

STRATEGIC CAPITOL

C O N S U L T I N G

May 20, 2024

The 2024 Missouri legislative session officially ended Friday. Tensions carried over from last year and lingered throughout the 20 weeklong session. With it being a major election year and many legislators last session, some were hoping emotions and grievances could be set aside to focus on priority issues like school choice, initiative petition and tax reform. While others hoped disruption would be their road to a win in November. A record number of bills were even filed this year: 2,607. That's 300 more than last year.

Hopes of change were quickly crushed. The Freedom Caucus sometimes slowed the process down in both chambers, but most mostly in the senate. There were days when floor debate didn't make it past approving the previous day's journal. Ultimately, disagreements also led to not one, but two record setting filibusters.

The first was led by the Freedom Caucus and related to the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA). This filibuster lasted 41 hours. A week later, Senate Democrats set the record for the longest filibuster with almost 50 hours. This time is surrounded by an effort to gut the initiative petition reform and some Senate Republicans disregard for a compromise struck between the two parties.

This session was also the first time in decades both chambers did not convene in conference committees to consider budget bills or policy bills. This resulted in a limited number of bills being Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed to date, barely surpassing the abbreviated 2020, COVID pandemic session which saw only 42 bills passed.

Although this session we had an extra two weeks and countless hours were spent in committee meetings and on floor debate, most of the proposed legislation failed to advance to Governor Mike Parson's desk. By adjournment Friday, only a mere total of 45 bills were truly agreed to and finally passed and 18 of those were appropriation bills. In 1994, the Missouri State Legislature passed a total of 158 bills.

Below is a summary of all of the bills that we reported on this session and their fate. Governor Parson's administration will spend the next eight weeks reviewing the TAFP'd bills and issuing his signature and vetoes. Bills signed by the Governor will become law on August 28th, unless they were passed with an emergency clause, in that event, they will become effective immediately upon signature.

Session Overview

Both House and Senate leadership highlighted their priorities for the 2024 Session back in December and again at the beginning of January. The clear consensus is that this legislative session was a dud for the majority party, as most proposals failed. Priorities this session included:

- Education reform/charter expansion (yes)
- Initiative Petition reform (no)
- Sports betting (no)
- Tort reform (no)
- Personal property tax reform (no)
- Defund Planned Parenthood (yes)

There is also a natural tendency for priorities to change throughout session and depending on issues throughout the State, sometimes the Legislature needs to react quickly. Bills of interest to you are below. Governor Parson's administration will spend the next eight weeks reviewing the TAFP'd bills and issuing his signature or vetoes. Bills signed by the Governor will become law on August 28th, unless they were passed with an emergency clause, in that event, they will become effective immediately upon signature. The full list of bills which were Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed may be found **here**.

Conclusion

Governor Mike Parson will now spend the next couple of weeks determining whether to sign or veto the bills passed during session. Appropriation decisions must be made by June 30th and policy decisions must be made by July 14th. The FY 25 budget fiscal year starts July 1st. We will continue to monitor the Governor's actions and will provide updates intermittently throughout the interim.

Key Upcoming Dates

- June 30, 2024 – Final day for Governor to sign or line-item veto budget
- July 1, 2023 – First day of new fiscal year
- July 14, 2024 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto policy legislation
- August 6, 2024 – Missouri Primary Elections
- August 28, 2024 – Effective date for policy bills without an emergency clause
- September 11, 2024 – Veto Session
- November 5, 2024 – Missouri General Elections
- December 1, 2024 – First day of bill filing
- January 8, 2025 – First day of Legislative session

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