

STRATEGIC CAPITOL

C O N S U L T I N G

April 24, 2025

The 15th week of session has come to an end. This was a shortened week as the legislature took a break from normal legislative activity Monday to celebrate the Easter holiday. With only a mere two weeks left before the constitutional deadline of May 9th, all focus next week will be dedicated to finalizing the proposed MO state budget.

Tidbits

- The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is pleased to announce Sheila Wunning as the new Director of its Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD), effective May 1, 2025.
- On Thursday, Governor Mike Kehoe signed into law two pieces of legislation: SB 22, sponsored by Senator Rick Brattin and Representative Ben Keathley, modifies provisions relating to statewide ballot measures. Establishes a timely revision process to ensure summary statements are clear, accurate, and informative for voters, protecting against judicial overreach. Sets a clear deadline for filing legal challenges to ballot measures ahead of the general election. Empowers the attorney general to appeal certain preliminary injunctions, ensuring prompt review of overreaching rulings; and SB 47, sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent and Representative Dane Diehl, amends Supreme Court Rule 52.08 relating to class actions. Which aligns Missouri's civil procedures with federal rules, promoting efficiency and fairness in the judicial process. Protects Missourians from predatory legal practices through stricter rules for counsel appointments, improving effective representation in class actions. Supports businesses by reducing litigation costs and limiting frivolous class actions through earlier certification and stronger defense appeal options.

Budget Update

The new \$100 million Missouri accounting system, called MOVERS, is still disrupting the budget process. The system was purchased in 2022 and is supposed to help the budget process, including tracking state appropriation decisions. However, the system has now failed twice both during critical times throughout the House and Senate budget process which has led to ongoing delays and confusion regarding appropriated line items. To date, the MOVERS system is still not functioning and has delayed the budget process for another week.

With time quickly running out, many are hopeful they can get the system operational enough to continue the budget process next week as the full budget must be completed and approved by both chambers by May 9.

Floor updates

DEI expenditures by state departments

The Senate dedicated floor time Wednesday afternoon to debate HB 742, sponsored by Representative Ben Baker (R-Neosho). The bill prohibits funds from any state department from being used for intradepartmental programs, staffing, or initiatives related to "diversity, equity, and inclusion" or similar. The provisions do not prohibit state departments from following anti-discrimination laws or complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. After nearly three hours of debate, the bill was returned back to the calendar.

Committee updates

Pensions

The Senate Committee on General Laws met Thursday morning to consider passage of HB 147, sponsored by Representative Barry Hovis (R-Whitewater). The bill, as filed, modifies the calculation of earned compensation for members of the City of St. Louis Police Retirement System to include any compensation awarded as part of a judgement or settlement to a member of the system who is involved in a legal challenge based on rank. During previous debate, numerous amendments were adopted to create an omnibus pensions package. The bill now includes the following provisions:

- HB 976, which adds corrective language for LAGERS.
- HB 44 that equalizes the tax burden for private and public pensions.
- HB 657, which modifies provisions related to proxy voting and fiduciary investment duties for certain public employee retirement and pension systems.
- HB 1504, change the employer contribution rates for the St. Louis Public School Retirement System by increasing it from 9% to 14%.
- HB 977 that modifies provisions regarding divestments in foreign entities or funds on the federal adversarial watch list.
- SB 255, relates to the administration of the two firefighter retirement systems serving firefighters in the City of St. Louis would permit the two systems – the Firemen's Retirement System (FRS) and the Firefighters' Retirement Plan (FRP) – to be administered together, with the same Board of Trustees serving and investing the funds of both systems.

During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to remove HB 1504 provisions.

Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

Governor Kehoe's first 100 days

This week marked the first 100 days of the Kehoe Administration. Highlights from Governor Kehoe's first 100 days include:

Executive Actions: Governor Kehoe moved quickly to establish key priorities through executive action, reinforcing public safety and streamlining operations to better serve Missourians.

- Signed six executive orders on Day One, including efforts to combat illegal immigration and support law enforcement to officially launch his comprehensive Safer Missouri initiative and reaffirming the administration's commitment to public safety.
- Eliminated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives in Missouri state agencies, ensuring compliance with the constitutional principle of equal protection under the law.

- Launched the forward-thinking School Funding Modernization Task Force and Workforce of the Future Challenge to align educational pathways with Missouri's evolving workforce needs.
- Coordinated response and recovery efforts to ensure statewide readiness and support for communities affected by severe weather.

Legislative Achievements: Working in partnership with the General Assembly, the Kehoe Administration has already secured several legislative wins to enhance the lives of Missourians across the state.

- Signed House Bill 495, equipping law enforcement with the tools they need to crack down on crime and illegal immigration, while establishing a citizen board to oversee the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.
- Signed Senate Bill 4, ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable power is generated right here in Missouri and supporting long-term economic development efforts.
- Approved the supplemental budget bill for Fiscal Year 2025, allowing current operations of state government to continue, while also strengthening education and special needs services and supporting law enforcement and senior care.

Gubernatorial Appointments: In his first 100 days, Governor Kehoe has made nearly 100 appointments to boards, commissions, the judiciary, and county-level positions—demonstrating a commitment to experienced leadership, efficient governance, and balanced representation.

- Appointed 74 Missourians to serve on various boards and commissions, including 12 appointments to university governing boards.
- Built out his administration's Cabinet, with nine department leaders confirmed by the Missouri Senate.
- Filled eight vacant county offices.
- Appointed six judicial positions.

Hearing Schedules

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

Chamber Floor Calendars

[House](#)

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Upcoming Dates of Interest

- May 9, 2025 – Last day to pass the FY26 budget
- May 16, 2025 – Last day of the 2025 legislative session
- September 10, 2025 – Veto session

Custom Bill Track Link

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