

Good News

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri | May/June 2020



2020 Missouri Legislative Session Complete After COVID Interruption

The 2020 legislative session was abruptly interrupted in mid-March by the COVID-19 outbreak and didn't resume until April 27, when the legislature returned to confront revenue shortfalls brought on by the global health crisis. Despite its sweeping impact, however, the coronavirus didn't prevent the assembly from putting the finishing touches on bills filed earlier this year and passing the FY 2021 budget.

Along with the budget, the legislation ultimately passed were for the most part bills that had been vetted in hearings before the COVID-19 recess. But that didn't stop some spirited debate on the floor of the House and Senate where (some) legislators wore masks and most made efforts to maintain social distancing. Most public hearings and debate that occurred after legislators returned was broadcast online, although some hearings fell victim to technological challenges, and the public was largely absent from the building during the last three weeks of session. Even lobbyists were scarcely seen in the Capitol.

The legislature's one constitutional obligation was to pass a budget for the next fiscal year. Hampering this effort were delayed tax filings and revenue losses due to the interruption of the economy. Lawmakers did their best to project what revenues would be available to fund state government, and the budget they ultimately passed included approximately \$700 million in cuts to state programs. Most of these cuts came from new budget spending items, but did include around \$150 million in cuts to existing programs. Whether the governor will have to withhold spending on certain budget priorities going forward remains to be seen. In this *Good News*, we highlight the fate of several bills the MCC had an interest in this session.



Expansion of Rural Broadband

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the importance of the internet for all of us. We use it to receive communication, healthcare, education, food, and even to worship. Yet, many in rural and remote areas of Missouri lack access to high speed internet that has become so vital to our modern lives. This year, Missouri lawmakers passed a bill supporting expansion of high speed internet access in Missouri. If signed by the governor, HB 1768, sponsored by Rep. Louis Riggs (R-Hannibal), will extend Missouri's broadband grant program through 2027. The bill also allows the Department of Economic Development to reassign unused federal broadband grant money when one provider isn't utilizing the funds, rather than returning the funds to the federal government. The department estimates that nearly 1.2 million Missourians do not have access to high speed internet.

“Fresh Start Act” Will Help Ex-offenders Find Jobs

The Missouri legislature also passed the “Fresh Start Act,” which will allow people with a criminal record to be able to get occupational licenses so they can return to work. The bill would prohibit an applicant from obtaining a license if he/she has a criminal record directly relating to the industry offering the license. Having a job is widely recognized as a way to reduce recidivism among those getting released from prison. With an estimated one in four jobs requiring an occupational license, this bill would be an important tool to finding employment.

Narcotic Drug Monitoring Program Denied Passage

A bill that sought to establish a state prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) died in the Missouri Senate during the last week of session, the victim of chamber politics. Earlier in the session, the House passed a version of the bill, but it was later amended in the Senate. When the bill came back to the House, the House refused to accept the Senate changes. The House then voted 94-59 in a bipartisan vote to pass the bill after removing the objectionable Senate amendment. The only remaining step was for the Senate to take up the bill one more time in order to truly agree and finally pass it, but during the last week of session, disagreements between the chambers resulted in the Senate refusing to accept the bill with their prior amendment removed. Missouri is the only state in the nation without a PDMP. Currently, St. Louis County is operating a PDMP which covers about 80% of the state, but a statewide program is needed to make it most effective.

Dist.	Legislator	1	2
78	Rep. Rasheen Aldridge (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
13	Rep. Vic Allred (R-Parkville)	Y	Y
131	Rep. Sonya Anderson (R-Springfield)	N	Y
1	Rep. Allen Andrews (R-Grant City)	Y	Y
71	Rep. LaDonna Appelbaum (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
110	Rep. Dottie Bailey (R-Eureka)	N	Y
160	Rep. Ben Baker (R-Neosho)	N	Y
69	Rep. Gretchen Bangert (D-Florissant)	Y	N
82	Rep. Donna Baringer (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
28	Rep. Jerome Barnes (D-Raytown)	Y	Y
47	Rep. Chuck Basye (R-Rochepoint)	Y	Y
92	Rep. Doug Beck (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
152	Rep. Hardy Billington (R-Poplar Bluff)	N	Y
7	Rep. Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe)	N	Y
137	Rep. John Black (R-Marshfield)	Y	Y
36	Rep. Ashley Bland Manlove (D-Kansas City)	Y	Y
56	Rep. Jack Bondon (R-Belton)	N	Y
79	Rep. LaKeySha Bosley (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
162	Rep. Bob Bromley (R-Carl Junction)	N	Y
27	Rep. Richard Brown (D-Kansas City)	Y	N
70	Rep. Paula Brown (D-Hazelwood)	Y	Y
19	Rep. Ingrid Burnett (D-Kansas City)	Y	N
93	Rep. Bob Burns (D-St. Louis)	AL	AL
3	Rep. Danny Busick (R-Newton)	N	N
81	Rep. Steve Butz (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
15	Rep. Jon Carpenter (D-Kansas City)	Y	N
76	Rep. Chris Carter (D-St. Louis)	AL	Y
86	Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
120	Rep. Jason Chipman (R-Steelville)	N	Y
105	Rep. Phil Christofaneli (R-St. Peters)	N	Y
72	Rep. Doug Clemens (D-St. Ann)	Y	N
32	Rep. Jeff Coleman (R-Grain Valley)	N	Y
97	Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold)	Y	Y
158	Rep. Scott Cupps (R-Shell Knob)	AL	Y
159	Rep. Dirk Deaton (R-Noel)	N	Y
101	Rep. Bruce DeGroot (R-Chesterfield)	N	Y
144	Rep. Chris Dinkins (R-Annapolis)	Y	Y
98	Rep. Shamed Dogan (R-Ballwin)	N	Y
51	Rep. Dean Dohrman (R-La Monte)	N	Y
2	Rep. J. Eggleston (R-Maysville)	N	Y
17	Rep. Mark Ellebracht (D-Liberty)	Y	Y
155	Rep. Karla Eslinger (R-Wasola)	Y	Y
154	Rep. David Evans (R-West Plains)	Y	Y
10	Rep. Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph)	Y	N
136	Rep. Craig Fishel (R-Springfield)	N	Y
49	Rep. Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit)	Y	Y
145	Rep. Rick Francis (R-Perryville)	Y	Y
115	Rep. Elaine Gannon (R-De Soto)	Y	Y
75	Rep. Alan Gray (D-Blackjack)	Y	Y
67	Rep. Alan Green (D-Florissant)	Y	Y
96	Rep. David Gregory (R-St. Louis)	Y	Y
100	Rep. Derek Grier (R-Chesterfield)	N	Y
61	Rep. Aaron Griesheimer (R-Washington)	Y	Y
60	Rep. Dave Griffith (R-Jefferson City)	Y	Y
99	Rep. Trish Gunby (D-Ballwin)	Y	Y
134	Rep. Elijah Haahr (R-Springfield)	Y	Y
43	Rep. Kent Haden (R-Mexico)	Y	Y
55	Rep. Mike Haffner (R-Pleasant Hill)	N	Y
65	Rep. Tom Hannegan (R-St. Charles)	Y	N
40	Rep. Jim Hansen (R-Frankford)	N	Y
135	Rep. Steve Helms (R-Springfield)	AL	Y
117	Rep. Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre)	Y	Y
102	Rep. Ron Hicks (R-Dardenne Prairie)	Y	Y
108	Rep. Justin Hill (R-Lake St. Louis)	N	Y
54	Rep. Dan Houx (R-Warrensburg)	Y	Y
146	Rep. Barry Hovis (R-Cape Girardeau)	N	Y
138	Rep. Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair)	Y	Y
62	Rep. Tom Hurst (R-Meta)	N	N
35	Rep. Keri Ingle (D-Lee's Summit)	Y	Y
156	Rep. Jeffery Justus (R-Branson)	Y	Y

2020 MCC Votes of Interest

House Votes

Vote 1 – House Third Read and Passed to allow physicians and pharmacists to ensure they are not prescribing narcotic drugs to drug abusers. (CCS SS#2 HB 1693 House Third Read and Passed, 5/13/2020)

MCC Position:
Support

Vote 2 – House Third Read and Passed to promote restorative justice by assisting offenders with professional licensure so that they can return to gainful employment. (CCS SS HCS HB 2046 House Third Read and Passed, 5/12/2020)

MCC Position:
Support

Voting key:

Y — Yes
N — No
AL — Absent with leave

To find your legislators, go to <https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/>

127	Rep. Ann Kelley (R-Lamar)	Y	Y
141	Rep. Hannah Kelly (R-Mountian Grove)	N	Y
45	Rep. Kip Kendrick (D-Columbia)	Y	Y
20	Rep. Bill Kidd (R-Independence)	N	N
129	Rep. Jeff Knight (R-Lebanon)	Y	Y
53	Rep. Glen Kolkmeier (R-Odessa)	Y	Y
90	Rep. Deb Lavender (D-Kirkwood)	Y	N
64	Rep. Tony Lovasco (R-O'Fallon)	N	Y
125	Rep. Warren Love (R-Osceola)	Y	AL
122	Rep. Steve Lynch (R-Waynesville)	Y	Y
87	Rep. Ian Mackey (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
121	Rep. Don Mayhew (R-Crocker)	N	Y
88	Rep. Tracy McCreery (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
150	Rep. Andrew McDaniel (R-Deering)	Y	AL
39	Rep. Peggy McGaugh (R-Carrollton)	Y	Y
118	Rep. Mike McGirl (R-Potosi)	N	Y
80	Rep. Peter Merideth (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
130	Rep. Jeff Messenger (R-Republic)	AL	AL
124	Rep. Rocky Miller (R-Lake Ozark)	Y	Y
83	Rep. Gina Mitten (D-St. Louis)	Y	AL
157	Rep. Mike Moon (R-Ash Grove)	N	N
24	Rep. Judy Morgan (D-Kansas City)	AL	AL
140	Rep. Lynn Morris (R-Nixa)	Y	Y
151	Rep. Herman Morse (R-Dexter)	Y	Y
68	Rep. Jay Mosley (D-Florissant)	Y	N
48	Rep. Dave Muntzel (R-Boonville)	Y	AL
94	Rep. Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis)	N	Y
8	Rep. Jim Neely (R-Cameron)	N	Y
95	Rep. Michael O'Donnell (R-St. Louis)	Y	Y
30	Rep. Jonathan Patterson (R-Lee's Summit)	Y	Y
74	Rep. Mike Person (D-Ferguson)	Y	Y
33	Rep. Donna Pfautsch (R-Harrisonville)	Y	Y
66	Rep. Tommie Pierson Jr. (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
41	Rep. Randy Pietzman (R-Troy)	N	Y
126	Rep. Patricia Pike (R-Adrian)	Y	Y
89	Rep. Dean Plocher (R-St. Louis)	N	Y
143	Rep. Jeff Pogue (R-Salem)	N	N
52	Rep. Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia)	N	Y
123	Rep. Suzie Pollock (R-Lebanon)	N	Y
42	Rep. Jeff Porter (R-Montgomery City)	N	Y
84	Rep. Wiley Price (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
73	Rep. Raychel Proudie (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
132	Rep. Crystal Quade (D-Springfield)	Y	N
25	Rep. Greg Razer (D-Kansas City)	Y	N
57	Rep. Rodger Reedy (R-Windsor)	N	N
148	Rep. Holly Rehder (R-Sikeston)	Y	Y
6	Rep. Tim Remole (R-Excello)	N	Y
38	Rep. Doug Richey (R-Excelsior Springs)	N	Y
5	Rep. Louis Riggs (R-Hannibal)	Y	Y
161	Rep. Lane Roberts (R-Joplin)	Y	Y
77	Rep. Steven Roberts (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
111	Rep. Shane Roden (R-Cedar Hill)	N	Y
18	Rep. Wes Rogers (D-Kansas City)	Y	N
149	Rep. Don Rone (R-Portageville)	Y	AL
142	Rep. Robert Ross (R-Yukon)	N	Y
29	Rep. Rory Rowland (D-Independence)	Y	N
37	Rep. Joe Runions (D-Grandview)	Y	N
114	Rep. Becky Ruth (R-Festus)	Y	Y
14	Rep. Matt Sain (D-Kansas City)	AL	N
21	Rep. Robert Sauls (D-Independence)	Y	Y
104	Rep. Adam Schnelting (R-St. Charles)	N	Y
107	Rep. Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon)	N	Y
36	Rep. Mark Sharp (D-Kansas City)	Y	Y
4	Rep. Greg Sharpe (R-Ewing)	Y	Y
113	Rep. Dan Shaul (R-Imperial)	Y	Y
153	Rep. Jeff Shawan (R-Poplar Bluff)	N	AL
11	Rep. Brenda Shields (R-Saint Joseph)	Y	Y
16	Rep. Noel Shull (R-Kansas City)	AL	AL
109	Rep. John Simmons (R-Washington)	N	Y
163	Rep. Cody Smith (R-Carthage)	N	Y
9	Rep. Sheila Solon (R-Saint Joseph)	Y	Y

106	Rep. Chrissy Sommer (R-St. Charles)	Y	Y
63	Rep. Bryan Spencer (R-Wentzville)	N	Y
31	Rep. Dan Stacy (R-Blue Springs)	N	Y
128	Rep. Mike Stephens (R-Bolivar)	Y	Y
46	Rep. Martha Stevens (D-Columbia)	Y	Y
147	Rep. Kathryn Swan (R-Cape Girardeau)	N	Y
119	Rep. Nate Tate (R-St. Clair)	N	AL
139	Rep. Jered Taylor (R-Nixa)	N	Y
44	Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch (R-Hallsville)	N	Y
133	Rep. Curtis Trent (R-Springfield)	N	Y
91	Rep. Sarah Unsicker (D-Shrewsbury)	Y	Y
59	Rep. Rudy Veit (R-Wardsville)	N	Y
112	Rep. Rob Vescovo (R-Arnold)	N	Y
50	Rep. Sara Walsh (R-Ashland)	N	Y
23	Rep. Barbara Washington (D-Kansas City)	Y	N
103	Rep. John Wiemann (R-O'Fallon)	N	Y
12	Rep. Kenneth Wilson (R-Smithville)	N	Y
85	Rep. Kevin Windham (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
58	Rep. David Wood (R-Versailles)	AL	Y
116	Rep. Dale Wright (R-Farmington)	Y	Y
22	Rep. Yolanda Young (D-Kansas City)	Y	N
34	<i>Vacant</i>		

Voting key:

Y — Yes

N — No

AL — Absent
with leave

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Senate Votes

Vote 1 – Senate Third
Read and Passed
to allow physicians
and pharmacists to
ensure they are not
prescribing narcotic
drugs to drug
abusers. (SS#2 HB
1693 Senate Third
Read and Passed,
3/12/2020)

MCC Position:
Support

Vote 2 – Senate Truly
Agreed to and Finally
Passed to promote
restorative justice by
assisting offenders
with professional
licensure so that
they can return to
gainful employment.
(CCS SS HCS HB 2046
Senate Truly Agreed
and Finally Passed,
5/12/2020)

MCC Position:
Support

Dist.	Legislator	1	2
17	Sen. Lauren Arthur (D-Kansas City)	Y	Y
6	Sen. Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City)	N	Y
16	Sen. Justin Brown (R-Rolla)	Y	Y
20	Sen. Eric Burlison (R-Springfield)	N	Y
8	Sen. Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee's Summit)	Y	Y
28	Sen. Sandy Crawford (R-Buffero)	N	Y
33	Sen. Mike Cunningham (R-Rogersville)	Y	Y
23	Sen. Bill Eigel (R-St. Peters)	N	Y
31	Sen. Ed Emery (R-Harrisonville)	N	Y
12	Sen. Dan Hegeman (R-Cosby)	Y	Y
21	Sen. Denny Hoskins (R-Warrensburg)	N	Y
30	Sen. Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield)	Y	Y
15	Sen. Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester)	N	Y
25	Sen. Doug Libla (R-Poplar Bluff)	Y	Y
34	Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer (R-Parkville)	Y	Y
4	Sen. Karla May (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
5	Sen. Jamilah Nasheed (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
18	Sen. Cindy O'Laughlin (R-Shelbina)	Y	Y
2	Sen. Bob Onder (R-Lake St. Louis)	N	Y
10	Sen. Jeanie Riddle (R-Holts Summit)	N	Y
11	Sen. John Rizzo (D-Kansas City)	Y	Y
19	Sen. Caleb Rowden (R-Columbia)	Y	Y
29	Sen. David Sater (R-Cassville)	Y	Y
26	Sen. Dave Schatz (R-Sullivan)	Y	Y
24	Sen. Jill Schupp (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
1	Sen. Scott Sifton (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
27	Sen. Wayne Wallingford (R-Cape Girardeau)	N	Y
13	Sen. Gina Walsh (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
32	Sen. Bill White (R-Joplin)	Y	Y
22	Sen. Paul Wieland (R-Imperial)	Y	Y
14	Sen. Brian Williams (D-St. Louis)	Y	Y
3	<i>Vacant</i>		
7	<i>Vacant</i>		
9	<i>Vacant</i>		

**Read the End of Session
Report at mocatolic.org to
find out where all MCC tracked
bills ended up this session.**



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Work Requirements for Medicaid Recipients Fails at Session End

An issue that gained last-minute attention was a proposed constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would have imposed work requirements on Medicaid recipients. HJR 106, sponsored by Rep. Cody Smith (R-Carthage), had a last minute hearing in the House budget committee, but failed to make it to the House floor for debate as the session ended.

The MCC testified in opposition to the resolution, arguing that imposing work requirements on Medicaid recipients would lead to many enrollees losing coverage and would make it more difficult for those with chronic medical conditions to continue to receive treatment. Such requirements would be particularly precarious for those low-income workers who now find themselves on the front lines of the health crisis, be they grocery clerks, nursing home attendants, or custodial personnel.

The MCC has offered its support for a ballot initiative to expand Medicaid coverage for low-income workers that will now appear on the August 4, 2020 primary ballot. More information about Medicaid and Medicaid expansion can be found at mocatholic.org.

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