



JAMIE JOHNSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2024 PRE-FILED BILLS

- ▶ **HB 1445 - ELECTION DAY**
Makes Election Day in November an official state holiday
- ▶ **HB 1446 - HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DOULA SERVICES**
Creates a registration process for health insurance reimbursement of doula services.
- ▶ **HB 1853 - UTILITY BILLING TRANSPARENCY**
Requires the Public Service Commission to include specific information when billing customers for back charges

LET'S STAY CONNECTED: (573) 751-9760 OR JAMIE.JOHNSON@HOUSE.MO.GOV

December 29

Capitol Report

Hi All,

As we prepare to embrace 2024, thank you for following my work in my first year as a State Representative. I was elected minority caucus policy chair, had my Doula Insurance bill heard in committee, held multiple town Halls back home with my good friend Rep. Ashley Aune, and so much more. In a year filled with unforgettable experiences, I haven't lost sight of my family, constituents, and caucus' role in my success. This is just the beginning. I am ready for a new year of opportunities to serve!

Sincerely,



Jamie J. Johnson

State Representative - District 12

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This Week in Jefferson City

Missouri's regular legislative session gets underway Jan. 3

The Missouri General Assembly's 2024 regular legislative session gets underway Jan. 3 with election-year politics expected to dominate proceedings with several lawmakers making bids for higher office and others maneuvering to strengthen re-election bids. At least 10 sitting lawmakers are vying for statewide office, while a number of House members seek promotion to the Senate. The session ends May 17.

Although until recent years it was standard for the legislature to grant final passage between 100 and 175 non-appropriations bills during a given session, infighting among majority Republicans has resulted in fewer than 50 non-appropriations bills being sent to the governor in each of the last three years. Those disputes, resulting from hardline Senate conservatives holding up legislation in a largely unsuccessful effort to leverage passage of policies that are priorities for them but opposed by most lawmakers, isn't expected to abate in the coming session.

Republicans are again expected to focus on "culture war" issues such as prohibiting Missouri schools from teaching about racism in American history and its continuing modern day impact; banning public institutions and private businesses from promoting diversity, equity and inclusion; further restricting the rights of transgender Missourians; and allowing firearms on public transit and in churches.

The majority party also is likely to make a last-ditch effort at making it harder for Missourians to use the initiative petition process to enact laws or amend the state constitution independently of lawmakers. Republicans want new restrictions in hopes of thwarting an initiative drive seeking to enshrine protections for abortion and other reproductive rights in the state constitution. If it gathers enough signatures, the abortion measure would go on the November 2024 statewide ballot. Any restrictions on the initiative process likewise would require voter approval.

Democrats will advocate for relaxing Missouri's draconian laws that outlaw abortion in nearly all instances, including rape or incest, and also seek to reduce crime by restoring the common-sense gun safety laws Republicans have repealed over the last 15 years. Democrats also will push for tax relief for working families by eliminating sales taxes on food, period products and diapers. Republicans, by contrast, are expected to seek income tax cuts for corporations and wealthy individuals in addition to those already enacted in recent years that have led to flat net state general revenue collections.

Republicans outnumber Democrats 111-51, with one vacant seat last held by a Democrat, in the House of Representatives and hold a 23-11 advantage in the Senate. Although the GOP holds veto-proof majorities in both chambers, Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, has yet to

have one of his vetoes overridden. Even though the House has voted to override on several different measures, the override efforts have always died in the Senate.

Missouri's minimum wage increasing to \$12.30 an hour

Missouri's standard minimum wage is set to increase to \$12.30 an hour effective Jan. 1 – a bump of 30 cents an hour, according to the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

A 2018 ballot measure Missouri voters approved with 62.3 percent support gradually raised the state's minimum wage from \$7.85 an hour to \$12 an hour over five scheduled increases starting in 2019 and ending in 2023. As of 2024, the measure requires the wage to be adjusted annually – upward or downward – based on changes in the Consumer Price Index. That adjustment is resulting in the 30-cent bump about to take effect.

The increases imposed by the 2018 law only apply to private sector employees. However, competition for workers has forced most government employers in Missouri to keep pace with private sector wages. Missouri's state minimum wage is well above the federal minimum wage of \$7.85 an hour.

Learn More About My Legislation

HOUSE BILL 1445

- Makes General Election Day an official state holiday
- Would close colleges and universities unless used as a polling place
- Missouri would become the 15th state to adopt such a measure



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HOUSE BILL 1446

- Creates a registration process for insurance reimbursement of doula services
- Will encourage use of doulas, who are associated with better birth experiences, shorter labor, and less pain medication use
- Most doula services are paid for out-of-pocket, with costs often reaching over \$1,500 per birth



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HOUSE BILL 1853

- Requires transparency when customers receive back charges on their utility as a result of a billing error
- The bill must include an explanation of charges and an itemized list of services and service dates
- The company must provide options for payment plans



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District 12

Feel free to contact my office with your questions or requests.

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