

March 15, 2018



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Serving parts of Cass, Jackson and Lafayette Counties

COMMITTEES
Chair, Consent and House Procedure
Insurance Policy
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Friends,

Spring is just around the corner and the Missouri House of Representatives has been a very busy place with long days and nights in session, committee hearings, and visits from many school groups. We continue to work on legislation we believe will make our state and local communities a better place.

House Reaches Halfway Point of 2018 Session

As House members concluded their work and headed into their annual spring break, they did so with an impressive list of accomplishments. In the first two-and-a-half months of session, the House has been able to send more than 160 bills to the Senate.

Highlights of Bills Sent to the Senate This Week

HB 1573 would allow a school district to use a calendar based on hours of attendance rather than hours and days of attendance, if the minimum number of hours is at least 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance. The bill would grant school districts flexibility in planning their school calendar.

HB 1635 would modify provisions relating to the reporting of suspected abuse and neglect of a resident of a long-term care facility who is 60 years of age or older or an eligible adult. Residents of long-term care facilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and are often unable to report assaults to law enforcement on their own. The bill would ensure that law enforcement officials are notified of any sexual assaults as soon as possible.

HB 1831 would add disposable diapers to the items exempted from sales tax during the Back to School Sales Tax Holiday each August.

HB 1872 would establish a grant program within the Department of Economic Development to expand broadband Internet access to unserved and underserved parts of Missouri. The bill is based on a successful rural broadband expansion plan from Minnesota. The bill would

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create a broadband development grant program to address the 61 percent of rural Missourians, representing more than one million individuals who do not have access to reliable broadband services.

HB 1578 would correct a problem with out-of-state plaintiffs filing lawsuits in Missouri circuit courts. The bill would reduce costs and increase access to the courts for Missouri residents by clarifying the venue and jurisdiction requirements to file a lawsuit in Missouri.

HB 2014 is a supplemental appropriations bill that would allocate more than \$700 million in funds for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2018. The bill would appropriate dollars for programs such as Early Childhood Special Education, vocational education, and foster care.

HB 1953 would require the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop and disseminate information regarding the bone marrow registry. The bill would allow doctors an easy means to spread information regarding the bone marrow registry to new patients who are not already registered.

HB 2122 would change certain vehicle sales laws. The bill would help prevent loss of revenue to the state from individuals who engage in extremely minimal auto sales and are then exempt from all property taxes and other fees on multiple other vehicles.

HB 1800 would change provisions of law relating to the Public Service Commission's complaint procedure. The bill would narrowly tailor the commission's complaint process such that the commission will only need to process complaints that it has the authority to hear.

HB 1874 would require all nonfood items sold in the State Capitol to be made in the United States. The bill would promote economic development in the state and country.

HB 1364 would modify provisions relating to hazardous waste fees paid to the Missouri Emergency Response Commission.

HB 1713 would allow a birth parent or adoptee to request a contact preference form that will accompany the birth certificate of an adopted person. The bill would allow adoptees to access their birth certificate or medical history without a court order and unnecessary expenses.

HB 1714 would give an adopted adult, biological parent, adoptive parent, or the lineal descendants of an adopted adult the ability to make a written request to the court to disclose information identifying the adopted adult's biological parents. The bill would allow an adopted adult to obtain information regarding their biological parents and personal items retained by the court, as well as address inconsistencies between counties.

HB 2026 would specify that any individual on probation or parole may be housed in a jail with offenders or persons being held on criminal charges. The bill would clear up a legal question about people being held on probation and parole violations. They say the legislation is necessary because, without it, facilities would be forced to house all probation and parole offenders with civil offenders, or they would need to significantly increase their budgets to get additional housing to house probation and parole offenders.

HB 2043 would designate the first Friday in May each year as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day," and encourage the citizens to observe the day with appropriate activities and events.

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HB 2042 would make Missouri fully compliant with federal sexual offender registry law, and it would help bring more clarity to a process that already exists. The legislation would also add a petition process for removal from the State Highway Patrol registry.

HB 1461 would make changes to the Address Confidentiality Program, which authorizes the use of a designated address for victims of a crime. The bill would expand the program to victims of any crime who fear for their safety. It would also apply the program to other individuals living with the victim.

HB 1600 would establish the Fair Fare Passenger Safety Act that prohibits any person operating a motor vehicle for compensation from using a hand-held wireless device. It would require drivers who are driving for a fee and who have a passenger in the car to operate a cell phone hands-free only. A leading cause of car accidents is distracted driving.

HB 1469 would modify provisions of the Missouri military code by changing the name of the "Missouri reserve military force" to the "Missouri state defense force." More than half of the states have changed their statutes to mirror this language.

HB 2187 would designate a portion of Business Highway 63 in Adair County as the "Bluegrass Queen Rhonda Vincent Highway." Rhonda Vincent is a Grammy Award bluegrass artist.

HB 2196 would designate the second Wednesday in May as Celiac Awareness Day in Missouri. One in 133 people in the United States have Celiac disease, and many more go undiagnosed.

HB 1517 would require the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Administration to submit to the general assembly a monthly report of all settlements and judgments paid from the state legal expense fund. The bill is about transparency and budgeting relating to the lawsuits against the Department of Corrections and other state agencies. The Attorney General's Office is currently posting this information on its website.

HB 2243 would provide a method by which distributions from the statutory County Recorder's Fund will be allocated among counties if collections fall below distributions. Economic conditions caused house sales to fall and therefore revenue from document recording fell, too.

HB 1388 would add amateur kickboxing and amateur mixed martial arts to the list of contests the Division of Professional Registration, within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration has the authority to regulate. The purpose of the bill is to protect children that are currently participating in amateur MMA competitions.

HBs 2277 & 1983 would exempt those who originally provided a physician statement as proof of a permanent disability from the need to provide additional physician statements to renew license plates or placards. The bill alleviates the need to present paperwork such as physician's statements multiple times.

HB 2127 would ease the examination requirement for an assistant physician. The assistant physician program allows doctors to gain experience while waiting to enter residency, which helps increase access to care.

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HB 2208 would add all electronic voting systems produce results from paper ballots marked by hand, or in the case of disabled voters who need assistance, from paper ballots marked by a paper ballot marking device designed to assist such voters. The bill would provide an audit trail for any potential contested election and will help prevent election fraud.

HB 2194 would allow qualified entities, under certain circumstances, to receive individuals' criminal history information from the central repository as part of the "Missouri Rap Back Program" as well as the National Rap Back Program. There could be arrests or convictions that occur after a background check has been conducted, so the entity would have no way of knowing about them. The bill would help them get notified right away.



I enjoyed visiting with Kenton Morgan, DVM, who stopped by to discuss issues on behalf of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association.

HB 2171 would specify a person who obtains, maintains, or renews a valid driver's license, who operates a motor vehicle, who is not blind, or who has violated a particular state law regarding the Blind Pension Fund shall not be entitled to a blind pension. Additionally, a person who owns property worth \$30,000 or more or whose sighted spouse's annual income equals or exceeds 500 percent of the federal poverty level shall not be eligible. The bill addresses issues the department has had with the blind pension fund, including fraud.

HB 1503 would establish a fund for providing state-guaranteed small business loans to veterans. After World War II, 49 percent of returning veterans started their own businesses because a federal loan guarantee was available. Currently, only 6 percent of returning veterans start their own businesses.

HB 2322 would modify provisions of the retirement system for prosecuting and circuit attorneys. The bill would help get funding for the retirement plan back in line. The retirement age for new members would be increased and the bill would modify the provisions for part-time prosecuting attorneys who go full-time.

HB 2249 would modify provisions relating to child care facilities. The bill would bring the state into compliance with federal law and help reduce child abuse by strengthening background checks.

HBs 1656 & 2075 would establish regulations and registration requirements for Professional Employer Organizations. The bill would offer statutory and operational certainty for PEOs and their customers. PEOs provide human resource, payroll, and other administrative services, so that small businesses can focus on their customers.

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I was pleased to meet with this wonderful group of Oak Grove High School students who were in Jefferson City on Wednesday to tour the State Capitol.

Additionally we enjoyed visits from: Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council; Missouri Grape and Wine Alliance; Missouri State Teachers Association; Big Brother/ Big Sisters; Missouri Community Action Agency; Missouri State Archives; Missouri County Treasurers; Missouri Veterinary Medical Association; and Leading Age Missouri.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you in the Missouri House. Please contact my office if I can be of service.

Warm regards,

Donna