



June 12, 2025

Just two weeks after Governor Mike Kehoe called lawmakers back to Jefferson City for the First Extraordinary Special Session focused on stadium funding, disaster relief and construction projects, it has officially ended. Despite ongoing tensions and division within the chambers, the legislature was able to pass all three of the governor's initial priorities and ultimately approved \$1.5 billion to finance the proposed stadium projects and an additional \$125 million of aid for communities that were affected by the recent tornados and storms.

The three special session bills were already approved in the Senate last week and the House dedicated this week to reviewing all three proposals. While state aid for communities and appropriations for various projects throughout the state received overwhelming support, many questioned rather to provide state tax dollars to financing the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals Stadiums that currently have leases that run until January 2031.

With the future of the Chiefs and the Kansas City Royals currently in flux due to financial incentives offered by both Kansas and Missouri, during Wednesday's debate in the House chamber, proponents highlighted the need to retain the two franchises not just for entertainment purposes but also highlighted the dollars that are generated for the state. Meanwhile, opponents of the legislation voiced concerns with providing tax dollars for wealthy team owners at the expense of Missourians.

While the stadium funding was a major topic of debate also on the House floor, the tax provisions were a particular point of contention for representatives on both sides of the aisle. After nearly three hours of debate and two failed amendment attempts, the House officially approved the proposed stadium funding, which now puts the decision on whether to stay in Missouri in the hands of the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals.

Approved legislation is highlighted below:

- [SB 1](#), sponsored by Senator Lincoln Hough (R–Springfield), includes appropriations for select state-owned projects not funded through general revenue passed by a 143-2 vote.
- [SB 3](#), sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory (R–Marshall), the most contentious of the three provides for amateur sports tax credits and proposed stadium financing passed by a narrow 90-53 vote; and

- [SB 4](#), sponsored by Senator Jason Bean (R–Holcomb), authorizes the expedited release of Missouri Housing Trust Fund resources for emergency aid passed by a 147-2 vote, with an emergency clause.

All three bills are now in the Governor's hands, and it is expected he will sign all three promptly.

### **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)**

As you recall, Missouri voters approved Amendment 2 in November, legalizing sports betting in Missouri and within the ballot provisions, the Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) is responsible for setting up the regulations aiming to have online sports betting fully operational by December 1, 2025, at the latest.

Shortly after voters approved the ballot measure last November, MO Secretary of State Denny Hoskins called for transparency and denied the Commission's proposed emergency rulemaking citing the December 1, 2025 deadline does not meet the criteria for emergency action therefore the Commission had to move forward with the rulemaking process, including a public comment period, review by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), and filing permanent rules.

On Tuesday, JCAR reviewed the MGC's proposed regulations, covering licensing, confidentiality, application procedures, and operational standards. The rules that were reviewed, include:

- 11 CSR 45-20.020 Sports Wagering Licenses
  - The Committee recommended parity of language throughout the rule to ensure no vague or broad language could be identified and recommended removal of any duplicative language.
- 11 CSR 45-20.030 Confidentiality of Records
  - The Committee recommended the ability for the disclosure of tax returns, specifically to the Department of Revenue and the Commission for eligibility purposes but ensure clarifying language for the purpose of the disclosure of the returns and make public where revenues from sports wagering are being directed.
  - A live start date has been set for December 1, 2025, and, to date, 273 level one applications and 27 level two applications have been received by the Commission and initial licensure will be temporary while active investigations of the applications are ongoing.
- 11 CSR 45-20.040 License Application
  - The Committee learned the temporary licensure rules are similar to other states which have enacted sports wagering.
- 11 CSR 45-20.050 Direct Mobile License Competitive Application Process
  - No recommendations from the committee or questions.
- 11 CSR 45-20.060 Suitability for Licensure

- The Committee recommendation was to remove language regarding reasons for denial to ensure the vague reference to “police records” does not disqualify those not convicted of crimes but may have been arrested and adds no value to the rule.
- 11 CSR 45-20.070 License Issuance
  - No recommendations from the committee or questions.
- 11 CSR 45-20.080 License Renewal
  - No recommendations from the committee or questions.
- 11 CSR 45-20.090 License Fees, Application Fees and License Renewal Fees
  - No recommendations from the committee or questions.
- 11 CSR 45-20.100 Duties of Licensees
  - The Committee recommended the vague reference to approvals and certifications of equipment be removed as this will be addressed in later rules.
- 11 CSR 45-20.110 Prohibition and Reporting of Certain Transactions
  - No recommendations from the committee or questions.
- 11 CSR 45-20.120 SW Occupational License Badge
  - No recommendations from the committee or questions.
- 11 CSR 45-20.130 Casino Access Badge Requirements for Retail Locations on Excursion Gambling Boats
  - The Committee questioned why no fiscal note was provided and learned the fiscal note was not necessary as the estimate was less than \$500 for an impact on casinos.

Additionally, the committee questioned the application language itself as the reference to the laws applicants must adhere to were vague and may need to be better referenced to ensure applicants are filing the applications out correctly.

The committee then turned its attention towards public testimony and only one public advocate provided testimony, highlighting the public comment period was not publicized enough for the average citizen.

The committee is expected to hold a final hearing to approve any recommended changes to the rules within the next couple of weeks.

### **Governor Kehoe Signs SB 81 Into Law**

This week, Governor Mike Kehoe signed Senate Bill (SB) 81 into law, which is a comprehensive public safety package that includes a variety of provisions aimed at reinforcing criminal background checks, modernizing fireworks regulations, supporting families of law enforcement officers, continuing funding for emergency response preparedness, and strengthening protections for victims of childhood sexual

abuse. SB 81, sponsored by Senator Kurtis Gregory and Representative Tim Taylor, includes the following provisions:

- License Reciprocity for Law Enforcement Spouses: Adds spouses of law enforcement officers to the list of individuals who receive expedited reciprocity for their occupational licenses.
- Line of Duty Compensation Sunset Extension: Extends the sunset of the Line of Duty Compensation Act to December 31, 2031. The Line of Duty Compensation Act is for public safety officers who have tragically died in the line of duty. This extension continues to award the family of the fallen safety officer with \$25,000, which could be used for any number of financial needs.
- Expanding Criminal Background Checks: In response to a 2021 FBI policy change, SB 81 gives statutory authority to numerous state board and agencies to allow fingerprint-based criminal background checks. This permits Missouri to continue processing background checks as usual, ensuring that individuals are properly vetted to serve the public.
- Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC) Fee Extension: Reauthorizes vital fee collections to ensure Missouri remains prepared for hazardous material-related emergencies.
- Modernizing Fireworks Regulations: Updates Missouri's fireworks laws to match current national safety standards and gives the State Fire Marshal oversight to inspect facilities, enforce compliance, and ensure safe public displays.
- Trey's Law: Authorizes that NDAs signed after August 28, 2025, shall no longer be enforceable for childhood sexual abuse actions brought and broadens the list of criminal acts that qualify as "childhood sexual abuse" under civil law.

A link to SB 81 for your review can be found [here](#).

### **Key Upcoming Dates**

- June 30, 2025 – Final day for Governor to sign or line-item veto budget
- July 1, 2025 – First day of new fiscal year
- July 14, 2025 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto policy legislation
- August 28, 2025 – Effective date for policy bills without an emergency clause
- September 10, 2025 – Veto Session
- December 1, 2025 – First day of bill filing
- January 7, 2026 – First day of Legislative session

### **Custom Bill Track Link**

Your custom webpage URL for bill tracking is <https://govwatch.net/report/LGKp>

- As a reminder, this is a hotlink and updates automatically as things are added, progress, or change.

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