



## Governmental Services Group

This week in the Missouri legislature, bills continue to move through committee hearings with some floor debate in the House. Meanwhile, the Senate still at an impasse.

The Senate briefly worked on SB 1168 banning public funding of abortion facilities and affiliates, but the bill was laid over and placed on the informal calendar. This bill came after Senator Hough laid the FRA over after roughly an hour of filibustering by Senators Eigel and Hoskins. A reminder that the FRA is a must-pass bill, and if there is no FRA bill passed by the end of session the Governor will be forced to call for a special session.

There is a potential deal forming between the Freedom Caucus and regular Republicans to attempt to get some pro-life language passed alongside IP (initiative petition) reform in exchange for a clean FRA. I would be doubtful to see any real movement here in the short-term. To get those items through, it ignores the fact that Democrats can also filibuster, not just Republican-on-Republican obstruction. These two bills that the freedom caucus is pushing are both non-starters for the Democrat Senators.

In the House, Speaker Plocher established a new House committee on robocalls and artificial intelligence. The committee will address issues related to robocalls and the use of AI in Missouri. In addition to this the house worked on various measures which included third reading and passing legislation on electric charging stations and sunshine laws out of the House. Both pieces of legislation will not start the process on the Senate side.

In addition to this, a recently released poll shows strong support for legalizing sports betting. The poll revealed that 62% of Missourians favor legalizing sports betting to fund education. This could influence upcoming discussions on the issue as the topic remains at the forefront this session alongside pro-VLT language carried by Senator Hoskins, who is also running for Secretary of State. It will be very interesting to see this with the backdrop of Jackson County and the stadium questions surrounding the Royals and Chiefs.

As session continues, the budget will begin to take the stage and floor debate on bills heard will start to dominate both chambers. We will continue to keep you updated on the latest from Jefferson City. We hope you enjoy your Superbowl weekend—Go Chiefs!

**DHSS Authority**

SB 818, sponsored by Senator Brown, modifies provisions relating to the rulemaking authority of the Department of Health and Senior Services. This bill was voted out of the Senate Government Accountability DO PASS.

**Tobacco Regulations**

HB 1484, sponsored by Representative Christ, establishes that no political subdivision shall deny a qualified applicant for a tobacco products license, an alternative nicotine products license, or a vapor products license if the new license is for the same business or location that had a tobacco products license, an alternative nicotine products license, or a vapor products license within the previous 24 months, as described in the bill.

In support of the bill were City of Eureka, Associated industries of MO.

In opposition to the bill were Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, Parents Against Vaping, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Missouri Nurses Association, American Heart Association, Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence, Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and Springfield- Greene County Health Department.

**Telehealth**

HB 1421 (Stephens) and HB 1873 (Lewis) both modify provisions relating to telehealth services. Both bills modify the definition of "telehealth" under Chapter 191, RSMo, to include audiovisual and audio-only technologies. Health care providers shall not be limited in their choice of which electronic platforms are used to deliver services, provided that all services delivered are in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. These bills had a hearing in the House Health and Mental Health Policy Committee.

Testifying in support of the bills were St. Luke's. Missouri Nurses Association, Missouri Association Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, Missouri Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, Cox Health. St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute, Mercy, Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics, National Association of Social Workers - MO Chapter, and Rankin Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital.

There was no opposition to the bill.

**Opioid Alternatives**

SB 830, sponsored by Senator Rowden, requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop a pamphlet on nonopioid alternatives for pain treatment. This bill was voted out of the Senate General Laws Committee DO PASS.

**APRN**

HB 1773, sponsored by Representative Perkins, modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses. Currently, an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) can be in a collaborative practice arrangement with a collaborating physician if the APRN meets certain requirements which include maintaining a geographic proximity to the collaborating physician. This bill removes the geographic proximity requirement. This bill specifies that, an advanced

practice registered nurse who is not a certified registered nurse anesthetist will no longer be required to enter into a collaborative practice arrangement when the ARPN:

- (1) Has a license in good standing and has been in a collaborative practice arrangement or arrangements for a cumulative total of 2,000 documented hours with a collaborating physician or physicians; or
- (2) Has applied for and received licensure by endorsement and successfully demonstrated at the time of such application to the State Board of Nursing the completion of a cumulative total of 2,000 documented hours of practice.

This bill expands the practice of advanced practice nursing to include the prescription of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies.

This bill had a hearing in the House Emerging Issues Committee this week.

Testifying in support of the bill was the Association of Nurse Practitioners, dozens of nurses and nurse practitioners, National Council State Board of Nursing, Missouri Family Health Council, Heartland Advanced Practice Nurses Network, Kids Win Missouri, Advocates of Planned and Parenthood of the St. Louis Region & Southwest MO.

In opposition to the bill was the MO Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, MO College of Emergency Physicians, JCMG, MO State Medical Association, MO Medical Society, and several doctors.