

January 18, 2018



State Representative
Donna Pfautsch
District 33
Serving parts of Cass, Jackson and Lafayette Counties

Capitol Report

COMMITTEES
Chair, Consent and House Procedure
Insurance Policy
Health and Mental Health Policy
Innovation and Technology



Rep. Donna Pfautsch
201 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 404B
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-751-9766
donna.pfautsch@house.mo.gov

Friends,

I recently had the pleasure of seeing a piece of Missouri History — portraits of Missouri's first governor and first lady, Alexander and Margaret McNair — as they were unveiled in the Governor's Mansion. The first governor took office almost 200 years ago. A nonprofit organization called Friends of the Governor's Mansion presented the portraits after receiving them from Jim Gamble, who had them for over 27 years before donating them to an auction. With the help of 11 donors, these portraits are now on view for the public to see and appreciate.



Legislation is now on its way to the Senate that is meant to provide rescue information to victims of human trafficking and educate citizens across the state about the growing criminal industry. The House approved HB 1246 by a bipartisan vote of 139-5. The state saw 74 human trafficking cases reported in 2017, and more than 200 cases reported over the last two years, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The bill approved this week would require the Department of Public Safety to develop a poster to promote the use of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline. The posters would be displayed at common areas where human trafficking can occur such as hotels or motels that have been cited for prostitution, and train and bus stations. If approved by both chambers and signed into law, Missouri would join more than 20 other states that already have similar posters in place.

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Some of the legislation I filed this session is moving through the committee process:

- House Bill 1420, which extends the sunset on an early learning quality assurance report program has been referred to the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. Because the funding for this legislation was withheld last year, we need to extend the deadline for implementation. The lack of a quality assurance program in Missouri means that public and private preschools cannot qualify for many grant programs, which translates into hundreds of thousands of lost dollars.
- House Bill 1421, which requires each school district to establish a policy on acceleration and districts with gifted education programs to establish appeal procedures, was voted Do Pass in committee on Tuesday.
- House Bill 1525, which changes the laws regarding unclaimed property, has been referred to the Special Committee on Government Oversight.

Finally, the Missouri House worked to once again pass legislation meant to diminish the influence of lobbyists. House Bill 1303 would ban gifts from lobbyists to elected officials. I hope it fares better this year in the Senate. As I have noted before, I do not accept lobbyist gifts.

Like many of you, I have been distressed at the news about Governor Greitens and the allegations of impropriety leveled against him. I don't know what will happen, but I trust that he will do the right thing for Missouri.

As a reminder, you can always go to house.mo.gov to check the status of any bill. Please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email to share your thoughts and opinions.

Warmest regards,

Donna