haley (R-Eldon). The bill aims to stiffen penalties for fentanyl use and distribution by increasing the penalties for various amounts of fentanyl at the time of arrest. No supporting or opposing testimony presented to the committee.

### **Drug-Free Homeless Service Zones**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 778](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). The bill defines a "drug-free homeless service zone" and creates the offense of possession of a controlled substance in a drug-free homeless service zone. Supporting testimony was presented by Cicero Action

who stated substance abuse is rampant in homeless encampments and this would help alleviate that. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Education DEI**

The Senate Committee on Education convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 326](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). The bill prohibits higher education and proprietary institutions from giving preferential consideration to those being hired or admitted if a DEI statement has been provided. Supporting testimony was presented by Cicero Action and Do No Harm Action who stated there should not be litmus ideals when hiring staff and faculty or admitting students. Opposing testimony was presented by COPHE who stated no public university or proprietary institution currently requires this but did have concerns the broad and vague language within the bill would possibly provide a cause of action against higher education institutions. Additional opposing testimony was provided by the ACLU of Missouri. On Thursday, the committee revisited the bill to discuss its passage and with no further discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

### **Education Omnibus (3)**

The House Committee on Higher Education convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 150](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The bill specifies that any student who has met the qualifications for the A+ Scholars Program shall qualify for reimbursement for the costs associated with tuition, books, or fees associated with completion of an eligible certificate program from a public or private postsecondary institution, vocational school, community college, or certified training provider approved by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Eligible programs include certificate or degree programs conferred by approved institutions of higher education for employment. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added six additional provisions.

Specifically, the bill now includes:

- [HB 946](#), that creates a waiver for resident spouses of Missouri law enforcement officers.
- [HB 265](#), modifies provisions governing certain postsecondary education financial assistance awards.
- [HB 183](#), modifies provisions of the Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act to reduce barriers for students transferring between institutions.
- [HB 168](#), establishes a STEM grant program and requires the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to develop a grant program of up to \$1,500.00 per year with a maximum grant of \$6,000 for eligible students pursuing a certificate or an associates or bachelor's degree in a STEM-related field at any public, private, or virtual education program approved by the Department.
- [HB 1017](#), require public community colleges, colleges, and universities to adopt policies for undergraduate course credit for any student who receives a score of 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate Exam.
- [HB 616](#), seeks to remove a provision limiting the conferring of post-graduate degrees or first-professional degrees in dentistry, optometry, engineering, pharmacy, chiropractic, podiatry, osteopathic or internal medicine, or veterinary medicine by public colleges and universities to only the University of Missouri or those engaged in a collaborative agreement with the University of Missouri.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 10-1-1 vote.

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [SB 160](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair). The bill prohibits public institutions of higher learning from discriminating against a religious student association or denying a religious student association any benefit available to any other student association. Additionally, the bill contains language that prohibits the provisions of the bill to apply to a belief-based student association if there is substantial evidence that such association's viewpoint or expression of the viewpoint would materially and substantially disrupt the educational environment or interfere with the rights of others. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- [HB 183](#), modifies the “Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act;”
- [HB 1197](#), establishes immunity from civil liability for certain actions taken by private schools related to access to restrooms or changing areas;
- [HB 937](#), provides protections against discrimination and antisemitism in public schools and public postsecondary educational institutions and includes the CROWN Act; and,
- [HB 616](#), seeks to remove a provision limiting the conferring of post-graduate degrees or first-professional degrees in dentistry, optometry, engineering, pharmacy, chiropractic, podiatry, osteopathic or internal medicine, or veterinary medicine by public colleges and universities to only the University of Missouri or those engaged in a collaborative agreement with the University of Missouri.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 11-3 vote.

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [SB 38](#), sponsored by Senator Barbara Washington (D-Kansas City). The bill creates the Missouri CROWN Act governing discriminatory practices relating to protective hairstyles. During the bill’s progression, the title was modified and language was added to expand the provisions to include charter schools and charter school governing boards to the definition of “educational institution”. During discussion, a House committee substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- [HB 183](#), modifies the “Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act;”
- [HB 1197](#), establishes immunity from civil liability for certain actions taken by private schools related to access to restrooms or changing areas;
- [HB 937](#), provides protections against discrimination and antisemitism in public schools and public postsecondary educational institutions and includes the CROWN Act; and,
- [HB 616](#), seeks to remove a provision limiting the conferring of post-graduate degrees or first-professional degrees in dentistry, optometry, engineering, pharmacy, chiropractic, podiatry, osteopathic or internal medicine, or veterinary medicine by public colleges and universities to only the University of Missouri or those engaged in a collaborative agreement with the University of Missouri.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 11-3 vote.

## **Election Omnibus**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday to debate [HB 126](#), sponsored by Representative Rudy Veit (R-Wardsville). The bill reinstates the presidential preference primary election to be held statewide on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each presidential election year. Additionally, the bill contains a provision which extends the no-excuse in-person absentee voting period from two weeks to six weeks prior to the date of the election. During debate, several amendments were adopted which added clean up language requested by the county clerks and election authorities

regarding school board election dates, notice of elections by email and adds election offenses with penalty provisions. Additionally, the bill now contains provisions from [HB 638](#) which allows election challengers on election day in charter and first class counties. Finally, the bill now prohibits public pensions from using funds for political purposes. After further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by an 85-64 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 206](#), sponsored by Senator Barbara Washington (D-Kansas City). The bill requires ambulance district board of directors to complete three hours of continuing education for each term of office and failure to do so will result in a loss of office. Additionally, the bill requires each ambulance district to arrange for an audit of the district's records and accounts every three years by a certified public accountant and make the results available to the public on the district's website or otherwise freely available by other electronic means. Lastly, the bill modifies provisions relating to certification of community paramedics and the provision of community paramedic services and modifies the State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services by changing the number of council members from 16 to no more than 23. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Emergency Services Omnibus**

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to debate [SB 271](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). Current law provides fire protection district boards the power to adopt and amend fire protection and fire prevention ordinance. The bill prohibits fire protection district boards from imposing regulations or requiring permits for the building or alteration of farm buildings or farm structures. During debate, the sponsor offered a Senate substitute to include [SB 270](#), which allows specialty districts to impose a sales tax for emergency services, modifies the State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services by changing the number of council members from 16 to no more than 23, and increases the current 0.5% to 1.0% sales tax that is authorized by ambulance and fire protection districts in certain counties. Senator Steven Roberts (D-St. Louis) then amended the bill to include [SB 255](#), which relates to the administration of the two firefighter retirement systems serving firefighters in the City of St. Louis would permit the two systems – the Firemen's Retirement System (FRS) and the Firefighters' Retirement Plan (FRP) – to be administered together, with the same Board of Trustees serving and investing the funds of both systems. Senator Stephen Webber (D-Columbia) further amended the bill to allow University of Missouri Hospital to participate with the Ground Ambulance Service Reimbursement Allowance. Once modified, the Senate provided its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The Senate revisited the bill on Thursday and, after no further debate, Third Read and Passed the bill by a 25-8 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

### **EMS Advisory Council**

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

by the Missouri Ambulance Association who stated this legislation would streamline the process and make it easier for those wanting to serve to be a part of the process. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Ambulance District Association of Missouri and the Missouri Emergency Nurses Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Environmental Protection Omnibus**

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

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

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

### **Financial Statements**

The House Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [SB 2](#), sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo). The bill allows certain counties to file abbreviated financial statements, requires publishers to charge market rates for this publication, and changes the publication date requirements. Additionally, the bill allows for a one-time fine forgiveness program for cities and counties that fail to timely file financial statements. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute and a series of amendments were offered but ultimately defeated by an 8-9 vote. After a lengthy discussion, the committee ultimately passed the original underlying bill by a 17-0 vote.

### **Firearm Ordinances**

The House Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday evening for a public hearing on [HB 726](#), sponsored by Representative Lisa Durnell (R-Willow Springs). The bill repeals the exception in current statute that allows political subdivisions to regulate the open carrying of firearms. Additionally, the bill adds a \$50,000 penalty provision for any political subdivision who violates these provisions. Opposing testimony was presented by Moms Demand Action who stated this undermines local control of public safety. Supporting testimony was presented by a private citizen.

### **First Responder Interference**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 669](#), sponsored by Senator David Gregory (R-St. Louis). The bill creates the

offense of interference with a first responder and deems it a class A misdemeanor. Additionally, a person commits the offense when they have received a verbal warning not to approach from a first and knowingly and willfully violates the verbal warning and approaches a first responder with intent to impede, threaten or engage in conduct that causes emotional distress. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which adds the repeal of the Line of Duty Compensation Act sunset, increases the compensation amount from \$25,000 to \$100,000 and adds “illness” to the definitions for what qualifies for killed in the line of duty. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

### **Healthcare – Reproductive**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Tuesday to debate [HJR 73](#), sponsored by Representative Ed Lewis (R-Moberly). Upon voter approval, the bill would repeal Amendment 3 and prohibit abortions, except in the cases of medical emergencies, fetal anomalies, rape or incest. After more than three hours of debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by a 94-50 vote. The bill was revisited on Thursday and, after another lengthy debate, was Third Read and Passed by a

### **Healthcare Omnibus (2)**

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Wednesday evening to discuss passage of [SB 94](#), sponsored by Senator Patty Lewis (D-Kansas City). This is the Senate Companion Bill to [HB 822](#) and [HB 825](#) and modifies the definition of “telehealth services” to include audiovisual and audio only services and expands which third-party platforms “telehealth services” may be provided. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- [SB 178](#), which modifies provisions regarding women’s health care;
- [HB 222](#), establishes provisions relating to allergy prevention and responses in child care facilities;
- [HB 618](#), modifies provisions regarding prior authorization;
- [HB 720](#), modifies provisions relating to a loan repayment program for health care professionals;
- [HB 1213](#), requires health care facilities to post a sign warning of the potential criminal consequences of assaulting health care professionals; and,
- [HB 1095](#), creates provisions relating to maternal health care services (doulas).

Additionally, the substitute removes references to specific anesthesia organizations and allows the National Network of Public Health Institutes to be able to bid on federal contracts and then administer the programs. Finally, the substitute modifies provisions regarding air ambulance memberships, allows the use of intranasal epinephrine, modifies provisions regarding clinical pathologist services, requires informed consent before medical treatment, modifies the definition of diaper bank and extends the sunset on the tax credit and adds [HB 56](#) regarding dental compacts. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 16-0 vote.

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Wednesday evening for a public hearing on [SB 79](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 366](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia) and provides Missouri Farm Bureau and other not for profit organizations the authority to offer affordable and quality health benefits to their members, and allows them to work with reinsurance companies and third party administrators to ensure consumers have access to nationwide network of providers and claims are paid. During the bill’s progression, provisions were added to provide consumer protections to ensure a person is not dropped due to a

medical event, includes prompt pay provisions, includes surprise billing clause, requires plan provider must adhere to reinsurance laws of the state and transparency, requires plans to use a regulated third-party administrator that's going to help with administering the plans. Additionally, disclaimer provisions were added that need to be acknowledged by the consumer, stating the plan is "not health insurance and it's not subject federal or state laws relating to health insurance. This contract may offer fewer benefits than an ACA-compliant health plan and may exclude coverage for pre-existing conditions. You may qualify for income-based subsidies through the Affordable Care Act health insurance marketplace. This contract is not covered by the Missouri Insurance Guarantee Association. Lastly, the bill creates a complaint process with the participation of the Department of Insurance and includes a 1% fee paid by the Farm Bureau to the Department of Insurance to help administer or to cover the costs. Supporting testimony was presented by Missouri Farm Bureau who stated this legislation seeks to close the gap for people who are going uncovered due to financial reasons. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence and the Missouri Speech, Language and Hearing Association. Opposing testimony was presented by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network who stated this legislation would allow Farm Bureau to sell unregulated products that do not have to comply with federal and state regulations and this product does not have limits on out-of-pocket costs and expenses. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the committee immediately moved into executive session. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added [HB 943](#) regarding emergency medical services, provisions regarding prior authorization, provisions regarding telehealth, provisions regarding district hospitals and provisions allowing Mizzou ambulance district to participate in the FRA. Additionally, the substitute modified provisions mandating health insurers provide one-year of oral contraceptives and requires informed consent before treatment. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 15-1 vote.

### **Healthcare Student Loans**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 635](#) sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). The bill expands the Student Loan Repayment Program to additional healthcare professions including nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, physician assistants, registered dental hygienists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatric nurses, licensed professional counsellors, marital and family therapists, registered nurses and pharmacists which would help to encourage more health care practitioners to rural areas and would help to draw down additional federal dollars. About 35% of the funds each year will be used specifically for primary care physicians and general dentists. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **Healthcare Worker Security**

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 901](#), sponsored by Representative Marty Joe Murray (D-St Louis). The bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to implement an education and awareness program to promote respect for health care professionals and educate public on the legal consequences of assaulting such professionals. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to include enabling language to create the fund and added a five year sunset. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 20-0 vote.

## **Hearing Aid/Cochlear Coverage**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 177](#), sponsored by Representative Cameron Parker (R-Campbell) and requires MO HealthNet to cover the cost of hearing aids and cochlear implants. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

## **Judicial Proceeding – Pro-Life Intervention**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 794](#), sponsored by Senator Rick Brattin (R-Harrisonville). The bill establishes that pro-life individuals and organizations may intervene in actions in which a provision of the Missouri Constitution, statute, or rule involves the regulation of abortion or where the rights of an unborn child is at issue. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

## **Judicial Proceeding Omnibus**

The Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 615](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Coleman (R-Grain Valley). The bill establishes the "Committee on Sex and Human Trafficking Training," which will be composed of six members, including, among others, a representative of the Attorney General's Office, a representative of the Department of Public Safety, and a juvenile officer. The committee must annually evaluate and establish guidelines for required sex and human trafficking training. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted to include the following provisions:

- [SB 667](#), modifies provisions relating to workers' compensation.
- [HB 125](#), grants circuit courts the ability to dissolve limited liability companies under certain conditions.
- [HB 180](#), modifies and establishes provisions relating to estate planning.
- [HB 1457](#), modifies provisions relating to judicial security.
- [HB 124](#), repeals the expiration date of funding of basic civil legal services for certain persons.
- [HB 131](#), grants county commissions the authority to set juror pay at the local level rather than adhering to a state-mandated rate.
- [SB 221](#), modifies the standard of review for agency interpretation of statutes, rules, regulations, and subregulatory documents.
- [SB 503](#), establishes the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act, which provides procedures for dismissal of causes of action based on public expression in public proceedings or on matters of public concern.
- Extends the expiration date of cyber crime investigation fund; and
- [SB 18](#), allows the circuit court of St. Louis City to collect a civil case filing fee of an amount not to exceed \$20, rather than \$15, for certain uses, including the maintenance of a law library

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-2 vote.

## **Judiciary Omnibus**

The House Committee on Judiciary convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 221](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon). The bill seeks to modify the standards for review for a state agency's interpretation of statutes, rules, regulations, and other subregulatory documents. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which included several provisions to create an omnibus judiciary package:

- [HB 608](#), modifies the "Principal and Income Act" to resemble the latest version of the "Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act".
- [HB 1531](#), allows graduates of certain programs to petition the court for limited driving privileges.
- [HB 123](#), modifies provisions related to workers' compensation administrative law judges.
- [HB 125](#), grants circuit courts the ability to dissolve limited liability companies under certain conditions.
- [HB 736](#), increases the age from seventeen to eighteen as it relates to proceedings involving orders of protection.
- [HB 176](#), establishes provisions relating to electronic estate planning.
- [HB 182](#), modifies provisions relating to fees and expenses for an interpreter or translator in certain proceedings.
- [HB 143](#), establishes provisions relating to the removal of certain court records from automated case management systems
- [HB 1457](#), modifies provisions relating to judicial security.
- [HB 124](#), repeals the expiration date of funding of basic civil legal services for certain person.
- [SB 218](#), modifies the provisions relating to the establishment of treatment courts by providing for a mental health treatment court
- [HB 93](#), authorizes additional judgeships in certain judicial circuits.
- [HB 756](#), changes provisions governing the compensation of circuit clerks.
- [HB 83](#), modifies provisions relating to civil jurisprudence.
- [HB 128](#), establishes the "Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act";
- [HB 43](#), adds a circuit judge to the 25th judicial circuit.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

### **Juvenile Court Proceedings**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 736](#), sponsored by Representative David Dolan (R-Sikeston). Currently, the Division of Youth Services is prohibited from keeping a youth beyond the youth's 18th birthday. This bill allows the Division to keep a youth until the youth's 19th birthday. Additionally, the bill also raises the age a youth can be considered for dual jurisdiction from 18 to 19 years old. Finally, the bill modifies the definition of "child" and "adult." After a brief debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Law Enforcement Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 225](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Myers (R-Warrenton). The bill allows the chief law enforcement executive jurisdiction to request assistance from another jurisdiction, including a jurisdiction outside of the State of Missouri. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which created an omnibus public safety package. Specifically, the bill now includes the following provisions:

- [HB 992](#), modifies provisions relating to criminal history background checks,
- [SB 192](#), modifies provisions relating to the sheriff of St. Louis City;
- [SB 71](#), creates the "Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Act" to provide free college tuition for public safety personnel and their legal dependents;
- [SB 143](#), modifies the Line of Duty Compensation Act; and,

- [SB 669](#), creates the offense of interference with a first responder.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

### **Library Materials**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 1146](#), sponsored by Representative Doyle Justus (R-Troy). The bill establishes a framework regarding the reconsideration of materials in public libraries or public school libraries. Additionally, the bill defines “digital library material” and requires all public libraries and public school libraries to establish a publicly available policy outlining the process for reconsideration of materials based on complaints made. Supporting testimony was presented by EBSCO Information Services who stated this legislation simply codifies the current rule from the Secretary of State regarding library materials. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Library Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Liquor Donations**

The House Committee on General Laws convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1340](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Myers (R-Warrenton). The bill allows beer, malt liquor or spirits to the list of alcohol-based beverages that may be donated and raffled off to charitable or religious organizations or educational institutions. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 14-0 vote.

### **Liquor Fees**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 584](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). Currently, the Director of the Department of Revenue collects \$1.86 per barrel as a fee for inspecting and gauging malt liquors. The bill modifies the fee collected per barrel to \$.62 for inspection and gauging malt liquors manufactured in American breweries and \$1.86 per barrel for all foreign import malt liquor. Supporting testimony was presented by Anheuser-Busch who stated forcing American brewers to pay the same rate of excise tax in Missouri as imports gives an advantage to foreign brewers. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Retailers Association, Missouri Craft Brewers Guild, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Missouri Petroleum and Convenience Association, Americans for Prosperity, Associated Industries of Missouri, Missouri Grocers Association, AFL-CIO and the Plumbers and Pipefitters of St. Louis. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Liquor Omnibus**

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

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

### **Maternal Health Care Services**

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Wednesday evening to discuss passage of [HB 1095](#), sponsored by Representative LaKeySha Bosley (D-St. Louis). The bill requires insurance coverage for childbirth education classes. Additionally, the bill establishes the “Doula Reimbursement Act” which allows doulas to be reimbursed under MO HealthNet and from health benefit plans. Finally, the bill establishes the services they may provide and specify they are not allowed to engage in the practice of medicine. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which clarified the chief medical officer or director of DHSS, DMH or MO HealthNet may issue recommendations for doula services, include a standing order for prenatal services and issued standing medical orders for other purposes. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 16-0 vote.

### **MCHCP Opt Out**

The House Government Efficiency Committee convened Wednesday for a public hearing on [HB 1444](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Costlow (R-Dardenne Prairie). The bill allows eligible state employees to opt out of state health insurance and receive a taxable annual stipend equal to 50% of the State's contribution toward their individual coverage. Employees must show proof of other health insurance, and the stipend is prorated for partial-year coverage. Supporting testimony was provided by Sponsor Mike Costlow, who stated that while the initial fiscal estimate was high, he believes the actual impact will be lower. This is because the bill requires employees to provide proof of alternative coverage, thereby reducing overall costs. The bill aims to balance employee benefits with state savings. No opposing testimony was provided.

### **Memorial Designations**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 1284](#), sponsored by Representative John Hewkin (R-Cuba). The bill allows for memorial roads to be named for emergency personnel and members of the Armed Forces in addition to law enforcement officers. Additionally, the bill also repeals the requirement to maintain fingerboards at road forks and crossings and the requirement to lay down planks while crossing bridges to protect the roadway. Finally, the bill repeals the prohibition of driving animals across recently repaired roadways, bridges or culverts that have not been open to traffic. After little debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **MHRA Attorney Fees**

The Senate General Laws Committee convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 717](#), sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). The Missouri Human Rights Act (MHRA) currently allows a prevailing party in any civil action brought pursuant to that chapter to be awarded court costs and reasonable attorney's fees. The bill only permits court costs and reasonable attorney's fees in cases not involving a public employer, as that term is defined in the act. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 3-2 vote.

### **Motor Vehicle Assessments**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 816](#), sponsored by Representative Rodger Reedy (R-Windsor). Currently, county

assessors must use the October issue of the National Automobile dealers' Association Official Used Car Guide to determine the true value of a motor vehicle. The bill requires that the county assessor determine the true value for motor vehicles by using the trade-in value published in the October issue of a nationally recognized automotive trade publication selected by the State Tax Commission. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

### **Motor Vehicle Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 799](#), sponsored by Representative Ben Baker (R-Neosho). The bill modifies several provisions regarding motor vehicles. Specifically, the bill phases out when motor vehicles require inspections, includes [HB 1355](#) which establishes a Space Force license plate and includes [HB 1018](#) which allows VIN and odometer inspections for titling purposes may be performed by licensed dealers. Additionally, the bill includes [HB 61](#) which modifies the application and payment process for the Conservation Heritage Foundation license plate. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which added provisions from [HB 969](#) regarding motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle franchisors and deletes language specifying that licensed motor vehicle dealers who knowingly complete inspections with false information are subject to disciplinary action from the Department of Revenue. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

### **Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention**

The House Committee on Crime and Public Safety convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 527](#) and [HB 1420](#), sponsored by Representatives Steve Butz (D-St Louis) and Don Mayhew (R-Crocker), respectively. The bills establish the "Auto Theft Prevention Commission," which is assigned to the Department of Public Safety, though the Director of Public Safety will have no supervision, authority, or control over the actions or decisions of the commission. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to combine the two bills together into one legislative vehicle. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 18-0 vote.

### **MSHAA Dues**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 1273](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Knight (R-Lebanon). The bill prevents public schools from being a member of or paying dues to any statewide activities association that allows post-season or tournament-style athletic competitions between public and private schools. Supporting testimony was presented by a private citizen who stated the issue is fairness and this legislation, while maybe not the whole answer, attempts to address the imbalance between public and private schools. Informational testimony was presented by the Missouri Council of School Administrators who provided background information on MSHAA's current policies. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Natural Resource Protection**

The House Committee on Government Efficiency convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1442](#), sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Crocker). The bill establishes the "Natural Resources and Community Protection Act" which seeks to provide priority rights to Missouri residents within federal managed lands. Additionally, the bill seeks to modify how federal agencies interact with state agencies regarding management of Missouri's natural resources. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted to include [HB 1137](#) and [HB 1454](#), which are identical and repeal

statutory language granting concurrent jurisdiction within the area comprising the Ozark Scenic Riverways for as long as the area is administered and maintained by the federal government. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 12-3 vote.

### **Newborn Incubators**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 121](#), sponsored by Representative Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis). The bill creates the “Safe Place for Newborns Fund” to be used for the installation of newborn safety incubators through a matching program. Additionally, the bill extends the age a newborn may be delivered to an incubator box from 45 days to 90 days. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which added a provision modifies the pregnancy resource tax credit. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

### **Noninvasive Plants**

The House Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources convened Monday afternoon for a public hearing on [SB 105](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City). The bill will prohibit the Department of Agriculture from issuing and require suspension of any registration-inspection certificate of a nursery or nursery dealer if they knowingly or intentionally imports exports, buys, sells, transports, distributes, or propagates a plant portion or seeds of a burning bush, callery pear, climbing euonymus, Japanese honeysuckle, or sericea lespedeza. During bill progression, language was adopted which added a descriptive list of included plants to clarify the invasive species. Supporting testimony was presented by a private citizen who stated Bradford Pear trees are highly invasive and should not be sold by greenhouses that do not understand the dangers these trees cause. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Invasive Plant Council, Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Nature Conservancy, private citizens, Missouri Cattlemen’s Association and Missouri Forrest Products Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Pension Omnibus**

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

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

Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri St. Louis Police Retirement System, FGA Action, Missouri Local Government Retirements System and the Missouri Public Schools Retirement System. Informational testimony was presented by the Missouri State Employees Retirement System and stated the bill will have no impact on the system. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Personal Property Assessment**

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 903](#), sponsored by Representative Richard West (R-Wentzville). The bill requires that beginning January 1, 2026, the percentage of the true value in money at which personal property is assessed will be reduced over a period of three years until it is assessed at 18% of its true value in money. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

### **Postconviction Relief**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 741](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon). The bill seeks to modify provisions regarding postconviction relief when the death penalty is applied. Specifically, the bill seeks to expedite cases and the review process for death penalty cases. The sponsor stated currently the national average for postconviction relief of death penalty cases is 19 years. Supporting testimony was presented by the Office of Attorney General who stated the legislation would offer victims a timelier version of justice. Additional supporting testimony was provided by private citizens. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Pregnancy Resource Centers**

The Senate Economic and Workforce Development Committee convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 681](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). Current law authorizes a taxpayer to claim a tax credit in an amount equal to seventy percent of contributions made to pregnancy resource centers. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, this act authorizes such tax credit in an amount equal to one hundred percent of such contribution. Supporting testimony was presented by Campaign Life Missouri and a private citizen. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Prenatal Equal Protection Act**

The House Committee on Children and Families convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 1072](#), sponsored by Representative Justin Sparks (R-Wildwood) and [HB 1417](#), sponsored by Representative Burt Whaley (R-Clever). The bills are identical and seeks to protect unborn life and abolish abortion in Missouri, while adding certain protections for medical professionals.

### **Product Liability Immunity**

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

to the liability provisions to ensure this could capture the opioid industry. After a lengthy debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Professional Licensing Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 478](#), sponsored by Representative Phillip Oehlerking (R-Ballwin). 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. During bill progression, numerous provisions were added to create an omnibus package. Specifically, the bill now contains the following provisions:

- [HB 834](#), modifies provisions for licensure for embalmers and funeral directors;
- [HB 58](#), emergency suspensions or restrictions for chiropractors and massage therapists;
- [HB 268](#), modifies the Masters of Social Work program at Missouri Western University;
- [HB 765](#), modifies provisions relating to clinical fellowships required for licensure as a speech-language pathologist;
- [HB 766](#), repeals provisions relating to suspension of professional licenses for failure to pay state taxes or file state tax returns;
- [HB 946](#), provides for certain license reciprocity waivers for spouses of Missouri law enforcement officers;
- [HB 1445](#), removes the expiration date for the RX cares for Missouri program;
- Allows pharmacists to administer certain vaccines; and,
- Language from [SB 61](#) regarding temporary licensure.

Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, the Independent Payroll Processors Association, United WE, Missouri Pharmacy Association, Rx Outreach, and the Missouri Speech, Language and Hearing Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Property Classification Appeals**

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 759](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). Current law provides that a taxpayer shall be awarded costs and reasonable attorney's fees for any appeal of an assessor's classification of real property that is found by the State Tax Commission or a court of competent jurisdiction to be an erroneous classification. The bill creates an enforcement mechanism for the current law when not followed, in the form of an action for someone to recover these costs and fees as well as damages that come as a result of the erroneous classification. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted to narrow the provisions by specifying the cause of action is against the assessors and add a line upon taxpayer submission of evidence to show their attorney's fees. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

### **Property Development Applications**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 1264](#), sponsored by Representative David Casteel (R-High Ridge). The bill seeks to provide a fast-track process for building permit applications. Specifically, the bill requires political subdivisions must approve or deny permit

applications within 30 calendar days and if no response is given to the applicant, the permit is deemed approved. After a lengthy debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Property Tax Modifications**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 599](#), sponsored by Senator David Gregory (R-St. Louis). The bill modifies several provisions regarding property taxes. Specifically, the bill allows a taxpayer to prevail as a matter of law in an appeal if the assessor fails to provide physical evidence an inspection. Additionally, the bill removes the requirement that a written protest be filed at the time full payment of taxes are paid, allows interest to be paid a taxpayer from the time a dispute was made and requires refunds due to be paid within thirty days of the final determination of the refund amount. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0-1 vote.

### **Public Entity Contracts**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday to revisit [HB 199](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph). This legislation would give political subdivisions the option of issuing a payment bond for development projects or they could decide to go with a lien. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 147-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Public Health Services**

The House Committee on Health and Mental Health convened Wednesday evening to discuss passage of [HB 973](#), sponsored by Representative John Voss (R-Cape Girardeau). The bill allows the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to contract with a non-profit organization, affiliated with the National Network of Public Health Institutes. Additionally, the bill requires the designated agency to provide annual reports to the General Assembly regarding funds received, spent and recommendations for improving services. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 16-0 vote.

### **Public Safety Omnibus (2)**

The House Committee on Emerging Issues convened Monday evening to discuss passage of [SB 71](#), sponsored by Senator David Gregory (R-Ballwin). The bill creates the "First Responder Recruitment and Retention Act" to provide free college tuition at public colleges and universities in the state for police officers, firefighters, paramedics, other emergency response professionals, and their dependents. Under the bill, any eligible first responder, emergency response professional, or their dependent may qualify for a waiver of the full cost of tuition at any in-state community college, 4 year college, or university for up to 5 years or 120 credit hours so long as they have not previously completed a bachelor's degree and maintain residency in the state for 5 years following the completion of their program of study. During bill progression, the funding mechanism changed by providing waivers only in the event funding is available and appropriated, instead of requiring schools to cover the costs.

Additionally, the bill requires veterans to pursue veteran's benefits first and clarifies the tuition waiver is applicable for five years or until 120 credit hours are achieved. Finally, the bill contains an updated definition of telecommunicator and clarifies the college or university must be located in Missouri and donations may be made into the fund. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- [SB 669](#), modifies provisions regarding the HALO Act;

- [SB 192](#), modifies provisions relating to the sheriff of St. Louis's compensation;
- [HB 1218](#), modifies the offense of burglary in the second degree;
- [HB 714](#), modifies provisions regarding veteran preferences for contracts;
- [HB 205](#), allows the boards of trustees of The Firemen's Retirement System of St. Louis City to act as trustees and administer other pension plans;
- [HB 147](#), modifies the definition of "earnable compensation" for the police retirement system of the City of St. Louis;
- [HB 117](#), modifies and establishes provisions regarding motor vehicle offenses; and,
- [HB 992](#), modifies provisions relating to criminal history background checks; and,
- [HB 981](#), allows the director of the department of public safety to deny a peace officer license if an applicant is not a US citizen or has had a license permanently revoked or suspended.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-2-2 vote.

The Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 87](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Griffith (R-Jefferson City). The bill increases the penalties on intoxicated driving sentencing based on various aggravating factors. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted to include the following provisions:

- [SB 71](#), Creates the "Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Act" to provide free college tuition for public safety personnel and their legal dependents
- [HB 365](#), increases the line of duty compensation benefit paid to a claimant from the current amount of \$25,000 to \$100,000
- [SB 235](#), creates "Bentley's Law" relating to child maintenance orders for certain persons convicted of the offense of driving while intoxicated
- [HB 124](#), remove the sunset date for the Basic Civil Legal Services Fund.
- [SB 284](#), Under current law, any law enforcement agency may use funds from the "Pretrial Witness Protection Services Fund" to provide for the security of witnesses and immediate family members during criminal proceedings. This act adds that prosecuting and circuit attorney offices may also use such funds.
- [SB 143](#), adds that a person who pleads guilty to a class E felony shall pay a fee of \$46 payable to the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund; and
- Extends the expiration date of cybercrime investigation fund.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

## School Assessment

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Monday to debate [SB 360](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). The bill establishes the "Education Freedom Act," which modifies provisions relating to the statewide school assessment system, creates certain school accountability report cards, and modifies powers and duties of the State Board of Education. The act repeals provisions of current law that authorize the State Board of Education to develop a statewide assessment system and a standardized assessment to measure academic performance standards of state elementary and secondary schools and instead requires the board to develop a summative assessment system that satisfies the requirements of federal law but is not used for the calculation of state aid or classification of a school for achievement standards. The bill further requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to produce a school accountability report card for each public school district, public school building, and charter

school in the state based on academic performance of the school as compared to the prior year and requires the state board to approve at least two national accrediting agencies or organizations from which school districts in the state can choose to utilize for the purpose of complying with federal accreditation standards. During debate, the sponsor offered a Senate Substitute to remove the requirement that assessments be conducted at beginning of year. Additionally, the substitute clarifies reporting requirements, adds a sunset to the provisions providing the ability to classify schools, and requires the State Board of Education to determine if a district is accredited. Once modified, the Senate provided its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote. The Senate revisited the bill on Thursday and, after no further debate, Third Read and Passed the bill by a 32-1 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

### **School Background Checks**

The Senate Committee on Education convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 460](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). The bill adds charter schools to the current statute requiring background checks to be conducted on school personnel. Additionally, the bill requires companies with contracts with school districts to conduct the background checks and includes background checks on ride-share services. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

### **School Building Administrators**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1365](#), sponsored by Representative Martin Jacobs (R-Liberty). The bill defines “building-level administrator” and outlines the criteria for renewing or terminating a contract. Additionally, the bill specifies that before any contract may be renewed an evaluation process must be performed. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which changes the “shall” to “may,” changes the date the board may act on a contract from February 15<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup> and modifies the language to ensure only administrators with five years of service in a district are afforded cause for non-renewal of contracts. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 19-1 vote.

### **School Chaplains**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 49](#), sponsored by Senator Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe). The bill allows school districts and charter schools to employ a chaplain or allow a chaplain to volunteer. Additionally, background checks shall be required and the chaplain is not required to be a certified teacher in order to work or volunteer for the district or charter school. Finally, the bill requires registration with the Armed Forces Chaplain Board to participate in the district programs and the school chaplain, unless a certified teacher, will not be teaching classes. After a lengthy discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 12-6-2 vote.

### **School State Aid**

The Senate Committee on Education convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [SB 364](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). The bill changes the requirement of 169 school days to 169 calendar days regarding eligibility to receive funding without penalty in the case of inclement weather. The sponsor informed the committee this would allow schools that adhere to the 5-day school week requirement to still call off school in the event of extreme weather events without being penalized financially. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

## **Second Amendment Preservation Act**

The Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety convened Monday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 1175](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Hardwick (R-Dixon). SAPA was originally passed by the Missouri General Assembly as [HB 85](#) in 2021 but was struck down by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2024 over the supremacy clause and is now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. The bill seeks to reenact certain portions of the original legislation that were not struck down by the court. During bill progression, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which removed some of the old language distinct to federal firearms laws that was struck down to more closely mirror the Senate companion bill [SB 23](#) and narrowed the civil standings under which lawsuits may be filed. During the heated debate, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to ensure those who hire federal employees, namely veterans, were not penalized. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Firearms Coalition and Women for Gun Rights. Opposing testimony was presented by Missouri First, the Rolla Police Department, Law Enforcement Legislation Coalition, Missouri Police Chiefs Association, the Columbia Police Department, the Branson Police Department, Missouri Sheriffs United, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Missouri Fraternal Order of Police and the Versailles Police Department.

## **Sheriffs - Constitutional**

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Monday to debate [SJR 40](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). Upon voter approval, the resolution provides that each county and St. Louis City shall elect a sheriff for a term of four years. The sheriff shall be notified of federal investigations in his or her jurisdiction and may be removed from office by a quo warranto petition brought by the Attorney General. During debate, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to provide a grammatical change and modify the ballot summary. Once modified, the Senate provided its first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

## **SOS Fee Collections**

The Senate Economic and Workforce Development Committee convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 770](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Banderman (R-St. Clair). Currently, numerous fees collected by the Secretary of State and credited to the Secretary of State's Technology Trust Fund are set to expire in 2026. The bill extends the date of expiration on these funds to 2030. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Secretary of State who stated the fund was established in 1994, providing the ability to upgrade technology throughout the agency without using general revenue. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

## **Sports Omnibus**

The Senate took up and dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to revisit [SB 80](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). The bill extends eligibility for a high school student athlete to earn compensation for the use of the Name, Image, or Likeness, if they have signed a letter of intent with an accredited university or college and intend to participate in athletics sponsored by the signing institution. The bill also allows student athletes who attend public schools to use their image or likeness as identified by the high school they attend for the purpose of negotiating compensation with a college or university. During previous debate, the bill was amended to include [SB 713](#), relating to Clay County sports complex authorities, [SB 676](#), relating to convention and sports facility authorities, and [SB 184](#), relating to tax credits for certain sporting events. After no debate, the Senate Third Read and Passed the bill by a 26-6 vote. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

### **St. Charles Convention/Sports Facility Authority**

The Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 676](#), sponsored by Senator Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 1229](#), sponsored by Representative Mike Costlow (R-Dardenne Prairie). Current law authorizes St. Charles County to establish the St. Charles County Convention and Sports Facilities Authority for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining convention, visitor, and sports facilities. This bill authorizes the authority to designate a project area for the acquisition, planning, construction, equipping, operation, maintenance, repair, extension, and improvement of a regional sports facility intended to provide year-round sports opportunities and draw participants from outside of the state. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

### **St. Louis Entertainment District**

The Senate Economic and Workforce Development Committee met Wednesday morning to discuss [SB 782](#), sponsored by Senator Steven Roberts (D-St. Louis). The bill is a targeted effort to enhance public safety, economic viability and tourism within the city of St. Louis by creating an entertainment district in the downtown and central business corridor. Supporting testimony was presented by the law firm of Husch Blackwell who stated they represent a number of community stakeholders who are heartened to have a say in additional peace officers who are post certified. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **State Board of Education**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1413](#), sponsored by Representative Ann Kelley (R-Lamar). The bill modifies the appointment of teacher representatives to the State Board of Education by clarifying the teacher representative must not be appointed from the same congressional district as the immediately preceding teacher representative, rather than requiring all appointments to be made in rotation from each congressional district. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which clarified the teacher representative must not be appointed from the same district from the previous two terms before. Additionally, the substitute removes the sunset from the bill. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 20-0 vote.

### **State Department Purchasing**

The House Committee on Government Efficiency convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1570](#), sponsored by Representative John Black (R-Mansfield). Currently, all State purchases in excess of \$10,000 are based on competitive bids. On purchases where the estimated expenditure will be \$100,000 or more, the Commissioner of Administration advertises for and solicits bids, then selects the lowest and best bid. The bill seeks to allow any State department to conduct its own purchasing according to the procedures and requirements of Chapter 34. The Commissioner of Administration will cooperate with and assist any State department requesting to conduct its own purchasing. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 15-0 vote.

### **Students - Nonresident**

The Senate Committee on Education convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 711](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia). The bill allows nonresident pupils to enroll in public schools in the state with certain conditions and outlines the procedures and policies necessary to

allow students to transfer between nonresident school districts. Specifically, the legislation would allow students to leave their resident school district to enroll in adjoining districts that opt into the open enrollment program, for a total of up to 3% of the district's student population in the previous year. Transportation would be parents' responsibility, unless the child qualifies for free or reduced lunch or has transportation under an individualized education plan. The bill also establishes the "Parent Public School Choice Fund" to compensate districts for the costs associated with transporting students with specialized needs or who qualify for free and reduced lunch, subject to appropriation. Additionally, the bill prohibits a transferring nonresident student from participating in varsity athletics for at least 365 days and allows any student to participate in open enrollment as long as the transfer does not cause the district to conflict with a provision of an enforceable desegregation court ordered or a court approved desegregation plan. Finally, the bill requires students in a K-8 district wishing to transfer out of the district to do so before their sixth grade year and outlines the process for transportation reimbursement in the event the General Assembly fails to appropriate sufficient funds to the public school choice fund. During bill progression, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which modified several provisions within the bill. Specifically, the substitute:

- Modified the definition of transfer student to include family-based education and non-public school kids and they will count for the 3% cap for the districts;
- Alters the timelines to one month earlier;
- Prohibits school districts from including in their model policy they will not take special education students but does allow for school districts to modify IEPs based on the resources available and allows the parent to decide to return to their original district or not;
- Modifies the timelines for acceptance or rejection of applications for school districts;
- Adds exemptions to the one year attendance requirement;
- Allows for districts to remove a child from open enrollment if their attendance rate falls below 80%;
- Limits transportation to 30 miles; and,
- Requires students who use the open enrollment portal to stay in the new district for two years rather than one.

During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which clarifies children may open enroll to charter schools, moved the 3% to 5% and removed the provisions regarding transportation. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-1 vote.

### **Students – Nontraditional**

The House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education convened Wednesday afternoon to discuss passage of [SB 63](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). The bill removes a requirement for parents to submit a declaration to homeschool to the county recorder or residing school district superintendent. Additionally, the bill prohibits school districts from being members of statewide activities associations which prohibit virtual or home-school students from participating in any event or activities. Finally, the bill outlines how virtual instruction program or home-school students may participate in a resident district school-sponsored activity, athletic team, or extracurricular club or event. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added definitions for "athletics," "event" and "activity," clearly defined FPE schools, removed the provisions referencing MSHA, added co-curricular events to the list that schools may not restrict participation and removed provisions requiring background checks of parents and children doing FPE. Additionally, the substitute clarifies participation requires a try-out for certain activities. Finally, the substitute broadens who can be a

sponsoring entity for recovery high schools. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by an 18-4 vote.

### **Sunshine Law**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 145](#), sponsored by Representative Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph). The bill allows for closure of records if they contain personally identifiable information of minors, and the record is held by a city or park board. The bill includes an exemption to the sunshine law for utility records, county and municipal park records, and records regarding endangered plants or animals. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Municipal League who stated many cities sponsor recreational programs and other activities where minors are participants and this would protect their records from predators. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, Missouri Parks and Rec Association, and the Missouri Press Association. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Tax Credit – Childcare**

The Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 269](#), sponsored by Representative Brenda Shields (R-St. Joseph). This is the companion to [SB 455](#), sponsored by Senator Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield) and establishes the "Childcare Contribution Tax Credit Act". Beginning January 1, 2025, a taxpayer may claim a tax credit for verified contributions to a childcare provider in an amount equal to 75% of the contribution. The minimum amount of any tax credit issued shall not be less than \$100 and shall not exceed \$200,000 per tax year. The tax credit has a sunset of December 31, 2030. Additionally, the bill also establishes the "Employer Provided Childcare Assistance Tax Credit Act". Beginning January 1, 2025, a taxpayer with two or more employees may claim a tax credit equal to 30% of the qualified childcare expenditures paid or incurred to a childcare facility and shall not exceed \$200,000 per tax year. The tax credit has a sunset of December 31, 2030. Finally, the bill also establishes the "Childcare Providers Tax Credit Act". Beginning January 1, 2025, a childcare provider with three or more employees may claim a tax credit equal to the eligible employer withholding tax and may also claim a credit in an amount up to 30% of the capital expenditures but not if expenditures are less than \$1,000. The program has a sunset of December 31, 2030. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-2 vote.

### **Tax Credit – Motion Media**

The Committee on Economic Development convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [HB 1499](#), sponsored by Representative Colin Wellenkamp (R-St. Charles). The bill modifies the Show MO Act tax credit caps for qualified motion media production projects by consolidating the two \$8 million funds within the program for film and tv, into one consolidated fund of \$16 million. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

### **Tax Credit Omnibus**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 326](#), sponsored by Representative Brenda Shields (R-St. Joseph). The bill modifies the "Champion for Children Tax Credit" by altering the timeframe for when the applications must be filed and modifies provisions regarding denials of the tax credit when the maximum amount for the credit is claimed. Additionally, the bill modifies the "Donated Food Tax Credit" by altering the day by which the director of the Department of Revenue must establish a procedure to apportion the cumulative amount of tax credits and modifies provisions regarding denials

of the tax credit when the maximum amount for the credit is claimed. During debate, Representative Becky Laubinger (R-Park Hills) successfully amended the bill to modify the definition of “diaper bank” and modify the tax credit. Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis) further amended the bill by adding [HB 501](#) which modifies provisions relating to tax credits for sporting events. Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Tax Credit Penalties**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday to revisit [HB 828](#), sponsored by Representative Becky Laubinger (R-Park Hills). This is the House companion to [SB 67](#) and exempts taxpayers from penalties or interest on an income tax balance due if the taxpayer is denied part or all of a tax credit which they have qualified for due to the lack of available funds for the credit. During bill progression, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which aligns the language with the [SB 67](#), which is the Senate companion bill. Additionally, the substitute clarifies penalties may still be applied to other balances owed that are not tax credit related. After no further debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 151-0 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Tax Credits – Agricultural**

The House Committee on Agriculture convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 466](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). The bill seeks to eliminate the sunset for several agriculture tax credits that are set to expire December 31, 2028. Specifically, the bill eliminates the sunsets on the wood energy tax credit; meat processing facilities tax credit; higher ethanol fuel tax credit; biodiesel retail sale tax credit; urban farms tax credit; rolling stock tax credit; agriculture production tax credits; and specialty agricultural crops tax credit. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions:

- [HB 828](#), which modifies the filing of income taxes for sale or lease of farmland for beginning farmers;
- [HB 1042](#), modifies provisions relating to income taxes for certain farmers; and,
- [HB 669](#), authorizes a tax credit for certain railroad expenses.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 16-2 vote.

### **Taxation – Earnings (2)**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Monday to revisit [HB 499](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). Currently, St. Louis imposes a flat 1% local income tax, also known as the earnings tax, on both individuals and businesses. Rather than eliminating the tax citywide the bill establishes “earnings tax opportunity zones”, which are zones that are federally designated and are St. Louis’ most distressed communities. These zones will be mapped and maintained by the City and will be exempt from the earnings tax. The bill applies only to St. Louis and the sponsors intent of the legislation is to provide targeted earnings tax relief to encourage investment and job creation in the City of St. Louis. During Perfection, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to change the implementation date from 2024 to 2026. Additionally, Representative Steve Butz (R-St. Louis) successfully amended the bill by carving out the NGA West Campus from the bill’s provisions. After a brief debate, the House Third Read and Passed the bill by a 103-44 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

The Senate Economic and Workforce Development Committee convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 381](#), sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). The bill is the Senate companion to [HB 499](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis) and currently, St. Louis and Kansas City imposes a flat 1% local income tax, also known as the earnings tax, on individuals and businesses. The bill provides that earnings tax shall not be imposed upon the salaries of residents of or persons performing work in an earnings tax opportunity zone, nor on the net profits of businesses performing work in an earnings tax opportunity zone. Opposing testimony was presented by the City of Kansas City, Northland Chamber of Commerce, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, and the City of St. Louis. No supporting testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Taxation – Parks**

The House Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 1271](#), sponsored by Representative Colin Wellenkamp (R-St. Charles). The bill allows sales taxes collected for county parks to be used for storm water management projects or other infrastructure projects that would augment or otherwise benefit the park or the surrounding area. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added language to clarify the funds may be used to acquire land or create greenways. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 12-0 vote.

### **Taxation Jurisdiction Omnibus**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Monday afternoon to discuss passage of [HB 643](#), sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Crocker). The bill adds any county that borders the Lake of the Ozarks to an existing statutory authorization allowing the creation of a theater, cultural arts, and entertainment district. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which added five new provisions to create an omnibus taxing jurisdiction package. Specifically, the bill now includes:

- [SB 613](#), modifies provisions relating to neighborhood improvement districts;
- [SB 547](#), modifies provisions relating to law enforcement sales taxes;
- [HB 727](#), authorizes a county sales tax for supporting the operations of hospital services in Bates County upon voter approval;
- [HB 1229](#), modifies provisions relating to certain convention and sports facility authorities; and,
- [HB 1524](#), modifies provisions relating to community improvement district “entertainment districts.”

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

### **Telehealth Services**

The Senate Committee on Families, Seniors and Health convened Wednesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 825](#), sponsored by Representative Melanie Stinnett (R-Springfield). The bills are identical and modify the definition of “telehealth services” to include audiovisual and audio only services and expands which third-party platforms “telehealth services” may be provided. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri State Medical Association and the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons who stated this legislation is a common sense way to improve the current healthcare delivery model. Additional supporting testimony was provided by the Missouri Nurses Association, Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, Missouri Association of Pediatricians and

the Missouri Association of Psychologists, SSM Health, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Missouri Hospital Association, BJC Healthcare, Cox Health, National Association of Social Workers, Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics, Rankin Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital and the REACH Foundation. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

### **Tort Liability Payments**

The House took up and dedicated floor time Wednesday to debate [HB 952](#), sponsored by Representative Matthew Overcast (R-Ava). The bill provides that a portion of a plaintiff's claim for damages can be satisfied by a reimbursement from a defendant or a defendant's insurer or authorized representative if all or any part of the plaintiff's deductible and damages are reimbursed to the plaintiff's insurer by the defendant or his or her insurer or authorized representative and if the plaintiff would have a potential double recovery. After a brief debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes and Perfected the bill by voice vote.

### **Tort Reform**

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Tuesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 826](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall). The bill repeals current provisions regarding fault in tort actions and provides that each defendant be liable only for the damages in direct proportion to that defendant's percentage of fault. If a plaintiff is found to bear fifty-one or more of the percentage of fault, then that plaintiff shall not be entitled to recovery. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 4-2 vote.

### **Veteran Brain Injury Therapy**

The Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs convened Wednesday afternoon for a public hearing on [HB 262](#), sponsored by Representative Chris Brown (R-Kansas City). The bill establishes the Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment and Recovery Act, which creates a fund to reimburse facilities that provide hyperbaric oxygen therapy to veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, and it is to be used to conduct studies on the use of alternative therapies for these conditions. During the bill's progression, the bill was amended to remove the provisions regarding DHSS and requires the veteran's approval to share their data with the Veteran's Commission regarding treatment. Supporting testimony was presented by Representative Dave Griffith (R-Jefferson City) who stated this is a priority bill for veterans. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee immediately went into executive session and, with no further discussion, passed the bill by a 4-0 vote.

### **Veteran Wellness Checks**

The House Committee on Veterans and Armed Forces convened Thursday morning to discuss passage of [HB 948](#), sponsored by Representative Micheal Johnson (D-Kansas City). The bill establishes the "Veterans Well-Being and Resource Outreach Act" and requires the Veterans Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, to establish a program that provides wellness checks for at-risk veterans. The bill requires the wellness checks to be conducted twice a month and be performed by a veteran or a person who has received training in medical, mental health or vocational needs of veterans. After a lengthy discussion, the committee ultimately determined the bill requires changes to address the fiscal note and how the program will be implemented and plan to vote the bill out next week.

## **Voter Registration Forms**

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Elections and Pensions convened Monday afternoon for a public hearing on [SB 280](#), sponsored by Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby). Current law requires all applicants for a driver's license to be provided a voter registration application form simultaneously during the transaction. The bill requires the Division of Motor Vehicle and Driver Licensing within the Department of Revenue to additionally determine whether an applicant for a driver's license has the requisite proof of citizenship needed to register to vote. During discussion, a Senate Committee Substitute was adopted which requires an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Director of the Department of Revenue for matching information in the voter registration database with information in the motor vehicle system to include information pertaining to the citizenship status of those within the Department of Revenue's database. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 4-0-1 vote.

## **Vulnerable Persons Omnibus**

The House Committee on Children and Families convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [SB 66](#), sponsored by Senator Tracy McCreery (D-Olivette). The bill raises the age of marriage from 16 to 18. During discussion, a House Committee Substitute was adopted which added the following provisions to the bill to create a protection for vulnerable persons omnibus package:

- [HB 121](#), which establishes the “Safe Place for Newborns Fund” for the installation of newborn safety incubators;
- [HB 243](#), allows the court to enter a judgement of dissolution of marriage or legal separation if a person is pregnant;
- [HB 902](#), which prohibits the use of gas chambers to euthanize dogs or cats;
- [HB 1298](#), modifies provisions relating to abuse and neglect reporting, including a requirement to report companion animal abuse;
- [HB 1464](#), modifies and establishes provisions relating to the protection of children and vulnerable persons; and,
- [HB 1522](#), modifies provisions of the diaper bank tax credit.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 14-0 vote.

## **Workers' Compensation (2)**

The Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss passage of [SB 667](#), sponsored by Senator Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre). The bill modifies provisions relating to workers' compensation. Specifically, the bill permits the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission to change the name, information, or fee arrangement of the attorney or law firm representing a claimant upon the filing of a written agreement, signed by both the claimant and the attorney, with the commission. The bill also repeals a requirement that Administrative Law Judge Review Committee members not have any direct or indirect employment or financial connection with a workers' compensation insurance company, claims adjustment company, health care provider nor be a practicing workers' compensation attorney and additionally repeals a requirement that all members of the Committee have a working knowledge of workers' compensation. Lastly, the bill provides that the compensation for ALJs and chief administrative law judges shall be determined solely by the rate outlined in law and shall not increase when pay raises for executive employees are appropriated. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 5-0 vote.

The Senate Committee on General Laws convened Tuesday morning for a public hearing on [HB 497](#), sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). The bill seeks to modify several provisions relating to workers' compensation by clarifying the prevailing factors standards to ensure injuries, medical conditions, and disabilities, and the need for treatment are truly the result of a workplace accident and not preexisting conditions that may have been exacerbated. Additionally, the bill adjusts how insurance savings are considered in awards, to prevent situations where employees receive compensation for medical expenses that were already covered by other sources. Finally, the bill creates an early motion to dismiss mechanism for cases that are fundamentally deficient such as those filed untimely, employee was intoxicated, or the accident did not occur during the course of employment. Supporting testimony was presented by the Missouri Auto Dealers Association, Missouri Civil Justice Reform Coalition, Missouri Association of Counties, Associated Industries of Missouri, Missouri Insurance Coalition, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Missouri Grocers Association, and the Missouri Retailers Association. Opposing testimony was presented by the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, and the Missouri AFL-CIO.

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

The Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee convened Monday for a public hearing on [SB 672](#), sponsored by Senator David Gregory (R-Ballwin). The bill, known as the Alexander Whalen Safe Highways Act, requires Missouri's Department of Transportation to install wrong-way vehicle detection systems (WWVDSs) at high-risk interchanges by March 1, 2026. These systems will alert nearby drivers, notify emergency responders, and be supported by a statewide education campaign. The Department must also submit annual reports on the implementation and effectiveness of the systems. Supporting testimony was provided by Senator Gregory; Dawn Whalen, a grieving mother whose son was killed in a wrong-way crash; Alexander Whalen's uncle; and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Witnesses emphasized that the bill would enhance signage, deploy real-time detection technology, and help law enforcement respond more effectively to wrong-way drivers, ultimately saving lives and preventing tragedies. No opposing testimony was presented.

### **Hearing Schedules:**

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

### **Calendars:**

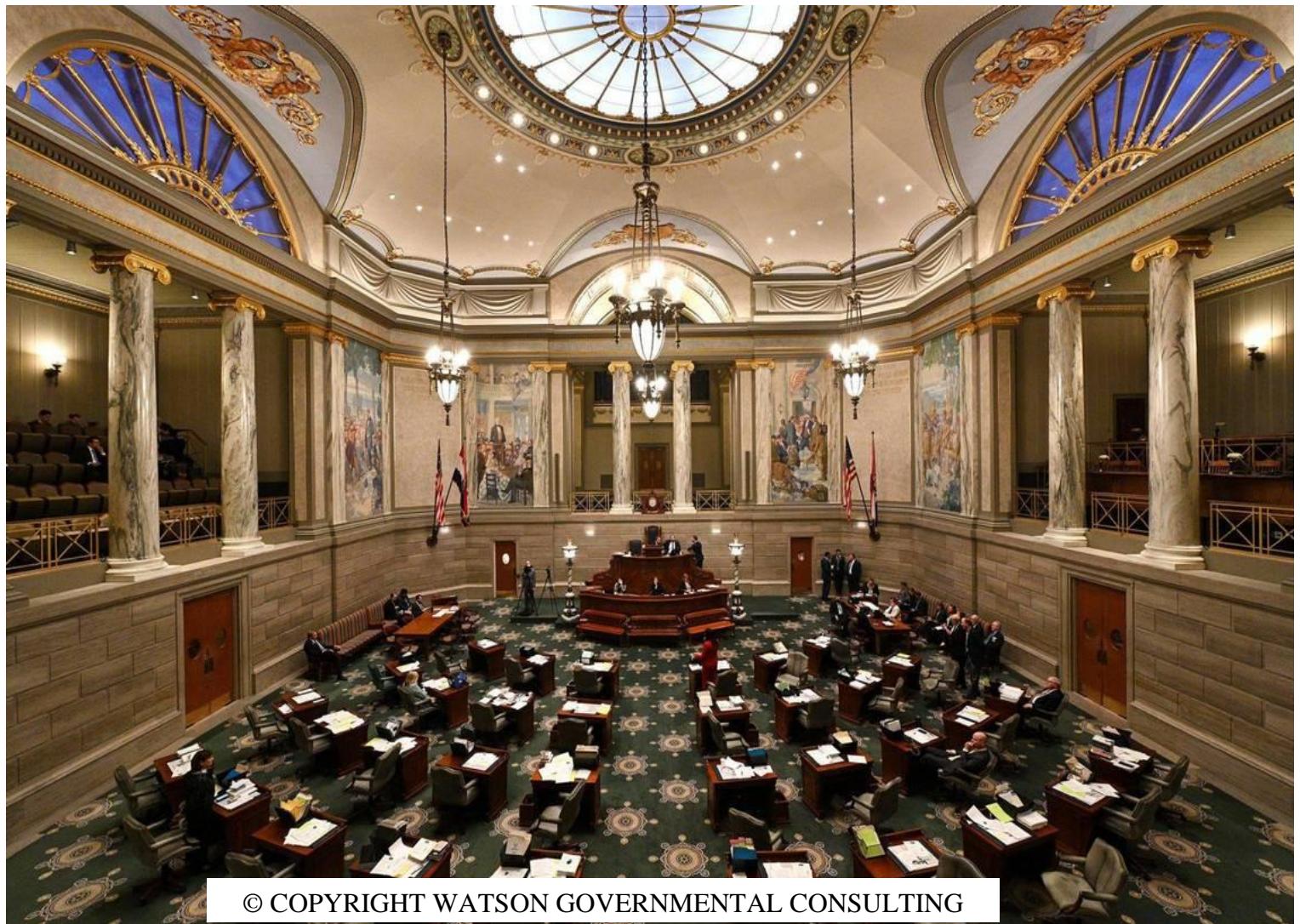
[House](#)

[Senate](#)

### **Key Upcoming Dates:**

- April 21, 2025 – Easter Holiday – No Session
- May 9, 2025 – Fiscal Year 2026 budget bills must be passed by 6 pm
- May 16, 2025 – Last day of Legislative Session – adjourn by 6pm
- July 14, 2025 – Last day for the Governor to sign or veto legislation
- September 10, 2025 – Veto Session

*-End of Report-*



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