


LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A photograph of the Missouri State Capitol building in Jefferson City, Missouri, featuring a large white dome and classical architectural details. The sky is blue with light clouds.

2024 MO Session Report- Week Nine March 2, 2024

Warmer weather in Jefferson City signals spring is on the horizon and session is at its halfway point. March 1 also marked the end of bill filing for the 2024 legislative session. All told, approximately 2,500 bills and resolutions will be filed this session. This exceeds last session's total of 2,307 bills and resolutions.

Clean Water Law

The House dedicated floor time Monday to debate HB 2134. The bill seeks to provide clarity by specifying that under no circumstances DNR shall provide an exemption for any bio-solid sludge or process waste to the end user. The intent of the legislation to address a current out of state disposal company that is operating on 600 acres of land west of Anderson, Missouri. During debate, the sponsor successfully amended the bill to further modify the definition of agrochemical facility, remove the 30 day of continuous operation provision and require that the testing be done by a third-party. Once modified, the House provided the first of two necessary approvals by a 144-1 vote. On Thursday, the House revisited the bill and after a brief debate, was passed by a 151-2 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Motor Fuel Tax

The House Transportation Accountability Committee convened Thursday to discuss HB 2072, sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Crocker). The bill modifies provisions relating to the motor fuel tax exemption. Currently, motor fuel is exempt from fuel tax, and an exemption and refund may be claimed by a taxpayer if the tax has been paid and no refund has been previously issued. These exemptions and refunds are currently issued on a fiscal year basis. The bill seeks to

Key Upcoming Dates:

- March 18-22, 2024 – Legislative Spring Break
- May 17, 2024 – Last day of Legislative Session

align the exemptions and refunds based on the tax year and would allow a person to apply for a standard/flat refund in the amount of \$30 for the 2024 tax year, \$45 for the 2025 tax year, and \$60 for the 2026 tax year. Additionally, the bill also authorizes a taxpayer to donate the motor fuel tax refund to a tax-exempt nonprofit entity by providing the entity with all required documentation and a signed statement indicating that the nonprofit is entitled to the taxpayer's refund. Lastly, the bill establishes the "Motor Fuel Tax Fund of 2021", to include all refundable revenue collected to be deposited. Any money in the Fund not refunded to a motor fuel purchaser within the required time will remain in the Fund and be subject to appropriation by the General Assembly for road and bridge projects for state-owned infrastructure. No supporting testimony was presented. Missourians for Transportation Investment opposed the bill and stated the fund that is created in the bill would be subject to appropriations and also stated allowing donations of receipts, would allow for double dipping since it would allow a charitable organization to utilize the refund and would also allow the donor to claim a charitable contribution on their taxes.

The committee then turned its attention towards 2469, also sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew. The bill specifies that any amount over \$550M of the motor vehicle fuel tax collected must be apportioned and distributed between the counties, cities, and the State Highways and Transportation Commission. No supporting testimony was presented. Missourians for Transportation Investment opposed the bill and highlighted the fiscal note, which states the \$550M trigger will never be met.

Broadband Internet Expansion Grants

The Senate dedicated floor time Monday to debate SB 872, sponsored by Senator Karla Eslinger (R-Wasola). Currently, a taxpayer may deduct from state income tax 100% of any federal grant money received for the purpose of providing or expanding access to broadband internet to areas of the state that lack access. This bill expands the deduction to included state or local grant money and limits the deduction only to money dispersed for this express purpose. During debate, the sponsor offered a floor substitute to include SB 1411, which extends the expiration date of the Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act; SB 947, modifies provisions relating to video services; SB 896, creates a state and local sales tax exemption for utilities, equipment, and materials used to generate or transmit electricity. During debate, Senator Tracy McCreery (D-St. Louis) expressed concern with the inclusion of SB 947, relating to exempting video streaming services from franchise taxes and, after considerable debate, the sponsor offered an amendment to remove SB 947 provisions. At that point the bill was laid on to the Informal Calendar.

Fire Protection Services

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee convened Monday afternoon to discuss SB 879, sponsored by Senator Doug Beck (D-St. Louis). The sponsor offered a committee substitute which authorizes municipalities within St. Louis County to submit to the voters of the City a proposal to authorize the governing body to impose a property tax no more than \$.25 per \$100 assessed valuation, to provide fire protection services. Additionally, upon voter approval, the bill allows the governing body of any fire protection district, to ask for a sales tax up to a maximum of 1% on all sales, to reduce any property tax imposed by the district up to 50%. However, the property tax must be imposed for the purpose to provide fire protection services. During bill presentation, the sponsor stated the bill currently only applies to St. Louis County, and currently there are four other districts that cannot levy a sales tax and the sponsor is open to expanding the bill to include the other districts. MO Association of Career Fire Protection Districts supported the bill. The Municipal League Metro St. Louis opposed the bill and stated that the average property tax is currently 8.9%

and adding another percent to that will raise it to almost to 10%. He said that this bill could ultimately impair economic activity in St. Louis County. No action was taken on the bill.

Filed Bills of Interest:

APWA-General

<https://govwatch.net/report/ZLr96KRqeE>

APWA-Emergency Responders

<https://govwatch.net/report/2abBP0wrwv>

APWA-Water

<https://govwatch.net/report/ZebQGPBr6X>

APWA-Transportation

<https://govwatch.net/report/59bxGBkqON>

APWA-Workforce Development

<https://govwatch.net/report/EeqO4OpbDX>

Upcoming Hearings of Interest:

03/04/2024 2:00 PM [Senate-Local Government and Elections Committee Hearing](#), SCR 2

Public Hearing (1):

[SB724](#) Sen. Denny Hoskins (R) Creates the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Secretary of State's Office

Executive Session (5):

[SB879](#) Sen. Doug Beck (D) Creates provisions relating to fire protection services

[SB1091](#) Sen. Karla Eslinger (R) Modifies provisions relating to sales taxes

[SB1264](#) Sen. Travis Fitzwater (R) Modifies provisions relating to local use taxes

03/05/2024 8:30 AM [Senate-Agriculture, Food Production, and Outdoor Resources Committee Hearing](#), SCR 1

Public Hearing (2):

[SB981](#) Sen. Rusty Black (R) Modifies the definition of waters of the state

03/05/2024 10:00 AM [Senate-Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee Hearing](#), Senate Lounge

Public Hearing (4):

[SB829](#) Sen. Caleb Rowden (R) Modifies provisions relating to a renewable natural gas program

03/05/2024 4:00 PM [House-General Laws Committee Hearing](#), HR 7

MEETING TIME: 4:00 PM or upon adjournment (whichever is later)

Executive Session (2):

[HB1986](#) Rep. Terry Thompson (R) Modifies provisions relating to state funds for regional planning commissions

03/06/2024 8:00 AM [House-Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee Hearing](#), HR 6

Public Hearing (2):

[HB2328](#) Rep. David Casteel (R) Modifies the process by which public notice is required to be published

Executive Session (3):

[HB2206](#) Rep. Richard West (R) Establishes general requirements for meetings of governing bodies of political subdivisions

Chamber Floor Calendars

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

Key Upcoming Dates:

- March 1, 2024 - Last day of bill filing
- March 18-22, 2024 - Legislative Spring Break
- March 26, 2024 - Last day of candidate filing
- April 1, 2024 - Easter Break - No Session
- April 2, 2024 - General Municipal Elections
- May 10, 2024 - Last Day to Constitutionally pass the FY 2025 Budget
- May 17, 2024 - Last Day of the 2024 Legislative session
- August 6, 2024 - Missouri Primary Elections
- September 11, 2024 - Veto Session
- November 5, 2024 - Missouri General Elections