



February 02, 2024

## Capitol Report

Hi, All,

The full House of Representatives debated legislation for the first time this year. We considered House Bill 1989, which proposes allowing K-12 students to transfer to public school districts outside their residential district. After speaking with constituents, colleagues, community leaders and leaders of our esteemed Park Hill School District, and with very careful consideration, I decided to oppose this bill. One reason, among many, for my opposition is the fiscal impact that it would have on districts that would be required to take on extra students. The bill passed out of the House by a slim margin of 86 Yes -73 No and has advanced to the Senate for further consideration.

During my work with the Special Committee on Property Tax Reform, we discussed legislation related to property tax credits for seniors. I have listened to the concerns of local officials and seniors in our district and understand the importance of ensuring that any potential changes are practical and beneficial. The bills presented during the public hearing seek to clarify the law enacted in August and I look forward to sharing more as the House and Senate versions of the proposal move through the legislature.

In the committee meeting on Emerging Issues we discussed several bills. One of the bills aimed to expand eligibility to Missouri's A+ program, while the other two bills, proposed by Reps. Aaron Crossley, Don Mayhew, and David Tyson Smith focused on preventing crimes related to the theft of catalytic converters, a growing issue in our community. As someone who cares deeply about the safety of our community, I was glad to see these bills proposed and will be happy to support them.

Moving on to next week, I will attend my first committee hearing for the Special Committee on Government Accountability. Additionally, I'm looking forward to hearing the State of the Judiciary Address delivered to the General Assembly by the Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court. I'll be sure to keep you updated on what happens next.

Sincerely,



  
Jamie J. Johnson

State Representative - District 12

201 West Capitol Avenue  
Room 103-BA  
Jefferson City MO 65101  
573-751-9760  
Jamie.Johnson@house.mo.gov

# REP. JAMIE JOHNSON

Kansas City

## 2023-24 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Administration and Accounts
- Consent and House Procedure, Ranking Minority Member
- Emerging Issues
- Special Committee on Government Accountability
- Special Committee on Property Tax Reform



## **This Week in Jefferson City**

### **Senate panel advances new hurdles to changing constitution**

Since the adoption of the first Missouri Constitution in 1820, ratification of constitutional amendments has always required just a simple majority of votes cast statewide. Senate Joint

Resolution 74 would require future constitutional amendments to win both a statewide majority and also majorities in at least 82 of Missouri's 163 state House districts. This could create situations in which an amendment passes statewide by a wide margin but still ultimately fails. SJR 74's concurrent majority requirement would apply to both amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature and those proposed by initiative petition.

If both legislative chambers approve it, SJR 74 automatically would go before Missouri voters in November. However, the governor could exercise his authority to move the election to August. Ratification would require approval from just a simple majority of voters statewide.

Although new constitutional amendments take effect 30 days after ratification, whether a concurrent majority requirement approved in August would apply to the proposed amendments on the November ballot likely would be subject to litigation. Since initiative petitions must be turned in months before the August vote, adding a concurrent majority requirement at that late point would amount to changing the rules as the game is underway, and it is questionable whether the Missouri Supreme Court would approve.

### **Former U.S. Sen. Jean Carnahan dies at age 90**

Former U.S. Sen. Jean Carnahan, the first woman to represent Missouri in that position, died Jan. 30 at a St. Louis-area hospice center, her family announced. She was 90 years old.

Carnahan was married to former Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan, a Democrat, and served as Missouri's first lady from 1993 to 2000. She and her future husband met while attending the same high school in her native hometown of Washington, D.C. Mel Carnahan temporarily lived in the nation's capital while his father, A.S.J. Carnahan, represented Missouri in Congress. The couple married in 1954 and moved to Rolla, Mo.

Gov. Carnahan, along with their eldest son Randy Carnahan and close aide Chris Sifford, died on Oct. 16, 2000, in plane crash while campaigning to unseat incumbent U.S. Sen. John Ashcroft, a Republican. After Mel Carnahan won the election three weeks later, Jean Carnahan was appointed to fill the vacant seat. She served nearly two years in the Senate, but narrowly lost a November 2002 special election to fill out the remaining four years on the term.

Carnahan was born Jean Anne Carpenter on Dec. 20, 1933. She is survived by three children – Tom Carnahan, former Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and former U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan – and five grandchildren. A public memorial service is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Feb. 10 at the Sheldon Concert Hall on 3648 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis.

## House committee approves charter school expansion

The House Special Committee on Education Reform on Jan. 29 approved legislation that would allow charter schools to expand to St. Louis and St. Charles counties, as well as in the Columbia School District. The panel advanced the bill to the full House of Representatives on a vote of 7-2 with one committee member voting “present.”

Charter schools are independent public schools that are exempt from many of the state regulations traditional public school districts must follow. Under existing law, they are only authorized to operate within the Kansas City of St. Louis city school districts. Although touted as an alternative to struggling local schools, charters have produced decidedly mixed results in Missouri, with some achieving academic success but most performing no better or even worse than their home district.

Although advocates have long pushed to expand charter schools statewide, there has been little political will among rural lawmakers to do so. House Bill 1749 would take a more incremental approach by expanding charters to two high-population counties in the St. Louis area, plus authorizing them in outstate Missouri for the first time, but on a limited basis, by including Columbia.

## Fentanyl and NARCAN: Prevention through Education

Drug overdoses, both fatal and nonfatal, are the No. 1 cause of death among adults ages 18-44 in Missouri.

Learn how to identify an overdose, administer NARCAN®, the opioid overdose antidote, and save a life.

Attendees will receive a free two-dose naloxone kit.

In the first half of the presentation, we will hear from our Drug Enforcement Unit on the current trends and dangers of Fentanyl and Opioids.

In the second half, we will hear from North Kansas City Hospital on the use and effects of NARCAN and how it can save a life!

Please join us on Thursday February 22nd, 2024, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at our

Regional Police Academy 6885 NE Pleasant Valley Rd

Kansas City, MO 64119

RSVP (if possible) Officer Rick Jones, [richard.jones@kcpd.org](mailto:richard.jones@kcpd.org)

# Scholarship Opportunity

Deadline:  
March 22,  
2024

Women Legislators of  
Missouri Caucus

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Women Legislators of Missouri Caucus is excited to be offering 16, \$1000 college scholarships to young women across the state of Missouri that are hoping to continue their academic career by attending college. Interested students can apply at <http://bit.ly/molegwomen>



### SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

*Scan the QR code for the application*

- \$1000 Scholarship
- Recognition Ceremony at Missouri State Capitol



### REQUIREMENTS:

- Female, Missouri resident
- 2024 graduating senior
- 500-word essay
- Excellence in leadership, academics, and community service

Interested students can  
apply at  
<http://bit.ly/molegwomen>

### CONTACT US

Representative Johnson 573-751-9760  
Representative Gallick 573-751-1344



## My Legislation

### HOUSE BILL 1445

- Makes General Election Day an official state holiday
- Would close colleges and universities



### 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



State Representative  
**JAMIE JOHNSON**  
District 12

# 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



State Representative

**JAMIE JOHNSON**

District 12



State Representative

**JAMIE JOHNSON**

District 12 - Kansas City

**HOUSE BILL 2383**

This bill protects consumers from excessive surcharges on credit and debit transactions and payment application services. A surcharge amount can't be greater than the amount the business pays to process the transaction and it requires transparency on convenience fees.





State Representative  
**JAMIE JOHNSON**

District 12 - Kansas City

## **HOUSE RESOLUTION 33**

Establishes Missouri's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, affirming equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of gender.

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

573-751-9760



*Copyright © Jamie Johnson for Missouri, All rights reserved.*