



Jackson
County
Legislature
March 25, 2024

Jefferson City Update

Session Overview

- ◇ Lame duck leadership.
- ◇ Seven and possibly eight senators seeking higher office.
- ◇ Freedom Caucus replaces Conservative Caucus in the House and Senate.
- ◇ The Missouri Senate took six weeks to pass its first bill.
- ◇ Initiative petition reform, sports wagering, school transfer, tax credits for private and charter schools, FRA tax, solid waste facilities, property taxes and the budget remain the big issues this session.

Prisoner Per-Diem

I have testified on two bills dealing with prisoner per-diem.

[HB 2079](#) would raise the prisoner per diem to a minimum of forty dollars per day. Still subject to appropriation.

[SB 1353](#) streamlines the reimbursement process for counties.

We are working with MAC and others to raise the reimbursement number.

Solid Waste Facilities

We supported [HB 1751](#) which would change the requirements for approval of a solid waste facility.

The House passed the legislation on 3/7 112-30. There are several bills out there that deal with this subject matter, but this has progressed the furthest.

Over twenty lobbyists have been hired to defeat this measure.

Property Taxes

- ◇ [HJR 68](#) would require the assessor in Jackson County to be elected. This resolution passed the House on 3/7 by a vote of 116-10, with bipartisan support. It will require a statewide vote.
- ◇ [HJR 78](#) would only allow for an increase in property tax assessments of the Consumer Price Index or 2%, whichever is less. There are exceptions if improvements are made. It will require a statewide vote. Voted out of Rules.
- ◇ [SB 733](#) - Current law requires that personal property be assessed at 33.3% of its true value in money. This act requires political subdivisions to annually reduce such percentage such that the amount by which the revenue generated by taxes levied on such personal property is reduced is substantially equal to one hundred percent of the growth in revenue generated by real property assessment growth, as defined in the act. Annual reductions shall be made until December 31, 2073. Eliminates personal property taxes over time. Stuck in committee but will be back.

SB 190 Fix

- ◇ [SB 756](#) This act modifies the definition of "eligible taxpayer" by providing that a taxpayer shall be 62 years of age or older, rather than eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. The bill would allow for an increase if improvements are made to the taxpayer's homestead. SB 756 will not allow for a means test like Jackson County currently has in place.
 - ◇ The bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting House action.

Session Priorities

- ◆ Initiative Petition Reform – [SJR 74](#) would make it harder to use the initiative petition process. Current law requires only a simple majority. This act would require the petition to gain a majority in each of the congressional districts. The bill has passed the Senate.
- ◆ [HB 2331](#) would authorize sports gaming in Missouri. The holdup continues to be gray machines.
- ◆ [HB 1989](#) would allow students to transfer to an adjoining district.
- ◆ [SB 727](#) modifies the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Program by increasing the amount of tax credits and changes the distribution order.
- ◆ [HJR 75](#) would exempt all real property used as a homestead from taxation for any military veteran who is a resident of this state and has a 100% service-connected disability.

Session Priorities

- ◆ The Federal Reimbursement Allowance is a tax levied to pay for Medicaid and Medicare expenses incurred by health organizations in Missouri. It accounts for four billion dollars of funding. The sticking point is Medicaid payments to Planned Parenthood. It must be reauthorized this year.
 - ◆ This issue will impact the greater state budget, which must be finalized by May 10th
- ◆ The 2025 fiscal year budget proposed by Gov. Parson was just slashed in the House by 2 billion dollars. Look for much of that to be restored in the Senate. The Freedom Caucus has indicated it will have problems with the budget when it's debated in a few weeks.
- ◆ Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment or BEAD is part of the Jobs Act and is administered by Mo DED. This program is designed to bring the internet to those who can't access it. With over \$1.7 billion dollars for deployment, we have been asked to make sure Jackson County is a full participant in those funds.