

-----

## **HB 1495 -- MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION**

As specified in this bill, the Missouri Veterans Commission must review the provisions of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, and any regulations related thereto. After review, the Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, must provide recommendations and make efforts to adopt procedures, programs, treatment options, additional aid, and any other assistance deemed necessary by the Commission to assist in the efforts to prevent veteran suicide, subject to appropriation. On or before July 1, 2025, and by every July 1st thereafter the Commission must file a report with the Department of Public Safety and the General Assembly on the recommendations, implementation, and effectiveness of the efforts by the Commission to prevent veteran suicide.

-----

## **SS HB 1751 -- SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PERMITS**

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited from issuing a permit for the operation of a solid waste disposal area designed to serve a city with a population greater than 400,000 inhabitants located in more than one county, if the site is located within one-half mile of an adjoining municipality without the adjoining municipality's approval.

This bill changes the required distance from the adjoining municipality from one-half mile to one mile, and makes the one mile distance apply to solid waste processing facilities, demolition landfills, and sanitary landfills in addition to solid waste disposal areas.

-----

## **HB 1803 -- STATE TREASURER'S AUTHORITY TO INVEST**

This bill raises the aggregate amount that the State Treasurer may invest in linked deposits, so that the total amount deposited at any one time does not exceed \$1.2 billion. Currently, the cap is \$800 million. The bill specifies that the aggregate deposits will be used for linked deposits to eligible small businesses in addition to the businesses currently allowed. Currently, there is a maximum dollar amount that can be deposited in linked deposits applicable to the various businesses; this bill changes the maximum to a percentage of the aggregate deposit.

-----

## **HB 1909 -- COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

This bill repeals the requirement that county committees hold their meetings within the seat of the county in advance of primary elections, and repeals the requirement that the St. Louis city committee chair may designate where that committee will meet on the same day as the county committee.

-----

## SS HB 1912 -- TAXATION OF PASS-THROUGH ENTITIES

Currently, the law authorizes a taxpayer to claim a tax credit for income tax paid to another state on income that is also taxable in Missouri. This bill allows S Corporation shareholders to take a similar tax credit for the shareholder's share of the S Corporation's income derived from sources in another state.

Currently, the SALT Parity Act allows for an alternative method for the taxation of income in pass-through entities, as well as a tax credit against those sources of income tax. Current law also allows a taxpayer to reduce his or her tax burden through use of the Federal business income deduction. This bill alters such calculation by allowing the use of the Missouri State business income deduction instead.

This bill allows a member of an affected business entity to opt-out of the SALT Parity Act's taxation methods. If one or more members opt-out, the affected business shall subtract the opt-out members' allocable income and deduction items. If a member does not file a timely opt-out election for a tax year, that member shall not be precluded from timely filing an opt-out election for subsequent tax years.

If a nonresident member chooses to opt-out, that nonresident shall agree to:

- (1) File a return based on Missouri nonresident adjusted gross income and to make timely payment of taxes with respect to income of the affected business entity; and
- (2) Be subject to personal jurisdiction in this State for purposes of tax collection with respect to the income of the affected business entity.

This bill applies the SALT Parity tax credit to a fiduciary of an estate or trust that is also a member of an affected business entity.

-----

## HB 2057 -- MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE FEES FOR VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDERS

This bill modifies the definition of "video service" for provisions of law relating to video service providers to now include streaming content.

-----

## SS HB 2062 -- REAL PROPERTY

This bill enacts several provisions relating to the use of real property, including changes to property taxation, the broadening of the Land Bank Act to cover more areas, changes to the historic, rural revitalization, and regulatory streamlining act, and new enactments on business shutdown orders, electric vehicle charging infrastructure requirements, sewer liens, home inspections, and the pasturing of chickens.

PROTECTING MISSOURI'S SMALL BUSINESSES ACT (Section 44.251)

The bill establishes the "Protecting Missouri's Small Businesses Act". Beginning January 1, 2025, any political subdivision implementing a shutdown order that results in a business closing solely due to the shutdown order for at least 14 consecutive days or 30 cumulative days must waive the fee for a business license during the period of the shutdown order or 6 months, whichever is longer, and reduce the real and personal property tax liability of the business as provided in the act. This act is not an exemption of property from taxation by the political subdivision, and any action taken by a political subdivision that results in a refund or revenues lost shall be construed as an exercise of the political subdivision's authority to levy and collect local tax revenues.

This provision is the same as HB 2874 and similar to HCS HB 1263 (2024).

#### ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE (Section 67.288)

The bill defines "electric vehicle" and "electric vehicle charging station" and prohibits political subdivisions from adopting various forms of legislation to require charging stations on parking lots owned or leased by churches or nonprofit organizations. A business owner or property owner may pay for installation, maintenance, or operation of an electric vehicle charging station.

This provision is similar to HCS HB 1511 (2024).

#### LAND BANKS (Sections 140.010 to 141.1020)

This bill adds provisions to Section 140.010 concerning liens of the state on property with unpaid taxes to allow a county to elect to operate as a "partial opt-in county" for any parcel for which there is an unpaid tax bill for at least two years after its delinquent date after electing to establish a land bank agency under Section 140.981. The collector of the county will decide which tax delinquent parcels shall proceed according to the provisions of Sections 141.210 to 141.810, RSMo.

These parcels are exempt from the provisions of Sections 140.030 to 140.722. The collector must remove the parcels from any list of parcels advertised for first, second, third, or post-third sales.

The bill adds the following individuals to the list of those to whom land bank sales are prohibited: members of the governing body and employees of a land bank agency; elected or appointed officials of the governing body and employee of such officials, of the political subdivision in which a land bank agency is located; and those who are related to the above within the second degree of consanguinity (Section 140.190).

A purchaser at any sale after the third offering of any land or lots, whether by the collector or a trustee as provided in section 140.260, may elect to proceed by giving notice to the collector before the issuance of a collector's deed (Section 140.250).

If no person redeems land sold for taxes under Section 140.420 before the expiration of the person's right to redeem, the current law states that the collector will execute to the person's heirs or assigns; the bill adds that specified parties that had a right, title, interest, claim, or equity of redemption on or to the lands or that had a lien upon the lands are foreclosed of such unclaimed right, title, interest, claim, or equity of redemption in or to the lands and of any lien upon the lands.

Currently, Sections 140.980 to 140.1015, RSMo, are referred to as the "Land Bank Act". This bill changes the name to the "Chapter 140 Land Bank Act" and expands the list of cities authorized to establish a land bank agency to include any city with 1,500 or more inhabitants except in certain noncharter counties and certain charter counties (Sections 140.980 and 140.981).

Many sections in the Chapter 140 Land Bank Act are amended to include a reference to counties.

For land bank agencies established under the Chapter 140 Land Bank Act, the composition of the board of directors and other requirements, restrictions, and duties of the board members are specified in the bill. Any municipality that establishes a land agency under Section 140.981 may include certain information in the municipal ordinance, as specified in the bill. (Section 140.982)

Additional powers of a Chapter 140 land bank agency are modified to the extent that: borrowing from private lenders, the state, and the federal government is no longer allowed; the land bank agency can no longer issue notes and other obligations; a reference to specific ways in which a contract will be deemed to have been properly executed is removed; and a land bank agency can no longer lease or rent land bank property as either a lessor or lessee. (Section 140.983)

When a land bank agency acquires title to property, it must notify the county assessor and collector of all taxes, fines, and fees on the property that will thereafter be deemed satisfied by the transfer of the property to the land bank agency. A land bank agency can acquire property at a sheriff's tax sale or at a partial opt-in sale under Section 141.821, but the property cannot be partially or wholly located outside the county or municipality of the land bank agency, and it must be adjacent to property already owned by the land bank agency. Property to be added to another parcel already owned by the land bank agency can be purchased at a foreclosure sale. If property is acquired by a land bank agency under certain authorized methods, the excess of the land bank agency's bid over the amount of the tax bill will be distributed according to Section 140.230, but if the property is acquired under a delinquent land tax auction, any excess will be distributed under Section 141.580. Within one year of the effective date of an ordinance, resolution, or rule establishing a municipal land bank agency, real property held by a land trust must be transferred to the land bank agency (Section 140.984).

A land bank agency must disclose for public review whether it acquired property through judicial foreclosure, nonjudicial foreclosure, donation, or other manner. A land bank agency can establish a different hierarchical ranking of priorities for the use of its land as follows: purely public spaces and places; wildlife conservation; a green field area, and a return to private use. The requirement that the sale price for land bank agency property must equal or exceed the tax bill, interest, penalties, attorney's fees, and costs, is repealed and replaced with the simple requirement that land acquired through purchase, transfer, exchange, or gift must be sold. How the proceeds from the sale of any ancillary parcel must be distributed is repealed, as is the requirement that the sale price of a parcel must be reduced if it is one of five parcels in a single block and no offer for it has been made in the last year, with the reduction in price being advertised (Section 140.985).

The duration of time a land bank agency has to sell property or put it to productive use is increased from two to five years. The duration a land bank agency has to sell, clear, or put property to public use is eight years (Section 140.986).

Currently, a contract for the sale of residential property owned by the land bank agency requires the buyer to agree to own the property for three years or be civilly liable to the land bank for an amount equal to twice the sale price. The bill repeals this provision and requires a buyer to demonstrate that the buyer does not have a property in the land bank's jurisdiction with taxes delinquent for more than one year, is not in violation of any municipal building or housing code, and is not the original owner of the property or a relative of the original owners within the second degree of consanguinity (Section 140.987).

Foreign and domestic corporations or limited liability companies that do not have a registered agent under State law are not allowed to buy property from a land bank, nor are foreign corporate entities that do not have a certificate of authority to transact business in the State (Section 140.987).

A land bank agency can make it a condition of sale that a property owner or the property owner's successor make certain improvements to the property. If the improvements are not made, the land bank can sue for damages for the breach and seek a judicial foreclosure in which the property would go back to the land bank. As an alternative or in addition to a judicial foreclosure the land bank agency may gift the right to foreclose on the property to a nonprofit organization or exercise the right of reentry. Title will be conveyed by recording the judgment with the recorder of deeds (Section 140.987).

A land bank agency can receive funding through gifts from any source, provided that the agency does not sell or otherwise transfer any property held by it to the entity from which it received the gift (Section 140.988).

A county that has established a land bank agency may collect a fee for the collection of delinquent and back taxes in an amount up to 5% of all sums collected, which fees must be paid to the land bank agency (Section 140.988).

A land bank agency is authorized to receive funds from bonds issued by the county or municipality creating the land bank agency. These bonds will not be deemed an indebtedness within the meaning of any Constitutional or statutory limitation upon incurring indebtedness. The bonds must be authorized by a resolution of the governing body of the county or municipality establishing the land bank agency, which may also issue refunding bonds. The bonds are negotiable instruments under Chapter 400. The bonds and all income or interest thereon are exempt from all State taxes. Temporary notes are also authorized (Section 140.994).

A land bank agency may rent or lease property held by the land bank agency for community, noncommercial agricultural uses (Section 140.995).

Members of the board are added to a provision that prohibits land bank employees from benefiting from or owning land bank property. For this provision, persons who are related to board members or employees within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are considered board members or employees (Section 140.1000).

The bill adds that any other method as may be required by prevailing notions of due process is a permissible means of petition service in a quiet title action (Section 140.1009).

A land bank agency must be dissolved no sooner than 60 calendar days but no later than 180 calendar days after an ordinance or resolution for its dissolution is passed by the county or municipality that established the land bank agency. Once all outstanding bonds, notes, and other obligations are satisfied, no new property can be acquired by the land bank agency. No additional debts can be incurred unless necessary to sell property or put to public use. The land bank agency must be dissolved within 30 days after all outstanding bonds, notes, and other obligations are satisfied (Section 140.1012).

The definition of "county" for purposes of Sections 141.210 to 141.810 and Sections 141.980 to 141.1015 (collectively, the land tax collection law) is changed from charter counties and certain first class counties, currently only Buchanan County, to all counties, and the definition of "municipality" is changed from cities of 2,500 inhabitants in charter and first classification counties to all cities in all counties. This bill defines an "interested party" (Section 141.220).

Counties may now elect to wholly operate under Sections 141.210 to 141.810 by adopting a resolution or order, or partially by adopting a resolution or order for any parcel or parcels which have back taxes for at least two years from the date on which the taxes became delinquent. No county eligible to establish a land bank under Section 140.981 can be a partial opt-in county unless it first elects to establish a land bank agency as provided in Section 141.981 (Section 141.230).

For partial opt-in counties, the collector will decide which tax-delinquent parcels will proceed under the land tax collection laws and which will proceed under other laws (Section 141.290).

The collector has the option of appointing a delinquent land tax attorney to be compensated as necessary for performing the collector's duties. The appointed delinquent land tax attorney may appoint assistant attorneys to be compensated as necessary. The collector may pay an appointed delinquent land tax clerk what compensation is deemed necessary, rather than a set fee (Sections 141.320 and 141.330).

A petition for foreclosure of a tax lien must name each person with a legal interest in the land affected, as discoverable by the collector from publicly available records, and must contain certain information specified in the bill (Section 141.410).

The collector must send a copy of the petition by first-class mail to the occupant of the parcel or property which has delinquent taxes (Section 141.440).

In partial opt-in counties, the collector must make the following searches, the charge for which can be recovered from the proceeds of the sale:

- (1) A title search, not later than 120 days prior to the sale;
- (2) The following records, for interested parties and addresses reasonably calculated to apprise interested parties of the suit:
  - (a) Land title records in the county recorder of deeds office;
  - (b) Tax records in the office of the local treasurer;
  - (c) Tax records in the office of the local assessor;
  - (d) Court records in Missouri CaseNet; and
  - (e) For a business entity, records filed with the Secretary of State. The charge for these items can be recovered from the proceeds of the sale

No later than 30 days prior to the sale, the collector must send notice of the sale to all interested parties at the address most reasonably apprised to provide notice of the sale. The notice must provide the date, time, and place of the sale, and must state that the property may be redeemed prior to the sale. The charge for this item can be recovered from the proceeds of the sale.

No later than 20 days prior to the sale, the sheriff must post notice of the sale of the size and in the manner set out in the bill. The sheriff also must attempt in-person notice. The charge for these items can be recovered from the proceeds of the sale (Section 141.520).

Additional changes to the land tax collection law include:

(1) Changing the laws regarding taxes and penalties for properties subject to certain actions as abandoned property in Jackson County. Currently, a provision allows a court in Jackson County to stay the tax foreclosure sale of property that is the subject of an action for temporary possession for rehabilitation if the party filing the action pays into the court all of the principal land taxes owed. The bill expands this provision to all counties;

(2) Currently, Section 141.540 sets forth the procedure a sheriff must follow when advertising for and selling real property ordered sold pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure by a court under the land tax collection law. The bill repeals almost all other provisions of the section dealing with duties of the county collector related to the sale;

(3) Currently, Section 141.550 deals with the conduct of sale, the sheriff's return of service, and the sheriff's deed in Kansas City. The bill adds Sections 141.980 to 141.1015 to the jurisdiction of the section, removes the limitation to Kansas City, gives the place and time of the sale for partial opt-in counties, and specifies what amounts the winning bid must include. Also, foreign and domestic corporations or limited liability companies that do not have a registered agent under State law are not allowed to buy property from a land bank, nor are foreign corporate entities that do not have a certificate of authority to transact business in the State. The official conducting the sale may require an affidavit from the buyer that he or she meets the requirements for purchasers;

(4) Clarifying that Section 141.560 applies to municipalities that have established a land bank agency under other pertinent sections or are in counties that have established a land bank agency, and removing the requirement that a land trust must include certain other costs when a parcel is sold by the land trust;

(5) Modifying the language regarding the title to any real estate that is vested to a purchaser (Section 141.570);

(6) Establishing a six-month time limit during which a court should confirm or set aside a foreclosure sale, clarifying who should receive notice of a hearing, and providing what the judgment should state. Section 141.580 will not apply to sales of land to land bank agencies. In partial opt-in counties, funds remaining after the sale and after the distribution as required by law, will be given to the county school fund. Counties operating under the land tax collection law can elect to establish a fund for the purpose of defending against claims challenging the sufficiency of the notice provided. An interested party other than the purchaser must pay into the court the redemption amount prior to a hearing;

(7) Repealing the part of Section 141.610 that provides that one year after a foreclosure sale it will be conclusively presumed that everything was done correctly, and no suit to set aside a deed will be commenced or maintained unless it is filed within one year from the date of sale;

(8) Providing that Section 141.680 does not apply to partial opt-in counties; and

(9) Limiting the applicability of Section 141.700, establishing a land trust, to counties electing to operate under Sections 141.210 to 141.810 prior to January 1, 2025;

In partial opt-in counties, the bill provides for the establishment and make-up of a land trust, the governing board, and the board's duties and responsibilities (Section 141.821).

The bill designates Sections 141.980 to 141.1015 as the "Chapter 141 Municipal Land Bank Act" in Section 141.980, deletes its limited applicability to municipalities located wholly or partially in counties with a land trust as of January 1, 2012, makes it applicable to counties electing to operate wholly under Sections 141.420 to 141.810, repeals the provision limiting sales made to a single entity to five contiguous parcels per year, and prohibits municipalities in partial opt-in counties from establishing land bank agencies under Section 141.980.

The bill adds that any other method as may be required by prevailing notions of due process is a permissible means of petition service in a quiet title action (Section 141.1009).

Provisions are added to permit a land bank agency to rent or lease property held by the land bank agency for community, noncommercial agricultural uses. (Section 141.1020)

This bill repeals Section 140.1006, and Sections 141.820 to 141.970 dealing with collection of delinquent taxes in the City of St. Louis.

These provisions are similar to provisions in HB 2065 (2024).

#### PUBLIC SEWER DISTRICT LIENS (Section 249.255)

This bill provides that a lien placed upon a property for unpaid sewer charges, once publicly and properly recorded, has higher priority than all liens except taxes levied under Section 141.821 for state or county purposes.

This provision is similar to a provision in HB 2065 (2024).

#### HISTORIC, RURAL REVITALIZATION, AND REGULATORY STREAMLINING ACT (Sections 253.533, 253.454, 253.550, 253.557 and 253.559)

This act names the historic preservation tax credit the "Missouri Historic, Rural Revitalization, and Regulatory Streamlining Act". (Section 253.533)

The act adds definitions of "applicable percentage", "eligible recipient", "historic theater", "historic school", "qualified rehabilitation standards" and "qualifying county". The definition of "structure in a certified historic district" is repealed, and the definition of "certified historic structure" is revised to allow location in a National Register-listed historic district as an option to qualification of a building (Section 253.545).

Currently, a tax credit is authorized for rehabilitation expenses incurred for the rehabilitation of certain properties, and requires the rehabilitation to meet the standards as determined by the State Historic Preservation officer of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Ten percent of the rehabilitation costs may be incurred for investigative assessments and building stabilization prior to the submission of an application.

The bill authorizes a tax credit for the rehabilitation of property that is in a qualifying county, as defined in the bill, equal to 35% of the total costs of rehabilitation incurred on or after July 1, 2024. A qualifying county is a county that is not within the city of Kansas City or the city of St. Louis.

This bill provides that state historic rehabilitation standards shall not be more restrictive than the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.



Provisions relating to projects started between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2018, are repealed. Properties that are not located in a qualified census tract will not be approved.

Non-income-producing single-family owner-occupied residential property is revised to delete the reference to "owner-occupied" and adds a description of the taxpayer applicant and any relative within the third degree of relationship to the applicant, which is also applicable to applications for certified historic structures and structures in a certified historic district, which must be located in a distressed community.

Tax credits authorized for a single-resource certified historic structure of more than one million gross square feet with a Part I approval prior to January 1, 2024, shall count toward the aggregate amount of tax credits that may be authorized in a fiscal year but may be spread over a six-year period under conditions described in the bill(Section 253.550).

Current law prohibits not-for-profit entities from receiving historic preservation tax credits. This bill authorizes the entities to receive these tax credits (Section 253.557).

This bill requires the Department of Economic Development to establish an application cycle that allows for the year-round submission and year-round receipt and review of the applications.

Currently, an application for tax credits must include proof that the property is an eligible property and a certified historic structure or a structure in a certified historic district. In lieu of such requirement, the bill allows proof that part 1 of a federal application or a draft national register of historic places nomination has been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office.

This bill requires the Department, when evaluating an application, to consider the estimated number of housing units created by the project, the estimated number of construction and professional jobs associated with the project, capital improvements created by a project, and increased revenues from sales or property taxes. Historic schools and theaters are exempt from this provision.

The State Historic Preservation Office must determine whether a rehabilitation satisfies the required standards within 60 days of the filing of an initial application for tax credits and the determination must be based upon specific evidence and, if approved, must forward the application to the National Park Service within 60 days.

If the scope of a project that has been approved materially changes, the taxpayer will be eligible to receive additional tax credits in the year in which the Department is notified of and approves of the change in scope, as specified in the bill.

Currently, evidence of the capacity of the applicant to finance rehabilitation costs and expenses is required within 60 days of approval. This bill changes the requirement to 120 days.

Currently, a taxpayer is required to receive approval for tax credits to commence rehabilitation within nine months of approval. This bill changes the time period to 24 months from approval. A taxpayer must notify the Department of the loss of site control within 10 days of the loss. The act allows a taxpayer to forfeit approval of tax credits at any time.

Currently, taxpayers are required to submit an application for final approval of tax credits. This bill provides that final approval must be shown by either approval of the State Historic Preservation Office or an approved part 3 Federal application. The bill specifies a timeline for submission, approval, forwarding, and issuance.

An applicant may appeal any official decision relating to the application submitted by the applicant, as specified in the bill. (Section 253.559)

#### HOME INSPECTION (Section 436.337)

A political subdivision cannot require the owner of residential property to have a home inspection conducted in order to sell the property. The bill does not apply to any inspection requirement for new construction or occupancy permits.

This provision is similar to a provision in HB 2380 (2024).

#### PASTURING OF CHICKENS (Section 442.404)

This bill provides that no deed restrictions, covenants, or similar binding agreements running with the land can prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting ownership or pasturing of up to six chickens on a lot that is two-tenths of an acre or larger, including prohibitions against a single chicken coop designed to accommodate up to six chickens. A homeowner's association, as defined by law, may adopt reasonable rules, subject to applicable statutes or ordinances, regarding ownership or pasturing of chickens, including a prohibition or restriction on roosters.

This provision is similar to a provisions in HB 1514 and HCS HB 2206 (2024).

#### UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION OF REAL PROPERTY (Sections 534.602, 534.604, and 569.200)

This bill establishes provisions regarding the removal, through ex parte orders, of persons unlawfully occupying a residential dwelling. The bill defines "unlawful occupants", among other terms; allows a property owner to file a petition to remove a person unlawfully occupying property; describes the petition-filing process, fees and court costs; and outlines the issuance process for an ex parte order. The hearing must be held within 48 hours of filing unless good cause for delay is shown. The bill specifies measures that can be prescribed in the ex parte order to protect the petitioner's safety and other measures to permanently restrain or expel the respondent. A person who is removed without just cause may bring a civil cause of action. The proceedings are in addition to other available remedies, and the court retains jurisdiction of the ex parte order of protection for its entire duration.

A law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe a person has violated an ex parte order shall arrest the offending party even the violation did not occur in the presence of the law enforcement officer, and the arresting and assisting officers are immune from civil liability for false arrest.

A violation of an ex parte order is a class A misdemeanor. Additionally, the offense of criminal mischief for unlawful detention, occupation, or trespass upon a residential dwelling is established, which is a class A misdemeanor.

#### MORATORIUM ON EVICTION PROCEEDINGS (Section 535.012)

No county, municipality, or political subdivision shall impose or otherwise enforce a moratorium on eviction proceedings unless specifically authorized by state law.

#### HYDRANT TESTING (Section 640.144)

Currently, community water systems in certain areas are required to create a hydrant inspection program that includes annual testing of every hydrant in the system. The annual testing requirement is repealed and replaced by a scheduled testing.

-----

## **HB 2111 -- POWERS OF THE STATE AUDITOR**

This bill defines "improper governmental activity," as official misconduct, fraud, misappropriation, mismanagement, waste of resources, or a violation of State or Federal law, rule, or regulation.

The bill specifies that the auditor or their authorized representative may audit all or part of any political subdivision or government entity if, after an investigation, the auditor believes improper governmental activity has occurred, or when requested to by a prosecuting attorney, circuit attorney, or law enforcement agency as part of an investigation.

This bill provides that testimony and records obtained through subpoenas issued by the auditor shall be subject to the same confidentiality and disclosure requirements for audit workpapers and related supportive material.

Currently, each fiscal year, the State Auditor must audit, adjust and settle all receipts and disbursements in the insurance dedicated fund and the insurance examiners' fund, and taxes certified and collected on foreign and domestic insurance premiums, surplus line premiums, and county taxes on property owned by insurance companies. This bill repeals the requirement to audit taxes certified and collected on foreign and domestic insurance premiums, surplus line premiums, and county taxes on property owned by insurance companies and requires that the results of audits of the Insurance Dedicated Fund and the Insurance Examiners' Fund shall be reported as part of the annual audit of the State's financial statements.

The bill adds records relating to reports of allegations of improper governmental activities to the list of records exempt from public disclosure.

-----

## **SS SCS HCS HBs 2134 & 1956 -- WATER POLLUTION**

This bill specifies that land application of industrial wastewater, industrial wastewater sludge, and related process wastes must be subject to a nutrient management technical standard established by rule by the Department of Natural Resources. The nutrient management technical standard must allow for the use of a phosphorus index as specified in the bill. Land application conducted in compliance with a land application management plan approved by the Department is exempted from these requirements.

The bill authorizes the Missouri Clean Water Commission to exempt any entity from the requirement to obtain any water pollution permit based on licensure under the Missouri Fertilizer law, only if the entity is producing products that are commercially sold to an end user and has accurate labeling for each container that includes certain information.

This bill specifies that entities storing combined bulk fertilizers in storage basins may not be exempt from design requirements for agrichemical facilities, as defined in the bill, when constructing new facilities.

In order to receive an operating permit, a point source or operating location for commingled offsite industrial wastewater and wastewater residuals open storage basin or vessel must meet current design requirements for a wastewater treatment facility's design capacity. The bill also establishes buffer distances, based on a facility's capacity, between the basin or vessel and any public building or occupied residence.

The bill specifies that the Department must:

- (1) Require groundwater monitoring when the basin or vessel is located in proximity to a geological feature that increases the likelihood for groundwater contamination;
- (2) Establish by rules sampling requirements for basins or vessels based on its permitted materials; and
- (3) Within 60 days, promulgate rules, including a chain of custody form to be used during the handling of testing samples, and establish criteria to require annual sampling and testing for specified metal concentrations and pathogens. This testing must be done by a third-party certified laboratory.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

-----

## SS HB 2287 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

This bill relates to elementary and secondary education.

### MISSOURI EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS PROGRAM (Section 135.713)

The bill makes changes to Section 135.713, RSMo, by changing words and phrases including "under" to "pursuant to", "subsequent to" to "after" and "such taxpayer's" to "his or her".

### MISSOURI COURSE ACCESS AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM (Section 161.670)

As specified in bill, the average daily attendance of a student who is enrolled full-time in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program shall be defined as the quotient or the sum of the quotients obtained by dividing the total number of hours attended in a term by the actual number of hours that the virtual program was in session. Such attendance shall be calculated by the virtual provider and provided to the host school district for submission to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Host districts that enroll one or more full-time virtual school students shall receive an amount of state aid specified in the bill for such students on a monthly basis.

The bill provides that students who reside in Missouri may enroll in the virtual program of their choice. Provisions of current law regarding a school district's approval of a student's request to enroll in a virtual program shall not apply to full-time virtual program enrollment.

This bill requires host districts to adopt student enrollment policies for full-time virtual students and allows virtual schools to mutually agree with resident and host districts on the services that the resident district might offer, including possible financial reimbursements for those services.

For students with disabilities, the enrollment policy shall ensure the development of an individualized education program and related services agreement, as necessary. The bill also specifies that student progress reports are necessary for part-time and full-time virtual school program enrollees. This bill requires a student's parent or guardian, if the student is not considered homeless, to apply for enrollment directly with the full-time virtual program.

Finally, the bill specifies that a host district may contract with a provider to perform any required services involved with delivering a full-time virtual education.

This provision is similar to SB 921 (2024).

#### HOME SCHOOL AND FAMILY PACED EDUCATION (FPE) SCHOOLS (Sections 167.012 and 167.013)

This bill creates Section 167.012 with the term "home school" defined for specified sections provided in the bill. This Section prohibits home school students from participation in the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Program under Sections 166.700 to 166.720 and the Student Opportunity Savings Account Program created under Section 163.431. The requirements for homes school children remain the same as current statutory requirements and include proof of 1000 hours of regular instruction.

The bill defines a "family-paced education school" for specified sections as provided in the bill. This section specifies that students enrolled in a family-paced education school may participate in both the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Program and the Student Opportunity Savings Account Program. The requirements for family-paced education school children are the same as for home school students with proof of 1000 hours of regular instruction and a daily log requirement.

These provisions are similar to HB 2937 (2024).

#### TEACHER CERTIFICATION (Section 168.021)

This bill requires DESE to develop an 18 credit hour, online teacher preparation program related to subjects appropriate for teachers in different content areas determined by the Department. The Department may contract with an entity skilled in developing online teacher preparation programs or a charitable organization registered in Missouri to develop and maintain the online teacher preparation program. The entity or charitable organization must be certified to develop and maintain the program by the Department. An individual with a bachelor's degree may complete the online training program and receive a certificate of license to teach.

However, the certificate will not be accepted by Missouri public schools, and non-public schools are not required to accept the certificate.

This provision is similar to SB 1394 (2024).

#### WEAPONS OFFENSES IN SCHOOLS (Section 571.010)

The bill adds a definition of "school" to provisions of law relating to weapons offenses. The definition specifies that for these provisions of law, "school" shall mean a charter school, a private school, or a public school, as such terms are defined in current law.

#### FOUR DAY SCHOOL WEEK (SECTION 1)

The bill exempts specified school districts from any state law that would require the district to conduct an election of the voters in order to adopt a four-day school week. The provisions of this section apply to Clinton Co. R-III and Lathrop R-II.

-----

## **SS#2 HCS HB 2634 -- HEALTH CARE**

As specified in this bill, no public funds shall be expended to any abortion facility, or affiliate thereof, including for MO HealthNet reimbursement.

Any taxpayer, as well as the Attorney General, shall have standing to bring a cause of action in any court or administrative agency of competent jurisdiction to enforce these provisions, as described in the bill.

The bill modifies existing statute permitting any MO HealthNet participant to obtain MO HealthNet services from any provider of such services in a MO HealthNet provider agreement with the State by requiring the provider to not be disqualified or excluded from serving as a MO HealthNet provider.

Additionally, this bill requires the Department of Social Services to suspend, revoke, or cancel any contract or provider agreement or refuse to enter into a new contract or provider agreement with any provider when it has been determined that the provider is not qualified to perform the required services because the provider has committed certain offenses specified in the bill, has been found guilty of a pattern of intentional discrimination in the delivery or non-delivery of health care services, or if the provider is an abortion facility or affiliate thereof.

Lastly, the bill prohibits reimbursement to abortion facilities, or affiliates thereof, under the "Uninsured Women's Health Program".

-----

## **SS#2 SCS SB 727 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

This bill creates and modifies provisions relating to elementary and secondary education.

MISSOURI EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS PROGRAM (Sections 135.713, 135.714, 135.715, and 166.700)

This bill modifies provisions relating to the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

The bill changes the maximum amount of tax credits that may be allocated in any year from \$50 million to \$75 million. The maximum amount will be increased annually by any percentage increase or decrease in the amount appropriated to school districts under the foundation formula. This bill repeals a provision that the program be effective in any fiscal year immediately following any year in which the amount appropriated for pupil transportation equals or exceeds 40% of the projected amount necessary to fully fund transportation aid funding for fiscal year 2021 (Section 135.713, RSMo).

The bill modifies the scholarship distribution order to qualified students. The first students to receive scholarship funds will be students who received scholarships in the previous year, followed by students who are siblings of students who are already receiving a scholarship. This bill further outlines a distribution

order that prioritizes funding to students who receive special education services, students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch and who reside in an unaccredited or provisionally accredited school district, students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, and students who are the children of active duty military personnel who have relocated to Missouri.

The bill modifies the total grant amount for students with an individualized education plan (IEP) or limited English proficiency or who receive free or reduced-price lunch. Students with limited English proficiency will receive no more than 160% of the state adequacy target; students who receive free or reduced-price lunch will receive no more than 125% of the state adequacy target; and students with an IEP will receive no more than 175% of the state adequacy target. All other students shall receive a grant amount that does not exceed the state adequacy target.

This bill provides that educational assistance organizations shall provide certain data that is currently provided only to the State Treasurer to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program Board.

The bill requires the State Treasurer to post certain information relating to scholarship recipients, qualified schools, and educational assistance organizations on the Treasurer's website annually (Section 135.714).

This bill repeals a provision that the annual increase to the cumulative amount of tax credits cease when the amount of tax credits reaches \$50 million.

If the total contributions to educational assistance organizations exceed \$25 million in any school year, the State Treasurer may certify one additional educational assistance organization to administer scholarship accounts. A maximum of seven, rather than six, educational assistance organizations may have their principal place of business in any one of the counties listed in the bill.

The bill provides that all laws and regulations that apply to employees of an educational assistance organization shall also apply to the actions of any employees of a private financial management firm while they are conducting work relating to the direct decision-making of the operation of the educational assistance organization.

This bill modifies membership of the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Board by removing the Commissioner of Administration and adding an additional member to be appointed by the members of the Board who is an employee of an educational assistance organization and whose responsibilities are directly related to the organization's involvement in the program. The Board must assist the State Treasurer with data collection, collaboration with DESE, and making recommendations to the State Treasurer regarding the promulgation of rules concerning the program (Section 135.715).

The bill modifies the definition of "qualified school" by providing that Family Paced Education (FPE) schools, rather than home schools, shall be qualified to participate in the program.

This bill modifies the definition of "qualified student" by including any student who is a resident of this state, rather than only those students who live in a charter county or a city with at least 30,000 inhabitants, and who is not unlawfully present in the United States or a person who gained illegal entry into the United States. The definition is further modified by including any student who is a member of a household whose total annual income is 300% or less than the income standard used to qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, rather than only those students whose household income is 200% or less than such standard. The definition is also modified by adding siblings of qualified students who received a scholarship in the previous year and will receive a scholarship in the current year (Section 166.700).

These provisions are similar to HB 1738, and HB 2104 (2024), and provisions in SB 1391, and SCS SB 1392(2024).

#### MINIMUM SCHOOL TERM (Sections 160.011, 160.041, 163.021, 171.028, 171.031, 171.033, 1, and B)

This bill establishes provisions relating to the minimum school term.

The bill modifies the definition of "school term" by providing that school districts located in charter counties or cities with more than 30,000 inhabitants must have a school term that consists of at least 169 school days, unless the district has adopted a four-day school week, in which case a school term will consist of at least 142 school days (Sections 160.011, 163.021, 171.031, and 171.033).

This bill repeals a provision specifying that school districts shall provide a minimum of 522 hours of actual pupil attendance for kindergarten pupils in order to receive state aid (Section 163.021).

These provisions have an effective date of July 1, 2026.

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the bill provides that school districts located wholly or partially in charter counties or cities with more than 30,000 inhabitants may adopt a four-day school week only upon a majority vote of the qualified voters of the school district (Section 171.028).

The Department must remit to any school district with a 169 day term in the preceding year an amount equal to 1% for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, or 2% for fiscal year 2028 and all subsequent fiscal years, of such district's preceding year's annual state aid entitlement as calculated in June. For school districts in which one or more charter schools operate, and for all charter schools located in such district, the calculation must be made prior to any adjustment to the district's or charter school's state aid calculation pursuant to current requirements regarding state aid payments to charter schools.

Any funds received pursuant to this provision must be used by school districts and charter schools exclusively to increase teacher salaries. Any school district or charter school that fails to utilize such funds solely to increase teacher salaries shall have an amount equal to the amount of the funds received withheld from the district's or charter school's state aid payments under current law (Section 1).

These provisions are similar to SB 784, HB 1417, and HB 1828 (2024).

#### CHARTER SCHOOLS (Sections 160.400 and 160.415)

The bill adds all school districts located in Boone County to the list of school districts in which a charter school may be operated by any entity currently authorized to operate a charter school under state law. Provisions of current law that provide for additional state aid to charter schools will not apply to any charter school operated in Boone County.

All laws and regulations that apply to employees of a charter school shall also apply to the actions of any employees of a charter school management company while such employees are conducting any work relating to the direct decision-making of the operation of the charter school.

#### LITERACY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (Section 161.239)



This bill establishes the "Elementary Literacy Fund" for the purpose of providing grants to school districts and charter schools for home reading programs for children in kindergarten to 5th grade. The General Assembly must annually appropriate an amount not to exceed \$5 million to the Fund, and DESE will develop a process by which a district or charter school may apply for a grant. Any district or charter school that receives such a grant must match any funds that are granted.

The bill sets forth certain criteria for a home reading program to be considered eligible for a grant from the Fund. The program's objective is to mail books to students' homes that the students select themselves at a reading level with which they are comfortable. The program will allow for parental engagement, as specified in the bill, and must allow students to select between six and nine new books to keep. The program provider must provide summary data on the program to the General Assembly and to DESE, and will further maintain verification that the provider has secured the required matching funds from the district or charter school. The combined total cost of the program, including matching funds from the district or charter school, shall not exceed \$60 per student per semester.

This provision is the same as SB 857 (2024).

#### MISSOURI COURSE ACCESS AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM (Section 161.670)

This bill specifies that the average daily attendance of a student who is enrolled full-time in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program must be calculated by dividing the total number of hours attended in a term by enrolled pupils between the ages of five and 21 years old by the actual number of hours that the program was in session in that term. The calculation will be generated by the virtual provider and provided to the host district for submission to DESE. Full-time virtual school students may complete their instructional activities during any hour of the day and during any day of the week. The hours attended for each enrolled pupil shall be documented by the pupil's weekly progress in the educational program according to a process determined by the virtual program and published annually in the virtual program's enrollment handbook or policy. The full-time equivalent average daily attendance of summer school students shall be added to the average daily attendance of the following school term.

Host districts that enroll one or more full-time virtual school students shall receive an amount of state aid specified in the bill for such students on a monthly basis.

The bill provides that students who reside in Missouri may enroll in the virtual program of their choice. Provisions of current law regarding a school district's approval of a student's request to enroll in a virtual program shall not apply to full-time virtual program enrollment.

This bill requires host districts to adopt student enrollment policies for full-time virtual students and allows virtual schools to mutually agree with resident and host districts on the services that the resident district might offer, including possible financial reimbursements for those services. For students with disabilities, the enrollment policy shall ensure the development of an individualized education program and related services agreement, as necessary.

The bill requires a student's parent or guardian, if the student is not considered homeless, to apply for enrollment directly with the full-time virtual program.

This bill specifies that student progress reports to the school district are necessary only for part-time virtual school program enrollees.

A host district may contract with a provider to perform any required services involved with delivering a full-time virtual education.

A full-time virtual school shall provide regular student progress reports to parents or guardians at least four times per school year.

This provision is the same as HB 2287 (2024) and is similar to SB 1375, SB 780, and SB 921 (2024).

FAMILY PACED EDUCATION (FPE) SCHOOLS (Sections 161.670, 162.996, 166.700, 167.012, 167.013, 167.031, 167.061, 167.600, 167.619, 210.167, 210.211, 211.031, and 452.375)

The bill defines a "Family Paced Education school" or "FPE school" as a school that enrolls any student who participates in the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program and that satisfies certain other criteria relating to instruction. The current definition of "home school" is modified by specifying that a home school shall not enroll any student who participates in such Program, and a home school is not an FPE school. The bill applies to FPE schools several provisions of law that currently apply to home schools, including provisions relating to child custody and the licensing of child care providers.

These provisions are similar to HB 2937 (2024).

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES (Sections 162.471, 162.492, and 162.611)

Currently, any vacancy on an urban school board shall be filled by special election. This bill specifies that the remaining members of the board will fill a vacancy by appointment until the next school board election.

These provisions are the same as provisions in SB 885 (2024).

Current law also provides that any vacancy that occurs on the City of St. Louis school board outside of the normal election cycle must be filled by appointment by the mayor for the remainder of the term. This bill specifies that the City of St. Louis school board will fill any such vacancy by appointment for the remainder of the term.

This provision is the same as a provision in SB 885 (2024).

WEIGHTED AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE (Section 163.011)

This bill modifies the definition of "weighted average daily attendance" as used in the education funding formula by adding to such definition a weighting factor relating to school district enrollment.

"Membership" is defined in current law as the average number of students enrolled in a school district who attended school at least one day during 10 days at the end of January and September.

The bill defines "weighted membership" as the current law definition of "membership" multiplied by certain weighting factors relating to the number of students who fall into certain population groups, such as the number of students who receive special educational services above a certain threshold number that is determined in a manner provided for in current law.

Weighted membership shall be included in the calculation of a school district's weighted average daily attendance beginning in the 2026 fiscal year. In 2026, a district's weighted average daily attendance shall be calculated as the sum of 90% of such district's weighted average daily attendance as calculated in current

law, plus 10% of such district's weighted membership. The percent of weighted membership included in such calculation shall increase by 10% each year until 2030, when a district's weighted average daily attendance shall be calculated as the sum of 50% of such district's weighted average daily attendance as calculated in current law, plus 50% of the district's weighted membership.

The same modification is made in the calculation of weighted average daily attendance for special school districts.

This provision is similar to SB 1378 (2024).

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS OPERATED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS (Section 163.018)

Currently, children between three and five years old who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch and attend an early childhood education program operated by a school district or a charter school may be included in such district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance, provided that the total number of the pupils does not exceed 4% of the total number of pupils between five and 18 years old who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch and who are included in the district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance. This bill increases the percentage to 8%.

#### SMALL SCHOOLS GRANT (Section 163.044)

The bill increases the Small Schools Grant appropriation from \$15 million to \$30 million. Of such moneys, \$20 million, rather than \$10 million, shall be distributed to the eligible districts, as specified in the bill, in proportion to their average daily attendance, and \$10 million, rather than \$5 million, shall be directed to the eligible districts that have an operating levy for school purposes in the current year in an amount specified in the bill.

#### SCHOOL DISTRICTS' LOCAL EFFORT FIGURES (Section 163.096)

Beginning August 28, 2024, this bill requires DESE to recalculate the local effort figure of any school district that, in fiscal year 2005, recorded revenues from intangible taxes, the merchants' and manufacturers' surcharge, and payments in lieu of taxes other than tax increment financing in the district's teacher and incidental funds that caused an elevation of the district's local effort figure. The Department must calculate the amount of state aid a district would have received had the district placed these revenues in the capital projects fund or the debt service fund for payments subsequent to August 28, 2024.

This provision is the same as HB 2918 and SB 1479 (2024).

#### MINIMUM TEACHER'S SALARY (Section 163.172)

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, this bill increases the minimum teacher's salary from \$25,000 to \$40,000. For teachers with a master's degree in an academic teaching field directly related to the teacher's assignment, and at least 10 years of experience in a public school, this bill increases the minimum salary from \$33,000 to \$46,000 for the 2025-26 school year and further increases the salary by \$1,000 each year until the 2027-2028 school year, when the minimum shall be \$48,000.

In the 2028-29 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum teacher's salaries shall additionally be adjusted annually by the percentage increase in inflation, as such term is defined in the bill.

The State Board of Education (SBE) will publish the minimum salaries annually in February beginning in calendar year 2026. Modifications to the minimum salaries will take effect on July 1 of each calendar year.

The bill creates the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant Fund" and "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant Program" for the purpose of increasing minimum teacher's salaries. The General Assembly may appropriate moneys to the Fund to assist each school district in increasing minimum teacher's salaries as required pursuant to the provisions of the bill. School districts may apply to DESE for a grant from the Fund.

This provision is similar to provisions in HCS HB 1447, SB 955, and SB 1163 (2024).

#### COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (Sections 167.031 and 595.209)

The bill provides that a child may be excused from attendance at school if the child is unable to attend school due to mental or behavioral health concerns, provided that the school receives documentation from a mental health professional.

This provision is the same as SB 761 (2024).

The bill also provides that a public school district, public school, or charter school shall not discipline a child for failure to comply with the district's or school's attendance policy, and the parent or legal guardian will not be deemed to be in violation of the compulsory attendance law, based on the child honoring a subpoena to testify in a criminal proceeding, attending a criminal proceeding, or for participating in the preparation of a criminal proceeding.

#### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS (Section 167.071)

This bill repeals a provision authorizing a seven-director school district to appoint a school attendance officer who has the powers of a deputy sheriff and may investigate claims of violations of the compulsory attendance law and arrest truant juveniles without a warrant.

This provision is the same as provisions in SB 819 (2024).

#### RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS (Section 167.850)

The bill changes the deadline for a school district to submit a proposal to operate a recovery high school from December 1st of the school year preceding the beginning of operation of the recovery high school to July 1st.

This provision is the same as SB 1393 (2024).

#### TEACHER CERTIFICATION (Section 168.021)

Current law requires candidates for a teaching license to satisfy certain criteria, including obtaining the recommendation of a state-approved, baccalaureate-level teacher preparation program.

This bill requires DESE to develop an 18 credit hour, online teacher preparation program related to subjects appropriate for teachers in different content areas determined by the Department. The Department may contract with an entity skilled in developing online teacher preparation programs or a charitable organization registered in Missouri to develop and maintain the online teacher preparation program. The entity or charitable organization must be certified to develop and maintain the program by the Department.

An individual with a bachelor's degree may complete the online training program and receive a certificate of license to teach. However, the certificate will not be accepted by Missouri public schools, but must be accepted by private schools and private school accrediting agencies.

The bill also specifies that the SBE must issue an additional professional subject-area teaching certification for specific content knowledge or for a specialty area to a teaching certificate holder who applies for an additional professional subject-area certification, successfully achieves an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher evaluation system, receives a recommendation from the employing school district, and completes a background check.

This provision is similar to SB 1394 (2024) and a provision in HCS HB 1447 (2024).

#### HARD-TO-STAFF SCHOOLS AND SUBJECT AREAS (Section 168.110)

The bill provides that a school board may include differentiated placement of teachers on the salary schedule to increase compensation in order to recruit and retain teachers in hard-to-staff subject areas or schools, as the terms "hard-to-staff schools" and "hard-to-staff subject areas" are defined in the bill.

No modifications to the identification of hard-to-staff subject areas or schools will result in the demotion of a teacher in the salary schedule. Each school district that includes differentiated placement of teachers on the district salary schedule must annually provide to DESE a report containing information specified in the bill.

This provision is the same as a provision in HCS HB 1447 (2024) and similar to provisions in SB 955 and SB 1163 (2024).

#### TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS (Section 168.400)

This bill repeals provisions of current law that require preservice teacher education programs to include a program of entry-level testing of all prospective teacher education students to be administered by the Commissioner of Education.

This provision is the same as provisions in SB 955, SB 1163, and HCS HB 1447 (2024).

#### CAREER LADDER (Section 168.500)

Currently, public school teachers become eligible for the Career Ladder program after two years of public school teaching in Missouri. This bill provides that the two-year requirement does not apply to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the member's spouse who has teaching experience in another state and who has transferred to this state.

The bill repeals a provision of current law that teachers' Career Ladder responsibilities and career efforts must occur outside of compensated hours. This bill also specifies that teachers may receive Career Ladder admission and stage achievement for certain activities that are not included in the duties that require a teaching certificate under current law.

The bill adds serving as a mentor for teachers to the list of activities for which teachers may receive Career Ladder admission and stage achievement.

This provision is the same as a provision in HCS HB 1447 (2024) and is similar to provisions in SB 955, SB 1014, and SB 1163 (2024).

#### PSRS/PEERS - WORKING AFTER RETIREMENT LIMITS (Sections 169.560 and 169.660)

Currently, a retired member, except for those retired due to disability, of the Public School Retirement System ("PSRS") may work after retirement in a certified position with a covered employer without discontinuance of his or her retirement benefits if the member does not exceed 550 hours of work each school year and 50% of the annual compensation to the person who last held the position. This bill provides that the member, including those retired due to disability, may earn up to 50% of the annual compensation to the person who last held the position or 50% of the limit set by the employer's school board for the position which has been submitted and approved by the Board of Trustees of PSRS.

Additionally, current law provides that if a member of PSRS or the Public Education Employee Retirement System ("PEERS") is in excess of the limitations, the member will not be eligible to receive the retirement allowance for any month so employed. This bill provides that either the member will not be eligible to receive the retirement allowance for any month so employed or the retirement system must recover the amount earned in excess of the limitations, whichever is less.

This provision is similar to SB 1286 (2024).

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION IN GRADES SEVEN TO 12 (Section 170.048)

This bill modifies provisions that require suicide prevention information to be printed on the identification cards of public school students in grades seven to 12. Beginning July 1, 2025, the bill adds to the information the non-emergency phone number of the local police department. The identification cards may also include the phone number of the Crisis Text Line and the phone number of a local suicide prevention hotline, if such hotline is available.

This provision is the same as a provision in SB 762 (2024).

#### TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (Section 173.232)

The bill changes the name of the "Urban Flight and Rural Needs Scholarship Program" to the "Teacher Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program." The corresponding state treasury fund is also renamed accordingly.

The bill provides that scholarship funds may be used to cover up to 100% of the tuition costs related to teacher preparation at a four year college or university located in Missouri, except that no amount granted for tuition shall exceed the amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri-Columbia for attendance.

The number of years a student may receive a scholarship is reduced from four to two years. The number of students who may receive a scholarship is increased from 100 to 200 in the 2025-26 academic year, or a maximum awarded amount of \$1.2 million dollars. The bill further increases the maximum number of scholarships or the maximum awarded amount for each year through the 2030-31 academic year, when the maximum shall be 600 scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of \$3.4 million, as provided in the bill.

Scholarship recipients after June 30, 2025, must make a good faith effort to secure all available federal sources of grant funding.

The bill repeals a provision that a student must have attended a Missouri high school in order to be eligible for a scholarship.

To be eligible for a scholarship, recipients shall sign an agreement to teach in a Missouri public school that is a hard-to-staff school or to teach at least one hard-to-staff subject area in a Missouri public school, or both, for two years for every one year the recipient receives a scholarship. The bill defines a "hard-to-staff school" as an attendance center where the percentage of certificated positions that were left vacant or were filled with a teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year exceeds 10% as reported to DESE. A "hard-to-staff subject area" is defined as a content area for which positions were left vacant or were filled with a teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year.

The scholarships provided in the bill will be available to students who have successfully completed 48 credit hours at a community college, who have been awarded an associate degree, or who have completed 60 credit hours at a four-year college, as provided in the bill.

The bill modifies the interest rate paid by scholarship recipients who do not follow through on their agreement to teach in a hard-to-staff subject or school and must therefore repay their scholarship award as a loan.

An individual who has qualified as an eligible student will continue to qualify as an eligible student as long as he or she remains employed by the school district in which he or she agreed to teach, regardless of whether his or her employing school no longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff school, the class he or she teaches no longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff subject area, or his or her position within the school district changes.

This provision is the same as a provision in HCS HB 1447 (2024) and is similar to provisions in SB 955 and SB 1163 (2024) and to SB 1013 (2024).

-----

**SS SB 748 -- REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCE TAXES**

SPONSOR: Hough (Smith 163)

This bill extends the expiration dates for the Ground Ambulance, Nursing Facility, Medicaid Managed Care Organization, Hospital, Pharmacy, and Intermediate Care Facility for the Intellectually Disabled Federal reimbursement allowances from September 30, 2024, to September 30, 2029.

-----

**SS SB 751 -- DISTRIBUTION OF 340B DRUGS**

This bill provides that certain entities, as specified in the bill, must not restrict acquisition or delivery of 340B drugs to pharmacies that are under contract with a covered entity to receive and dispense 340B drugs on behalf of the covered entity. Violation of this provision is an unlawful merchandising practice, and each package of 340B drugs affected, as defined by Federal law, will constitute a separate violation. The Board of Pharmacy may investigate and impose discipline for violations of these provisions.

The bill specifies that nothing in these provisions will be construed or applied to be less restrictive than Federal law, or to conflict with Federal or State law. Limited distribution of a drug required under Federal law will not be a violation of the bill.

-----

## **SS#2 SCS SBs 754, 746, 788, 765, 841, 887 & 861 -- PUBLIC SAFETY**

This bill modifies provisions relating to Public Safety.

### **JURISDICTION OF JUVENILE COURTS (Section 211.031)**

Currently, the juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction in proceedings involving a juvenile who violated a state law and jurisdiction in those cases may be taken by the court of the circuit in which the child resides or in which the violation is alleged to have occurred.

This bill provides that any proceeding involving a child who is alleged to have violated state law must be brought in the court of the circuit in which the violation occurred, except if a juvenile officer transfers the case or the court grants a motion to transfer the case to the circuit court in which the child resides.

### **CERTIFICATION OF JUVENILES FOR TRIAL AS ADULTS (Sections 211.071, 211.600, and 217.345)**

Currently, a child between the ages of 12 and 18 may be certified for trial as an adult for certain felony offenses. This bill changes the ages to between 14 and 18 years old.

Currently, a court must order a hearing to determine whether a child should be certified for trial as an adult for certain offenses, regardless of the age of the child. This bill limits the ages for mandatory hearings for juvenile certification for certain offenses to between 12 and 18 years old. The bill also adds dangerous felonies and any felony involving a deadly weapon to these offenses.

This bill provides that the Office of State Courts Administrator shall collect certain information as provided in the bill relating to petitions to certify juveniles as adults.

The bill modifies provisions relating to correctional treatment programs for offenders 18 years of age or younger. The programs must include physical separation of offenders younger than 18 years of age from offenders who are 18 years of age or older, and education programs that award high school diplomas or its equivalent.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE FOR JUVENILES (Section 217.690)**

Currently, when a person under the age of 18 is sentenced to a term or terms of imprisonment amounting to 15 years or more, that person is eligible for parole after serving 15 years, unless he or she is found guilty of murder in the first degree or capital murder.

This bill adds that the person will also be ineligible for parole if he or she is found guilty of murder in the second degree when he or she knowingly causes the death of another person.

### **ARRESTS FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS (Sections 307.018 and 556.021)**



This bill provides that no court shall issue a warrant of arrest for a person's failure to respond, pay the fine assessed, or appear in court with respect to a traffic violation issued for an infraction. In lieu of the warrant, the court will issue a notice of failure to respond, pay the fine assessed, or appear, and the court will schedule a second court date for the person to respond, pay the fine assessed, or appear. If the driver fails to respond to the second notice or pay the fine, the court may issue a default judgment for the infraction. The driver may appear in court after a default judgment to show proof the fine was paid or to state that the driver is unable to pay and to request the court to modify the judgment.

#### MOTION TO VACATE OR SET ASIDE THE JUDGMENT (Section 547.031)

Currently, a prosecuting attorney may file a motion to vacate or set aside a judgment in the jurisdiction in which the person was convicted. This bill changes this provision to the jurisdiction in which charges were filed.

#### CONVICTION REVIEW UNIT (Section 547.500)

This bill allows the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services to establish a conviction review unit to investigate claims of actual innocence of any defendant, including those who plead guilty.

The Missouri Office of Prosecution Services must create an application process for defendants as specified in the bill. The conviction review unit will consist of two attorneys hired by the executive director of the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services, an investigator, paralegal, and other administrative staff. The Director will be an ex officio member of the unit.

Once the review is complete, the conviction review unit must present its findings either to the prosecuting attorney who prosecuted the case or, if the review was requested by the Attorney General, special prosecutor, or other prosecuting attorney's office, to the office who requested the review. The prosecuting attorney's office is not required to accept or follow the findings and recommendations of the conviction review unit.

Any document produced by the conviction review unit is a closed record until after the finality of all proceedings.

#### PERSISTENT OFFENDERS (Section 558.016)

Currently, a court may sentence a person to an extended term of imprisonment if the person is a persistent offender. This bill adds that a "persistent offender" includes a person who has previously been found guilty of a dangerous felony as defined in law.

#### MINIMUM PRISON TERMS FOR ARMED CRIMINAL ACTION (Sections 558.019 and 571.015)

Currently, certain offenses are excluded from minimum prison terms required for offenders with prior felony convictions. This bill repeals the exclusion of the offense of armed criminal action.

This bill provides that the offense of armed criminal action will be an unclassified felony.

#### CYBERSTALKING AND HARASSMENT TASK FORCE (Section 565.258)

The bill creates the "Stop Cyberstalking and Harassment Task Force". The Task Force members are specified in the bill and include two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House

and two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate. The Task Force must elect a chairperson and hold an initial meeting before October 1, 2024.

The Task Force will collect feedback from stakeholders, which may include victims, law enforcement, victim advocates, and digital evidence and forensics experts. The Task Force must make recommendations on what resources and tools are needed to stop cyberstalking and harassment, as specified in the bill.

The Task Force must submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 31 of each year. The Task Force expires on December 31, 2026, unless the Department of Public Safety determines the Task Force should be extended until December 31, 2028.

#### OFFENSE OF ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD (Section 568.045)

This bill adds to the offense of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree that any person who knowingly encourages or aids a child less than 17 to engage in any conduct violating law relating to firearms shall be guilty of a class D felony.

#### BLAIR'S LAW (Section 571.031)

The bill establishes "Blair's Law" under which a person commits the offense of unlawful discharge of a firearm if he or she recklessly discharges a firearm within or into the limits of a municipality. A person will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor for the first offense, a class E felony for the second offense, and a class D felony for any third or subsequent offense. These provisions will not apply if the firearm is discharged under circumstances as specified in the bill.

#### OFFENSE OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM (Section 571.070)

Currently, unlawful possession of a firearm is a class D felony, unless a person has been convicted of a dangerous felony, in which case it is a class C felony.

This bill changes the penalty for the offense to a class C felony, unless a person has been convicted of a dangerous felony or the person has a prior conviction for unlawful possession of a firearm, in which case it is a class B felony.

#### MAX'S LAW (Sections 575.010, 575.353, 578.007, and 578.022)

The bill creates "Max's Law."

Currently, the offense of assault on a law enforcement animal is a class C misdemeanor.

This bill provides that the offense of assault on a law enforcement animal is a class A misdemeanor if the law enforcement animal is not injured to the point of requiring veterinary care or treatment; a class E felony if the law enforcement animal is seriously injured to the point of requiring veterinary care or treatment; and a class D felony if the assault results in the death of such animal.

Additionally, exemptions to the offenses of agroterrorism, animal neglect, and animal abuse shall not apply to the killing or injuring of a law enforcement animal while working.

The bill adds that any dog owned by or in the service of a law enforcement agency that bites or injures another animal or human is exempt from the penalties of the offense of animal abuse.

#### VALENTINE'S LAW (Section 575.151)

This bill establishes "Valentine's Law", which creates the offense of aggravated fleeing a stop or detention of a motor vehicle. A person commits the offense if the person knows that a law enforcement officer is attempting to detain the vehicle and the person flees: at a high speed or in any manner that creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury or death or actually causes physical injury or death to another person. The offense is a class D felony if the person creates a substantial risk of injury, a class B felony if the person causes physical injury, and a class A felony if the person causes death of another.

A person is presumed to be fleeing a vehicle stop if he or she has seen or heard or reasonably should have seen or heard emergency lights or sounds. It is not a defense that the law enforcement officer was acting unlawfully in making the arrest.

#### OFFENSE OF DELIVERY OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (Sections 579.021 and 579.022)

The bill creates the offenses of delivery of a controlled substance causing serious physical injury, which is a class C felony. This bill also creates the offense of delivery of a controlled substance causing death, which is a class A felony. A person commits the offense of delivery of a controlled substance causing serious physical injury or the offense of delivery of a controlled substance causing death if he or she delivers or distributes a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance knowing the substance is mixed with another controlled substance and serious physical injury or death results. It is not a defense to the offenses that the user contributed to his or her own serious physical injury or death by using the controlled substance or consenting to the administration of the controlled substance by another.

#### DRUG TRAFFICKING (Sections 579.065 & 579.068)

Currently, a person commits the offense of drug trafficking in the first or second degree if he or she is distributing or purchasing more than 8 grams or more than 24 grams of a mixture containing a cocaine base.

This bill repeals those provisions.

#### CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (Section 590.192)

The bill adds 911 dispatchers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, or volunteer or full-time paid firefighters as eligible first responder personnel to receive services from the Critical Incident Stress Management Program of the Department of Public Safety.

#### CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARDS (Section 590.653)

This bill provides that civilian review boards established by political subdivisions are solely limited to reviewing, investigating, making findings, and recommending disciplinary action against law enforcement officers.

#### PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND (Section 600.042)

Currently, any funds available from government grants, private gifts, donations, bequests, or other sources made to the Office of the Public Defender are deposited in the General Revenue fund of the state.

This bill creates the "Public Defender - Federal and Other Fund" in the state treasury and provides that funding from any government grants, private gifts, donations, bequests, or other sources must be deposited into the fund.

#### EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS (Section 610.140)

The bill modifies provisions relating to the number of offenses a person may apply to have expunged from his or her record.

Currently, certain offenses, violations, and infractions are not eligible for expungement. This bill adds that the offenses, or successor offenses, of sexual conduct with a nursing facility resident in the second degree, use of a child in sexual performance, promoting a sexual performance of a child, or cross burning shall not be eligible for expungement.

The bill repeals the provision that a court can make a determination at the hearing based solely on a victim's testimony and adds that a court may find that the continuing impact of the offense upon the victim rebuts the presumption that expungement is warranted.

This bill changes the time a person can petition to expunge an arrest record for an eligible crime from three years after the date of the arrest to 18 months from the date of the arrest.

The bill provides that the effect of an expungement will be to fully restore a person to the status he or she occupied prior to the arrests, pleas, trials, or convictions that were expunged. This bill modifies provisions allowing a person to answer "no" to an employer's inquiry about any arrests, charges, or convictions of a crime.

Changes to the expungement statute will go into effect January 1, 2025.

-----

## SS SCS SB 756 -- LOCAL HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

Currently, a county may grant a real property tax credit to qualifying seniors if the senior is eligible for Social Security retirement benefits and meets other specified criteria. This bill instead requires that the senior be 62 years or older.

An eligible taxpayer will receive a tax credit from in an amount that equals the difference between his or her real property tax liability for a given tax year from all taxing entities, minus the real property tax liability in the initial credit year, as described in the bill.

If the governing body of a county adopts an ordinance authorizing the tax credit, a subsequently adopted ballot referendum put before the voters that addresses the same tax credit can amend or supersede that ordinance.

The governing body of a county may adopt reasonable procedures in carrying out the purposes of this bill, provided that the county does not adopt any procedure that limits the definition or scope of the "eligible credit amount" or "eligible taxpayer" as defined in the bill.

New construction or improvements to an eligible taxpayer's homestead will increase the tax liability for the taxpayer's initial credit year to reflect such new construction or improvements.

The tax liability for the taxpayer's initial credit year will increase if an eligible taxpayer's homestead is annexed into a jurisdiction where the taxpayer did not owe real property tax in the initial credit year.

A county granting a tax credit pursuant to these provisions must notify each political subdivision within the county of the total credit amount applicable to the political subdivision no later than November 30th of each year.

-----

## **SS SB 802 -- BUSINESS INVESTMENT INCENTIVES**

This bill establishes the "Missouri Rural Access to Capital Act", which provides a tax credit for certain investments made in businesses located in rural areas in this State.

This bill allows investors to make capital investments in a "rural fund", as defined in the act. Such investors will be allowed a tax credit for a period of six years beginning with the year the investor made a capital investment. The tax credit must be equal to a percentage of the capital investment. The percentage must be zero for the first two years, and 15% for the subsequent four years. Tax credits issued under the act will not be refundable, but can be carried forward to any of the five subsequent tax years, as described in the act. No more than \$16 million in tax credits will be authorized in a given calendar year.

This bill specifies that a rural fund wishing to accept investments as capital investments must apply to the Department of Economic Development. The application must include the amount of capital investment requested, a copy of the applicant's license as a rural business or small business investment company, evidence that the applicant has made at least \$100 million in investments in nonpublic companies located in counties throughout the United States with a population less than 50,000, evidence that the applicant has made at least \$30 million in investments in nonpublic companies located in Missouri, and a business plan that includes a revenue impact statement projecting state and local tax revenue to be generated by the applicant's proposed qualified investments, as described in the act. The rural fund must also submit a nonrefundable application fee of \$5,000.

This bill specifies that the Department must grant or deny an application within 60 days of receipt. The Department must deny an application if such application is incomplete or insufficient, if the revenue impact assessment does not demonstrate that the business plan will result in a positive economic impact on the State over a 10 year period, or if the Department has already approved the maximum amount of capital investment authority.

This bill requires that rural funds must use capital investments made by investors to make qualified investments, as specified in the act, in eligible businesses. An "eligible business" is defined as a business that, at the time of the qualified investment, has fewer than 250 employees, has its principal business operations in the State, is engaged in certain industries, as described in the act, does not knowingly employ any individual who is unlawfully present in this country, and is located or has committed to locate in a rural area.

This bill allows the Department to recapture tax credits if the rural fund does not invest 60% of its capital investment authority in qualified investments within two years of the date of the capital investment and 100% of its capital investment authority within three years, if the rural fund fails to maintain qualified investments equal to 90% of its capital investment authority in years three through six, as described in the

act, if prior to exiting the program or 30 days after the sixth year, the rural fund makes a distribution or payment that results in the fund having less than 100% of its capital investment authority invested in qualified investments, or if the rural fund violates provisions of the act.

This bill requires that rural funds must submit certain reports to the Department, including annual reports which detail the name and location of each eligible business receiving a qualified investment, the total number of new jobs, maintained jobs, new payroll, maintained payroll, new revenue, and maintained revenue by each eligible business receiving a qualified investment, a revenue impact assessment projecting State and local tax revenue generated and projected to be generated, and any other information required by the Department, as described in the act.

This bill provides that at any time after the sixth anniversary of the capital investment, a rural fund can apply to the Department to exit the program. The Department must respond to such application within 30 days. At the time a rural fund exits the program, if the amount of State and local tax benefits generated by the rural fund's qualified investments are less than the amount of tax credits distributed to the rural fund, the fund must be required to make a distribution to the State, not to exceed 10% of the amount of tax credits received, .

This bill sunsets August 28, 2030.

-----

## **SS#2 SB 872 -- TAXATION OF UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

This bill modifies provisions relating to the taxation of utility infrastructure.

### **VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDERS (Section 67.2677)**

This bill modifies the definition of "video service" to include the provision of video programming by a video service provider provided through wireline facilities located in a public right-of-way without regard to the delivery technology. "Video service" does not include any video programming accessed via a service that enables users to access content over the Internet, including streaming content.

### **WIRELESS FACILITIES (Section 67.5122)**

This bill extends the sunset date of the Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2029.

### **BROADBAND GRANT DEDUCTION (Section 143.121)**

Currently, a taxpayer is authorized to claim an income tax deduction for 100% of Federal grant moneys received for the purpose of providing or expanding access to broadband Internet to areas of the State deemed to be lacking such access. This bill modifies the deduction to also allow it to be taken for State and local grant moneys received.

### **SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR UTILITIES (Section 144.058)**

This bill authorizes a state and local sales tax exemption for utilities, equipment, and materials used to generate or transmit electricity. A public utility realizing savings as a result of this exemption provides the

Public Service Commission information on the amount of savings realized and shall include a statement that the savings will be passed through to the public utility's rate determined in the public utility's next general rate proceeding.

-----

## SS SCS SBs 894 & 825 -- PROMOTION OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### RIGHT-TO-START ACT (Section 34.195)

This bill establishes the "Right-to-Start Act".

This bill specifies that no later than June 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of the Office of Administration must file a report with the General Assembly that includes information on contracts awarded to businesses that have been in operation for less than three years, as specified in the bill.

The bill requires the Commissioner, in conjunction with the Office of Entrepreneurship, which is established in the bill, to file a report with the General Assembly making recommendations on improving access and resources for new Missouri businesses that have been in operation for less than three years, including businesses owned by a racial minority group, and women owned and veteran-owned businesses.

### OFFICE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP (Section 620.3800)

This bill establishes the Office of Entrepreneurship within the Department of Economic Development. The Office will employ an individual to promote policies and initiatives to support the growth of entrepreneurship of Missouri-based businesses with less than 10 employees, including entrepreneurship within racial minority groups, and women and veteran entrepreneurship, in this State.

### REGULATORY SANDBOX ACT (Sections 620.3905, 620.3915, 620.3910, 620.3920, 620.3925, and 620.3930)

The bill establishes the "Regulatory Sandbox Act", which creates the Regulatory Relief Office within the Department of Economic Development. The Regulatory Relief Office will administer the provisions of the bill with the purpose of identifying State regulations that could potentially be waived or suspended for participating businesses during a two-year period in which the participating business demonstrates an innovative product offering to consumers.

The Regulatory Relief Office will maintain a web page on the Department's website that invites residents and businesses to make suggestions regarding regulations that could be modified or eliminated to reduce the regulatory burden of residents and businesses in the State.

The Regulatory Relief Office will be responsible for evaluating and approving or denying applications to participate in the Sandbox Program. An applicant will submit an application along with a \$300 application fee to the Regulatory Relief Office, which will include contact information and a description of the innovative offering to be demonstrated, including statements regarding how the innovative offering is subject to licensing, legal prohibition, or other authorization requirements outside of the Sandbox Program; each regulation that the applicant seeks to have waived or suspended while participating in the Sandbox Program; how the innovative offering would benefit consumers; and what risks might exist for consumers who use or purchase the innovative offering, as specified in the bill.

No later than 15 business days after the day on which a completed application is received by the Regulatory Relief Office, the Office will review the application and refer the application to each applicable agency, as defined in the bill, that regulates the applicant's business. No later than 60 days after the day on which an applicable agency receives a completed application for review, the applicable agency will provide a written report to the Sandbox Program director with the applicable agency's findings, including any identifiable, likely, and significant harm to the health, safety, or financial well-being of consumers and Missouri's environment that the relevant regulation protects against, and a recommendation to the Regulatory Relief Office that the applicant either be admitted or denied entrance into the Sandbox Program.

An applicable agency may deny an application for reasons described in the bill. The Regulatory Relief Office will not approve any application denied by an applicable agency. Upon the receipt of a report from all applicable agencies, the Regulatory Relief Office will provide the application and associated reports to the General Regulatory Sandbox Program Advisory Committee, which is created by the bill. The Advisory Committee will be composed of 11 members, as specified in the bill including two members of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Speaker and one appointed by the Minority Leader and two members of the Senate, one appointed by the President Pro Tem and one appointed by the Minority Leader. The Advisory Committee will advise and make recommendations to the Regulatory Relief Office on whether to approve applications to the Sandbox Program, and may meet at its own discretion to override a decision of the Regulatory Relief Office on the admission or denial of an applicant to the Sandbox Program, provided such override is decided with a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Advisory Committee, and further provided that the vote will be taken within 15 business days of the Regulatory Relief Office's decision. Meetings of the Advisory Committee will be considered public meetings for the purposes of the Sunshine Law.

Upon approval of an application, a Sandbox participant will have 24 months after the day on which its application was approved to demonstrate the innovative offering described in the Sandbox participant's application. During such period, the Sandbox participant will be exempt from the regulations outlined in an agreement entered into with the Regulatory Relief Office.

Innovative offerings will only be available to consumers who are residents of this State, and no regulation will be waived or suspended if the waiver or suspension would prevent a consumer from seeking restitution in the event that the consumer is harmed. A Sandbox participant will not be subject to prosecution or administrative penalty for a violation of any regulation that is waived or suspended during the duration of the participant's demonstration period.

Prior to demonstrating an innovative offering, a Sandbox participant will disclose certain information to consumers, as specified in the bill.

At least 45 days prior to the end of a participant's demonstration period, the participant will notify the Regulatory Relief Office that it either intends to exit the Sandbox Program or that it seeks an extension. The Regulatory Relief Office may grant an extension not to exceed 12 months, and a participant may seek multiple extensions. If a demonstration includes an innovative offering that requires ongoing services or duties beyond the two-year demonstration period, the participant may continue to demonstrate the offering, but will be subject to all regulations that were waived or suspended as part of the Sandbox Program, provided that any participant that receives an extension to the demonstration period will not be subject to the waived or suspended regulations until after the end of the extended demonstration period.

A Sandbox participant will retain certain records for a period of two years after exiting the Sandbox Program.



The Regulatory Relief Office will establish quarterly reporting requirements for each participant.

No later than 30 days after a sandbox participant exits the Sandbox Program, such participant will submit a written report describing an overview of the demonstration. No later than 30 days after receiving such report, an applicable agency will provide a written report to the Regulatory Relief Office that describes any statutory or regulatory reform the applicable agency recommends.

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FAIRNESS BOARD (Sections 536.303 to 536.315 and Sections 536.323 to 536.328)

Provisions in current law establishing the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board are repealed.

-----

## **SS SB 895 -- LANDLORD-TENANT PROCEEDINGS**

The bill adds two new sections relating to landlord-tenant proceedings:

- (1) Unless a state law specifically authorizes a moratorium on evictions, no county, municipality or other political subdivision shall impose or enforce a moratorium (Section 67.137); and
- (2) If a rental property has outstanding collectible judgments, all transfers of title for that property must be filed in circuit court within 30 days after transfer of title (Section 534.157).

-----

## **HCS SS SCS SB 912 -- MILITARY AFFAIRS**

This bill modifies provisions relating to military affairs.

VETERAN SUICIDE (Section 42.022)

This bill requires the Missouri Veterans' Commission to review the provisions of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 and any regulations related to the Act. After review, the Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, must provide recommendations and make efforts to adopt procedures, programs, treatment options, aid, and other assistance necessary to assist in the efforts to prevent veteran suicide.

The Commission must file a report with the Department of Public Safety and the General Assembly on the recommendations, implementation, and effectiveness of the Commission's efforts to prevent veteran suicide before July 1, 2025, and annually by July 1st.

These provisions are the same as provisions in SCS SB 734 (2024).

SERVICES FOR VETERANS BY STATE AGENCIES (Section 42.051)

Currently, state agencies must ensure that any form created or modified after August 28, 2021, that is used to collect data from individuals includes certain questions regarding veteran status and the provision of the agency's assistance and information on veteran services. This bill provides that state agencies must include

the following questions on any form created or modified after August 28, 2024, that is used to interact with members of the public:

- (1) Have you ever served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and separated from such service under conditions other than dishonorable?
- (2) Would you like to receive information and assistance regarding veteran benefits and services? and
- (3) May the agency share your contact information with the Missouri Veterans Commission to provide such information? General information may also be found on the Missouri Veterans Commission's website.

Every state agency will provide the contact information of those individuals answering question (3) in the affirmative to the Missouri Veterans Commission within seven business days of receipt and provide the contact information in a format readily accessible by the Commission.

The bill requires every state agency to provide information regarding the agency's applicable veteran services and benefits in a format readily accessible and identifiable to individuals answering questions (1) and (2) in the affirmative and to the Commission. On January 1st of each year, the Commission will post a report on its website that includes the total number of individuals whose contact information has been submitted by each state agency to the Commission and the total number of individuals contacted as a result of the submission.

These provisions are the same as provisions in SCS SB 734 (2024).

#### OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, and OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE PROGRAM (Section 42.312)

This bill establishes a new medallion program, "Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and Operation Allies Refuge Program". The bill specifies that, any veteran who served on active duty during certain dates, is a legal resident of this state or was a legal resident at the time of discharge from military service, or was a Missouri National Guard member regardless of residency, is eligible for a medal of appreciation for service.

This provision is the same as a provision in HCS HB 1490 (2024) and HB 1496 (2024).

#### ELECTION JUDGES (Section 115.085)

Currently, only registered voters in this state are allowed to serve as election judges. This bill allows military service members on active duty in this state and nonresident military spouses to also serve as election judges.

This provision has an effective date of January 1, 2025.

This provision is the same as HB 2802 (2024), SCS SB 1415 (2024), and similar to SB 1435 (2024).

#### ARMED FORCES INCOME TAX DEDUCTION (Sections 143.174 and 143.175)

Currently an income tax deduction is authorized for active and reserve members of the Armed Forces for a percentage of the taxpayer's income received as salary or compensation as a member of the Armed Forces. This bill includes in "salary or compensation" any signing bonus.

These provisions are the same as provisions in HB 1713 (2024) and SCS SB 734 (2024).

#### EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (173.239)

Currently, any Missouri National Guard member may be awarded an educational assistance grant to an approved public or private higher education institution. This bill provides that any Missouri National Guard member may be awarded, upon application before each semester, either a tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate courses at a postsecondary institution of higher education located in this state that directly receives funds appropriated by the General Assembly or a grant to certain eligible institutions as defined in the bill. The educational assistance must not exceed the lesser of the actual tuition charged at an institution where the member is enrolled or accepted for enrollment or the total of the number of credit hours taken multiplied by the average tuition cost per credit hour charged to a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri for attendance, with the average cost determined by the Missouri National Guard.

This provision is similar to a provision in SCS SB 1322 (2024), SCS HCS HB 1569 (2024), and HB 2166 (2024).

#### POW/MIA SSG PAUL HASENBECK MEMORIAL HIGHWAY (Section 227.854)

This bill designates the "POW/MIA SSG Paul Hasenbeck Memorial Highway" in Osage County. Costs for the designation shall be paid by the Department of Transportation.

These provisions are the same as HB 1908 (2024) and SB 1308 (2024).

#### DISABLED LICENSE PLATES AND WINDSHIELD PLACARDS (Section 301.142)

The bill provides that applicants for a disabled license plate or windshield placard who have presented proof of disability in the form of a statement from the United States Veterans' Administration verifying that the person is permanently disabled will not be required to provide a physician's statement of physical disability for issuance or renewal of the license plate or windshield placard.

The bill also allows individuals 75 or over renewing a disabled license plate or placard to do so without a physician's statement.

These provisions are similar to SB 114 (2023).

#### DRIVER'S LICENSES AND SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES (Sections 301.3030, 301.3061, 301.3180, and 302.188)

This bill specifies that special license plates involving military actions or personnel shall not be subject to a special fee for issuance or personalization of one set of the plates issued to each qualified applicant.

The bill requires that the Disabled American Veterans special license plate will bear the emblem of the Disabled American Veterans organization and will have an authorized Disabled American Veterans' slogan near the bottom of the plate, and removes language specifically describing the emblem and slogan from statute.

This bill creates an "Army of Occupation Medal" special license plate, available to recipients of the medal.

The bill adds to the list of documents accepted by the Department of Revenue for applicants to obtain a veteran designation on his or her driver's license. The statute is also modified so that the military discharge documents acceptable for this purpose are not limited to those specifically listed.

These provisions are the same as SB 1474 (2024).

CHILD CUSTODY (452.1200, 452.1202, 452.1204, 452.1206, 452.1208, 452.1210, 452.1212, 452.1214, 452.1216, 452.1218, 452.1220, 452.1222, 452.1224, 452.1226, 4452.1228, 452.1230, 452.1232, 452.1234, 452.1236, 452.1238, 452.1240, 452.1242, 452.1244, 452.1246, 452.1248, 452.1250, 452.1252, 452.1254, 452.1256, and 452.1258)

This bill establishes the "Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act".

This bill requires a deploying parent to notify the other parent, in a record, of a pending deployment not later than seven days after receiving notice of deployment unless reasonably prevented from doing so by the circumstances of service, and then the deploying parent shall notify as soon as reasonably possible. Each parent shall provide the other parent, in a record, with a plan for fulfilling that parent's share of custodial responsibility during deployment. Each parent shall provide the plan as soon as reasonably possible after notification of deployment.

The bill also states that in a proceeding for custodial responsibility of a child of a service member, a court may not consider a parent's past deployment or possible future deployment in itself in determining the best interest of the child but may consider any significant impact on the best interest of the child of the parent's past or possible future deployment.

The bill also explains the procedure in which the parents can enter into a temporary agreement that grants custodial responsibilities over the child during deployment. Such agreement will terminate after the deploying parent returns from deployment unless the agreement has been terminated before that time by court order or modification. If granted caretaking authority over the child by the temporary agreement, subject to the provisions in this bill, a nonparent has standing to enforce the agreement until it has been terminated by court order or by modification.

The bill also states the court procedures needed to file a motion to grant custodial responsibility as well as the procedure in which the temporary custodial responsibility agreement can be modified or terminated.

Unless a grant of caretaking authority to a nonparent is agreed to by the other parent, the granted authority is limited to an amount of time not greater than:

- (1) The amount of time granted to the deploying parent under a permanent custody order, but the court may add unusual travel time necessary to transport the child; or
- (2) In the absence of a permanent custody order that is currently in effect, the amount of time that the deploying parent habitually cared for the child before being notified of deployment, but the court may add unusual travel time necessary to transport the child.

After a deploying parent returns from deployment, until a temporary agreement or order for custodial responsibility is terminated, the court shall issue a temporary order granting the deploying parent reasonable contact with the child unless it is contrary to the best interest of the child, even if the time of contact exceeds the time the deploying parent spent with the child before deployment.

If an agreement between the parties to terminate a temporary order for custodial responsibility has not been filed, the order terminates 60 days after the deploying parent gives notice to the other parent and any nonparent granted custodial responsibility that the deploying parent has returned from deployment.

This bill does not affect the validity of a temporary court order concerning custodial responsibility during deployment which was entered into before August 28, 2024.

This is the same as HB 1494 (2024).

#### MISSOURI VETERANS AND JOB OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (620.3305)

This bill establishes the "Missouri Veterans and Job Opportunity Grant Program", and creates, in the state treasury, the "Missouri Veterans and Job Opportunity Grant Program Fund".

Grants will be disbursed to eligible employers registered to do business in Missouri that have paid wages to any individual in a targeted group. At least 50% of the funds available during a fiscal year have to be reserved for eligible employers paying a qualified veteran.

An individual is a member of a targeted group if such individual is:

- (1) A qualified IV–A recipient;
- (2) A veteran;
- (3) A qualified ex-felon;
- (4) A designated community resident;
- (5) A vocational rehabilitation referral;
- (6) A qualified summer youth employee;
- (7) A qualified supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits recipient;
- (8) A qualified SSI recipient;
- (9) A long-term family assistance recipient; or
- (10) A qualified long-term unemployment recipient.

-----

## SS SB 1111 -- REGULATION OF CHILD CARE

Beginning August 28, 2025, it will be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain, or operate a prescribed pediatric extended care facility without a license issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services. A "prescribed pediatric extended care facility" is defined as a facility providing medically necessary multidisciplinary services to children under six years of age with complex medical needs requiring continuous skilled nursing intervention of at least four hours a day under a physician's order.

Multidisciplinary services may include skilled nursing, personal care, nutritional assessment, developmental assessment, and speech, physical, and occupational therapy. Prescribed pediatric extended care facilities must also be licensed child care providers.

This bill sets forth the Department's authority to issue, suspend, or revoke the licenses, as well as conduct inspections and investigations and to promulgate rules to implement the provisions of the bill.

Prescribed pediatric extended care facilities with caregiver staffing ratios of one licensed nurse present for every child present; hospitals, sanitariums, or homes operated for medical treatment or nursing or convalescent care for children; and certain programs licensed by the Department of Mental Health are exempt from the provisions of this bill.

Nothing in these provisions permits the public disclosure by the Department of confidential medical, social, personal, or financial records of a child in the care of any prescribed pediatric extended care facility, except when disclosed in a manner which does not identify the child or when ordered by a court. The bill specifies who is entitled to access such records without a court order.

Currently, any program licensed as a child care provider that provides child care to school-age children located and operated on elementary or secondary school property is deemed in compliance with child care licensure requirements relating to safety, health, and fire. The bill expands this provision to apply to all licensed programs providing child care to only school-age children, regardless of where such program is located and operated. "School-age children" is defined as any child five years of age or older who is in kindergarten or above. The bill further exempts any program serving only children enrolled in sixth grade or above from certain child-care facility licensing requirements.

-----

## **SS SB 1296 -- CONVEYANCE OF STATE PROPERTY**

This bill authorizes the conveyance of State property located in the City of Kirksville, Adair County; the City of Hannibal, Marion County; the City of Springfield, Greene County; the City of Rich Hill, Bates County; the City of Jefferson, Cole County; the City of Joplin, Jasper County; the City of Monett, Barry County; the City of Lebanon, Laclede County; and the City of St. Louis.

-----

## **SB 1388 -- SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN NUCLEAR FACILITIES**

This bill authorizes a state and local sales tax exemption for all sales and purchases of tangible personal property, building materials, equipment, fixtures, manufacturing goods, machinery, and parts for the purposes of constructing all or any portion of a nuclear security enterprise, as defined in the bill, located in Kansas City.

This provision expires August 28, 2034.

-----

## **SB 1453 -- DESIGNATIONS MARKED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

This bill designates "Dr. Dan Brown Memorial Highway" in Phelps County. The Department of Transportation will erect and maintain appropriate signs with the cost paid by private donations.

-----

## **SS SCS SJR 71 -- ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

This Constitutional amendment would, upon voter approval, authorize the levying of costs and fees to support salaries and benefits for sheriffs and former sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys and former prosecuting attorneys, and circuit attorneys and former circuit attorneys.

This bill is similar to HCS HJR 92 (2024).

-----

## **SS SJR 78 -- ELECTIONS**

Upon voter approval, this resolution changes the state constitution to state that only citizens of the United States are entitled to vote.

This resolution specifies that all elections be by paper ballot or by any mechanical method prescribed by law.

The resolution allows voters only one vote for each issue or seat to be filled at an election. The ranking of candidates for a particular office is prohibited. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes in a party primary will be the only candidate for that party at the general election. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes at the general election will be the winner. These provisions will not apply to any nonpartisan municipal election held in a city that has an ordinance in effect as of November 5, 2024, that requires a preliminary election at which more than one candidate advances to a subsequent election.