

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## 2023 Missouri Session Week Fourteen April 15, 2023

With four weeks remaining in the legislative session, floor debate time is becoming a precious commodity. This week, the Senate spent numerous hours debating several bills that were eventually laid over because of issue disagreements. Frustration with the slow-moving Senate continues to grow with House leadership. It is rumored that Speaker Dean Plocher met with his committee chairs and instructed them to slow down passage of any additional Senate bills out of committees until the Senate begins to move on some of the House priorities, most notably initiative petition reform.

Session activity will continue to pick up speed with major benchmark deadlines on the horizon. May 5 marks the deadline to pass the budget while session's last day is May 12.

### **Transportation Funding**

The House Budget Committee spent time to work several budget bills, resulting with \$859M for Interstate 70 added to HB 19, along with \$32M for improvements and an environmental study for Interstate 44. The substitute for HB 19 further includes \$100M for minor and low maintenance roads. Once the mark-up process is complete, the full House will debate the bills where further amendments may be made. The bills will then be sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### **Construction of Earthen Basins**

The House dedicated floor time and give first round of approval to HB 1207. The bill seeks to fix an unintended consequence of a 2015 law that established the term "earth and basin". According to the DNR statute, it requires a professional engineer to sign off on all basins and the term taken literally would also now apply to quarry basins. The bill removes quarry basins to provide the limestone industry regulatory authority. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted to align the bill with the Senate companion, SB 266, by removing language stating, "unless exempted by the commission". Additionally, the substitute changes the title from "Water Pollution" to "Earth and Basin" and clarifies the construction of any earthen basin utilized to retain and settle non-toxic, non-metallic earthen materials such as soil, silt, and rock, is excluded from the construction permit requirement. After a brief debate, the House provided the first of two necessary approval votes.

### **Solid Waste Management**

The House General Laws Committee convened to consider passage of HB 93. Currently, facilities designed

to incinerate solid waste must provide a health and safety buffer of at least 50 feet from a facility located in a nonresidential area in St. Louis City and at least 300 feet from a facility anywhere else in the state. After no discussion, the committee passed the bill by a 10-5 vote.

### **Mineral Advisory Council**

The House Agriculture Policy Committee convened to discuss SB 109, sponsored by Senator Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City). The bill is the Senate companion to HB 631 and modifies the composition of the Industrial Minerals Advisory Council. The bill also prohibits more than four appointees from the same industry and removes the qualifiers for the appointees. During committee discussion, substitute language was adopted to make the language consistent with its House companion bill by aligning the language with HB 631. As amended, this bill now contains the MDNR fee extension language. Once modified, the committee passed the bill by a 19-0 vote.

### **Statewide Mechanical Contractor Licensing Act**

The House Economic Development Committee convened Wednesday morning to consider passage of HB 1083 and HB 368, respectively. The bills are identical and are the House companion bill to SB 80 and allow mechanical contractors to apply for an optional statewide license rather than having multiple licenses per political subdivision. During committee discussion substitute language was adopted to combine both bills into one legislative vehicle. Additionally, the committee substitute increased the insurance liability from \$1M to \$2M. After some debate, the committee failed to pass the bill by a 4-10 vote.

### **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,

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