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DISTRICT
14 **ASHLEY AUNE**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAPITOL REPORT

February 21, 2023



Hello K.D.,

I hope this email finds you well! **Last week was an absolute whirlwind as we celebrated our Kansas City Chiefs after another incredible Super Bowl win!** It was an honor to be present at the parade and rally—along with what felt like the rest of the city!—and it's just one more reminder of why I'm so proud to represent KC.

The House wasn't in session yesterday in honor of President's Day, so it will be a short week. As a reminder, if you'd like to follow along between Capitol Report emails, **I encourage you to follow me on social media:**



As always, thanks for checking in. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do for you.

Take Care,



Representative Ashley Aune
District 14 | (573) 751-3618

Legislative Update

SENATE APPROVES RESTRICTIONS ON TEACHING ABOUT RACISM

The Missouri Senate on Feb. 14 voted 21-12 **in favor of legislation imposing significant restrictions on how schools teach about past or present racism in society.** The bill now advances to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

When the Senate originally debated [Senate Bill 4](#) on the **first day of Black History Month**, it sparked fierce opposition from Black senators who branded the measure as a blatant attempt suppress unpleasant facts majority Republicans would rather not acknowledge, especially those pertaining to the historic mistreatment of Black Americans. As a compromise, the sponsor agreed to slightly soften the measure, but critics contend the bill is still designed to excise anti-racism instruction and the history of traditionally marginalized groups from public school curricula.

SB 4 passed on a largely party-line vote with all 10 Senate Democrats voting against it. Two far-right Republicans opposed the bill because they felt its restrictions on instruction didn't go far enough.

HOUSE TAKES AIM AT LOCAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATION MANDATES

Local governments would be forced to pick up the tab for requiring businesses and property developers to install electric vehicle charging stations in their parking lots under legislation the Missouri House of Representatives approved Feb. 16 on a vote of 105-36. The bill now advances to the Senate.

[House Bill 184](#) is in response to a 2021 St. Louis County ordinance requiring developers to install a certain amount of charging stations. The county eased the requirement the following year to apply only to parking lots with 30 or more spaces after complaints that the original ordinance imposed too onerous a burden.

Supporters of HB 184 say it will prevent local governments from imposing costly unfunded mandates on businesses and property owners. Opponents of the measure says it interferes with local control and ignores the growing need for charging stations as drivers increasingly switch to electric vehicles.

HOUSE ADVANCES SUPPLEMENTAL

SPENDING BILL TO SENATE

The Missouri Senate is expected to move quickly to finalize **\$627.15 million in emergency supplemental spending** for the current fiscal year after the House of Representatives on [Feb. 14](#) voted 151-2 to approve the measure. Gov. Mike Parson wants lawmakers to send him the bill as soon as possible so that an 8.7 percent pay increase for state workers can take effect March 1.

While the bulk of the spending authority in the measure is for the pay hikes and related benefits and costs, House Bill 14 also includes \$275 million for disaster aid grants, \$148.71 million for matching grants to federally qualified health centers, \$20 million to bolster security at local schools and \$3 million for the Wood Energy Tax Credit Program, among other items.

Tax Tips



Tell a friend
IRS Free File
allows most
taxpayers to
prepare and file
their taxes using
free tax software.

irs.gov/freefile



IRS FREE FILE

Getting ready to file your IRS tax return? Taxpayers whose adjusted gross income was \$73K or less in 2022 can use the free online preparation products of IRS Free File in

English and Spanish. Spread the word: <http://irs.gov/freefile>

Health and Wellness

Get your
**Mental Health First Aid
Certification**

Blended Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

March 16, 2023

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM CST

at

Tri-County Mental Health Services Events Room

3100 NE 83rd Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64119

Register at [tinyurl.com/YMHFA-Mar-2023!](https://tinyurl.com/YMHFA-Mar-2023)

This training is **FREE** to all Missouri residents, courtesy
of the Missouri Department of Mental Health



Mental Health FIRST AID
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

PLATTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Through [Mental Health First Aid USA](#), more than 2.6 million people in the U.S. have been trained to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges. Join the ranks and become a mental health first aider at a blended Youth Mental Health First Aid training March 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register: tinyurl.com/YMHFA-Mar-2023



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