

March 10, 2022

Spring break season has commenced and we are at the halfway point of the 2022 regular session. While the Senate continues to remain dysfunctional, panic is starting to set in as time is running out to get legislation across the finish line before May 13.

Below is a recap of the week, a full budget report and your floor and committee notes. No reports next week. We will resume usual communication the week of March 21.

Thanks and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns!

Senator Thompson Rehder Draws a Line

On Wednesday morning a press conference was held outside the Senate Chamber to publicly draw a line and show that a large group of senators had enough of the Senate Conservative Caucus shenanigans. A bi-partisan group of 19 senators participated. Senator Thompson Rehder led the press conference with her colleagues standing behind her, including Senators Hegeman, Rowden, Rizzo, Beck, Williams, Luetkemeyer, Brown, May, Washington, Moseley, Arthur, Eslinger, Riddle, Cierpiot, Bean, Schupp, Hough, Razer, and Gannon.

The 10 Republicans and nine Democrats joined together to draw attention to the institutional history and process of the Missouri Senate that is being hijacked by a small group of Senators. Senators Brattin, Onder, Hoskins, Moon, and Eigel were named during the press conference as being the obstructors.

Senator Thompson Rehder was attempting to pass a non-partisan, non-controversial bill regarding Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights the evening before when Sen. Brattin attempted to attach a controversial amendment to the bill.

When the Senate convened for the day, shortly after the press conference, Sen. Hoskins (R – Warrensburg) spoke for over 90 minutes expressing his displeasure with the press conference. He proceeded to read Sen. Thompson Rehder's bill line by line while commenting on each paragraph.

Your Committee and Floor Notes this Week

Appropriation of State Funds

The House Special Committee on Government Oversight convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss HJR 134, sponsored by Representative Jered Taylor (R-Republic). Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment subjects the State Road Fund to appropriation by the General Assembly as well as subject funding for the Conservation Commission and Department of Conservation to appropriation by the General Assembly. Several private citizens submitted supporting testimony online. Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, The Nature Conservancy of Missouri, Sierra Club Missouri Chapter, MoDOT, National Wild Turkey Federation, Conservation Federation of Missouri, and dozens of private citizens provided opposing testimony. The Department of Conservation provided informational testimony.

State Employee Pay Period

The Senate Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee met Thursday morning to consider passage of SB 997, sponsored by Senator Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City). Current law requires the salaries of all elective and appointive officers and employees of the state to be paid out in

semimonthly or monthly installments. The bill allows salaries to additionally be paid out in biweekly installments. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 6-0 vote.

Legislation Passed at Halfway Point of Session

The Missouri House of Representatives passed and sent thirty-eight bills to the Missouri Senate. The Senate, on the other hand, finished 7 bills and sent them to the House. Legislation that has crossed chambers at the half-way mark of the legislative session typically has a stronger chance of reaching the finish line.

The House bills that have crossed over to the Senate include:

1. HCS / HB 1552 – sponsored by Rep. Richey (R – Excelsior Springs) provides education reforms.
2. HB 1555 – sponsored by Rep. Gregory (R – St. Louis) allows direct access to physical therapists.
3. HCS / HB 1590 – sponsored by Rep. Fitzwater (R – Holts Summit) relates to economic development.
4. HB 1667 – sponsored by Rep. Christofanelli (R – St. Charles) relates to the sale of kratom products.
5. HCS / HB 1686 – sponsored by Rep. Hardwick (R – Waynesville) refusal rights to COVID-19 vaccines.
6. HB 1697 – sponsored by Rep. Baker (R – Neosho) allows cottage food production operations to sell food over the internet.
7. HCS / HB 1720 – sponsored by Rep. Pollitt (R – Sedalia) relates to agriculture.
8. HCS / HB 1814 – sponsored by Rep. Pollitt (R – Sedalia) relating to student transfers.
9. HCS / HB 1986 – sponsored by Rep. Brown (R – Kansas City) relates to funding for the Kansas City Police Department.
10. HCS / HBs 2116, 2097, 1690 & 2221 – sponsored by Rep. Black (R – Chillicothe) relates to visitation rights of patients.
11. HCS / HB 2117 – sponsored by Rep. Shaul (R – Imperial) creates provisions for redistricting federal congressional seats.
12. HB 2149 – sponsored by Rep. Shields (R – St. Joseph) relating to physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.
13. HB 2162 – sponsored by Rep. Deaton (R – Noel) relating to the opioid addiction treatment and recovery fund.
14. HCS / HBs 2358 & 1485 – sponsored by Rep. Evans (R – West Plains) relating to vaccine discrimination, employee misconduct, and workers' compensation.
15. HCS / HJR 79 – sponsored by Rep. Henderson (R – Bonne Terre), relating to initiative petitions and referendums.
16. HCS / HJR 117 – sponsored by Rep. Smith (R – Carthage) constitutional amendment relating to MO HealthNet.
17. HB 1861 – sponsored by Rep. Eggleston (R – Maysville) relating to COVID-19 vaccinations.
18. HB 1589 – sponsored by Rep. Fitzwater (R – Holts Summit) relates to sex offenders.
19. HCS / HB 1462 – sponsored by Rep. Schnelting (R – St. Charles) relates to firearms on public transit.
20. HB 1473 – sponsored by Rep. Pike (R – Butler) relating to LAGERS.
21. HB 1481 – sponsored by Rep. Dinkins (R – Annapolis) relating to schools.
22. HB 1541 – sponsored by Rep. McGirl (R – Potosi) relating to special road districts.
23. HB 1584 – sponsored by Rep. Murphey (R – St. Louis) relating to political subdivisions.
24. HB 1600 – sponsored by Rep. Chipman (R - Steeleville) relating to employees of General Assembly.
25. HB 1713 – sponsored by Rep. Riley (R – Springfield) establishes Missouri Religious Freedom Protection Act.
26. HB 1725 – sponsored by Rep. Hudson (R – Cape Fair) relating to lodging.
27. HCS / HB 1732 – sponsored by Rep. O'Donnell (R – St. Louis) relating to retirement.
28. HB 1738 – sponsored by Rep. Dogan (R – Ballwin) relating to highway naming.
29. HCS / HBs 1743 & 2185 – sponsored by Rep. Dogan (R – Ballwin) relating to hair.
30. HB 1878 – sponsored by Rep. Simmons (R - Washington) relating to voter identification.
31. HCS / HBs 1897 & 2414 – sponsored by Rep. DeGroot (R – Chesterfield) relating to Correctional center nursery program.
32. HCS / HB 2168 – sponsored by Rep. Porter (R – Montgomery City) relating to insurance.

33. HCS / HB 2304 – sponsored by Rep. Lewis (R – Moberly) relates to substitute teachers.
34. HCS / HJR 91 – sponsored by Rep. Eggleston (R – Maysville) relating to initiative petitions.
35. HJR 94 – sponsored by Rep. Simmons (R – Washington) relating to voter identification.
36. HB 2366 – sponsored by Rep. Shields (R – St. Joseph) related to gifted children.
37. HB 1724 – sponsored by Rep. Hudson (R – Cape Fair) relating to religion.

One House bill has made its way completely through the legislative process and signed by Governor Parson. The Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed bill, SS / SCS / HCS / HB 3014 is the emergency supplemental spending package that provides funding for the remaining few months of the current fiscal year's expenditures.

The Senate bills that have crossed over to the House include:

1. SB 652 – sponsored by Sen. Rizzo (R – Independence) relating to the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
2. SB 655 – sponsored by Sen. Crawford (R – Buffalo) relating to Missouri Local Government Employees' Retirement System.
3. SS / SCS / SB 672 – sponsored by Sen. Hough (R – Springfield) relating to workforce development.
4. SS / SB 678 – sponsored by Sen. Luetkemeyer (R – St. Joseph) relating to funding for the Kansas City Police Department.
5. SS / SCS / SBs 681 & 662 – sponsored by Sen. O'Laughlin (R – Shelbina) relating to educational outcomes.
6. SCS / SB 799 – sponsored by Sen. Hegeman (R – Cosby) relating to escaping from custody.
7. SS / SJR 33 – sponsored by Sen. Koenig (R – Manchester) relating to taxation.

State of the Judiciary

On Tuesday, Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul C. Wilson provided the annual State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the General Assembly. Chief Justice Wilson focused his address on five key areas the legislature needs to address. Specifically, he asked for a pay increase in order to retain and recruit additional staff to fully clear the backlog of cases which accrued during the pandemic. He noted forty percent of the jurists in the courtrooms are new appointees or recently elected and more training will be required for them and their staff. He also stressed reaching out to these new judges would help develop new ideas for future legislation. Court safety for staff and judges and their families was also an area Chief Justice Wilson addressed stressing the need for legislation to enhance the penalties or modify existing statutes. Another area in need of help is court technology which requires additional funding to ensure court automation and remote hearings can continue to be improved and upgraded. Finally, he asked for the legislature's help in expanding Veterans Treatment courts as there are only twelve programs serving thirty-seven counties and these are centered mostly around military installations and Veteran Affairs offices. Chief Justice Wilson ended his remarks by reminding the legislature the three branches of government were created to help each other and were not intended to be adversarial.

Key Upcoming Dates

- March 14-18, 2022– Legislative Spring Break
- April 18, 2022 – Easter Holiday – No Session
- May 6, 2022 – State Budget finalized per Missouri Constitution
- May 13, 2022 – Last day of the 2022 Legislative Session per Missouri Constitution
- July 1, 2022 – First day of Fiscal Year 2023
- July 14, 2022 – Last day for the Governor to Sign or Veto Bills
- August 28, 2022 – Date Most Legislation Takes Effect (unless another date is specified)
- September 14, 2022 – Veto Session

Budget Update

This week the House Budget subcommittees began the initial mark-up process by adopting recommendations they plan to present to the full budget committee members. These are recommendations only and must be adopted by the full committee. The Senate Appropriations Committee also completed hearings from the various departments this week and will receive a presentation from Budget Director Dan Haug regarding HB 3020 (ARPA) funds upon their return from Spring Break. Below you will find the recommendations made to the various committees.

Health, Mental Health, and Social Services

- A recommendation for \$1.9 million in federal funding from the Opioid Settlement for Opioid Addiction Treatment and Recovery Community Grants
- A recommendation of a \$2.3 million reduction in Aid to Local Health Public Health Departments (Representative Dirk Deaton has pledged to try and replace this with stimulus funding)
- A recommendation for \$1 million for a pilot program for In-Home Pharmaceutical dispensing devices and systems
- A recommendation for \$1.95 million for a Home Health Provider rate increase (the current rate is \$79.49 per visit, and this will increase it to \$125.19 per visit which is a \$45.70 increase)
- A recommendation for \$450,000 for a grant to non-profit organizations for prevention and education efforts concerning human trafficking through a program that reaches public and charter schools
- A recommendation for \$3.95 million for Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) rate increases (this is only for children's residential treatment)

Agriculture, Conservation, Natural Resources, and Economic Development

There were no recommendations made.

Public Safety, Corrections, Transportation, and Revenue

- A recommendation of a \$38,550,000 reduction to the GR transfer to the State Road Fund for bond debt service (this was a \$45.5 million item – Representative Don Mayhew intends the gas tax to cover this reduction and if it does not to use federal stimulus money – these funds were used to fund other items discussed below)
- A recommendation for \$22 million to the OATs program which provides transportation services to the elderly and handicapped
- A recommendation for \$2.4 million to Amtrak to ensure there is funding to support two trips daily
- A recommendation for \$2 million for the construction of a commercial terminal facility in Ft. Leonard Wood
- A recommendation of an \$89 million reduction to the Maintenance and repair of low-volume routes (the Governor's recommendation was \$100 million in this line – Representative Don Mayhew intends to redirect the money to two different funds)
- A recommendation of \$55.8 million to additional County Aid Road Trust contributions to be used of the off-system transportation system (this is the first part of the above redirection of funds discussed previously)
- A recommendation for \$33.2 million to be directed to the Veterans' Home Fund (this is the second part of the above redirection of funds discussed previously)
- A recommendation of \$1.9 million for a statewide, competitively bid school safety and emergency response application program for all public-school districts and an independent application exclusive to law enforcement to have the ability to be alerted if in close proximity to a triggered alert of an armed intruder from a school
- A recommendation of \$3 million for grants to drug task forces for the purchase of drug interdiction technologies
- A recommendation of an additional \$11 million to the Waterways Program for grants to port authorities (the Governor's recommendation was \$11.6 million)

Education

- A recommendation of a \$6,775,000 reduction to the ESSER III DESE Federal Emergency Relief 2021 Fund (this reduction was made to fund other items discussed below)

- A recommendation of a \$4.7 million reduction to the Dual Credit Scholarship Fund (the Governor's original recommendation was for \$7 million which will leave \$2.3 million)
- A recommendation of \$4.5 million for an increase to the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Fund
- A recommendation of \$100,000 for additional funding to the Missouri Scholars and Fine Arts Academies
- A recommendation of \$1 million for the purpose of providing tampons, sanitary napkins, and other related products in the school nurse's office, student health center or other areas designated by the school administration for all middle school, junior high, and high school buildings in which there are grades 6-12, at no charge to the student
- A recommendation of \$250,000 to hire school counselors to provide students with mental health services pertaining to suicide and other behavioral needs within the active shooter grant program

General Administration

There were no major changes beyond a recommendation of \$1 million for an additional circuit judge in the 39th circuit. However, a major language recommendation was made which reads as follows "No funds shall be expended to ANY entity that funds any events that require or inquire about COVID-19 vaccination status, COVID-19 testing results, or require a face mask be worn to attend unless directed to do so by Missouri state statute or a Governor's emergency order".

HB 3020 (ARPA)

- A recommendation of a \$375,611,211 reduction (Representative Doug Richey (R-Excelsior Springs) stated he is basing the recommendations off a three-year budget cycle instead of allocating the full amount) to the Departments of Corrections, Economic Development, Public Safety, MoDOT, Natural Resources, and Judiciary for the following programs:
 - \$8 million from State Tourism marketing
 - \$8.5 million from Wastewater Treatment Facilities
 - \$3 million from State Park Broadband and Wi-Fi
 - \$12 million from Broadband Affordability
 - \$2 million from court security and technology
 - \$175 million from community development and revitalization
 - \$10 million from workforce development
 - \$29,296,711 from Rock Island Trail development
- A recommendation for \$80 million for Industrial Site Development projects
- A recommendation for \$38 million for the development and deployment of NG911
- A recommendation for \$20 million for the testing, filtration, and remediation of lead in the drinking water sources within buildings housing early education, elementary, and secondary education programs which receive state funding
- A recommendation for \$88 million for the planning, design, construction, and equipping of an academy facility serving law enforcement agencies
- A recommendation of a \$5 million reduction to the Local Tourism Development fund for the purpose of funding crime prevention program grants
- A recommendation of a \$100 million reduction from the State Agency COVID response funds for the purpose of funding water infrastructure grants and lead service-line inventories, provided at least 50% is used in smaller communities

- A recommendation of a \$15,000 reduction from the Automotive Transformation study for the purpose of assisting a disadvantaged neighborhood with creating sustainable solutions for responding to conditions caused by homeless camps
- A recommendation of a \$10 million reduction to the Entertainment Venue Grant Program for the purpose of funding a small business grant program, provided that preference is given to rural, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses
- A recommendation of a \$32.8 million reduction to the State Agency COVID response funds for the purpose of funding the following:
 - A recommendation of an additional \$19.8 million for Local Tourism Development
 - A recommendation of an additional \$5.5 million for the Entertainment Venue Grant Program
 - A recommendation for \$5 million for 5 new autism clinics in Arc of the Ozarks
 - A recommendation for \$2.5 million for upgraded technologies for the Boys and Girls Club

Once the General Assembly returns from spring break, it is expected the House Budget Committee will first consider HB 3020 before considering any other budget bills, as there are some deadlines in September when funds must be dispersed.

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