



Governmental Services Group

This week the Missouri legislature continued its rush to finish the budget. All budget bills (excluding HB 3017, 3018, 3019, and 3020) have been passed by both chambers and are headed to conference. The first 13 budget bills and HB 3015 are likely to stay fairly noncontroversial through conference, barring a few major items added in by the Senate. However, the looming fight over the scale and differences in HB 3020 containing the American Rescue Plan funds has been pushed into next week. The Senate Appropriations committee is expected to take them up Monday or Tuesday.

Originally, Senate Appropriations was scheduled to meet Thursday and Friday. However, Wednesday evening Sen. Hegeman brought up a Sports Betting/Wagering bill that was filibustered by Sen. Hoskins. This was another high priority item that has gone down in flames in a very contentious session. Delaying the ARPA committee markup for Senate Appropriations further complicates a session rapidly approaching the constitutional deadline of May 6th to have a completed budget.

Furthermore, with only two weeks left in session and only one bill passed and signed by the Governor, the anxiety over the creation of massive omnibus bills is starting to pile up. The Governor in public appearances has historically said he is not in favor of omnibus bills, which could provide some cushion to limit bad legislation. Still, the timeline for getting things done is rapidly shrinking.

No surprise that the House continues to pass House bills. The few Senate bills taken up by the House have acquired dozens of amendments, and we expect that to continue in the remaining weeks. We will continue to keep you updated on the latest as we approach the bottleneck portion of this session.

Immunizations

HB 1692, sponsored by Representative Boggs, creates provisions relating to employer liability for injuries from required immunizations. This bill establishes the "Required Immunization Liability Act", which states that an employer that requires its employees to receive an immunization as a condition of employment shall be liable for damages or injury resulting from the immunization. In addition, an employer can purchase insurance to cover and protect the employer and its employees from liability. This bill was third read and passed out of the House with a 84-58 vote.

Opioid Addiction

SB 690, sponsored by Senator Thompson Rehder, modifies provisions of law relating to opioid addiction treatment. Under this act, the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, if a licensed physician, or a licensed physician on behalf of the Director, may issue a statewide standing order for an addiction mitigation medication, defined as naltrexone hydrochloride administered in a manner approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or any accepted medical practice method of administering. This bill was voted out of the House Emerging Issues Committee DO PASS.