



May 3, 2024

Only two weeks remain in the 2024 legislative session. The House worked diligently this week, perfecting and sending House bills to the Senate for consideration. Meanwhile, the Senate was engrossed in a 41-hour filibuster that dominated its week and usurped nearly all other Senate activities. Five members of the Republican Freedom Caucus demanded that Governor Parson sign a bill defunding Planned Parenthood and the Senate pass an initiative petition reform bill before they would allow a bill extending the federal reimbursement allowance tax to be debated or perfected. After spending two days holding the floor, the Freedom Caucus members finally retreated around 3:30 Thursday morning without their initial demands being met, allowing the Senate to perfect its FRA bill.

Next Week

Due to the legislative schedule, Chamber members will not receive the standard weekly report next week. Our lobbyists will continue to monitor issues and alert the Chamber and Civic Council via email or phone as priorities progress throughout the week. Session adjourns May 17; at which time members will receive a detailed end-of-session report shortly thereafter.

Budget Update

All eyes were on the Senate floor this week as Senators debated SB 748, sponsored by Senator Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield). The bill extends the **Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA)**, which provides almost \$4.5 billion in Medicaid funding each year. As expected, immediately after Senator Hough made the motion to bring the bill before the body for debate, the Freedom Caucus immediately launched into a filibuster that lasted a little over 41 hours. Around 3:30 Thursday morning, Freedom Caucus members suddenly withdrew their amendments and relinquished the floor, allowing the body to adopt Senator Hough's substitute language extending the FRA sunset for five years. The Senate then provided its first of two necessary approval votes. The FRA bill still requires a final third reading vote in the Senate next week before being sent to the House for further consideration.

Only one week remains to finalize the FY25 budget before the May 10 constitutional deadline. Given this week's floor delays, the Senate has yet to debate and pass its version of all 18 budget bills. Next week is critical as the budget must be passed by the Senate in time to reconcile any differences it may have with the House. Compounding the ever-evaporating time, Freedom Caucus members have promised for months to scrutinize the budget and have highlighted some of their grievances during the filibuster this week. Quick actions may be necessary but seem unlikely.

Senate Floor Activity

Nuclear construction tax exemption

The Senate debated SB 1388, handled by Senator JJ Rizzo (D-Independence) this week. 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 brief debate, the Senate provided its passage vote of 32-0. The bill now will be sent to the House for further consideration. The **KC Chamber** is supportive of this legislation.

House Floor Activity

Historic preservation tax credits

The House dedicated floor time Wednesday morning to debate HB 1936, sponsored by Representative Travis Wilson (R-St. Charles). The bill modifies provisions relating to the historic preservation tax credit program and renames such tax credits the "**Missouri Historic, Rural Revitalization, and Regulatory Streamlining Act**" to allow counties to designate certain structures as "essential community or heritage facilities." The intent is to streamline processes and enable developers to revitalize areas. During the bill's legislative progression, modifications were made to remove provisions regarding Economic Development Advancement Funding (EDAF), extend project timelines from nine months to two years, and require a 120-day turn around for applications. After a brief debate, the House provided its first of two necessary approval votes. The **KC Chamber and Civic Council of Greater Kansas City** are supportive of this legislation.

Committee Activity

Public safety

The House Judiciary Committee convened Wednesday afternoon to consider passage of SB 754, sponsored by Senator Tony Luetkemeyer (R-Parkville). This bill modifies provisions various 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, fleeing a stop, office of the public defender, and more. With no modifications, the committee passed the bill by a 10-2 vote. The **KC Chamber and Civic Council of Greater Kansas City** are supportive of this legislation.

Prohibited diversity statements

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened Tuesday morning to consider passage of SB 1125, sponsored by Senator Ben Brown (R-Washington). The bill prohibits public institutions of postsecondary education from requiring any applicant, student, employee, or contractor to submit a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement or from giving preferential consideration in admissions or employment on the basis of an individual's or entity's submission of any statement relating to a discriminatory ideology, including any ideology that promotes the differential treatment of an individual or group of individuals based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, ethnicity, national origin, or ancestry. The bill also outlines certain disciplinary protocols for an individual or institution in violation of the act. After brief discussion, the committee passed the bill by an 8-2 vote.

Career tech certificate program

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children convened on Tuesday morning to consider passage of 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.

During Senate committee discussion, substitute language was adopted enlarging the bill further to now include:

- SB 1311 requires DESE to develop a pilot program in certain schools which promotes a **media literacy and critical thinking** program.
- SB 766 requires **background checks** for certain employees of public charter schools in the state.
- SB 1462 requires DESE to develop a **voluntary cursive writing instruction** protocol.
- SB 1322 allows members of the **Missouri National Guard to receive a tuition waiver** or grant equal to the amount paid for the cost of books and tuition at any public college or university in the state; and,
- HB 2310 creates the **higher ed core curriculum transferability act**.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-4 vote.

Tax credit omnibus

The House Economic Development Committee met Wednesday morning to consider passage of HB 1935, sponsored by Representative Travis Wilson. The bill creates the "**Revitalizing Missouri Downtowns and Main Streets Act**" and establishes a tax credit to encourage developers to convert abandoned buildings to living spaces, stores, etc., with a goal of revitalizing downtown areas. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted to include 14 additional provisions that include the following:

- HB 1480 establishes tax credits to **incent advanced manufacturing**.
- HB 1731 establishes tax credits for **donations to local hospital foundations**.
- HB 1834 establishes tax credits to **incent businesses to produce certain gases and metals**.
- HB 1824 establishes tax credits for **railroad expenses**.
- HB 1936 establishes tax credits to **revitalize facilities of historic significance**.
- HB 2479 establishes tax credits to **promote industrial manufacturing** and infrastructure.

- HB 1483 establishes tax credits for **sporting events**.
- HB 2089 establishes tax credits for **youth opportunities and protection against violence**.
- HB 2384 establishes tax credits for **diaper banks**.
- HB 2547 establishes tax credits for **adoption expenses**.
- SB 867 establishes tax credit for **private or home school expenses**.
- HB 2629 establishes tax credit for **champions for children**.
- HB 2929 establishes a **one-time, nonrefundable tax credit**.
- HB 2926 establishes tax credit to **incent employees of qualified businesses to serve as community college instructors**.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 9-6 vote.

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

November 5, 2024 – Missouri general elections

My thanks,

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KC Chamber Missouri State Affairs 2024 Legislative Wrap Up Luncheon

Featuring Senate President Caleb Rowden,

House Speaker Dean Plocher, Senator Lauren Arthur

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>