



April 29

Capitol Report

Hi All,

The last few weeks have been super busy with legislative movement. The House of Representatives passed the state budget and sent it to the Senate. While the debate seemed friendlier than I have experienced in my short tenure, the overall budget process could have been more transparent. There were no public hearings, and the budget committee had little time (only 3 hours) to discuss the \$54 billion dollar state investments. Over \$2 billion dollars was cut from the Governor's recommendation by the GOP budget chair. More can be done to invest in Missouri's future, particularly in underfunded projects that could make a significant difference in the lives of Missourians.

Our Doula Legislation passed unanimously through the House Rules Committee on Regulatory Oversight. My colleagues and I also voted to add millions of dollars to the state budget to support doula services. These crucial milestones bring us one step closer to passing this law. Our doula bill now sits on the House perfection calendar, and we are awaiting the House Majority Floor Leader to bring it up for debate so the full House of Representatives can consider it. I'm looking forward to keeping up the momentum to make this law a reality!

My office received a lot of interest in SB 727. While I agreed with things in this bill, I needed to see several changes to be comfortable supporting it. I had planned to propose several amendments that would strengthen local control for school districts and protect public schools from losing essential funding due to private school tuition tax credits, but the debate in the House was cut short by House Republicans with a directive from the Senate Republicans to not make ANY changes to the bill. House Democrats who had filed amendments were not called on to speak for the communities we represent during the debate.

Last week, the House moved a bill that would defund Planned Parenthood and sent it to the Governor's desk. I strongly opposed these plans because Planned Parenthood provides

much-needed healthcare access to low-income women in our state. They do not provide abortions in the state of Missouri, they provide cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and a myriad of other services that keep our community healthy. Making medical referrals to patients who request services you don't/can't provide is not illegal. I'm sure this one will end up in court and be struck down, just as the past challenges were.

The House also passed an initiative petition restriction resolution and sent it with amendments returning the deceptive 'ballot candy' to the Senate. Ballot candy is a statement at the beginning of the ballot measure language unrelated to the initiative's intent but seeks to deceive those who might not fully read the measure during the voting process. The voters in District 12 are smart enough to pick up on this deceptive tactic, and the measure will be defeated at the ballot.

As I reflect on the progress my office has made in these last few weeks, I can confidently say that we are well on our way to achieving our goals. With only three weeks left in the session, I am excited to push even harder and finish strong.

Sincerely,



Jamie J. Johnson
Jamie J. Johnson

State Representative - District 12

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This Week In Jefferson City



I'm proud to be a partner to union healthcare workers. I was glad to meet with Service Employees International Union members last week and listen to their concerns and discuss our shared priorities.

Capitol News

Bipartisan bill to block Kansas City landfill goes to governor

The Missouri House of Representatives voted 121-25 on April 23 to send bipartisan legislation to the governor aimed at blocking a controversial landfill from being built in south Kansas City.

Residents who live near the site have been fighting the proposed 270-acre facility for more than year, but until now their efforts had been blocked in the Senate.

House Bill 1751 would prohibit new landfills in Kansas City if they fall within a half-mile of the border of a neighboring municipality unless that city also approves the project. The proposed landfill at issue is near the city of Raymore. The Senate voted 24-7 in favor of the bill on April 17 after the Raymore City Council agreed to a financial settlement with landfill's developer to abandon their plans.

Bill defunding Planned Parenthood heads to governor

Along straight party lines, Missouri House of Representatives voted 106-48 on April 24th to grant final passage to legislation seeking to block one of the state's largest providers of women's health care from participating in the state's Medicaid program. The bill, previously approved by the Senate, now goes to the governor, who is expected to sign it into law.

House Bill 2634 marks the culmination of a years-long effort to defund Planned Parenthood clinics operating in the state. Although the organization was state's last remaining abortion provider, none its clinics currently perform the procedure in Missouri, where it is now illegal in nearly all circumstances.

Because the Missouri Supreme Court twice in recent years has struck down attempts to strip the organization of funding through the state budget process, the bill attempts to get around that impediment by creating a general statute purporting to prohibit Medicaid reimbursements to health care facilities affiliated with out-of-state abortion providers.

The bill sponsor attempted to add an emergency clause to HB 2634 that would have allowed it to take effect immediately upon being signed by the governor. However, that motion failed on a vote of 106-50, falling three votes shy of the two-thirds majority needed for passage. As a result, the prohibition on Planned Parenthood receiving Medicaid funding, once signed, won't take effect until Aug. 28.

House approves making it harder to amend state constitution

After restoring so-called "ballot candy" designed to deceive Missouri voters into supporting it, the House of Representatives voted 102-49 on April 25 for legislation that would make it possible for a minority of voters statewide to block the ratification of proposed constitutional amendments supported by the majority.

The Senate previously had stripped out the ballot candy to overcome a Democratic filibuster and allow a vote sending the measure to the House. With the ballot candy restored, the measure returns to the Senate, where its chances of winning final approval are uncertain since another filibuster is expected.

Senate Joint Resolution 74 seeks to impose a concurrent majority requirement of both a simple majority of votes cast statewide, as well as approval in at least five of Missouri's eight congressional districts. Ratification traditionally has required only a simple statewide majority. According to an analysis by the Missouri Independent, it would be mathematically possible under this system for just 23 percent of voters to thwart ratification.

Since SJR 74's supporters know Missouri voters likely would reject such a change as stand-alone legislation, they added ballot candy specifying that non-citizens can't vote and foreign governments can't sponsor or finance initiatives – provisions that merely echo existing law. The ballot language written into SJR 74 lists the various pieces of ballot candy first and the concurrent majority requirement last.

If SJR 74 wins final Senate approval, it automatically would go on the Nov. 5 general election ballot. However, it is expected Gov. Mike Parson would exercise his authority to move the measure to the Aug. 6 primary election in order for the concurrent majority requirement to have a chance of being approved before an expected November vote on an initiative petition to add an abortion rights provision to the Missouri Constitution.

House advances measure asking voters to modify term limits

State lawmakers would be limited to serving 16 years total in any combination between the Senate and House of Representatives, instead of no more than eight years per chamber, under legislation the House approved April 22 on a vote of 134-14, with five lawmakers voting "present."

Missouri voters first enacted legislative term limits in 1992 with 75 percent support, but the restrictions didn't take full effect until the 2002 elections. In the two decades since, legislative term limits have been widely criticized for forcing lawmakers from office before they can accrue substantial experience, ceding power over the legislative process from the elected representatives of the people to longtime lobbyists and legislative staff.

Although it's currently possible to serve 16 years in the legislature by serving the maximum tenure in both chambers, few lawmakers are able to do so as practical matter. House Joint Resolution 69 would grant more flexibility by allowing someone to serve the full 16 years in a single chamber or another combination, such as 12 years in one and four in the other.

HJR 69 now advances to the Senate. If it wins final legislative approval, it automatically would go on the Nov. 5 ballot for voter ratification. The 2024 legislative session ends May 17.

Commission picks new director for conservation department

The Missouri Conservation Commission has selected Jason Summers as the next director of the state Department of Conservation. Summers will replace Sara Parker Pauley, who is retiring June 1 after 30 years with the department, including more than seven years as director.

Summers will become the department's tenth director in its 87-year history. He currently serves as the department's deputy director of resource management. Summers grew up in Lincoln, Mo., and currently resides in Hartsburg.

Although most state department leaders are chosen by the governor, the conservation director is selected by the four-member conservation commission, which is the constitutionally independent governing authority of the agency.

Local Events



JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

WHEN
July 12th- 19th 2024

WHERE
Riverside Police Department

FOR DETAILS CONTACT THE RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT
(816) 372-9119 or pal@riversidemo.gov

AGES 14-18
Experience of a lifetime

ACTIVITIES
SWAT/GSI/K9
Traffic Stops
Processing Evidence
Team Building
PT
And more...

INCLUDES
Uniforms
Water bottle
Give Aways
Lunch daily.

DEADLINE TO JOIN
July 1st, 2024
Space is limited.

Applicants for the Junior Police Academy must reside within the Park Hill School District and/or attend the Northland Career Center (NCC).

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

573-751-9760



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