



Capitol Report

March 4, 2022

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Dear Neighbor,

It was a busy week in the House as we perfected several bills. Among the bills perfected was HCS HB 1462. The original bill would allow CCW holders to bring firearms aboard public transportation. After passing out of committee and making it to the House floor, amendments were added that would allow CCW holders to bring guns into churches. This bill removes brass knuckles from the offense of knowingly possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling under Section 571.020, RSMo.

I vigorously opposed HB 1462 in committee as I am a frequent user of public transportation. Not so long ago, law making bodies across our country created gun-free zones as a tool to combat gun violence. Currently, public transportation, churches and schools are places we consider to be gun-free zones. With the passage of this type of legislation, I believe we are taking a step back when it comes to the conversation about the appropriateness of guns in public

spaces.

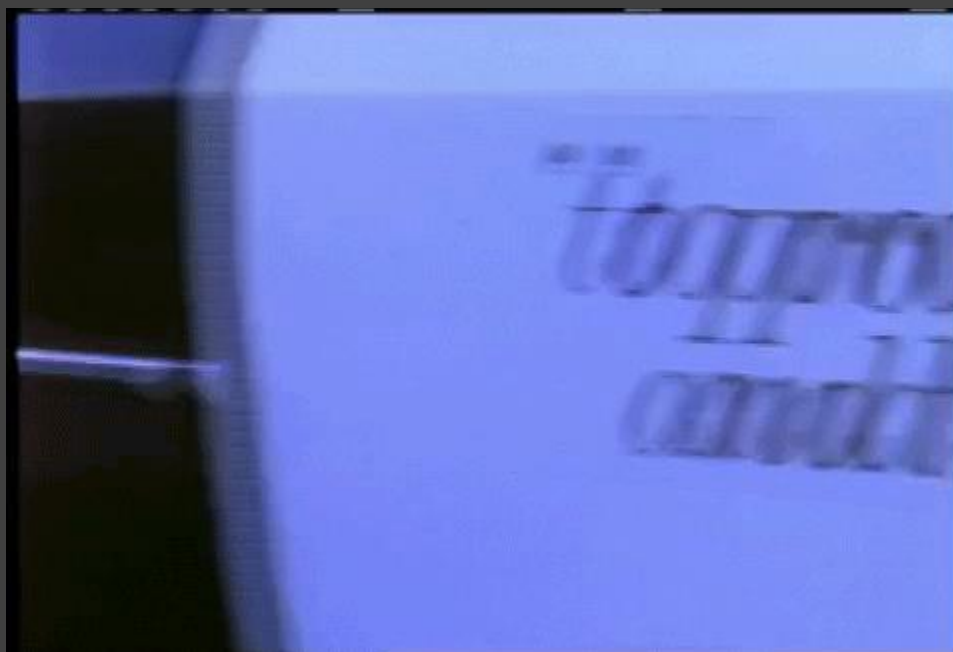
I am not against gun ownership but I am in favor of responsible gun ownership and common sense gun laws.

***Yours in Service,
Rich***

House Legislative Dashboard



[You can view the proposed redistricting maps for the state and congressional districts here.](#)



House passes bill to require KC to spend more on police

The House of Representatives voted 99-42 to send legislation that appears to impose an unconstitutional unfunded mandate on Kansas City by requiring it to increase the amount of local revenue it spends on its police department. The bill now advances to the Senate.

A provision of the Missouri Constitution's revenue-limiting Hancock Amendment prohibits the General Assembly from enacting laws that impose unfunded mandates on local governments beyond requirements already in place at the time voters ratified the amendment in 1980. Under a law in place prior to the Hancock Amendment, Kansas City is required to allocate at least one-fifth of its general revenue fund for the police department.

House Bill 1986 seeks to greatly expand the base what is

considered general revenue by including special taxes that are dedicated for specific purposes outside of the general fund. By requiring the city to spend more local revenue for the police without providing state funding, the requirement likely runs afoul of the Hancock Amendment. The bill is one of several being considered by the legislature this year seeking to allow the state to impose unfunded mandates on local governments in regard to law enforcement budgets.



Poorly worded amendment turns tax cut into big tax increase

A legislative snafu that transformed a \$144 million tax cut into a \$416 million tax increase has resulted in the bill being sent back to its original committee to have the problem fixed. As originally

filed, House Bill 1992 sought to further reduce the state sales tax on food.

However, before the House Ways and Means Committee voted to approve the bill on Feb. 22, a Republican lawmaker successfully added an amendment changing the list of foods that are mostly exempt from sales taxes. According to the Missouri Independent, the amendment was intended to keep junk food subject to taxation, but the way it was worded, the amendment instead would have resulted in more categories of food being taxed than currently are under existing law.

The mistake subsequently was caught, and another House committee that handles procedural matters voted 10-3 to send the bill back to the Ways and Means Committee to undo the amendment and vote out a corrected version.



Killed in Senate, ‘Make Murder Legal Act’ returns in House

Nearly three weeks after a Senate committee rejected Republican legislation a rural prosecutor dubbed the “Make Murder Legal Act,” a House panel considered an identical bill. Once again, law enforcement organizations uniformly opposed the measure, which seeks to create a presumption in state law that whenever one person kills another, the killer acted in self-defense.

Current law allows a defendant to claim self-defense at trial, but the defendant must show the use of force was justified under the circumstances. Prosecutors, of course, always bear the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime was committed.

Under House Bill 2118, a person who used physical or deadly force would be presumed to have acted in self-defense and be “immune from criminal prosecution or civil action.” Not only could that person not be prosecuted, the bill would prohibit suspects from being arrested, detained or charged with a crime unless authorities can prove “by clear and convincing evidence” that suspect didn’t act in self-defense.

The House Special Committee on Government Oversight took no immediate action on the bill. On Feb. 10, the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee voted 4-3 against allowing an identical measure, Senate Bill 666, to advance to the full Senate.



Free Construction Training Apprentice Ready Program

- 5 weeks along industry experts
- Weekly program stipends available
- Pathway to U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeships
- NABTU MC3 Curriculum

**MINORITIES, VETERANS & WOMEN
ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**

Requirements to Participate:

- 18 years of age or older
- Eligible to work in the United States
- Meet Military Selective Service requirements

Preferred Credentials:

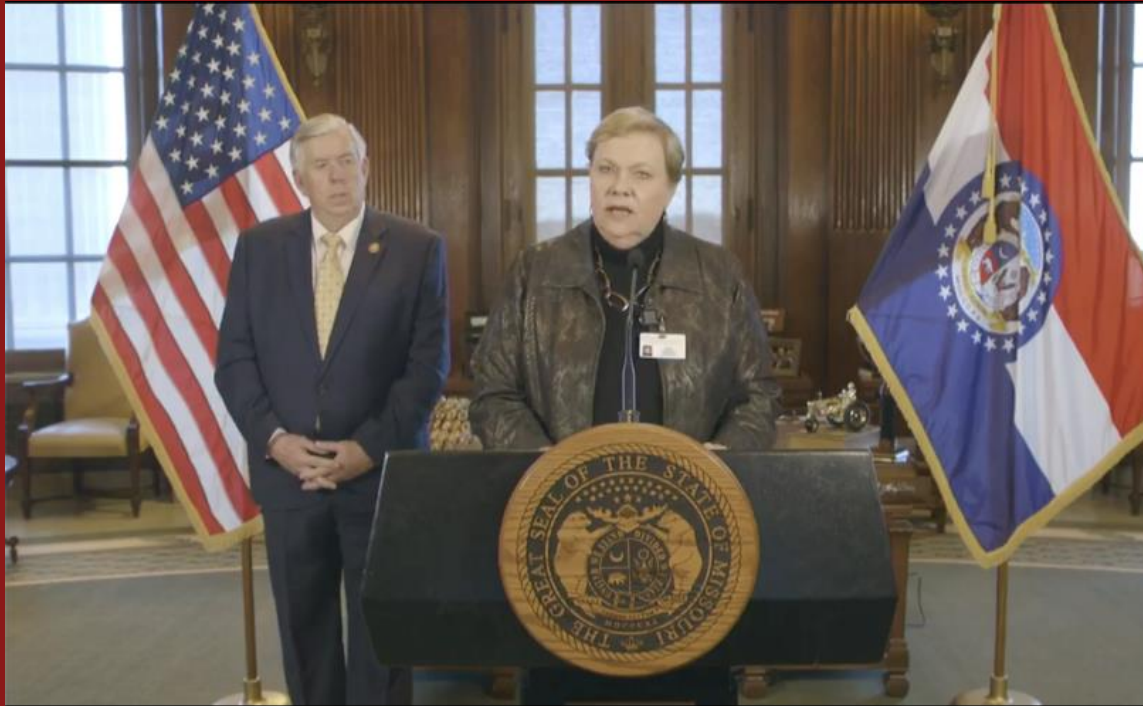
- WorkKeys Applied Math: Level 5
- WorkKeys Workplace Documents: Level 5
- Pass a drug test
- High School Diploma or equivalent

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Parson appoints another acting health department director

Gov. Mike Parson on March 1 appointed a 22-year veteran of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services as the agency's acting director as his administration continues to deal with the aftermath of conservative Senate hardliners blocking his pick for a permanent director.

Paula Nickelson immediately took over as acting director from Richard Moore, the department's general counsel. Moore temporarily led the agency for a month after a small group of Republican senators stalled the confirmation of Donald Kauerauf, who ultimately resigned when the Senate didn't act by a Feb. 4 constitutional deadline. Because he wasn't confirmed by the deadline, Kauerauf, a 30-year veteran of the Illinois Department of Public Health with experience in emergency management, is constitutionally barred from ever again being appointed to the post.

Kauerauf served five months as Missouri's health director before being forced out. Senate hardliners blocked his confirmation largely based on false allegations that he supported mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations.

In news release announcing Nickelson's appointment, Parson didn't say how long she will remain acting director or if he plans to again attempt to install a permanent director.

As acting director, she doesn't face Senate confirmation.



Legislator Assistant Igor Shalai is from Ukraine.
My prayers are with Igor, his family and all of Ukraine.



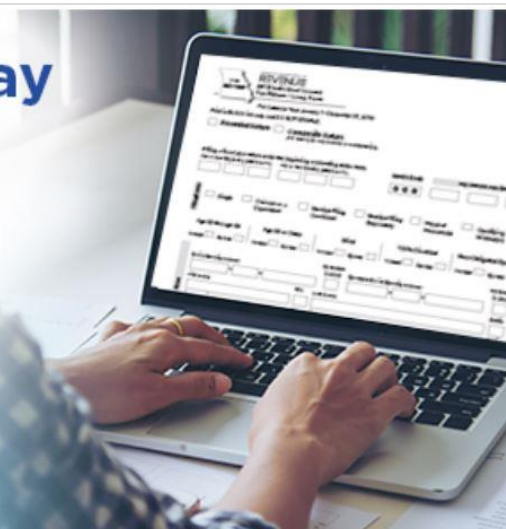
Individual Income Tax FAQs

Check the status of your Missouri State Tax returns



**Certain taxpayers may
qualify to e-file their
federal and state
income tax returns
free of charge.**

[Click here to see if you qualify](#)





Financial Support for Homeowners Is Here.

Behind on your mortgage payments? Missouri State Assistance For Housing Relief (SAFHR) may be able to help. Learn more and find out how to apply!

Apply now at

[mohousingresources.com](https://www.mohousingresources.com)

833-541-1599 • safhr.homeowner@mhd.com

What is SAFHR for Homeowners?

- A federally-funded mortgage reinstatement program that helps Missouri homeowners by paying past due mortgage balances and preventing foreclosures

What does it cover?

- Pays your mortgage lender/servicer directly for past due balances and fees
- Includes missed regular payments, deferred payments, payments missed during a forbearance period; *restrictions may apply*

Am I eligible?

- You must have experienced a financial hardship (reduction in income or increase in qualified expenses) during the COVID-19 pandemic
- You must be behind on at least one payment
- You must currently own and occupy the property as your primary residence

What do I need to apply?

- Photo ID
- Income verification (paystub, unemployment or social security benefit statements etc.). Other options are available if you have no income
- Copy of your most recent mortgage statement



Need help applying? Have another legal or credit issue?

SAFHR for Homeowners provides access to additional legal, credit, and financial counseling assistance, through our network of Mortgage Assistance Counseling agencies (MACs).

Find the list at:

<https://www.mohousingresources.com/mortgage-assistance-counseling>

The State Assistance for Housing Relief ("SAFHR") Program for Emergency Rental Assistance ("ERA") receives funding under both the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Dec. 27, 2020) (the "CAA") and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Section 3201 (March 11, 2021) (the "ARPA") and collectively with the CAA, the "Acts". SAFHR for Homeowners Program ("HAF") receives funding under ARPA. ERA and HAF are programs administered by the Missouri Housing Development Commission ("MHDC") under agreement with the Missouri Department of Economic Development ("DED") to provide federal assistance to eligible individuals and activities from federal funding provided to the State of Missouri directly from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. For more information please visit <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cores/emergency-rental-assistance-program> and <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/homeowner-assistance-fund>.



COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



Health department helps low-income residents apply for health insurance through Medicaid

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2022

The Kansas City Health Department is working with experienced Medicaid advisors to help enroll people in the newly expanded program so that qualified residents can get the help they need to pay their medical bills.

“Applying for health insurance is complicated for anybody, and we know it’s a relief to have an expert on hand to help you through the process,” said Director of Health Marvia Jones. “We recognize signing up for coverage may feel like a daunting task. We are here to help, with experts on hand at the health department to assist our customers.”

The health department is partnering with Medicaid experts from KC Care Health Center and Swope Health Services to offer this service free of charge inside the health department at 2400 Troost Ave.

These experts are available to walk you through the process every Tuesday from noon until 4 p.m.

In 2020, Missouri voters approved expanding the government-funded health insurance program to include approximately 274,000 more Missouri residents. The state began accepting enrollments in October 2021, but only about 20 percent of eligible residents have enrolled.

Before the expansion, only adults with children were eligible for Medicaid. Now these residents are encouraged to apply:

- If you are single between 19 and 64 years of age and make less than about \$18,000 a year

-
- If you are a family of four and earn approximately \$36,500 a year

“Because we believe healthcare is a right, not a luxury, Swope Health is committed to supporting as many people as possible with Medicaid enrollment,” said Arsenial Runion, director of patient experience for Swope Health. “Expanded coverage in Missouri gives more people the opportunity to access routine care, medications, lab work, preventive testing and more. It’s critical that everyone who is eligible for Medicaid take full advantage of this program, so we are ready to offer the guidance they need to successfully enroll.”

The health department encourages all residents to review the [Community Health Assessment for Kansas City](#), which highlights the city’s health needs and priorities.

For more information on Medicaid enrollment eligibility, [visit the FAQ section on the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services website](#). If you other questions not answered in the FAQ, call the health department at 816-513-6209.



**The Pandemic aint
over...**

**Wash Your
Hands**



Tobiasa



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, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen 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 Gentsch 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.](#)



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