

Senator Doug Beck's LEGISLATIVE REVIEW 2023

The First Regular Session of the 102nd General Assembly adjourned on May 12. Legislators passed and sent 66 bills and resolutions, including the 19 appropriations bills that comprise the FY '24 budget, to the governor to sign or veto. While I was disappointed with several of the measures put forth, I believe we passed some beneficial policies for our state and district. I'll summarize a few key bills that were "truly agreed to and finally passed," followed by some close calls I will refile in the upcoming session.

✓ Postpartum MO HealthNet Coverage:

To combat Missouri's high maternal mortality rates, Senate Bills 45 & 90 extend coverage for postpartum women from 60 days to one full year following childbirth.

✓ Show-MO & Entertainment Industry Jobs Acts:

A bipartisan measure that includes my priority legislation, Senate Bill 94 reauthorizes an expired film tax credit to create entertainment industry jobs and attract motion picture production to Missouri.

✓ Blair's Law:

Named for an 11 year-old killed by nearby celebratory gunfire, I'm disappointed the governor vetoed the criminal justice provisions included in Senate Bill 189.

✓ Distracted Driving:

To prevent accidents caused by distracted driving, Senate Bill 398 prohibits most uses of handheld wireless communication devices while operating vehicles.



✓ Examinations on Unconscious Patients:

No medical students or health care providers may perform pelvic, prostate or anal examinations on anaesthetized patients without prior consent under Senate Bill 106.

✓ Tax Relief for Seniors:

Retired Missourians drawing Social Security will be exempt from state income tax and property assessment increases on their primary residence with the passage of Senate Bill 190.

Looking to the Future

The proposals below advanced through the legislative process this session, but did not make it across the finish line. I will file these measures again next year to help workers, protect families and make the Show-Me State a better place to live, work and thrive.



Addressing Food Deserts: Far too many Missourians live in areas where accessing healthy foods is a challenge. I will continue to file legislation to establish a tax credit for expenses incurred with opening grocery stores in a food deserts.

Safeguarding Farmland from Foreign Ownership:

Since the bills prohibiting foreign ownership of Missouri farmland didn't pass, I'll continue to fight to ensure our greatest asset remains in the hands of Missourians.

Unlawful Use of a Firearm: Missouri does not have a Red Flag law in place to remove firearms from domestic abusers, so I will continue to push to make it unlawful for a person convicted of domestic violence to possess a gun.

No-Compete Covenants: As a proud member of Pipefitters Local 562 and a champion for workers, I will once again file legislation to prohibit non-compete covenants for employees who are paid an hourly wage.

Standing for Missourians



Several proposals came close to passing that I believe would be perilous for Missourians. House Joint Resolution 43 attempted to raise the threshold to pass an initiative petition from a simple majority to 60% of votes, and Senate Bill 5 would have wreaked havoc on public school districts with "school choice." During House budget negotiations, language was added to each appropriation bill to withdraw funding from companies with diversity, equity and inclusion policies in place. I will always stand for Missourians, voter rights, public education and equality in our state, not repressive policies that impede progress.

Investing in St. Louis

The 10 Senatorial Districts comprising the St. Louis Metropolitan Area will receive more than **\$2.2 billion** to fund public education, infrastructure, social services, economic development and other important programs during FY '24. St. Louis is the economic engine of the state and will show a great return on these investments. I've highlighted a few expenditures for our community below.

- **\$1.36 Billion** - Foundation Formula for K-12 Schools
- **\$45.1 Million** - Forensic Treatment Center
- **\$14.5 Million** - St. Louis Veterans Home
- **\$7.8 Million** - St. Louis Regional Center
- **\$6 Million** - Family Resource Center
- **\$2.5 Million** - Reading Literacy Program
- **\$1 Million** - Employment Connection Program
- **\$1 Million** - Mission St. Louis



Fiscal Year '24 State Operating Budget

Distribution of Each Dollar - \$48.579 Billion Total



* Includes: Revenue, National Guard, Elected Officials, General Assembly and Statewide Real Estate

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