



Missouri Society of Professional Engineers

Weekly Legislative Report May 14, 2018

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

There is an air of extreme tension as both chambers debated and voted on contentious issues last week. On Thursday evening and Friday morning (until 5:30 a.m.), the Missouri Senate debated a Senate Concurrent Resolution to move the Right to Work initiative petition to the August ballot. Despite a lengthy effort by Democrats, the measure was ultimately Third Read and Passed by a vote of 23-7. On Friday, the House took up [House Joint Resolution 79](#), a constitutional amendment to place “Freedom to Work” on the November ballot. The ensuing debate was passionate on both sides of this Right to Work measure. The resolution was Perfected by a voice vote and still needs to be Third Read and sent to the Senate for consideration. Should Senate leadership decide to fast-track the resolution, passage would most likely require the use of the “Previous Question”, a cloture procedure rarely used in the Senate.

The Missouri General Assembly adjourns at 6:00 p.m. on May 18. As a result of actions to begin a special session to consider disciplinary proceedings against Governor Eric Greitens, the legislature will convene that session at 6:30 p.m., immediately following adjournment.

IN THE NEWS

- Jury selection relating to the trial of Governor Greitens relating to felony invasion of privacy charges involving a 2015 affair began on Thursday. The prospective jury pool consists of 160 people who have been summoned to serve. Jury selection is expected to be concluded early this week. Judge Rex Burlison has ruled that full names will be permitted during the trial and rejected press requests to permit audio of the trial. He said that still photographs would be permitted during the first ten minutes of the first day of the trial.
- The \$28 billion FY19 state budget was concluded on Wednesday of last week, two days in advance of the constitutional deadline. The Governor has until June 30th to act on the 13 budget bills.
- As of Wednesday, the Missouri General Assembly had passed 40 bills, only 3 (2 small budget bills and an anti-human trafficking bill) of which have been sent to the Governor. President Pro Tem Ron Richard and Speaker Todd Richardson have held off on signing the other bills, a necessary procedure to formally send the bills to the Governor. The leaders have until May 30 to perform the formality of signing bills that have been Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed. Many legislators indicated that, given the legal troubles relating to Governor Greitens and the potential for disciplinary action, it is not proper to send the bills to him.

BUDGET UPDATE

Last week the House and Senate finalized the \$28 billion FY 2019 budget. Conference Committee members met on Monday to work out the monetary differences and agree to language and flexibility. Wednesday saw both chambers taking up the conference committee reports and passing them. By the May 11th all budget bills had been Truly Agreed to, including the two supplemental budgets and the three Capital Improvement bills. The following items are where a compromise between the two chambers have been agreed upon:

- \$10 million GR for Elementary and Secondary transportation;

- A \$700 raise for state employees beginning January 1, 2019 for those making less than \$70,000;
- An additional \$300 raise for Department of Corrections employees beginning January 1, 2019;
- The cut of 8 Full-Time employees in the Office of the Director from the Department of Health;
- An additional \$750,000 for one-time funding for Harris-Stowe University;
- A ban on Universities and Colleges from offering in-state tuition to DACA students;
- A \$61 million increase to Missouri Consolidated Health Plan;
- An additional \$21 million for TANF;
- A 1% cap on tuition increase for a \$68 million restoration of the Governor's cut;
- The allowance of 375 Pull-Tab machines, 4 per location;
- \$500,000 for a pilot electronic monitoring program;
- An additional \$72,000 for the Military Advocates Office;
- \$ 43,330,272 for county jail reimbursement with \$5 million to be used for Alternative Jail Solutions with 100% flexibility;
- \$8.30 per person per day for each Nursing Home facility on top of the 1.5% cut restoration; and,
- \$6 million for the Secretary of State's Office for the purposes of public notice printing.

FINAL BILL ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: The Senate Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed with 24 ayes and 8 noes [HCS SB 659](#), sponsored by Sen. Dan Hegeman (R-Andrews). This act modifies numerous provisions relating to the Department of Natural Resources.

The bill is now sent to the Governor for consideration.

COUNTY SPECIAL ROAD AND BRIDGE TAX: The Senate Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed with 30 ayes and 2 noes [CCS SS SCS HB 1291](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre). This bill changes the classification from second to first of certain counties exempt from the requirement that not less than 25% of a county's special road and bridge tax collected in a municipality within the county must be expended within the municipality for the repair and improvement of existing roads, streets, and bridges. The Truly Agreed summary has not yet been posted.

The bill is now sent to the Governor for consideration.

CALENDARS

The last week of the session, the House and Senate Calendars will change daily. With this in mind, we will only be providing the link to both chamber's calendars. This is so you may access the links and have the most updated information regarding bills of interest to you.

HOUSE: <https://house.mo.gov/Session.aspx>

SENATE: <http://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/pdf-cal/cal.htm>