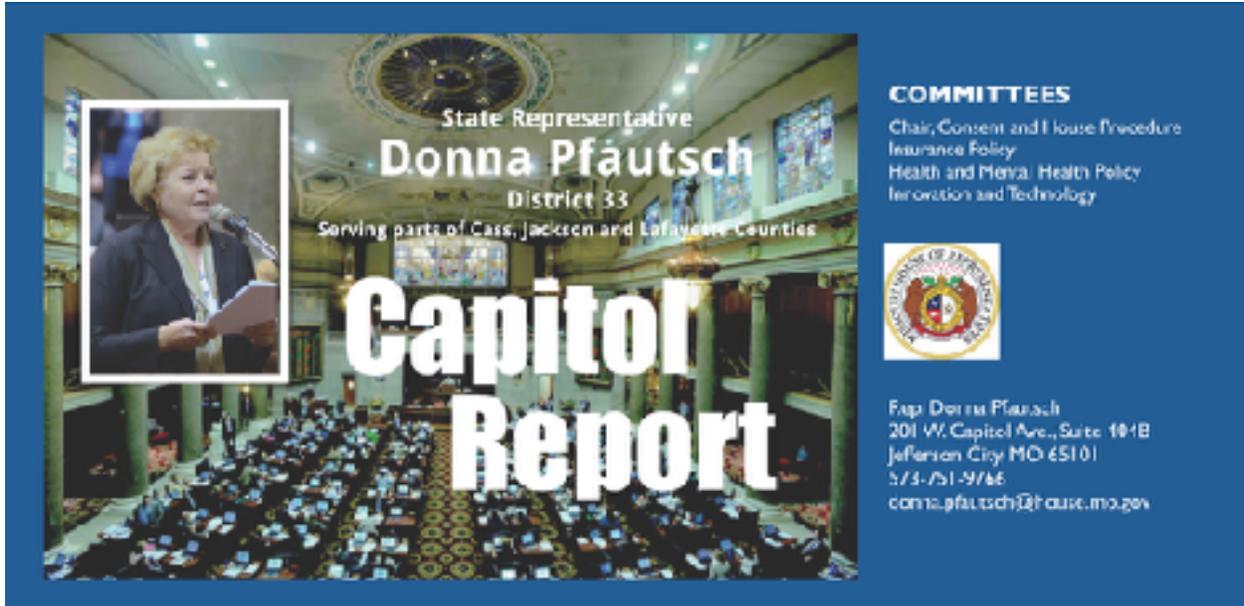


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The graphic features a background image of the Missouri State Capitol interior. In the top left, there is a small inset photo of Donna Pfautsch speaking at a microphone. The text on the graphic reads: "State Representative Donna Pfautsch District 33 Serving parts of Cass, Jackson and Lafayette Counties". The large text "Capitol Report" is centered. On the right side, under the heading "COMMITTEES", it lists: "Chair, Consent and House Procedure Insurance Policy Health and Mental Health Policy Innovation and Technology". Below this is the Missouri State Seal and contact information: "Rep. Donna Pfautsch 201 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 101B Jefferson City, MO 65101 573-751-9766 donna.pfautsch@house.mo.gov".

Friends,

This week I had the pleasure of joining with neighboring Reps. Wanda Brown, Rick Brattin and Jack Bondon to meet with Executive Director Robert Greenwood and Manager Shauna Hasek, who traveled to Jefferson City representing the Casco Area Workshop, which has been serving people with disabilities in the Cass County area since 1972. I also had the pleasure to introduce both Robert and Shauna on the House floor.



The Missouri House remains busy hearing and perfecting legislation to move to the Senate. Below is an overview of some of the bills we worked on.

**House Works to Enhance Real World Learning Opportunities for Young People (HB 1665)**

Lawmakers approved a bill this week that would provide young people with greater access to highly skilled, experienced instructors in areas such as health care, manufacturing, and engineering. The legislation, which also received House approval last session, would allow the State Board of Education to issue a visiting scholar certificate as a license to teach in public schools.

Students benefit from real-world, hands-on learning and this points to the success of several innovative school-community-business partnerships. This provides opportunities for

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students to be immersed in real-world working environments and test-drive careers through site-based learning. Qualified teachers with industry experience can assist in providing high quality learning experiences for students. House Bill 1665 would allow students to benefit from the expertise of successful professionals in fields of high need. Accomplished professionals are given the opportunity to give back to their communities by sharing their knowledge and expertise with the next generation.

### **Fighting Paper Terrorism (HB 1769)**

The House approved legislation this week designed to deter those who engage in what is commonly referred to as paper terrorism. The legislation would make it a crime to file false documents such as fraudulent liens or quit claim deeds.

House Bill 1769 combats a problem that has seen law enforcement officers and other public servants targeted by individuals who use these false claims as a revenge tactic. There are instances where criminals have filed false claims against their arresting officer, judge, or property owners. Paper terrorism can also result from instances such as a boundary dispute between neighbors. The fraudulent liens filed by one party in an act of retaliation can then lower an individual's credit rating and force the person to pay expensive legal fees.

Currently, the problem is addressed only in the Uniform Commercial Code, and not the state's criminal code. The bill passed this week would make the offense of filing a false document a class D felony, and include an enhanced penalty for false documents filed against elected officials, law enforcement officers, and other specified individuals. The bill also would create a process to help identify these crimes and prosecute them. Supporters note that other states and the federal government have enacted similar laws to combat paper terrorism.

### **Simplifying Missouri's Bingo Laws (HB 1484 and HJR 59)**

House members approved both a bill and a proposed constitutional amendment that would remove some of the unnecessary regulations that currently exist for bingo games in Missouri. The changes are meant to ease the burden for charitable organizations who use bingo games to raise funds.

The Missouri Constitution currently requires a member of an organization licensed to conduct bingo to be part of the organization for at least two years before being able to participate in the operation of a bingo game. The legislation approved by the House would change Missouri law to reduce the requirement to six months of membership. The change would also need to be made in the Missouri Constitution, which would require voter approval. The measures approved by the House would also remove the statutory restrictions on the advertisement of bingo.

If both pieces of legislation make it through the legislative process and the constitutional change is approved by voters, charitable organizations would then have a larger pool of members eligible to assist with running bingo games. The change would take pressure off of older members who are the only ones qualified to run games under current law, and would allow newer, more active members to participate in their operation.

### **Other Bills Moving to the Senate**

**HB 1617** would update Missouri's telehealth laws. Supporters say the bill would allow health care providers to be reimbursed for telehealth services from MO HealthNet, just as they are reimbursed in the private sector. The bill would make telehealth more accessible and will help patients receive better care.

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**HB 1504** would require certain counties to adopt ordinances regulating land use around National Guard training centers. HB 1504 is a proactive measure to protect the National Guard Training Center in Newton County from encroachment by development.

**HB 1408** would change the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MOVIP) to "The Missouri Course Access Program" (MCAP). HB 1408 would give students the opportunity to take courses that their school does not offer, especially in the case of small schools unable to hire teachers for advanced or specialized subject areas.

Also this week I had the honor of attending a special Women of Achievement award presentation to Missouri Supreme Court Justice Mary Rhodes Russell, who received the Zonta Celebration Award. Zonta International is a global organization of professionals empowering women through service and advocacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Please contact our office with any needs or concerns.

Donna

