

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



2023 Missouri Session Week Twelve April 1, 2023

The second half of session showed one of the more productive weeks of the Missouri General Assembly in recent memory. The House gave first round approval to 32 pieces of legislation, third reading several of them, sending them on to the Senate.

Motor Fuel Legislation

As it pertains to transportation funding, motor fuel exemption legislation continues to generate attention. The House dedicated floor time Monday to debate HB 519, seeking to align the gas tax refund with your income tax refund and base the refund on calendar tax year instead of state's fiscal year. Several amendments were successfully adopted and include allowing those receiving a fuel tax refund to donate it to a non-profit and receive an income tax deduction, allows dump trucks to file for a fuel tax refund and requires the Department of Revenue to develop and maintain an app for submission of fuel tax refunds and place a box taxpayers may check on their income tax form to receive a standard fuel tax deduction. After considerable debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes.

Donation of Fuel Purchase Receipts

The House Transportation Accountability Committee convened Thursday afternoon to consider passage of HB 520. This bill would authorize 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. After brief committee discussion, the bill was passed by a vote of 8-1.

Water Exportation

The House Conservation and Natural Resources Committee convened to consider passage of HB 1129, specifying that it is unlawful for any person to withdraw from any water source for export outside the state of Missouri unless a water export permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources is held. During discussion, substitute language was adopted which would limit the

number of permits that may be issued for water exportation and narrows the definition of dire need for the purpose of exporting water to other communities. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 13-0 vote.

Nuclear Clean Power Act

The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment Committee convened to discuss SB 333. The bill is the Senate companion to HB 225 with a few revisions. The bill creates the "Missouri Nuclear Clean Power Act" and allows electrical corporations to charge for services based on the costs of certain construction projects in progress. No action was taken on the bill. The House dedicated floor time to revisit HB 225, the House companion to SB 333. There was a brief debate, before the House passed the bill by a 108-39 vote. The bill now will be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

Statewide Mechanical Contractor Licensing Act

The House Economic Development Committee offered discussion on two bills regarding a statewide mechanical contractor license. Specifically, HB 1083 and HB 368 are identical and allow mechanical contractors to apply for an optional statewide license rather than having multiple licenses per political subdivision. Committee members expressed concerns that this measure would have a negative impact on public safety and said that there are no clear guardrails in place for those without a license. No action was taken on the bill.

Bills of Interest:

Please see below for the bills of interest

Emergency Responders

<https://www.govwatch.net/report/27445>

Water

<https://www.govwatch.net/report/27446>

Right of Way

<https://www.govwatch.net/report/27447>

Transportation

<https://www.govwatch.net/report/27448>

Workforce Development

<https://www.govwatch.net/report/27449>

Thank you,

Travis Lowe, CAE