



Amendment season is in full swing. With Senate bills being debated by the House and House bills being scrutinized by the Senate, a flurry of amendments are being drafted and distributed. With ten legislative days remaining, legislators rely on amending legislation to progress their proposals. Activity is and will continue to be chaotic in the days ahead.

### **Missouri One Start Program**

The House Workforce Development Committee convened Monday afternoon to discuss SB 184, sponsored by Senator Wayne Wallingford (R-Cape Girardeau). The bill provides authority for the Department of Economic Development to restructure its current economic development organization by combining the state's current workforce training programs including customized training, new jobs training, and job retention into one cohesive program. The objective is to allow the department greater flexibility to tailor programs for businesses interested in locating or expanding within the state. The MO Department of Economic Development, MO Economic Development Council, MO Chamber of Commerce, and Associated Industries provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented. The committee reconvened Tuesday afternoon to consider passage of the bill. After no debate, the committee passed the bill by a unanimous 10-0 vote.

### **Extended-release opioids**

The House Health and Mental Health Committee held an executive session Monday afternoon to consider passage of SB 275, sponsored by Senator David Sater (R-Cassville). The bill limits prescription of long-acting or extended-release opioids by dentists. During discussion, substitute language was adopted to include provisions from multiple bills that include the following:

1. SB 309 - authorizes pharmacists to prescribe and dispense tobacco cessation products
2. HB 872 - beginning January 1, 2021, the bill requires all prescriptions to be electronically prescribed. An individual who violates these provisions may be subject to a \$250 fine for each violation, not to exceed \$5,000 per calendar year
3. HB 240 - creates the Joint Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. The purpose of the committee is to study current and future drug abuse, explore solutions to substance abuse issues, and draft legislation as necessary to reach goals of finding and funding education and treatment solutions to combat drug use and abuse
4. HB 986 - provides an exemption to the provisions regulating the initial prescriptions for more than a seven-day supply of any opioid controlled substance for a patient who is currently undergoing treatment for sickle cell disease
5. HB 904 - establishes the "Ensuring Access to High Quality Care for the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders Act" and requires that medication-assisted treatment services shall include pharmacologic and behavioral therapies

6. HB 664 - establishes the "Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board" to improve data collection and reporting with respect to maternal mortality
  7. HB 1057 - changes provisions relating to infection control data reporting
  8. HB 654 - changes provisions relating to credentialing procedures by allowing providers to charge for services rendered during credentialing processes
  9. HB 840 - standardizes language regarding physician assistant supervision agreements to be consistent with advanced practice registered nurse collaborative practice arrangements
  10. HB 756 - enacts provisions relating to unanticipated out-of-network health care services.
- Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 7-3 vote.

### **Conservation sales tax**

The House Conservation and Natural Resources Committee convened Monday evening to discuss HJR 18, sponsored by Representative Mike Moon (R-Ash Grove). The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment requiring Missouri voters to renew the conservation sales tax every six years. The sponsor's intent with the resolution is to revisit a tax that was implemented in 1976 and hasn't been revisited since its passage. The MO Hunting and Working Dog Alliance, MO Cattlemen's Association, and MO Farm Bureau supported the language to provide oversight and align the tax with current 10-year voting requirements for the parks and soils sales tax. The Conservation Leadership Core, Conservation Federation, National Wildlife Federation, MO Prairie Foundation, and multiple private citizens presented opposing testimony.

### **Tax increment financing**

The House Downsizing State Government Committee met Monday to consider SB 108, sponsored by Senator Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester). The bill modifies provisions relating to tax increment financing by changing the definition of blight and eliminates projects in Greenfield spaces. St. Charles County, Empower Missouri, Great River Habitat Alliance, Show Me Institute, Nature Conservancy, and the Economic Development Council of Kansas City supported the bill. The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, City of Springfield, Missouri State University, a Springfield private developer, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, and an architect from Springfield opposed the bill. The committee reconvened Wednesday evening to pass the bill. During discussion, substitute language was adopted that applies to St. Louis City, Springfield, and St. Joseph; clarifies restrictions shall not apply to any property that is adjoined or was adjacent to a tax increment financing project or district; and prohibits any district imposing an economic activity tax for the purpose of emergency services from receiving reimbursement from the special allocation fund. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-0 vote.

### **Fast-Track Workforce Incentive Grant**

The Senate dedicated floor time Tuesday afternoon to debate HB 225, sponsored by Representative Kathy Swan (R-Cape Girardeau). The bill creates the Fast-Track Workforce Incentive Grant. The grant targets adults 25 years and older with needs-based assistance for tuition and fees based on occupational shortages as determined by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. During the bill's legislative progression thus far, the bill was amended modifying the definition of eligible student, removes language allowing DOR to review parental tax returns, includes claw back language, and adds a sunset. During debate, Senator Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester) offered substitute language to include SB 160,

which establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. After 6 hours of debate, the bill was returned to the calendar without reconciliation.

### **Low-income housing tax credits**

The House General Laws Committee convened Tuesday evening to discuss SB 28, sponsored by Senator Dan Hegeman (R-Cosby). The bill places a cap on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. The language, establishes a cap of 72.5% of the federal tax credit level and a \$4 million cap on the 4% tax credits. The MO Workforce Housing Project, Missouri Realtors Association, and Missouri Banker's Association provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented. The MO State Treasurer provided informational testimony stating the bill does not provide transparency or address current inefficiencies within the program. The committee reconvened Wednesday evening to consider bill passage. During discussion, Representative Travis Fitzwater (R-Holt's Summit) amended the bill with language that creates a \$123 million hard programmatic cap, establishes an MHDC scoring rubric, and allows credits to be certificated to allow transferability. Once amended, the committee passed the bill by a 12-0 vote.

### **Punitive damages**

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday morning to discuss HB 489, sponsored by Representative Bruce DeGroot (R-Chesterfield). The bill clarifies that punitive damages shall not be awarded except upon proof by clear and convincing evidence, and only if there is an award of damages more than nominal damages. According to the language, punitive damages may not be awarded against an employer or principal because of the conduct of an employee or agent unless specified criteria are met. After some debate, the House passed the bill by a 93-58 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Tort reform**

The Senate Government Reform Committee held an executive session Tuesday afternoon 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. During discussion, substitute language was adopted to include SB 7 that modifies provisions of civil procedure regarding joinder and venue; SB 65 that clarifies punitive damages shall not be awarded except upon proof by clear and convincing evidence, and only if there is an award of damages more than nominal damages; SB 49 that modifies provisions relating to the enforcement of judgments and decrees against insurance companies; and SB 96 that changes the statute of limitations for personal injury claims from five years to two years. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-2 vote.

### **Transportation bonding**

The House Budget Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss 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. The MO Department of Transportation, City of Columbia, Heavy Constructors Association, Greater Kansas City Chamber, Construction Employers Coalition, MO Society of Professional Engineers, American Council of Engineering Companies, SITE Improvement

Association, MO Asphalt Pavement Association, MO Corn Growers Association, MO Chamber of Commerce, MO Farm Bureau, MO Limestone Producers Association, MO Hospital Association, MO Municipal League, Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, Mercury Alliance, Associated Industries of MO, MO Transportation and Development Council, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Village of Kingdom City, Boone County, MO Soybean Association, AGC of MO, and MO Concrete Association provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented.

The House General Laws Committee held an executive session Wednesday afternoon to consider passage of SB 152, sponsored by Senator Jason Holsman (D- Kansas City). The bill, as originally filed, creates a new fund where donations can be made via text message to help provide services for the homeless in Kansas City and St. Louis City. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted that requires sales tax ballots to include accumulative data of all local taxes to inform voters of actual tax burdens within their municipalities, continues the \$3 million appropriation for the Jackson County Sports Complex, clarifies taxing structure for communities that opt into 911 services, allows phone companies to utilize traffic studies to properly tax bundled services that include intrastate calls, among many other provisions. Once amended, the committee passed the bill by a vote of 10-2.

#### **Venue shopping**

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate SB 7, sponsored by Senator Ed Emery (R-Lamar). The bill modifies provisions of civil procedure regarding joinder and venue. After debate, the House passed the bill by a vote of 100-46. The bill now will be sent to the Governor for final review.

#### **Next week**

Ten days remain in session. The time remaining is certain to be chaotic, as numerous changes will be made to nearly all bills debated. Session will run throughout the week and late into each evening. Neither time nor ever-changing language will allow for your customary weekly reporting. Instead, we will communicate with you via intermittent texts, emails, and/or calls as priorities progress over the remaining time. Session adjourns promptly at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17. We will work to sift through all legislation and amendments and send you a final legislative report shortly after adjournment.

#### **Bill listing**

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