

2023

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE SENATOR

**TRACY MCCREERY**

Serving Missouri's 24th Senatorial District

Phone: 573-751-9762



[senate.mo.gov/McCreery](https://senate.mo.gov/McCreery)

Dear friends and neighbors,

The Missouri General Assembly's 2023 regular legislative session is over, and after many months of work, several priorities passed that will impact the lives of all Missourians, including a balanced \$48.579 billion budget and 48 separate measures.

We took action to provide life-saving health care to new mothers for one full year, ban texting while driving, keep teachers teaching and improve the state's public health and safety.

I hope this report helps you learn more about the laws passed during the 2023 legislative session. If you have questions about any of the legislation discussed in this report, or if there is anything my office can do to help, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your time and interest in state government. It is an honor to serve you in the Missouri Senate.

*Tracy McCreery*



# LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Bills sponsored or supported by Sen. McCreery

## SENATE BILLS 45 & 90: HELP FOR NEW MOMS

**Senate Bill 90**, priority legislation sponsored by Sen. McCreery, was added to **Senate Bill 45** and signed into law by the governor. Senate Bills 45 & 90 extended postpartum Medicaid coverage for new moms from 60 days to one year.

There were many provisions added to this legislation that will positively impact health care policy and access in Missouri, including prohibiting examinations on medical patients without consent, creating a transitional benefit program for SNAP (food stamps) and TANF (temporary cash), repealing the geographic proximity requirements for APRNs (advanced practice nurses) under their collaborative practice agreements and allowing for the manufacturing and sale of fentanyl testing strips.



## SENATE BILL 24



**Senate Bill 24**, signed into law by the governor, includes multiple provisions related to vulnerable persons. It classifies post-traumatic stress disorder among first responders as an occupational disease eligible for workers' compensation, indexes tax credits for adoption to adjust for inflation and removes the annual cap.

## SENATE BILLS 70 & 157



**Senate Bill 70 and Senate Bill 157** included similar language to Sen. McCreery's **Senate Bill 605**, updating the tattooing definition to include using pigment for cosmetic purposes, or microblading. This updated definition will help make sure all individuals providing tattoos will have the proper training and education. Both SB 70 and SB 157 were signed into law.

## SENATE BILL 398

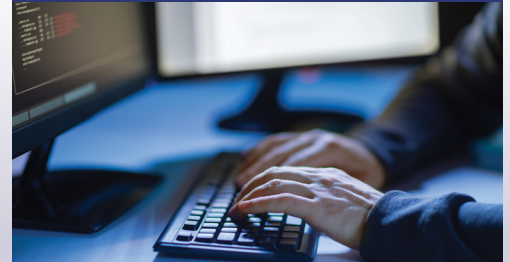


**Senate Bill 398**, signed into law by the governor, implements the "Siddens Bening Hands Free Law" and bans texting while driving. This legislation also allows auto dealers to collect sales tax at the time of a vehicle's purchase and enacts provisions to increase enforcement of Missouri's Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law.

## SENATE BILLS 20 & 75

**Senate Bill 20 and Senate Bill 75**, signed into law by the governor, include provisions for public school teacher retirement. These provisions increase the formula factor to 2.55% for 32 or more years of service for new retirees, as well as allowing retirees to return to work full-time for up to four years in school districts with a critical teacher shortage.

## SENATE BILL 189



**Senate Bill 189**, which was passed by the General Assembly during session but vetoed by the governor, included Sen. McCreery's **Senate Bill 660** language to create the Stop Cyberstalking and Harassment Task Force. Senator McCreery remains committed to getting this important legislation passed next session.



## WHAT DIDN'T PASS?

### Supported by Sen. McCreery

- **Senate Bill 431**, sponsored by Sen. McCreery, closes the domestic violence firearm loophole.
- **Senate Bill 59** creates a firearm red-flag law and order of protection laws.
- **Senate Bill 30** legalizes sports wagering in Missouri.
- **Senate Bill 184** creates several provisions related to tax relief for child-care related expenses.
- Legislation mandating a five-day school week for all Missouri schools.

### Opposed by Sen. McCreery

- **House Joint Resolution 43** restricts the ability of Missourians to utilize the initiative petition process.
- **Senate Bill 5** and **House Bill 253** create provisions relating to open enrollment for K-12 schools.

### **Several bills preempting local control of St. Louis City and County:**

- **Senate Bill 115**, preempting local control over the practice of veterinary medicine and overturning the cat declawing ban in St. Louis City and County.
- **Senate Bill 222**, preempting local control over eviction moratoriums.
- **House Bill 301**, taking away local control of the St. Louis City police department.
- **House Bill 995**, preempting local control over pet shop operations.

# LOOKING TO MISSOURI'S FUTURE

There is much work to do and progress to be made.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD

*I was disappointed with some of the measures put forth this session. I feel we spent a lot of time on unnecessary transgender legislation when there were so many other things we could have been doing to actually improve the lives of Missouri's children. I had also hoped to see legislation pass that would address the gun violence epidemic that is plaguing our communities and taking the lives of innocent children.*

*Though I do believe we passed several beneficial policies for Missouri and the 24th District, there is still much work to be done and progress to be made. Moving forward, I will support public safety and sponsor legislation to enact common sense gun laws, such as closing the domestic violence loophole, and I will continue to support policies that help Missouri's law enforcement and first responders. I will keep working towards more equity in health care by sponsoring legislation that will improve access to birth control. I will sponsor bills that support working Missourians, like the Missouri Earned Family and Medical Leave Act, and I will continue my efforts to raise the minimum wage. I will also protect consumers by fighting for fair utility rates and fees.*

— Sen. McCreery

## TRANSGENDER BILLS WERE SIGNED INTO LAW

**Senate Bills 39 and 49**, both opposed by Sen. McCreery, were signed into law by the governor. Senate Bill 39 prevents trans children in kindergarten through college from playing on the gender-specific sports teams they identify with. Senate Bill 49 bans gender-affirming treatments for children under 18, incarcerated individuals and those who have health care coverage through MO HealthNet. Minors already undergoing treatment are allowed to continue if treatments begin before Aug. 28, 2023, when the bill takes effect. Both laws will expire in 2027.



## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Learn more about these bills or any other legislation passed by the General Assembly by visiting [www.senate.mo.gov/bts\\_web/legislation](http://www.senate.mo.gov/bts_web/legislation) or by scanning the QR code at right. You can view bill text, summaries, fiscal notes, committee testimony and more.





SENATOR TRACY MCCREERY  
201 W CAPITOL AVE RM 425  
JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101

PRSR STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
Permit No. 220

## VETO SESSION

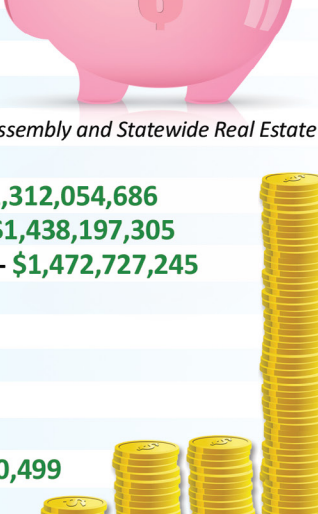
The Missouri General Assembly will return to Jefferson City on Sept. 13 to conduct its constitutionally mandated legislative veto session.

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES

# \$48.579 BILLION STATE OPERATING BUDGET

Each legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly is tasked with drafting and passing a balanced state operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. The budget for Fiscal Year 2024 funds all state functions and reflects many of our state's priorities.

This budget, the largest in state history, includes millions of dollars in funding to support capital improvements as well as maintenance and repair projects in St. Louis County and around District 24, including funding for education, Amtrak, Cortex, St. Louis Veterans' Homes, the Jewish Federation, St. Louis Area Foodbank, St. Louis County Law Enforcement Center and Horizons St. Louis.



1	Judiciary & Public Defender - \$357,310,202
2	Corrections - \$947,494,831
3	All Other Agencies - \$1,182,316,243
<i>Includes Revenue, National Guard, Elected Officials, General Assembly and Statewide Real Estate</i>	
4	Public Safety - \$1,260,103,503
5	Economic Development, Labor & Insurance - \$1,312,054,686
6	Higher Education & Workforce Development - \$1,438,197,305
7	Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources - \$1,472,727,245
8	Employee Benefits - \$1,513,143,716
9	Office of Administration - \$2,067,948,828
10	Health & Senior Services - \$2,920,761,983
11	Transportation - \$4,106,737,904
12	Mental Health - \$4,211,797,712
13	Elementary & Secondary Education - \$9,779,600,499
14	Social Services - \$16,008,773,676

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14