

December 7, 2023

Good afternoon!

Bill filing began on December 1 which means the 2024 regular session is weeks away. Heyo! Regular session begins on Wednesday, January 3.

Your custom bill report is available [online](#). This will be your custom bill report webpage for the 2024 session. It will update in real time when the committee and floor activity again. You will continue to receive regular legislative updates with committee and floor debate notes.

URL - <https://govwatch.net/report/XAW56lproD>

You can also track budget issues - <https://govwatch.net/report/3BrZGoGqA5>.

You have already heard from us if we flagged a prefiled bill needing your immediate attention. If you see something on your custom bill report that is high priority, please do not hesitate to flag it for us.

At the time of this report a total of 1032 have been filed. At this time last year, only about 750 bills had been filed. What's also odd is there are more bills filed in the Senate than in the House. It's usually in reverse. What's up with that..?

Total 1045

Senate 561

House 484

Legislation to be considered during the 2024 legislative session include everything from elimination of the personal property tax, property tax assessments, tax credit programs, sports wagering, video lottery terminals, foreign ownership of land, election and initiative petition reform, and tons of other bills affecting local governments and elementary and secondary education.

As always, it's a pleasure to work with you and your behalf in Jefferson and across the great state of Missouri!

Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement

The Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement convened on December 1. Pension Analyst Robert Coleman provided a brief update regarding the quarterly report of the public pension plans. During the presentation, Coleman informed committee members that 45 plans were included in the report and most of the plans showed positive return and recovery after the volatility of 2022. Coleman then presented to the committee the pension watch list for the year

2023. Currently, there are thirteen plans on the watch list, which was noted to be more than the previous year but lower than expected given the volatility of 2022. He then provided a brief description of each plan and why they are on the watch list as well as what to expect going forward. Coleman made it a point to bring attention to two plans that appeared on the watch list, which were Poplar Bluff Police Retirement Plan and St. Louis Public School Retirement System. After discussing the watch list, the committee adjourned.

Tidbits

- This week Governor Mike Parson announced the annual state's Consensus Revenue Estimate (CRE) for Fiscal Year (FY) 25, which is a figure established by state budget experts and is one of the basic assumptions used by the Governor and legislative leaders to build and balance Missouri's budget. As part of those projections, they revised the anticipated estimate for the current year from a 7% increase, to a .7% decrease. Net general revenue collections in FY25 are expected to be \$13.16 billion, which represents only a 0.2 percent net general revenue growth over the revised CRE for FY24. Governor Parson will outline his proposed FY25 budget during his annual State of the State address in January.
- On Monday, Governor Mike Parson named Trevor Foley as the new Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections. Foley has previously worked as a budget analyst for the Senate and has held various positions in the Department of Corrections, including the position of Deputy Director.
- On Tuesday, the Missouri Board of Education announced they had unanimously voted to appoint Senator Karla Eslinger (R-Wasola) to serve as the new Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Senator Eslinger will be replacing retiring Commissioner Margie Van Deven who has announced she will be retiring effective July 1, 2024. The timing will allow Eslinger to complete the upcoming 2024 legislative session that ends in May. Senator Eslinger is a former school superintendent in southern Missouri who was elected to the State House of Representatives in 2018, and the State Senate in 2024.

Budget Update

The House Budget process for Fiscal Year 2025 is in full swing with the various sub-committees meeting this week to hear presentations from the departments regarding their Fiscal Year 2024 Supplemental Budget requests and the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget requests. The hearings this year have differed from those in the past as the departments gave high level overviews of their duties and successes, instead of going line by line through the budget books. This new format led to marathon hearings as committee members sought to find answers for their questions. House Budget leadership has announced they plan to deliver the House version of the budget to the Senate before the Legislative Spring Break in March to allow more time for the Senate to craft their version of the budget.

As the hearings progressed throughout the day and into the evening, the various Chief Financial Officers noted many of these department requests would change once Governor Mike Parson crafts his Executive Budget. This budget is typically released the third week of January after

Governor Mike Parson delivers his State of the State address. It should also be noted the deadline for the spending of most ARPA funding will be fast approaching so this will be the last year for an ARPA spending bill and many of those items will be reappropriation of already dedicated funding.

The DHSS appropriations subcommittee is scheduled to meet next week.

Upcoming Hearings

12/11/2023 10:30 AM [House-Appropriations-Health, Mental Health, and Social Services Committee, HR 3](#)

The Department of Mental Health will be presenting their FY25 department requests and FY24 supplemental requests.

12/11/2023 12:30 PM [House-Appropriations-Education Committee, HR 3](#)

The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development will be presenting their FY 25 department requests and FY 24 supplemental requests. *Informational overview provided by the Council on Public Higher Education, the Missouri Community College Association, and the University of Missouri System.

12/12/2023 10:00 AM [House-Appropriations-Health, Mental Health, and Social Services Committee, HR 7](#)

The Department of Health and Senior Services will be presenting their FY25 department requests and FY24 supplemental requests.

12/12/2023 12:00 PM [House-Appropriations-Education Committee, HR 3](#)

The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development will be presenting their FY 25 department requests and FY 24 supplemental requests. *Informational overview provided by the Council on Public Higher Education, the Missouri Community College Association, and the University of Missouri System.

12/13/2023 10:00 AM [House-Appropriations-Public Safety, Corrections, Transportation, and Revenue Committee, HR 3](#)

The Department of Corrections, Department of Revenue, Missouri Lottery, State Tax Commission, and MODOT will be presenting their FY25 department requests and FY24 supplemental requests

12/14/2023 10:00 AM [House-Appropriations-Public Safety, Corrections, Transportation, and Revenue Committee, HR 3](#)

The Department of Public Safety, and the Missouri National Guard will be presenting their FY25 department requests and FY24 supplemental requests.

12/19/2023 10:00 AM [House-Appropriations-General Administration Committee, HR 3](#)

The Office of Administration, Employee Benefits, Public Debt, Real Estate, Judiciary, Public Defender, General Assembly, Secretary of State, Lt. Governor, Governor, State Auditor, State Treasurer, and Attorney General will be presenting their FY 25 department budget requests and FY 24 supplemental budget requests.

Key Dates

- January 3, 2024 – First day of the 2024 Legislative session
- January 15, 2024 – MLK Day – No Session
- January 24, 2024- State of the State Address
- March 1, 2024 – Last day of bill filing
- March 18-22, 2024 - Legislative Spring Break
- May 10, 2024 – Last Day to Constitutionally pass the FY 2025 Budget
- May 17, 2024 – Last Day of the 2024 Legislative session

--

Brittany Robbins
Strategic Capitol Consulting (SCC)
Chief Operating Officer, Communications
314-712-8646
brittany@strategiclobby.com
www.strategiclobby.com