



Governmental Services Group

The Missouri General Assembly heads into the legislative break and halfway point of session this afternoon. Tuesday evening the Senate perfected a controversial education bill, that was a small glimpse of a productive Senate. The Missouri Senate Democrats ended their filibuster of a bill that seeks to expand the state's K-12 tax-credit scholarship program, agreeing to let the legislation come to a vote after Republicans added provisions boosting public school funding and teacher retention efforts.

In a rare instance, Sen. Koenig was able to craft a compromise bill and the Senate was able to function normally in contrast to the session thus far. Many involved in the charter school education fight are skeptical the House will accept these changes, but still, a top majority priority is one step closer to passage.

However, any goodwill in the Senate has likely eroded, leading to an early spring break. Sen. Coleman, during a hearing on her initiative petition bill let slip the plan to move to a previous question motion against the 10 Senate Democrats. This led to the filibuster of a bill sponsored by Sen. Bean that was relatively benign. Sen. Rizzo took the floor leading the filibuster, saying this is not about Sen. Bean's bill but rather the decorum and function of the Senate.

The Senate adjourned before 3 p.m. Wednesday with nothing accomplished which essentially drew the week to a close in terms of floor action. This doesn't bode well for the final half of session, as a PQ motion against the Senate Democrats would effectively end productivity in the chamber. This sort of rhetoric also jeopardizes the must-pass FRA bill, at least in regular session, and makes a special session much more likely.

Thursday, the House Budget Chair, Rep. Cody Smith dropped his committee substitutes for the House budgetary lines. The Governor released his recommended budget alongside his state of the state in January and this is the next major step in the budget project. The Governor's budget proposal was \$52.7 billion, with a roughly \$2 billion surplus and a desire to leave much of that to his successor.

The House is once again behind schedule this session, and the hope is the Senate receives the budget and goes through their appropriations committee process with plenty of time to spare, as there are already rumors of Senate dysfunction bleeding into the budget process. Particularly worrisome, would be a line-by-line examination of the state budget by the "Freedom Caucus", which could take days or weeks depending. We will be looking at budgetary items in their current form and will be in communication on any amendments during the markup process.

The Missouri legislature is officially on break and will resume business on Monday, March 25th. GSG will not have an update next week but if you have any questions feel free to reach out to our office, and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Tobacco Product Regulations

SB 911, sponsored by Senator Brown, modifies provisions relating to tobacco product regulations. Under this act, the state's laws shall preempt any local laws, ordinances, orders, rules, or regulations enacted by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state regulating the sale of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products. Additionally, 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 license within the previous 24 months, as described in the act.

SB 911 was voted out of the Senate Commerce Committee this week DO PASS.

Tobacco Product Regulations

HB 2060, Keathley, modifies provisions relating to tobacco product regulations. This bill was voted out of the House Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee DO PASS.

MO HealthNet Work Requirements

SJR 76, sponsored by Senator Carter, modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet. If approved by the voters, this constitutional amendment requires, subject to approval of a waiver, able-bodied adult MO HealthNet participants, ages 19 to 49, to participate in work and community engagement requirements. Participants shall complete at least 80 hours a month of any combination of specified work, education, job search, childcare, and volunteer services. The Department of Social Services shall provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities who are not otherwise exempt from the work and community engagement requirements under this amendment to ensure that the participants are able to comply with the requirements, including exemptions, modifications of hours, and the provision of necessary support services.

SJR 76 had a hearing in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee this week.

A citizen testified in support of the bill.

In opposition to the bill was Empower Missouri, AARP, American Cancer Action Network, Missouri Budget Project, Health Forward Foundation, and Paraquad, INC.

Public Funding of Abortion Facilities

HB 2634, sponsored by Representative Smith, modifies provisions relating to public funding of abortion facilities and affiliates and provisions relating to MO HealthNet providers. This bill was voted out of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee DO PASS.

Blood Tests, Hormonal Contraceptives, & Mammography

HB2413, sponsored by Representative Peters, modifies provisions relating to health care. This bill was vote out of the House Rules Committee DO PASS.

This bill was amended in Committee to include:

BLOOD TESTS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

The bill modifies provisions governing blood tests and maternal screening for pregnant women. Currently, pregnant women are asked to take a blood test at the time of the first prenatal examination, or no later than 20 days after the first prenatal examination, to screen for syphilis and hepatitis B, as well as any other treatable diseases and metabolic disorders as are prescribed by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

This bill requires an additional blood sample to be taken, with the woman's consent, at 28 weeks of pregnancy, and expands the list of diseases for screening to include hepatitis C and HIV. The bill also repeals a provision outlining the procedure for a later sample of a woman's blood in any area of the state designated as a syphilis outbreak area, and provides that if a woman tests positive for syphilis, hepatitis B or C, or HIV, or a combination thereof, the physician or person providing care shall administer treatment in accordance with the most recent accepted medical practice to treat such diseases.

SELF-ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES COVERAGE

This bill requires any health benefit plan in Missouri to reimburse a health care provider or dispensing entity for the dispensing of a supply of self-administered hormonal contraceptives intended to last up to one year, starting from January 1, 2025. The bill prohibits the coverage from being subject to any greater deductible or co-payment than other similar health care services provided by the health benefit plan.

MAMMOGRAPHY

The bill repeals provisions relating to required notice provided to patients upon their completion of a mammogram.

Anti-Red Flag Gun Seizure Act

SB 998, sponsored by Senator Hoskins, establishes the "Anti-Red Flag Gun Seizure Act" which provides that any federal order of protection or other judicial order issued by a court to confiscate any firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition from any law-abiding citizen shall be considered an infringement on the people's right to keep and bear arms.

Additionally, no public agency, political subdivision, or law enforcement agency shall receive any federal funding for the purpose of enforcing any federal acts or judicial orders confiscating any firearms, firearm accessories, or ammunition.

Telehealth

Hb 1532, sponsored by Representative Buchheit-Courtway, modifies provisions relating to telemedicine. Currently, provisions governing a physician's use of telemedicine require that a physician-patient relationship must be established and specify how that may be achieved through telemedicine. This bill modifies those provisions to mandate questions sufficient to gain information as though the medical interview conducted by a physician had been performed in person.

Health care providers are currently prohibited from prescribing medication to a patient based solely on an Internet request or questionnaire; the bill specifies that a prescription or treatment

based on an evaluation that does not provide the sufficient information as though the medical interview had been conducted in person is prohibited.

This bill was voted out of the House Healthcare Reform Committee DO PASS.

Tobacco Product Regulations

HB 2060, Keathley, modifies provisions relating to tobacco product regulations. This bill was voted out of the House Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee DO PASS.