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## **LWV Legislative Bulletin**

**May 22, 2019**

*Previous issues of the Legislative Bulletin can be found at this link: <https://lwvmissouri.org/legislative-bulletin/>*

The Legislative Session ended on May 17, 2019. Here are some results of the session.

### **REDISTRICTING AND ETHICS RESOLUTION DIES IN SENATE COMMITTEE (yea CLEAN)**

HCS/HJRs 48, 46 & 47 (Plocher) would have undone the redistricting reforms of Amendment 1, but did not pass due to a procedural mistake in the Senate committee on May 13. It appears very likely that majority party legislators will seek to force a similar provision through next session.

HJR 48 would have significantly undermined the redistributing reforms approved by voters in Constitutional Amendment 1, also known as CLEAN Missouri. If approved by voters, the HJR 48 would have eliminated the nonpartisan state demographer and move partisan fairness and competitiveness to the lowest priority in the redistricting process. The House also added language that could shift the basis of redistricting away from total population, as is currently the practice in all 50 states. Stay tuned for next year!

SB 213 regarding the nonpartisan state demographer did pass which included some positive things such as protections against conflict of interest, providing for financial disclosure, and increased public availability of records. SS/SB 213 (Hegeman) has passed. The bill requires the nonpartisan state demographer to establish the Redistricting Public Comment Portal for the purpose of publicly accepting any comments, records, documents, maps, data files, communication, or information of any kind relating to the redistricting process. Any such submissions shall be accompanied by a disclosure that indicates whether the person making the submission was responsible in whole or in part for the submission or another person contributed money that was intended to fund preparation of the submission and, if so, the disclosure shall additionally identify each such contributor.

### **INITIATIVE PETITION AND AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

SS/SJR 1 (Sater)

The joint resolution pertains to signature requirements for initiative petitions. SJR 1 more than doubles the signature requirements by mandating that petitions to amend the Constitution be signed by 15% of the legal voters in each of all eight Congressional districts (rather than the current requirement of 8% each from six of the eight districts) and also requires a two-thirds majority for a petition measure to be adopted, except for a petition to repeal prior initiative petitions such as Amendment 1. This measure would make

it harder and more costly for citizens to bring forward relevant policies through the initiative process. **This bill did not pass.**

## **BUDGET**

The legislature authorized a roughly \$30 billion operating budget for fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020). It included the full amount called for by state law for K-12 schools and a total of \$100 million of general revenue for state bridge repairs and local highway projects. It continues a requirement to charge international tuition rates for college students living in the U.S. illegally.

## **TAX ISSUES**

State revenue seems to be holding at just over 2% compared to last year, but individual income tax collections remain lower than last year.

We were able to prevent movement on proposals that would have made Missouri's tax structure even less fair and which would have harmed funding for the critical services our communities need to prosper. However, the "Wayfair Fix" and State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), two proposals we supported, did not pass. The MCO provider tax which would provide more funding to support Medicaid, also did not pass.

## **TAX CREDITS**

Fortunately, efforts to cut the Circuit Breaker tax credit for low-income seniors and people with disabilities did not pass. The Low Income Housing tax Credit measures did not pass, although the Governor has stated that he will restart the program anyway. The most significant tax credit package that was approved was the GM Incentive, which also included a number of the Governor's priorities around workforce development.

## **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

A restrictive bill prohibiting abortions at 8 weeks or pregnancy except in medical emergencies passed. No exception for rape or incest.

## **TERM LIMITS BALLOT ISSUE**

There will be an issue on the ballot to ask voters whether to limit Missouri's lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, and auditor to serving two four-year terms in office (similar to current term limits for governor and state treasurer).

## **PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM (PDMP)**

The prescription drug monitoring program did not pass, for the 7<sup>th</sup> year, and Missouri remains the only state that does not have a state-wide program. Many cities and counties have joined such voluntary programs covering over 80% of the state's residents.

## **CHILD CARE**

Tighter limits on in-home child-care providers who currently are limited to caring for 4 children who aren't related to the caregiver passed. This creates a new limit of 6 children, including 3 under age 2 and exempts only school-age relatives.

## **NO CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION**

Although committees in both the House and Senate quickly moved legislation allowing charter schools to be sponsored by outside entities (other than the local school board) and operate in districts around the state, these bills did not pass—mostly because of many communications from constituents and bipartisan opposition in many rural areas.

## **OMNIBUS BILLS**

With filibusters ending late Wednesday of the last week, the flood gates opened to a flurry of activity that created 3 large omnibus bills: HB 397 (Child Safety), HB 399 (Healthcare), and HB 604 (Elementary and Secondary Education.)

## **HEALTH POLICY MEASURES**

Fortunately, proposals to enact Medicaid (busy) Work Requirements, to create Short-term Junk Insurance and the Global Waiver/Block Grant did not pass and were not included in the Omnibus Healthcare Bill.

**Health care policy that was enacted (Mostly in Omnibus Bills) included:**

- Creation of an Insurance Innovation Task Force for a Section 1332 Waiver
- Surprise Medical Billing
- Ticket to Work sunset extension
- Extension of the Autism Coverage Mandate to all kids with physical and developmental disabilities
- Methods reimbursement to insurance companies
- Utilization Review
- Tobacco Cessation drugs
- Telehealth concerning advanced practice nurses
- Extension of Non-Medicaid Eligible programs to 2025
- Offender Suspension (rather than cancellation) of Medicaid benefits.
- Structured Family Caregiving pilot
- ACA fix for foster children Medicaid coverage
- Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board within DHSS

## **OMNIBUS EDUCATION HB 604 BILL PASSES**

The Senate approved SS#2/SCS/HCS/HB 604 (Henderson) on May 17 by a unanimous 34-0 vote. The House adopted the bill later that day by a vote of 116-25. However, the emergency clause for inclement weather forgiveness was defeated. The bill is now Truly Agreed and Finally Passed and will be printed in final form and delivered to the Governor for his approval.

- 1) an addition to the districts for which the Commissioner is required to authorize pupil transportation hardship if listed criteria are met;
- 2) authority for charter schools to add an enrollment preference for students qualifying for free or reduced price lunch;
- 3) expansion of the prohibition on religious discrimination in schools to apply to all persons;
- 4) authority for the Board of the St. Louis Public Schools to have a hearing officer to conduct teacher termination hearings;
- 5) HB 161 (Knight) limiting school term start date to no earlier than fourteen days prior to Labor Day;
- 6) HCS/HB 281 & HB 570 (Kelley) to allow school districts to implement alternative methods of instruction to avoid make-up days;
- 7) HB 462 (Shields) to create a program of teacher externships;
- 8) HB 739 (Miller) regarding preventing sexual misconduct in schools.
- 9) SB 25 (Sifton) regarding pupil transfers from unaccredited school districts;
- 10) SB 205 (Arthur) to allow needs-based A+ Schools scholarships to cover dual credit or dual enrollment for qualifying high school students;
- 11) SB 206 (Arthur) to raise the threshold for existing school construction bidding requirements to apply to projects costing more than \$50,000;
- 12) SB 218 (Hoskins) to establish two pilot programs within DESE;
- 13) SB 373 (Schupp) to create the Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission;
- 14) SB 407 (Wallingford) to provide formula aid for pupils attending early childhood programs under contract with a district or charter school and meeting DESE requirements for program quality;
- 15) SB 475 (Cunningham) to require DESE to make a school funding formula adjustment to compensate for loss of school revenues due to the 2018 legislation reducing the financial institutions tax (FIT); and
- 16) SB 478 (Holsman) regarding forgiveness for excess inclement weather days during this school year.

## **CAFOs, LOCAL HEALTH ORDINANCES**

Legislation passed to prevent local officials from enacting regulation such as county health ordinances that are more stringent than the state's for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) used to raise large numbers of livestock such as hogs, poultry or cattle.

## **CONCEALED WEAPONS ON CAMPUS**

HB 575 (Dohrman) This language would take away local control of college and university governing boards to regulate concealed weapons on campus and allow any person, including students and staff, with a concealed carry permit to carry concealed weapons on campus. This bill did not pass.