



All eyes were on the Senate floor this week as Senator Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee's Summit) rose to rebuke the Senate's Conservative Caucus. Senator Cierpiot is renowned for a quiet, steady demeanor so his prepared commentary was a surprise to nearly everyone. Several of the conservative caucus members ruffled at Senator Cierpiot's publicly shared viewpoint and admonished him for taking his grievances to the Senate floor as opposed to handling them privately. The question that remains is whether this interfamily fight will have lasting consequences.

Border war

The House Economic Development Committee met Monday evening to consider passage of SB 182, sponsored by Senator Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee's Summit). The bill modifies provisions relating to the issuance of certain incentives to businesses relocating from certain counties in Kansas and Missouri. The proposal is in response to what is commonly referred to as the "border war" and will help curb lease jumping and abuse of economic development tools within an eight-county region surrounding Kansas City. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted to remove Kansas' Douglas County. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 10-0 vote.

Transportation bonding

The Senate dedicated floor time Monday afternoon to revisit SCR 14, sponsored by Senator Dave Schatz (R-Sullivan). The bonding resolution funds construction and repair of 215 bridges within the state highway system, not to exceed \$301,000,000. Bond duration is limited to seven years, which sums to an annual payment of \$46,000,000. The deal is contingent upon receiving a grant from the federal government for road and bridge purposes. After no discussion, the Senate passed the resolution by a 26-7 vote. The resolution now will be sent to the House for further consideration.

The House Transportation Committee met in executive session Thursday morning to consider passage of HCR 26, sponsored by Representative Becky Ruth (R-Festus). During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted to mirror the bill's senate companion, SCR 14, as described above. Once modified, the committee passed the resolution by an 11-2 vote.

STEM fund

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee convened Tuesday morning to discuss HB 696, sponsored by Representative Ron Hicks (R-Dardenne Prairie). The bill allows a Missouri business, which hires a STEM student attending a Missouri college for an internship in Missouri, or a STEM graduate from a Missouri college for a full-time STEM position in Missouri, to apply \$10,000 of state tax liability into the STEM Fund. Additionally, the bill removes endowed teaching professor programs and career enhancement programs from the list of programs eligible for moneys from the fund. The Associated Students of the University of MO supported the bill. No opposing testimony was presented.

Sales tax cap

The Senate Ways and Means Committee convened Tuesday morning to discuss HB 374, sponsored by

Representative Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Peters). The bill, as originally filed, creates a statewide cap preventing political subdivisions from adopting sales tax rates higher than 14%. This cap includes the combination of all state and local sales taxes. During the bill's progression through the committee process, substitute language was adopted to remove cap language and replace it with provisions requiring sales tax ballots to include accumulative data of all local taxes to inform voters of actual tax burdens within their municipalities. Additionally, the bill requires any seller who sells more than \$500,000 worth of goods per year to clearly state on the sales receipt or sales invoice the total rate of all sales tax imposed on the sale. No supporting testimony was presented. The MO Association of Counties and City of Kansas City provided opposing testimony, expressing concerns over ballot cost, accuracy, and the reliance of the Department of Revenue to provide information. The MO Retailers Association provided informational testimony.

Product liability

The House dedicated floor time Tuesday morning to consider passage of HB 186, sponsored by Representative Curtis Trent (R-Springfield). The bill provides that a person who is injured by a product has 10 years after the sale or lease of the product to bring a suit for damages. After brief debate, the House provided its first of two necessary approval votes. The House revisited the issue Thursday morning and passed the bill by a vote of 102-50. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Port authority

The Senate Economic Development Committee convened Tuesday afternoon to discuss HB 1061, sponsored by Representative Jon Patterson (R-Lee's Summit). The bill exempts sales and leases of real or personal property made by or to any port authority involving the use of such tax-exempt bonds from taxation. Port KC and Greater KC Chamber of Commerce provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented.

Buck O'Neil

The House dedicated floor time Tuesday morning to consider passage of HCR 34, sponsored by Representative Louis Riggs (R-Hannibal). The resolution urges the Baseball Hall of Fame to induct John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil who played for the Kansas City Monarchs and led the effort to establish the Negro Leagues Museum. After no discussion, the House passed the resolution by a vote of 137-4. The resolution now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Initiative petition

The Senate dedicated floor time Wednesday morning to debate SJR 1, sponsored by Senator David Sater (R-Cassville). The resolution modifies the initiative petition process by increasing signature-gathering requirements regarding constitutional amendments from 8% to 15% and requires a 2/3 majority from each congressional district. In an effort to compromise, the sponsor offered substitute language reducing the percentage of signatures needed to 6% and changing the voter approval to at least 60% of the votes, rather than at least two-thirds. During debate, Senator Gina Walsh (D-St. Louis) offered an amendment prohibiting veto power of the Governor to any measures passed by the people and requiring all initiative petition elections to be held during the state's general elections. The bill eventually was returned to the calendar after significant debate.

Special transportation funding district

The House Transportation Committee convened Thursday morning to discuss HB 1157, sponsored by Representative Aaron Griesheimer (R-Washington). The bill allows one or more counties to apply and

form a special transportation funding district in accordance with the Department of Transportation rules which would be authorized to submit a proposal to the voters of the district to levy a four cent fuel tax on the district for a period of 10 years. The bill specifies the distribution of these revenues with 30% provided to political subdivisions within the district where they originate and the remaining 70% provided to a the newly created "Special Transportation Funding Districts Fund," to be used for the construction and maintenance of state highways within the respective district from which the funds originate. The Heavy Constructors of Greater Kansas City, SITE Improvement Association, American Subcontractors Association, and Construction Employers Coalition provided supporting testimony. The MO Petroleum Marketers and Convenient Stores Association, MO Retailers Association, and Kum & Go Convenient Stores presented opposing testimony.

Bill listing

As always, an updated bill listing is attached for your review.

Prepared By:



the giddens group

1715 Hayselton Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109
573.230.6203, giddens@mchsi.com