



Governmental Services Group

This week in the Missouri Legislature was almost entirely consumed by the Senate taking up the budget. The Senate Appropriations Committee met and ran through budget markup at an unusually quick rate. The budget arrived in the Senate a month behind the traditional schedule and the deadline for an appropriated budget to pass the General Assembly remains May 6th.

So far, based on discussions in the markup hearings, the Senate is indicating that the \$1.3 billion reduction of federal dollars from the House side will not remain on the Senate side. Additionally, we are seeing less RFPs and grants and more line-itemed appropriations. This is likely to set up a contentious conference with the House once passed.

Meanwhile, the House continues to churn out bills as the Senate floor remains dysfunctional. Friday work had previously been discussed but the appetite does not appear to be there at this point with three weeks remaining. If reports appear light it is mostly due to the Appropriations-heavy week that brought the Senate to a halt.

Next week we expect that American Rescue Plan funding will be the main event as competition over the federal funds not allocated by the House will be up for debate. We will continue to keep you all updated on individual budget lines and any specific bills as they come up.

Appropriations

Senator Hough reinstated 2.3 million for the core public health funding in HB 10. This item will have to go to conference between House and Senate members.

Vaccinations

HB 1709, sponsored by Representative Buchheit-Courtway, provides it is an unlawful discriminatory practice to require any person to receive a medication, vaccination, or injection that has not been fully authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration, is allowed under an emergency use authorization, or is undergoing safety trials. The bill specifies that the provisions will not prohibit health facilities from requiring employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in order for a health facility to participate in a federal program or contract, and the provisions will not prohibit public colleges or universities from requiring select students to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in order for a college or university to receive federal funds. This bill was third read and passed out of the House with a 101-37 vote.