

State Legislation Update

Legislative Days - March 9, 2017

Please remember to say thanks to our Vietnam Veterans. Missouri's annual Vietnam Veterans Day is on March 30th. Additionally, Vietnam Veterans will be honored at the State Capitol in the House Chamber by the Speaker and members of the House. Each veteran will receive an official House Resolution in honor of the service they have provided our nation. Call your State Rep for more information.

Missouri - 2017 Legislative and Senate Priorities

Newly elected Republican Governor Eric Greitens has initiated major reforms in Missouri since he took office in January, 2017. With a Republican majority in both the House and Senate, as well as in statewide offices, we will accomplish more, in less time, than we have since Republican Governor Matt Blunt was in office many years ago.

More information from the office of the Governor can be found at www.governor.mo.gov .

A broad agenda for both the Legislature and Governor will likely include (in no specific order):

1. Labor Reform
2. Tort Reform
3. Regulatory Reform
4. Ethics Reform
5. Education Reform

For each of these, we will provide thru MOFRW more information as bills go thru committee, readings and more.

A number of Executive Orders including 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 below have already been signed by Governor Greitens. These EO's can be found in total at www.governor.mo/executive-orders .

1. Labor Reform/Right to Work

Governor Greitens fully supported and signed into effect Right to Work for Missouri, SB19. Right to Work legislation will make it illegal for employees to be charged union fees as a term of employment. It "bars employers from requiring employees to become, remain or refrain from becoming a member of a labor organization or pay dues or other charges required of a labor organization members as a condition of employment... Applies to any agreement entered...upon its renewal, extension, amendment or modification". (Effective August 28, 2017). [Missouri Partnership]. All of Missouri's border states have approved similar legislation except for Illinois. We are now the 28th state in the country with Right to Work. Why not be competitive with neighboring states for jobs.

2. Ethics Reform

Governor Greitens has also signed an executive order banning gifts from lobbyists to state employees of the executive branch. This order also bans political appointees that are within the governors office from working as lobbyists during his tenure. Additionally, a resolution was

recently submitted to the Senate rules committee that would extend the two-term, eight year term limits to the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer and top Financial Investigator/ Auditor.

3. Regulatory Reform

Governor Greitens signed an Executive Order freezing new rules and regulations for businesses. Missouri's pro-business agenda aligns with this. Regulations which are so overly burdensome have hurt businesses and families for many years. Unnecessary barriers to employment need to be successfully resolved.

4. Tort Reform

Reducing the unwieldy damages victims can be awarded in Missouri lawsuits is also a top priority this session. Efforts will be made this year to pass legislation changing how expert witnesses are evaluated and as well as Missouri's Collaterals Source rule. St. Louis in particular is a breeding ground for product liability and consumer class-action lawsuits which must be stopped.

5. Education Reform

A broader range of educational options for parents and expansion of charter schools will be reviewed as well as how to improve student achievement. K-12 education reform is the main priority.

6. Another new Executive Order establishes the position of Chief Operating Officer. Responsibilities include that this individual is proactive in identifying, implementing and recommending to the Governor reforms that can be done by the Government to better serve all Missourians. Measures of outcome and performance will be a result of this position.

7. An additional Executive Order establishes a Governor's Committee for simple, Fair and Low Taxes based upon the belief that Missourians should not pay more in taxes than absolutely necessary.

Additional Notable Issues:

Also of note are the discussions regarding the Real ID Act. This was passed into federal law about 12 years ago. Real ID created a standard of identification for those wanting to access federal buildings, installations or industries. Missouri has not complied with the Real ID Act ensuring that our driver's licenses are compliant with this federal law. Beginning in January, 2018 Missourians will either need a passport or passport card to access the above and to travel. This law has created privacy issues for a number of Missourians. Our state has requested that the Real ID act be repealed.

Another notable discussion is regarding prescription drug abuse. Missouri is the only state in the nation that does not have any sort of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Data is available from other states and an analysis can be made to the effectiveness of the program while securing personal privacy. A version of a Senate PDMP has recently been sent to the house.

Missouri Women in Politics - 2017

As part of our Legislative updates we will be focusing a segment of MOFRW on Missouri Women in Politics this year.

Our newest rising star in the MO State Legislature is State Rep Jean Evans, District 99, St. Louis County.

Jean has always had an interest in politics and is a graduate of the Show Me Series in MO and a member of the Republican Leadership Circle in St. Louis County. Jean has worked at and is a Westminster Christian Academy graduate and has a bachelors degree from University of Missouri. In addition to her employment in the real estate and investment fields Jean has been active in the community as a very successful volleyball coach. She is a volunteer at Angel's Arms and Lydia's House. Jean is also a member of the Breakthrough Coalition and is co-founder of a Senior Resource Team.

Jean has recently sponsored the following bills:

1. HB270 which will change the laws regarding marriage licenses. This bill increases the age of marriage in MO from 15 to 17 and requires that the applicant provide proof of age. Proponents of the bill say that because Missouri has become a haven for people who are involved in human trafficking this bill will strengthen our marriage laws and would reflect that Missouri is acutely aware of and on top of anti-rape and anti-child abuse issues.

As of 3/1 the status is Reported Do pass. Ayes:11, Noes: 0.

2. HB381 will change the laws regarding health care records of deceased patients. This bill will allow that a healthcare provider may provide certain information to an executor/administrator of an estate or to those who hold power of attorney so that a patient's health care records or payment records may be released. If no one has been appointed and the deceased did not object, these records may be released upon written request to the appropriate person specified in the bill. Currently in MO there is no provision for loved ones to access these records. This holds healthcare providers to a higher standard in note keeping. It also eliminates the need for a lawsuit to be filed to receive these records by families or loved ones.

As of 3/6 the status is Perfected with Amendments (H). Ayes: 9, Noes: 0. 3/9 HB381 Third Read and Passed.

3. HB1007 currently permits the use of hemp oil for the treatment of intractable epilepsy. This bill would expand the treatment to people with other serious conditions including Cancer, HIV, AIDS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Parkinson's disease, Multiple sclerosis, spinal cord damage, Epilepsy, Inflammatory bowel disease, neuropathies, Huntington's disease and certain other resulting symptoms or complications. The physician must state that he or she is qualified to treat the stated condition and that the patient is under his or her care. The bill also allows that persons or healthcare providers will not be punished for enabling this lawful activity. It also includes background checks, residency requirements and license requirements.

As of 2/23 the status was that it was referred to General Laws.

4. HB1135 which modifies provisions relating to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Initiative.

This is a bill which provides that any taxpayer who hires a student who is studying any of these fields at any MO secondary education institution may have up to \$5,000 of their tax liability transferred to the STEM Fund instead of the General Revenue Fund. The employment must be in Missouri and must be of a specific duration. The bill also states that our general assembly does not have to earmark funds to go to the STEM Fund.

Currently awaiting assignment to Committee.

Additionally, Jean has co-sponsored a number of bills which may be found at <http://www.house.mo.gov/billreport.aspx?select=xSponsorDistrict:099&sortoptions=xsponsor&year=2017&code=R>

Jean is a member of the General Laws, Workforce Development and the Special Committee on Innovation and Technology.

House Committee information may be found at <http://www.house.mo.gov/CommDescript.aspx#1449>

You may contact Jean at Jean.Evans@house.mo.gov with any questions or thoughts you may have. (573) 751-3859, 405-A.

Respectfully submitted,

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MOFRW 2017
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