

# STRATEGIC CAPITOL

C O N S U L T I N G

March 14, 2025

Let spring break commence! While this week was packed with committee hearings and floor debate, all eyes were on the annual legislative spring break, which began today. Both chambers spent countless hours on its floors debating issues including education, taxation, and utilities. Additionally, both chambers finalized the proposed state takeover of the St. Louis police department and it's officially the first bill to make it to the Governor's desk for final consideration. When legislative activity resumes March 24, all eyes will be on the time remaining before the legislature adjourns May 16.

As there will be no legislative activity next week, there will also be no reports next week! Enjoy your break and communications will recommence March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Mid-session breakdown**

A total of 2665 has been filed during the 2025 session

A total of 104 bills have been passed out of their respective chambers

A total of 3 bills have been sent to the Governor's desk for final consideration

## **Budget Update**

This week the Senate Truly Agreed and Finally Passed HB14, the state's Supplemental spending bill to continue funding state operations through Fiscal Year 2025, which ends June 30. The nearly \$2 billion spending bill includes funding for several state departments, including the Medicaid program, MOHealthNet, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The bill will immediately go into effect upon the final approval of Governor Kehoe.

Meanwhile, the full House Budget Committee was expected to take up and consider the full FY26 budget for consideration this week, which to-date includes more than \$2 billion in changes proposed by the various Appropriations Subcommittees and their respective Committee Chairman. However, due to technical glitches with the operating software the state uses have caused delays within the process and the Budget Committee will now consider changes the week after Spring Break, with expectations the full House will also debate the budget the same week.

## Committee updates

### **DEI Expenditures by State Departments**

The Senate Committee on Government Efficiency convened Monday afternoon to consider passage of HB 742, sponsored by Representative Ben Baker (R-Neosho). The bill seeks to prohibit funds from any State department from being used for intradepartmental programs, staffing, or initiatives related to "diversity, equity, and inclusion" or similar initiatives that promote preferential treatment based on certain characteristics, concepts such as oppression as the sole cause of disparities, collective guilt ideologies, intersectional or divisive identity activism, and the limiting of freedom of conscience, thought, or speech. During committee discussion, a committee substitute was adopted to clarify the bill does not prohibit state departments from following anti-discrimination laws or complying with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 5-1 vote.

### **Cloud computing capabilities**

The Senate Committee on General Laws met Tuesday morning to discuss SB 310, sponsored by Senator Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit). The bill requires all state departments, in making purchases for any information technology or a major information resources project, to ensure that the technology or project is capable of being deployed and run on a cloud computing service. The sponsor's intent is to update and modernize state technologies and provide the ability for departments to have interoperability. No supporting or opposing testimony was presented.

### **Tidbits**

- The MO Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday morning regarding the constitutionality of Proposition A, which increased the state's minimum wage and established new paid sick leave requirements. The lawsuit was filed by several business groups and leaders and argues that the election results should be overturned because of constitutional violations. One of those violations involves the state constitution's single-subject requirement, which says Missouri laws may have only one subject. The lawsuit claims Proposition A violates this by raising two subjects: minimum wage and paid sick leave.
- This week, the Department of Social Services (DSS) announced the appointment of **Sara Smith** as Director of the Missouri Children's Division. Smith will assume the role of Children's Division Director within DSS, effective March 13, 2025.
- Today, Governor Mike Kehoe announced two appointments to various boards and commissions and filled one county vacancy. **Steve Black**, of Maysville, was appointed to the Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents; former Senator **Brian Munzlinger**, of Williamstown, was appointed to the Mid-America Port Commission; and **Lynn Portell**, of Potosi, was appointed as the Washington County Commissioner.

### **Hearing Schedules**

[House](#)  
[Senate](#)

## **Chamber Floor Calendars**

[House](#)  
[Senate](#)

## **Upcoming Dates of Interest**

- March 14-21, 2025 – Legislative Spring break
- April 21, 2025 – Easter holiday – no session
- 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**

Your custom webpage URL for bill tracking is <https://govwatch.net/report/LGKp>

- As a reminder, this is a hotlink and updates automatically as things are added, progress, or change.

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