

### **MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES**

The Missouri General Assembly convened in Jefferson City on January 9 to begin its annual Legislative Session. With what promises to be a contentious election cycle, it is unclear what significant issues will be addressed during the session. Issues currently being discussed for debate this session are immigration reform, property tax and health care issues. These items were noted during the annual addresses to each chamber by Speaker Rod Jetton and President Pro Tem Mike Gibbons.

On January 15, 2008 Governor Matt Blunt gave his State-of-the-State Address. During that speech the Governor noted his budget highlights for the next fiscal year as well as legislative issues he seeks to have addressed during the session. The Governor noted many funding priorities which were made possible by increased revenue above the anticipated estimates discussed last legislative session. Those budget items as well as the operating budgets for all state agencies will now be developed and start the process through the House Appropriations Committee. If you would like to review the Budget recommendations from the Governor, please go to [www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov). It is entitled Missouri Budget Fiscal Year 2009

With the speeches completed, the session will begin in earnest with a full hearing schedule next week. The hearings will continue for the next four to six weeks in both the House and Senate before both chambers will begin a full schedule of floor debate.

### **HOUSE AND SENATE HEARINGS**

In the Senate Education Committee Senator John Loudon presented SB 715 dealing with security and safety related issues for school districts. Senator Loudon's bill seeks to appropriate \$9 million to fund various safety related proposals to help school districts deal with ongoing safety issues at school facilities. Funds received by schools could be used in a number of ways which would include hiring additional school resource officers, installing locking systems as well as safety cameras in schools.

The Committee took no final action on the bill before adjourning.

### **LEGISLATION OF INTEREST INTRODUCED**

Below is a listing of the bills of interest that CSD is currently tracking. For copies of any of the bills, please visit the General Assembly Web Site at [www.moga.state.mo.us](http://www.moga.state.mo.us) and click on Joint Bill Tracking. Just enter in the bill number and you will be able to bring up the actual text of the bill.

#### **HOUSE BILLS**

- HB 1305 Allows individual school districts to exempt high school students transferring into the state from the requirement to pass certain government and constitution course and test requirements. (Day)
- HB 1314 Requires annual background checks on some school employees, adds to list of offenses for which a teacher's certification may be revoked and removes the statute of limitations for certain sex crimes. (Cunningham, 86)
- HB 1316 Declares a parent's right to make all health care and education decisions for their minor children and allows for reimbursement of property taxes for those who home school or attend a private school. (Davis)
- HB 1321 Increases the property tax relief for senior citizens' program known as circuit breaker and extends the date for the deposit of a percentage of property tax collections into county assessment funds. (Sutherland)

- HB 1340 Allows for the phasing in of full deductibility from state income tax of all federal income tax liability. (Muschany)
- HB 1343 Changes the laws regarding the Missouri Homestead Preservation Act. (Portwood)
- HB 1346 Establishes the Missouri Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act regarding illegal aliens in the state. (Portwood)
- HB 1349 Changes the laws regarding property tax rates. (Portwood)
- HB 1351 Requires state agencies, public schools and colleges, and political subdivisions to use the traditional names of holidays. (Cunningham, 145)
- HB 1353 Waives renewal fees for school bus endorsements for individuals seventy years of age or older. (Fallert, Jr.)
- HB 1356 Imposes a \$15 surcharge for motor vehicle moving traffic violations and creates the School Bus Safety assistance Fund to assist schools in equipping buses with safety belts. (Flook)
- HB 1365 Authorizes a tax credit for certain elderly and disabled individuals for real property taxes paid. (Fares)
- HB 1366 Requires a certificate of value to be recorded at the time of sale of property. (Fares)
- HB 1370 Exempts real property owned by individuals 65 years of age and older with certain levels of income from increases in assessed valuation. (Kraus)
- HB 1374 Requires certain school nurses to be paid on the same pay scale as teachers with equivalent work history and working hours in their district. (Portwood)
- HB 1377 Phases out the personal property tax on motor vehicles. (Portwood)
- HB 1378 Changes the laws regarding tax increment financing. (Portwood)
- HB 1380 Authorizes allocation of property taxes collected from the Senior Citizens' Services Fund tax to senior centers for their operational and capital needs. (Sater)
- HB 1400 Allows school boards to commission certified law enforcement officers to enforce laws relating to crimes committed on school premises, at school activities, and on school buses. (Dusenberg)
- HB 1401 Requires health screenings for public school students in the second and eighth grades. (Dusenberg)
- HB 1427 Gives immunity from civil or criminal liability to persons reporting suspected child abuse to the proper authorities. (Kraus)
- HB 1440 Requires certain public officials to receive training regarding open meetings and open records and public information laws within a designated time frame. (Roorda)
- HB 1465 Allows taxpayers to pay real property taxes in quarterly installments. (Nolte)
- HB 1467 Limits the increase in assessed valuation of residential property by the percentage of increase in Social Security benefits for the elderly and disabled who own and live in their principal residence. (Nolte)
- HB 1471 Establishes the Predictable Property Tax Act which changes the procedures for imposing real property taxes. (Cunningham, 86)
- HB 1474 Allows for the conversion of manufactured homes from personal property to real property and the reconversion of manufactured homes from real property to personal property. (Cunningham, 86)
- HB 1476 Requires certificated teachers to submit documentation to DESE every five years showing adequate scores on certain assessments. (Cunningham, 86)
- HB 1477 Establishes the Teacher Bill of Rights Act which prohibits teacher associations from using payroll deductions for disbursement to a committee without written consent. (Cunningham, 86)
- HB 1479 Requires governing boards at public colleges and universities, community college districts, and school districts to take roll-call votes on school policy matters. (Cunningham, 86)
- HB 1480 Allows the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, at the discretion of the State Board of Education, to have authority over public school extracurricular competitive activities. (Cunningham, 86)
- HB 1492 Raises the legal driving age from sixteen years of age to eighteen years of age. (Smith, 14)
- HB 1524 Creates a quality rating system for child care facilities. (Franz)
- HB 1534 Allows school districts to adopt a four-day school week. (Kingery)
- HB 1554 Authorizes an income tax credit for contributions to nonprofit special needs education support organizations. (Hughes)
- HB 1577 Adds two-year public and private vocational or technical schools to the A+ Schools Program and creates the "Community College Associate Degree Transfer Incentive Scholarship Program". (Schneider)
- HB 1644 Allows full deductibility from state income tax of all federal income tax liability for corporations. (Onder)
- HB 1645 Allows full deductibility from state income tax of all federal income tax liability. (Onder)
- HB 1661 Requires property taxes paid by certain nonresident taxpayers to be added-back to adjusted gross income. (LeVota)
- HB 1663 Changes the standard for violation of the Open Meetings Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law, by a governmental body from knowingly to negligently. (Young)

- HB 1676 Requires the department of elementary and secondary education to establish criteria for the admission or rejection by accredited public schools of nonresident pupils from unaccredited districts. (Hoskins)
- HB 1678 Enacts the "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children". (Day)
- HB 1692 Establishes the Missouri Preschool Plus grant program. (Zweifel)
- HB 1693 Establishes the Missouri Education Promise Program. (Zweifel)
- HB 1694 Modifies provisions regarding property taxation. (Zweifel)
- HB 1695 Increases the amount of the senior citizens property tax credit. (Zweifel)
- HB 1698 Modifies the Bright Flight Scholarship program by requiring recipients to maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. (Zweifel)
- HB 1704 Increases the appropriation amount for small school grants. (Wallace)
- HB 1706 Allows retirees of the public school retirement system to return to teaching for up to full time for up to two years without losing retirement benefits. (Baker, 123)
- HB 1707 Authorizes school districts to enter into design-build contracts for design-build projects that exceed an expenditure of fifteen thousand dollars. (Baker, 123)
- HB 1722 Modifies various provisions relating to liability of school employees and volunteers. (Wallace)
- HB 1723 Allows first and second classification counties to collect property taxes using electronic records and disbursements. (Franz)
- HB 1726 Requires twins or other multiple-birth siblings to be placed in the same classroom if the parent or legal guardian makes a timely request. (Robb)
- HB 1733 Changes from two to five years the cycle for determining the assessed valuation of real property for the purpose of taxation in St. Louis County. (Walsh)
- HB 1735 Allows joint venture financing of certain educational facilities. (Nolte)
- HB 1737 Exempts motor fuel used in school buses from motor fuel tax when driven to transport students for educational purposes. (Wallace)

#### **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS**

- HJR 41 Proposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting state courts from levying or imposing new taxes, licenses, or fees without legislative or voter approval. (Cunningham, 86)
- HJR 42 Proposes a constitutional amendment freezing all real property valuations and tax rates until the sale or transfer of the property or a voter-approved rate increase. (Davis)
- HJR 43 Proposes a constitutional amendment altering the rollback requirement for the Hancock amendment. (Portwood)
- HJR 44 Proposes a constitutional amendment raising the allowable level of bonded indebtedness for school districts. (Flook)
- HJR 47 Proposes a constitutional amendment requiring any replacement tax levy for loss in revenue from the exemption of certain personal property of manufacturers to be adjusted according to the Constitution. (Portwood)
- HJR 55 Proposes a constitutional amendment guaranteeing a citizen's First Amendment right to pray on public property and reaffirming a citizen's right to choose any or no religion. (McGhee)

#### **SENATE BILLS**

- SB 711 Modifies provisions regarding property taxation. (Gibbons)
- SB 713 Grants civil immunity to certain DESE and school district employees under certain conditions. (Gibbons)
- SB 715 Establishes the safe schools fund and allows local school districts to utilize such moneys for a variety of safety-related expenses. (Loudon)
- SB 716 Requires the official dating standard in the state to be A.D., or Anno Domini, and B.C., or Before Christ. (Loudon)
- SB 717 Increases the amount of tax credits available for taxpayers who modify their home for disabled persons residing with such taxpayers. (Kennedy)
- SB 719 Requires publishers of instructional materials to provide electronic copies of such materials for specialized uses. (Kennedy)
- SB 722 Exempts motor fuel used for school buses from the motor fuel tax. (Coleman)
- SB 726 Creates a quality rating system for child care facilities. (Shields)
- SB 730 Establishes a county municipal court in Franklin County and alters the hold harmless provisions of the foundation formula to compensate for the creation of the court. (Griesheimer)
- SB 735 Requires mandatory review and sunset of certain tax credit programs. (Bartle)

- SB 736 Requires school districts to adopt policies for the testing of student athletes for the unlawful use of a controlled substance, including but not limited to anabolic steroids. (Bartle)
- SB 743 Modifies various tax provisions. (Bray)
- SB 748 Requires taxes property taxes paid by certain non-resident taxpayers to be added-back to adjusted gross income. (Ridgeway)
- SB 761 Modifies various laws relating to transportation and the regulation of motor vehicles. (Stouffer)
- SB 762 Modifies the definition of "bullying" as used in school district antibullying policies to include cyberbullying and electronic communications. (Wilson)
- SB 768 Creates the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders. (Rupp)
- SB 770 Creates the Missouri Scholarship for Students with Developmental Disabilities Program. (Rupp)
- SB 778 Provides for optional immunization for the human papilloma virus. (Justus)
- SB 779 Requires the state to provide fully subsidized preschool for certain children. (Smith)
- SB 780 Modifies provisions on human sexuality and sexually transmitted disease education courses. (Smith)
- SB 804 Allows the state auditor to audit any school district in the same manner as any agency of the state. (Crowell)
- SB 805 Modifies the definition of the term "agricultural and horticultural property" for property tax purposes. (Mayer)
- SB 814 Decreases acreage requirements for eligibility under the Distressed Areas Land Assemblage Tax Credit Act. (Wilson)
- SB 827 Allows increased starting salaries for math, science, special education, ESL teachers in a metropolitan school district. (Smith)
- SB 828 Requires unaccredited and provisionally accredited school districts to adopt a dress code for school uniforms. (Smith)
- SB 829 Requires the St. Louis city school district to have an 18 to 1 teacher to student ratio for kindergarten to third grade. (Smith)
- SB 831 Modifies provisions relating to state funding for elementary and secondary education. (Coleman)
- SB 832 Establishes procedures to create teacher resource centers for school districts. (Coleman)
- SB 833 Allows school districts to pay stipends to math and science teachers and allows licensing of teachers with a math or science degree. (Bartle)
- SB 839 Modifies adjustment to funds payable resulting from transfer of title to real property for certain school districts. (Engler)
- SB 844 Requires school districts to request teacher records prior to extending an offer of employment to a prospective teacher. (Rupp)
- SB 854 Modifies provisions relating to physical education graduation requirements for certain high school students. (Coleman)
- SB 888 Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to recalculate state school aid for Riverview Gardens School District to correct an error. (Green)
- SB 911 Modifies the number of school days to be made up due to inclement weather. (Engler)
- SB 953 Extends expiration date for public governmental bodies to close certain security-related records. (Scott) SB 977 Creates the Betty L. Thompson Scholarship Program. (Ridgeway)

#### **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS**

- SJR 29 Requires the official dating standard in the state to be A.D., or Anno Domini, and B.C., or Before Christ. (Loudon)
- SJR 33 Limits reassessment of residential real property to years in which transfer of title occurs. (Ridgeway)

**This bulletin is published by CSD during the General Assembly for use by member districts.  
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