



April 12, 2024

It was an abbreviated week in the House, as many Representatives traveled to the state's southern region to experience the total eclipse Monday. By Tuesday, the House returned to business and dedicated the week to committee hearings and working swiftly through its perfection calendar. The Senate did convene Monday with a focus on addressing a controversial bill defunding Planned Parenthood. Surprising many, Senators reached a compromise after only 11 hours of debate.

Budget Update

The Senate's work is just beginning on the FY25 budget. Senator Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield) announced no committee hearings or negotiations will take place until the Senate passes SB 748, which renews **Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA)** sunset. The FRA accounts for \$4.3 billion and is necessary to craft a balanced budget. *The reauthorization of the FRA is a top 2024 priority for the **KC Chamber and Civic Council of Greater Kansas City.***

Given the Senate floor action on planned parenthood defunding this week, many are hopeful that the FRA will not be blocked or amended to include controversial pro-life or anti-abortion language, which could compromise the FRA's viability. Once the FRA has passed, the Senate is expected to begin crafting its version of the FY2025 budget. All capitol regulars feel the quickly approaching May 10th constitutional budget deadline.

House Floor Activity

Shutdown orders

The House dedicated floor time Tuesday evening to debate HB 2874, sponsored by Representative Brian Seitz (R-Branson). The bill establishes the "Protecting Missouri's Small Businesses Act," and requires political subdivisions implementing shutdown orders that close businesses at least 21 days must waive business license fees and reduce real and property tax liabilities. After a brief debate, the House provided its first of two necessary approval votes.

Nuclear construction tax exemption

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday morning to debate HB 2710, sponsored by Representatives Chris Brown (R-Kansas City). The bill authorizes a state and local sales tax

exemption for the purpose of constructing a new nuclear security enterprise located in Kansas City. After a brief debate, the House provided its first of two necessary approval votes.

Advanced manufacturing recruitment

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate HB 1480, sponsored by Representative Brad Christ (R-St. Louis). The bill establishes a tax credit for up to 20% of a capital investment in property made by a qualified manufacturing company for up to five years. The capital investment must equal at least \$1 billion and create 500 or more jobs in Missouri. The total amount of tax credits issued annually may not exceed \$200 million. The language includes a 10-year sunset, clarifies that the employment is based on full time workers, and bases the tax year to fiscal year instead of calendar year. During debate, the bill was amended to require preference be given to Missouri employers relocating from adversarial countries. Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes. *The **KC Chamber and Civic Council** are supportive of this legislation.*

Committee Activity

Public safety

The Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committees convened Monday afternoon to discuss HB 1659, sponsored by Representative Lane Roberts (R-Joplin). This bill includes 22 various provisions, all which have been debated during previous sessions. It seeks to modify provisions relating to Blair's law, juvenile offenders, persistent offenders, wrongful conviction, armed criminal action, a cyberstalking and harassment task force, endangering the welfare of a child, unlawful possession of a firearm, law enforcement animals, drug trafficking, and the office of the public defender. United States Police K-9 Association, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services, Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Missouri State Troopers Association, City of Kansas City, **Civic Council of Kansas City, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**, National Association of Social Workers-St. Louis County and Missouri Juvenile Justice Association provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee.

Career tech certificate program

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Tuesday morning to discuss HB 1569, sponsored by Representative Ann Kelley (R-Lamar). The bill establishes a **Career-Tech Certificate program**. Beginning in the 2025-26 academic year, any student who has met the qualifications for the **A+ Scholars Program** shall qualify for reimbursement for the costs associated with tuition, books, or fees associated with completion of an eligible certificate program from a public or private postsecondary institution, vocational school, community college, or certified training provider approved by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Eligible programs include certificate or degree programs conferred by approved institutions of higher education for employment as a certified nursing assistant (CNA), certified medical technician (CMT), commercial driver's license (CDL), level 1 medication administration

aide (L1MAA), and certified insulin administrator. During the bill's legislative progression, substitute language was adopted to combine the bill with HB 2326, HB 2415, and HB 2313 to increase the range of awards for recipients of the Access Missouri scholarship, require any public community college, college, or university to develop a policy to provide college credit for any enrolled student who receives a 4 or higher on an international baccalaureate (IB) examination, and for the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to develop a grant program for eligible students pursuing a certificate, associates, or bachelor's degree in an approved STEM program. The language also ties the cap on the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant to the CPI. Missouri NEA, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Council on Public Higher Education, Independent Colleges and Universities of Missouri, and Economic Development Corporation of Greater Kansas City provided supporting testimony. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. *The **KC Chamber and Civic Council** have been advocates for this legislation.*

Creating more flexibility within MO Works

The House Economic Development Committee convened Wednesday morning to discuss HB 2479, sponsored by Representative Louis Riggs (R-Hannibal). The bill improves the **MO Works Program** by enhancing flexibility to attract more businesses to the state. It combines caps of the advanced industrial manufacturing (AIM) zone and targeted industrial manufacturing enhancement (TIME) zone tax incentives within the MO Works Program and clarifies the total authorized tax credit cannot exceed \$181 million. The Division of Regional Engagement for the Department of Economic Development provided supporting testimony stating this language ensures the MO Works program remains competitive with peer states in the current business climate. Associated Industries of Missouri, Port KC, Greater St. Louis Inc., Missouri Economic Development Council, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, and Jefferson City Regional Economic Partnership also supported the bill. No opposing testimony was presented to the committee. *The **KC Chamber and Civic Council** have been advocates for this legislation.*

STL Earnings Taxes

The Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee convened on Thursday morning to discuss SB 993, sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, this bill provides that the rate of tax imposed in St. Louis City may be reduced over a period of years. Each reduction shall be by 0.1% and shall only occur if the amount of annual revenue received in the previous fiscal year is greater than the amount of annual revenue received in the fiscal year immediately before such fiscal year by at least 3%. No supporting testimony was presented to the committee. The City of St Louis Policy Director provided opposing testimony stating this would have a negative fiscal impact on city and public safety services.

Bill Tracker

Please find your updated bill list via the following link: <https://govwatch.net/report/3BrZGXRqA5>

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

House: <https://house.mo.gov/AllHearings.aspx>

Senate: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/hearingsschedule/hrings.htm>

Calendars

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

Key Upcoming Dates

May 10, 2024 – Last day to constitutionally pass the FY 2025 budget

May 17, 2024 – Last day of the 2024 legislative session

August 6, 2024 – Missouri primary elections

September 11, 2024 – Veto session

My thanks,

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KC Chamber Missouri State Affairs 2024 Legislative Wrap Up Luncheon

May 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The American Restaurant in Crown Center

Lunch Reservations: \$65 for Chamber Members, \$85 for Non-Members

Register Using this Link: <https://tinyurl.com/3tzd26r2>