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Capitol Report

April 11, 2024

Dear Neighbor,

Very little happened this week in the House as Monday was a technical session due to the eclipse. With five weeks left in the legislative year, there have been ZERO pieces of legislation to be passed and sent to the governor's desk.

There are many reasons in my opinion for the lack of bill passage. First, there has been total chaos in the senate. The senate has yet to pass the Federal Reimbursement Allowance for Medicaid because of fighting over defunding Planned Parenthood. The state budget has been sent to the senate, but they have yet to pass any of the budget bills. Finally, because of the House Speaker's ethics investigation, that is also having some effect on bills moving through.

Optimistically, I can say that nothing bad has been passed, but we are still awaiting the Initiative Petition Ballot language. I suspect things will heat up in both chambers of the legislature as the end of session continues to draw near.

As always, I will be on the frontline to do the right thing for District 27 and the state of Missouri.

Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard



Bill to defund Planned Parenthood moves closer to passage

Legislation seeking to block women's health care provider Planned Parenthood from receiving reimbursements from the state's Medicaid program could soon be headed to the governor after the

Republican-controlled Missouri Senate overcame an 11-hour Democratic filibuster to bring the measure to a vote on April 10. It passed 23-10 along straight party lines.

The House of Representatives previously approved House Bill 2634 by a vote of 104-49 on March 4. However, because of Senate changes, the bill returns to House, which is expected to grant final passage to measure in its current form rather than seek to negotiate a compromise version that would require another Senate vote and potentially spark another filibuster.

Because abortion is illegal in Missouri in nearly all circumstances, none of Planned Parenthood's Missouri clinics perform them and instead focus on other women's health care services, including general care, cancer screenings and contraception. However, Republican lawmakers for years have unsuccessfully pushed to defund the organization's Missouri operations since it still offers abortion in other states. Federal law has long prohibited Medicaid funds from paying for abortion services.

The Missouri Supreme Court twice in recent years has struck down efforts to defund Planned Parenthood through the state budget process. In both cases, the court cited longstanding precedent that budget bills must be limited to appropriating funding and cannot also set policy without violating a state constitutional prohibition against bills containing multiple subjects.

House Bill 2634 attempts to get around the constitutional impediment by creating a general statute purporting to prohibit Medicaid reimbursements to health care facilities affiliated with out-of-state abortion providers. Although critics say the bill violates federal requirements that states must allow willing providers of Medicaid-eligible services to participate in the program, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently upheld a similar Arkansas law.

**VOTING IS
UNDER ATTACK**

**41 STATES
HAVE INTRODUCED
OVER 300
ANTI-VOTER BILLS**

House approves change that could weaken voting rights

The Missouri House of Representatives on April 9 granted preliminary approval on a voice vote to Republican legislation that could drastically weaken the voting rights protections in the Missouri Constitution. A second, recorded vote is required to advance the measure to the Senate.

House Joint Resolution 104's primary purpose is to constitutionally block efforts to adopt ranked-choice voting or other methods allowing voters to cast ballots for multiple candidates in a given race. However, an unrelated provision added as so-called "ballot candy" to entice voters into ratifying the underlying legislation could inadvertently lead to some U.S. citizens being legally disenfranchised in the future.

The state constitution currently guarantees voting rights to "all" U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years old, Missouri residents and registered to vote. HJR 104 would alter that provision to say "only" people who meet those requirements can vote. The measure's sponsor says the intent is to prevent non-citizens from voting, which they already can't do. However, that seemingly minor one-word change could have far reaching consequences by eliminating the constitution's existing absolute guarantee of voting rights for citizens who meet the constitutional requirements and empower future lawmakers to enact laws excluding certain citizens from voting.

If approved by the legislature, HJR 104 automatically would go on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot for ratification. However, the Senate in previous years has failed to take up similar legislation approved by the House.





Senate passes bill to eliminate child marriage in Missouri

Child marriage in Missouri would be completely outlawed under legislation that won first-round Senate approval on April 10. A second vote is required to advance the measure to the House of Representatives.

Until six years ago, Missouri allowed children as young as 15 to marry with parental permission, with even younger kids able to marry with judicial approval. As a result, the state had an unwelcome reputation as a haven for child marriage, often involving girls being wed to much older men.

Although lawmakers enacted legislation in 2018 raising the minimum marriage age to 16 and prohibiting adults age 21 or older from marrying children, some hardline conservatives have resisted banning child marriage entirely. Those hardliners, however, did not block the latest effort to eliminate child marriage, Senate Bill 767, from coming to a preliminary vote.



Net state revenue collections up 0.5 percent so far in FY 2025

Year-to-date net state general revenue collections increased just 0.5 percent through the first three quarters of the 2024 fiscal year compared to the same period in FY 2023, going from \$9.27 billion last year to \$9.32 billion this year, according to revenue data reported March 6 by the Missouri Division of Budget and Planning. Collections had been up 1.3 percent through the first eight months of the fiscal year.

Net general revenue collections in March 2024 declined 6.4 percent compared to those for March 2023, going from \$959.7 million last year to \$898.6 million this year. Year-to-date collections are still running slightly ahead of the most recent consensus revenue estimate for FY 2024, issued halfway through the fiscal year in December, which anticipates a 0.7 percent decline in collections by the time the fiscal year ends June 30. The original FY 2024 estimate, announced in December 2023, predicted 0.7 percent growth for the year.



REAL ID

Are you ready?

Beginning **May 7, 2025**, residents of every U.S. state and territory will be required to present a REAL ID-compliant driver license or ID card, or another form of ID accepted by the Transportation Security Administration, to board federally regulated domestic flights.

Individuals must also present a REAL ID-compliant driver license or ID card to access federal facilities, including military bases and federal courthouses, and to enter nuclear power plants.

Missouri's REAL ID-compliant driver licenses and non-driver ID cards will have a **star** in the upper right-hand corner. A license or ID card that is not compliant with REAL ID will have "Not for REAL ID Purposes" in the upper right-hand corner.

For more information, including where to obtain your REAL ID, visit dor.mo.gov

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





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Contact: Carol Green, (816) 739-9314, cgreen@kclinc.org
Apply: kclinc.org/jobs

The reward has been raised to
\$30,000 for Dominic



GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator

SUBJECT: Reward Increase " 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide

KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.

Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles

apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.

KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, former City Councilmen Kevin McManus, Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at www.KCcrimestoppers.com, or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards

Tips Hotline

816-474-8477

Web Tips

www.KCcrimestoppers.com

Free Mobile App

www.P3Tips.com

* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentzsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.

Rep. Richard Brown

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Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback, questions or ideas!



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