



Capital Report:
Representative Ashley Bland Manlove 26th District
25th February 2020



It is an honor and privilege to serve the 26th District in the Missouri House of Representatives. I've enjoyed getting to know so many people in our community, and I hope this e-mail newsletter allows me to hear from more of my constituents. Please forward this e-mail to your friends and family in the 26th District who want to know how what happens in the legislature affects all our lives.

Committees:

- **Subcommittee on Appropriations - General Administration, Ranking Minority Member**
- **Budget**
- **Financial Institutions**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Weekly Capitol Update
2. Black History Month
3. Important Information

REPRESENTATIVE MANLOVE'S SPONSORED LEGISLATION FROM THE 100TH ASSEMBLY

- **HB 1573** - (4079H.01I) Modifies provisions relating to law enforcement officer's use of force in making an arrest.
- **HB 1591** - (3822H.01I) Establishes the National Popular Vote Act.
- **HB 1592** - (3261H.01I) Changes offenses not eligible for expungement.
- **HB 1593** - (3315H.01I) Allows a civil action for summoning a police officer.
- **HB 1594** - (3819H.02I) Creates provisions for automatic voter registration.
- **HB 1595** - (3270H.01I) Modifies provisions relating to compensation for victims of crime.
 - **HB 1674** - (3531H.01I) Prohibits text messaging while driving for all drivers.

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- **HB 1675** - (3314H.01I) Designates the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.
 - **HB 1676** - (3730H.01I) Requires that all sales or transfers of firearms and ammunition be processed through a licensed firearms dealer.
 - **HB 1848** - (3386H.01I) Establishes provisions requiring notice to the debtor before collecting debt through judicial means.
 - **HB 2242**- (4271H.02I) Creates the offense of unlawful possession of an ammunition feeding device that holds more than ten rounds.
 - **HB 2517** - (5416H.01I) Modifies the penalties for the offense of driving while revoked.
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Prescription Drug Monitoring Program



HOUSE AGAIN APPROVES DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

After several hours of sometimes contentious debate, the House of Representatives on Feb. 12 voted 95-56 to grant first-round approval to legislation to create a statewide prescription drug monitoring program to combat opioid abuse and end Missouri's distinction as the only state in the nation without one. While support for the bill was bipartisan, only Republicans voted in opposition.

A second vote is necessary to send the measure, House Bill 1693, to the Senate, which has blocked similar legislation for years due to opposition from conservatives who believe a state-run PMDP would leave sensitive patient information vulnerable to being hacked or otherwise falling into the wrong hands. Supporters say a PDMP is an important tool to track the over-prescription of narcotics and flag patients who go to multiple doctors to obtain powerful and addictive pain medications.

After the General Assembly proved unable to create a statewide PDMP, St. Louis County launched its own monitoring program several years ago and opened it up for other

counties to join. Nearly 90 percent of the state’s population lives in one of the counties that belongs to St. Louis County’s program. Enacting a statewide PDMP at this point primarily would just provide PDMP coverage to the remaining counties.



SENATE SENDS ‘CLEAN MISSOURI’ REPEAL TO THE HOUSE

The Senate voted 22-9 on Feb. 10 to advance to the House of Representatives a proposed constitutional amendment sought by Republicans to ditch new statehouse redistricting reforms that nearly two-thirds of Missourians voted to adopt in 2018. A single Republican joined unanimous Democrats in opposing the measure.

The voter-approved redistricting plan, known as Clean Missouri, calls for state House and Senate seats to be drawn by a non-partisan state demographer using constitutional criteria designed to maximize the number of competitive districts and ensure partisan fairness. Senate Joint Resolution 38 would reinstate a modified version of Missouri’s old redistricting process that was controlled by the Republican and Democratic parties.

If the Republican-controlled House also approves SJR 38, it automatically would go on the November 2020 statewide ballot. The Clean Missouri plan is slated for use in the 2021 redistricting cycle but would be pre-empted if voters ratify SJR 38. The new statehouse districts that will be drawn next year will be used from the 2022 through 2030 legislative elections.



House Democrats Announce Education Agenda for 2020 Session

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – House Democrats today outlined a legislative package to strengthen public education to produce better outcomes and provide better opportunities for students to succeed in school and beyond. Those proposals include better preparing students to enter the workforce, ensuring that school discipline isn't excessive and counter-productive, mitigating external factors that negatively impact a child's ability to learn and upholding the principle of local control of public school districts.

"From early childhood education straight on up through graduate school, Missouri's public education system is critical to the success of our state," said House Minority Leader Crystal Quade, D-Springfield. "Every level of that system builds upon the one before it, and every level must be strong or the entire system collapses. House Democrats are committed to strengthening the system to ensure every Missouri student gets the high-quality public education they deserve."

To help students develop the skills needed for the job market, House Bill 2114 sponsored by state Rep. LaKeySha Bosley, D-St. Louis, would establish the Career and Technical Education Rewards program to provide state grants to school districts that increase the number of students who earn an industry-recognized CTE certificate while IN high school.

"Right now we see movement around workforce and supplying scholars of this great state with the knowledge needed to go in the field," Bosley said. "Allowing schools to have a CTE program is important to do just that. Back in the 1940s and 1950s, almost every child graduated with a certification in a special skill set. This not only sets them up for work, but this is something that will help curb the increasing violence epidemic we are seeing happen. When people no longer have to live in survival mode, the economy is better and so are our communities."

House Bill 1430 sponsored by state Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, would create the Allan Purdy Work-Study Program for students enrolled in any two- or four-year college or university and allow them to gain valuable work experience while earning their degree. It is named after the late Allan Purdy, a longtime advocate for higher education and a key figure in the establishment of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority. The House Higher Education Committee approved the bill on Feb. 3.

“The Allan Purdy Work-Study Program is a ‘win-win’ arrangement, benefiting both students and businesses,” Kendrick said. “We often lose some of the brightest graduates during the job search. This bill will create a situation where there may not need to be a ‘job search’ in order to retain highly skilled and qualified workers.” Democrats are also sponsoring legislation to ensure that student discipline is measured and appropriate to the circumstance, especially when applied to younger children, to avoid overly harsh punishment that can prove counterproductive to long-term academic success. One of those measures is House Bill 2105 sponsored by state Rep. Ian Mackey, D-St. Louis. It would prohibit the suspension of children in kindergarten through third grade.

“Suspending kindergartners does nothing to improve safety outcomes, educational advancement or social-emotional maturity,” Mackey said. “All kids, even the challenging ones, deserve our love, support, patience and the opportunity to learn.”

Another discipline-related measure, House Bill 1275, would give school principals more discretion over when it is appropriate to involve police when students are accused of the misdemeanor offenses of third-degree assault or harassment. State Rep. Sarah Unsicker, D-Shrewsbury, is the sponsor.

“When a child gets into a fight or is bullying another child, the school’s first response should not be to call the police but to address the behavior,” Unsicker said. “Right now, school officials are required to call the police in these situations. School officials are not lawyers, and the complexities of criminal law are difficult to understand. Under the current law, school officials believe they have to call police, even when their better judgment tells them this should be a learning experience, not a criminal experience.”

In addition, House Bill 1281 sponsored by state Rep. Paula Brown, D-Hazelwood, would decrease the maximum amount of time a student could be suspended from 180 days to 90 days.

“This bill is an effort to keep more students in school longer,” Brown said. “A 180-day suspension that has nothing to do with violence, weapons or drugs has no place in a system that was created to educate children and create effective citizens. We must stop the school to prison pipeline.”

To address the practice of “food shaming,” state Rep. Raychel Proudie, D-Ferguson, has filed House Bill 1660.

The bill would require schools to provide a meal to any student who requests one, regardless of ability to pay or if they owe debt from previous meals. The bill also would prohibit schools from publicly identifying or stigmatizing any student who owes meal debt.

“Research tends to show hunger negatively impacts children’s ability to learn and reach their academic potential; the same can be said for shaming children in school settings,” Proudie said. “There is no justifiable reason we should be humiliating students by forcing them to skip or throw away a meal in our schools.”

In addition, House Bill 1931 sponsored by state Rep. Chris Carter, D-St. Louis, would require schools with 70 percent or more of their students eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program to also offer breakfast.

To more accurately assess school performance, House Bill 1280 would modify how the Missouri School Improvement Program measures student success by using a “growth model” to evaluate individual students. State Rep. Paula Brown is the sponsor.

“Right now, the state MAP test is given the greatest weight when accrediting schools,” Brown said. “But the MAP test is just one snapshot in time that compares last year’s students to this year’s students, not the same students from one year to the next. If we want an authentic assessment model, it should be one that measures the growth of a student from one year to another. A one-size-fits-all method by its very nature sets some of our students up for failure.”

To bolster after-school programs, state Rep. Peter Merideth, D-St. Louis, has filed House Bill 2185 to require unclaimed prize money from the state lottery to be dedicated to a special state fund for such programs, instead of reverting back to the lottery.

Renewing House Democrats’ commitment to local control, state Rep. Matt Sain, D-Kansas City, is seeking to restore the ability of individual public school systems to decide when their school year starts, reversing legislation passed last year that requires districts to start no earlier than two weeks prior to the first Monday in September. Sain’s measure is House Bill 2053.

“We talk a lot about government overreach here, and I believe that state government should not be overreaching into our schools to an extent that the legislature decides when to start the school year,” Sain said.

“My legislation will give the power back to school districts to decide what’s best for their students when it comes to starting the school year.”





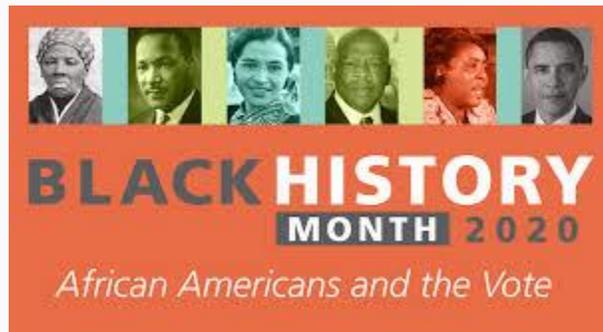
Representative Ashley Bland Manlove Speaking on Black History Month

February 25th 2020

The morning of Tuesday February 25th, Representative Manlove spoke on the topic of Black History month. The context of her speech mentioned Emanuel Cleaver II, who is serving his seventh term in the Missouri House of Representatives, representing Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. After serving on the city council of Missouri's largest municipality, Kansas City, Representative Cleaver was elected as the city's first African American Mayor in 1991. During his term in the Mayor's office, some things that set Representative Cleaver apart from others was his activism for economic development, and being an unapologetic redevelopment craftsman; by bringing TransAmerica, Harley Davidson, Citi Corp, and other major corporations to Kansas City. Not to mention, Representative Cleaver closed the forty-year delay gap of the newly finished Bruce R. Watkins Roadway, formally known as the South Midtown Roadway. In 2009, Representative Cleaver introduced his most ambitious project- the creation of a Green Impact Zone. The Green Impact Zone project gives \$125 million dollars from American Recovery and Reinvestment funds to about 150 blocks in the Kansas City area for restoration. The goal of this project is to make this high crime area the environmentally greenest piece of urban geography in the world. This would include rebuilding Troost Avenue, rehabbing bridges, curbs and sidewalks, smart grid technology in hundreds of homes, and even hundreds of highly demanded jobs.

February 24th 2020, one of the finest mathematical minds in the country, Katherine Johnson, died at the age of 101. She calculated the trajectories that eventually led the Apollo 11 space mission to land on the moon in 1969. But her work didn't stop there. A year later, she helped make it possible for John Glenn and the Mercury vessel Friendship 7 to orbit the earth. Katherine Johnson was one of the hundreds of rigorously educated, supremely capable and yet, largely unheralded women who worked as NASA mathematicians. However, throughout her 33 years in NASA's Flight Research Division, almost no one knew her name. In 2017 NASA dedicated a building in her honor, the Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility, at its Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. That year, The Washington Post described her as "the most high-profile of the computers" - "computers" being the term originally used to designate

Katherine Johnson and her colleagues, much as "typewriters" was used in the 19th century to denote professional typists. As Katherine herself was fond of saying, her tenure at Langley was "a time when computers wore skirts."



Black Caucus highlights contributions of black Missourians

Lawmakers discuss bills focused on remembrance as part of Black History Month

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – As part of Black History Month, the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus today discussed legislation highlighting the contributions of black Missourians in state history and the importance black institutions and culture have had in shaping our society.

“African-Americans have played vital roles in building Missouri since before statehood, yet those contributions traditionally have been omitted from the history books,” said Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Steven Roberts, D-St. Louis. “As the heirs of those who came before us, it is our duty to ensure their sacrifices and accomplishments are given their rightful place in the collective memory of our state.”

With the centennial approaching of the election of Missouri’s first black legislator, Walthall Moore, House Bill 1939 memorializes his ground-breaking achievement by designating his birthday, May 1, as Walthall Moore Day. Moore, a St. Louis Republican, was first elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1920 but lost his seat in 1922 following redistricting. He returned to the House in 1924 and was re-elected in 1926 and 1928.

State Rep. Kevin Windham, D-Hillsdale, is sponsoring HB 1939.

“State Rep. Walthall Moore was a profile in the political courage and mental fortitude that Missourians hold dear to this day nearly 100 years later,” Windham said. “Rep. Moore battled against Republicans and

Democrats, but most importantly he fought for education in the black community, reorganizing Lincoln Institute into Lincoln University and improving its funding.”

House Concurrent Resolution 74 sponsored by Roberts calls upon the Missouri General Assembly to formally renounce the U.S. Supreme Court’s infamous Dred Scott decision. The ruling, handed down on March 6, 1857, declared that black Americans, whether free or slave, “had no rights which the white man was bound to respect” and helped precipitate the Civil War.

In related legislation, state Rep. Wiley Price, D-St. Louis, seeks to honor the memory of Scott and his wife Harriet with House Bill 1399 designating March 6 as Dred and Harriet Scott Day.

To provide recognition for the importance of historically black institutions of higher education, particularly Lincoln University in Jefferson City and Harris Stowe University in St. Louis, state Rep. Barbara Washington, D-Kansas City, has filed House Bill 1381 designating the third week in September as Historically Black College and University Week.

State Rep. Alan Green, D-Florissant, has filed a pair of bills to establish funding sources to promote and celebrate the cultural heritage of black Missourians. House Bill 1826 would authorize voters in St. Louis city and county to decide whether the existing local zoo and museum taxing district should be expanded to establish an African-American History Museum. House Bill 1827 would use revenue from an existing tax on visiting athletes and entertainers to fund an annual Juneteenth Heritage and Jazz Festival to be celebrated in either Kansas City, St. Louis or St. Louis County.



House Democrats promote bills to improve voter access

With 2020 election cycle underway, maximizing voter participation is crucial

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – With the 2020 election cycle underway, House Democrats have filed several bills designed to improve voter access and ensure that every Missourian who is legally registered to vote can cast a ballot without jumping unnecessary hurdles.

“Our system of government depends on robust voter participation,” said House Minority Leader Crystal Quade, D-Springfield. “Unfortunately, the state imposes many barriers to voting that serve only to deter people from exercising their right to have a voice in their government.”

Getting more eligible Missourians registered to vote is one key step to improving voter participation. To that end, state Rep. Ashley Bland Manlove, D-Kansas City, has filed House Bill 1594 to require the Secretary of State’s Office to establish a system for automatic voter registration using driver’s license information from the state Department of Revenue. Local elections officials would retain the authority to screen prospective voters for eligibility.

“We are entitled to the opportunity to have a stake in the advancement of this great nation,” Bland-Manlove said. “By automatically registering Missourians to vote we help expedite that process, especially for those of us who are trying to make a new start after incarceration. It’s the right thing to do.”

Giving voters more opportunities to cast their ballot is another way to improve participation and access. State Rep. Greg Razer, D-Kansas City, has filed House Bill 1530 to allow any voter to cast an absentee ballot in advance of Election Day without stating a reason. To vote absentee under existing law, a voter must attest that they will be out of their home jurisdiction or otherwise unable to make it to their polling place on Election Day.

“A citizen’s right to vote is the most fundamental part of the American experience,” Razer said. “No-excuse absentee voting is a simple way to make that experience more convenient, and more accessible to our fellow citizens.”

In a further effort to increase the opportunities to vote, state Rep. Wiley Price, D-St. Louis, has filed House Bill 1398 to establish an early voting period starting six weeks before Election Day.

House Democrats are also committed to improving access for voters with disabilities. State Rep. Raychel Proudie, D-Ferguson, has sponsored House Bill 1662 to require each polling place to have at least one electronic voting machine available for blind or visually impaired voters.

“It is critical that we provide access to the ballot to all Missourians,” Proudie said. “HB 1662 would codify the

provisions necessary for blind or visually impaired Missourians to have the opportunity to vote, which is an essential right. I hope my colleagues in the House and the Senate join with me in ensuring that right.”

Preventing registered voters from being purged from the voter rolls without warning is the aim of House Bill 1379 sponsored by state Rep. Barbara Washington, D-Kansas City. The bill would require the secretary of state to wait five years before removing a voter from the registration list due to inactivity and require those removed to be informed of how to renew their registration.

“Voting is our right and that right should not be snatched from us without proper notification,” Washington said. “HB 1379 puts the onus on the secretary of state to properly notify all of our citizens before removing them from the rolls. Removing a qualified voter from the rolls amounts to voter suppression.”

Other bills House Democrats have filed to improve voter access include House Bill 1780 sponsored by state Rep. Rasheen Aldridge, D-St. Louis, to restore voting rights to those released on probation and parole and House Bill 2308 sponsored by state Rep. Matt Sain, D-Kansas City, to make the November general election date a state holiday.

In addition, House Democrats will steadfastly oppose efforts to suppress voter participation, including the latest attempt to impose an unnecessary photo voter identification requirement, House Bill 1600. The House could debate the Republican-sponsored measure later this week.

The Missouri Supreme Court has twice struck down as unconstitutional bills to impose a photo voter ID requirement, holding that such legislation does nothing to combat voter fraud while making it harder to vote for groups that are most likely to lack a government-issued photo ID, primarily racial minorities, the elderly and voters with disabilities.





Please join me on March 28!

Job/Training Fair

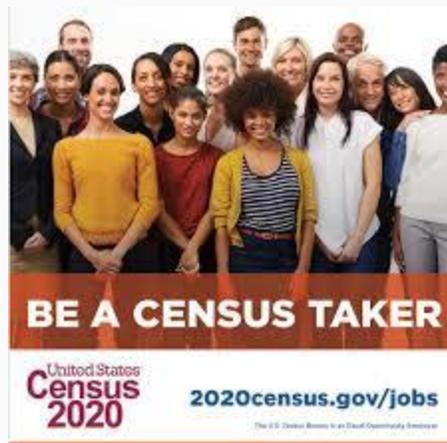
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