

END OF SESSION REPORT SELECT SUMMARIES

1. **Income Taxes (HB 2540)** –Further reduces the individual income tax rate paid by most Missourians to 5.1 percent. The rate currently stands at 5.9 percent and was already slated to eventually drop to 5.5 percent under a law enacted in 2014. To offset some of the lost revenue to the state, the bill also reduces how much federal tax Missourians can deduct from their state taxes and caps the amount of business pass-through income that a person ultimately will be allowed to deduct from their state taxes at 20 percent, instead of the 25 percent allowed under the 2014 law.
2. **Corporate Taxes (SB 884)** –Lowers the corporate income tax rate from 6.25 percent to 4 percent in 2020 and requires all corporations to use a single-sales factor income allocation method. The bill also adjusts what is considered taxable income and how it is calculated.
3. **Uniform Small Wireless Deployment Act (HB 1991)** –Allows “small cell” facilities to be deployed statewide. The legislation is designed to balance the needs of municipalities to manage the right-of-way in their communities with the need for wireless carriers to deploy new technology.
4. **Electric Rates (SB 564)** –Authorizes investor-owned electric utilities regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission to more easily increase or decrease consumer rates in between full rate cases before the PSC. The bill also states that any benefits Missouri’s electric utilities have received from a federal tax cut will be refunded to customers in the form of rate cuts within 90 days of the bill being signed into law.
5. **Expanding Rural Broadband (HB 1880)** –Empowers rural electric cooperatives to construct copper and fiber-optic cables, facilities, and technology to provide high-speed internet services. It also encourages rural electric co-ops to contract with entities to provide these services.
6. **Rural Broadband Development (HB 1872)** –Establishes a program to award grants to applicants who seek to expand access to broadband internet service in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The program will be administered by the Department of Economic Development. The legislation is meant to address the 61 percent of rural Missourians, representing more than one million individuals, who do not have access to reliable broadband services. Any grant awarded under the bill may not pay for more than 50 percent of the total cost of a broadband service project and no single project shall be awarded grants that cumulatively exceed \$5 million.
7. **Hair Braiding (HB 1500)** –Eliminates an existing requirement that hair-braiding practitioners must obtain a state cosmetology license that requires 1,500 hours of training. In comparison, a real estate agent needs only 72 hours of training to be licensed and an

emergency medical technician needs only 100 hours. The bill requires individuals engaging in braiding for compensation to register with the State Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners. No education or training will be required to register, except that the hair braider will need to view a mandatory instructional video.

8. **Fuel Tax (HB 1460)** – Gives voters the opportunity to decide if the state fuel tax should be increased by 2.5 cents per gallon every year for four years, equaling an overall ten cent increase. The state fuel tax, which was last increased in 1996, currently stands at 17 cents per gallon and if approved by the voters at the November 6 general election, would stand at 27 cents per gallon in 2022. The estimated \$288 million a year the state will receive from the new tax will be statutorily earmarked for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, which will allow existing revenue the Patrol receives from the State Road Fund to be redirected for road and bridge construction. The increase also will generate another \$123 million a year for local road projects.
9. **Industrial Hemp (HB 2034)** –Legalizes industrial hemp and is meant to promote industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity in Missouri. It will allow an individual who has received an industrial hemp license to grow, harvest, cultivate, and process industrial hemp. The bill establishes a pilot program under the Department of Agriculture to implement the licensing standards and requirements. In addition, every grower and handler will be subject to an industrial hemp monitoring system to ensure compliance with state law and department rules.
10. **Criminalizing “Revenge Porn” (HB 1558)** –Makes it a felony offense to disseminate private sexual images without the consent of the person in the image. Often referred to as nonconsensual pornography or “revenge porn,” the offense occurs when an individual sends or posts sexually explicit photos or videos of someone without their permission even if they were originally taken with consent. The legislation makes it a class D felony to disseminate private sexual images without consent. The legislation also makes it a class E felony to threaten the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images.
11. **Minimum Marriage Age (SB 655)** –Raises the marriage age in Missouri without judicial approval from 15 to 16. The bill also states that no license can be issued for the marriage of a person 21 years or older to a person who is less than 17 years of age. The bill is an important part of the state’s efforts to prevent child marriages that are used to disguise abusive situations and human trafficking.
12. **Human Trafficking (HB 1246)** –Requires the Department of Public Safety to develop a poster promoting the use of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline. The posters will be displayed in common areas where human trafficking can occur such as hotels or motels that have been cited for prostitution, and train and bus stations.

Missouri is currently ranked 20th in reported human trafficking cases according to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

13. **Juvenile Offenders (SB 793)** –Raises the age that suspects are automatically prosecuted as adults from 17 to 18. Missouri is one of only five states that currently automatically try 17-year-olds in adult courts. The bill still allows an offender age 17 or younger to be certified by a judge to stand trial as an adult for certain felony crimes. To help afford the increased load on the juvenile justice system, the bill creates the "Juvenile Justice Preservation Fund" as well as a surcharge of \$3.50 to be assessed on all civil actions filed in Missouri.
14. **Crime Victim Confidentiality (HB 1461)** –Expands the Safe at Home Program that authorizes the addresses of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, human trafficking, or stalking to be kept private in public records. Through the program, the Secretary of State's office provides a designated substitute address for survivors to use when creating new public records, as well as the option to securely forward mail to their confidential address. The legislation approved this year provides an added layer of protection when relocating a child who is part of the Safe at Home Program. It will help ensure that a parent relocating a child satisfies reporting requirements while maintaining address confidentiality.
15. **Treatment Courts (HB 2562)** –Establishes the following treatment court divisions, which include, but are not limited to, Adult Treatment Court, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Court, Family Treatment Court, Juvenile Treatment Court, and Veterans Treatment Court. The legislation will give local courts the authority and flexibility to set their own policies for treatment courts. The bill specifies that the Treatment Courts Coordinating Commission will establish standards and practices for the treatment courts.
16. **Community College Degrees (HB 1465)** –Allows the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to grant community colleges the authority to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees to address local workforce needs and the lack of skilled workers in certain fields. It also allows the West Plains Campus of Missouri State University and State Technical College in Linn to offer baccalaureate degrees if approved by the coordinating board.
17. **Visiting Scholars (HB 1665)** –Allows the State Board of Education to issue a visiting scholar certificate as a license to teach in public schools. The visiting scholar certificate allows a professional to be employed in a content area in which the individual has an academic degree or professional experience. The visiting scholar will only teach classes for ninth grade or higher and the hiring school district must verify that the individual will be employed as part of a business-education partnership initiative designed to build career pathways for students.

18. **STEM Career Awareness (SBs 894 & 921)** –Requires the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish the STEM Career Awareness Program to increase awareness of careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for students in grades 6 through 8. The program involves online-based curriculum covering more than 80 different careers and technologies and will be organized around the concept of solving societal or human-centered problems. The bill will require DESE to have the program in place by the 2019-20 school year. It also requires the DESE to develop a high school graduation policy that allows a student to fulfill a unit of academic credit with a district-approved computer science course for any math, science, or practical arts unit required for high school graduation.
19. **Elementary and Secondary Education (HB 1606)** –Makes numerous changes to state education laws. One of those changes, is it creates the Missouri Course Access Program to expand the state’s virtual school offerings to all K-12 students and expands the existing Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MOVIP) to offer online courses to public, private, and home-school students. The program allows students to take advanced courses that are not currently offered by their local school districts. The bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to review the online courses to ensure they meet state standards. School districts and charter schools must adopt a policy for student enrollment in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Programs that is substantially similar to the student enrollment process for courses offered in the brick-and-mortar schools. Public schools will pay the costs of enrollment in virtual courses for full-time students who attended a public school for at least one semester immediately before enrolling in the virtual courses. Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, a school term will be defined as 1044 hours of pupil attendance with no minimum number of days required.
20. **Right-to-Work Vote (SCR 49)** –Moves up the election date on Proposition A, commonly referred to as the “Right-to-Work” bill, from its originally scheduled date on the November 6 general election ballot to the August 7 primary ballot.
21. **Labor Organizations (HB 1413)** – Requires public workers represented by a labor union to opt-in each year to pay dues and support political activity. It does not apply to police officers, firefighters, corrections workers, and other public emergency personnel. The bill requires elections every three years to determine representation and limits contracts to three years. It also requires public unions to meet the same financial standards as private sector unions.
22. **Prevailing Wage (HBs 1729, 1621 & 1436)** –Modifies the prevailing wage hourly rate so that if fewer than 1,000 hours are reported, workers will be paid the public works minimum wage, which is based on the actual county average wage for all workers reported by the Department of Labor. If more than 1,000 hours are reported, the workers

will be paid the prevailing wage rate, which will be a weighted average wage. The bill also exempts projects under \$75,000 from the prevailing wage law.

23. **Supporting Veterans (SB 573)** –Allows members of the National Guard or reserve components of the United States Armed Forces to deduct their military income from their Missouri adjusted gross income to determine their Missouri taxable income. The bill also allows private employers to grant preference to a veteran, the spouse of a disabled veteran with a service-connected disability, or a surviving spouse of a deceased veteran when hiring and promoting employees. Another provision of the bill will require all state buildings to display the POW/MIA flag. Other provisions of the bill will allow veteran-owned businesses to participate in the Missouri Linked Deposit Program; extend the period of assistance in the Show-Me Heroes Program from one year to five years following discharge; establish the Veterans’ Bill of Rights; and establish the Missouri Military Community Reinvestment Program Act to assist military communities in supporting and sustaining their installations.

24. **Benevolent Tax Credits (HBs 1288, 1377 & 2050)** –Extends the sunset for tax credits that help encourage investment in certain programs that benefit many of Missouri’s most vulnerable citizens. The legislation extends the sunset for these credits to 2024 and increases the maximum amount of each credit that is available annually. Currently, there are \$2.5 million in credits available each year for pregnancy resource centers and \$2.5 million in credits each year for maternity homes. The bill will increase the cap on each credit to \$3.5 million annually.

The legislation also reauthorizes the Donated Food tax credit until 2026 and expands the credit to include food or cash donated to local soup kitchens or homeless shelters. Additionally, it creates a Diaper Bank tax credit that authorizes a tax credit in the amount of 50 percent of a contribution to a diaper bank. The bill also extends the Champion for Children tax credit for child advocacy centers until 2025 and creates a tax credit for taxpayers who make a contribution to organizations that provide funding for the unmet health, hunger, and hygiene needs of children in school.

25. **Preventing Sexual Assaults in Nursing Homes (HB 1635)** –Requires that law enforcement be notified when it is suspected that a long-term care resident 60 years of age or older has been sexually assaulted. The bill would expand Missouri law that requires abuse or neglect to be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services. Its reporting requirement applies to in-home care providers, adult day care workers, medical and mental health care providers, medical examiners, funeral directors, and those in numerous other professions.

26. **Funding for 911 Service (HB 1456)** –Allows counties and certain municipalities to seek voter approval to charge a fee of up to \$1 on any device that can contact 911. This fee

replaces any local taxes previously levied for 911 services. The bill also creates a 3 percent charge on the purchase of prepaid phones to go toward 911 funding. A portion of that money will go to 911 services in the county where the phone was purchased. The rest will go to a statewide fund to support and improve 911. In addition, the bill addresses the need for 911 facilities in many parts of the state to consolidate. Missouri's 114 counties currently have 185 Public Safety Answering Points, or PSAPs. Under the bill, where consolidation is needed, voters can not be asked to approve a new funding stream unless a plan for consolidation is developed.

27. **Legal Expense Fund (HB 1517)** –Requires the Attorney General and Commissioner of Administration to submit a monthly report to the General Assembly detailing settlements and judgments paid in the previous month from the State Legal Expense Fund.
28. **Blake Snyder Memorial Highway (HB 2330)** –Designates a portion of Gravois Road (State Highway 30) in south St. Louis County as the “Officer Blake Snyder Memorial Highway”. Snyder, a St. Louis County police officer, was fatally shot while responding to a disturbance call in Green Park on October 6, 2016.
29. **Christopher Harris Day (HCR 70)** –Declares youth violence as a public health epidemic and expresses the General Assembly’s support for the establishment of statewide trauma-informed education. The resolution also designates June 7 of each year as Christopher Harris Day after a 9-year-old St. Louis boy who was fatally shot on that date in 1991.
30. **Mothers Battling Substance Abuse (HBs 2280, 2120, 1468 & 1616)** –Expands MO HealthNet benefits for women to provide substance abuse treatment for up to one year after giving birth, subject to state appropriations and federal approval. The bill represents a bipartisan effort to extend Medicaid benefits to help women struggling with postpartum depression.
31. **Excessive Emergency Room Charges (SB 982)** –Specifies that an ailment that prompts a visit to an emergency room be considered an "emergency medical condition" if the person has sufficiently severe symptoms, regardless of what final diagnosis is given. This “prudent layperson” standard makes it clear that if a person with an average knowledge of health and medicine believes immediate medical care is required, the emergency room visit should be covered by health insurance. The bill also includes other provisions intended to prevent “surprise billing” for emergency room services and encourage insurers and providers to negotiate in good faith on fair rates for services.
32. **Licensing for Military Families and Low-Income Missourians (SB 843)** –Requires all state and local licensing authorities to waive all occupational fees for military families and low-income individuals for a period of two years. The waiver also includes any other fees associated with licensing requirements. Individuals who apply for the waiver will

then have a two-year period where they are not required to pay any occupational fees that become due.

For the purposes of the bill, “military families” includes any active duty service members and their spouses and honorably discharged veterans and their spouses. It also includes surviving spouses of deceased service members who have not remarried. In order for low-income individuals to qualify, they will need a household adjusted gross income below 130 percent of the federal poverty level or to participate in a public assistance program such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the MO HealthNet program, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

33. **Chiropractic Services (HB 1516)** –Allows licensed chiropractors to be reimbursed for treatment of conditions currently covered under the MO HealthNet program giving Medicaid recipients more options for treating pain and less reliance on opioids.
34. **Professional Registration (HB 1719)** –Specifies that the state may not impose a substantial burden on an individual's pursuit of his or her occupation or profession unless there is reasonable interest for the state to protect the general welfare. The bill also discontinues any age restriction for individuals over the age of 18 for most Missouri professional licenses.
35. **Higher Education (HB 1744)** –Modifies the A+ Schools Program by removing the requirement that the student's attendance of public high school occur in the three years immediately prior to graduation.
36. **First-Time Home Buyers (HB 1796)** –Establishes the First-Time Home Buyer Savings Account Act and authorizes a tax deduction for contributions to a savings account dedicated to buying a first home. The bill authorizes an individual income tax deduction for 50 percent of the contributions to the account. It has an annual contribution deduction limit of \$1,600 per taxpayer. The bill specifies the maximum contribution limit for all tax years will be \$20,000 and the maximum total amount in the savings account will be \$30,000.
37. **Department of Revenue (HB 1858)** –Requires the Department of Revenue to establish and maintain an online, interactive map that shows Missouri taxpayers the boundaries of special taxing districts across the state. The bill seeks to make taxing information available in an accessible way. The map will allow taxpayers to see where the taxing districts are, where rates overlap, and what the rates are in a shopping area. Another provision in the bill requires interest on a tax overpayment to be paid at the same rate of interest as the rate imposed for an underpayment of income tax.
38. **Historic Preservation Tax Credits (SB 590)** –Limits the state’s historic preservation tax credits to \$120 million for the next fiscal year. The credits previously had a cap of \$140

million, which has been the highest cap in the nation and more than double that of the next highest state.

39. **Missouri Higher Education Savings Program (SB 882)** –Allows students to transfer money from a MOST 529 college savings account to the Missouri Achieving a Better Life Experience (MO ABLE) savings account. A MOST 529 college savings account can help with any supplemental costs students may incur while they are enrolled in school. In the event a student develops a disability prior to the age of 26, they can transfer their funds from one account to the other without a tax penalty.