The 2021 legislative session wrapped up on Friday, May 14th. This year’s session commenced under the continuing cloud of COVID-19, and it wasn’t clear how things would progress. Several changes were made to the way business is conducted at the Capitol in order to slow the spread of the virus. House and Senate committees, for example, allowed witnesses to submit testimony in writing, rather than requiring them to appear in person. In the House, some committees even allowed witnesses to appear via video. Session started with few members of the public present in the building, and most in attendance wearing masks. By the end of session, however, more people were showing up at the Capitol, including groups of school children, with few masks in sight as vaccines became available.

The big issue facing lawmakers this year was Medicaid expansion. As we have previously reported, the House and Senate both voted not to include funding for expansion of the program in the FY 2022 budget, despite voters approving the measure during the August 2020 primary election. Most of the legislators cited the lack of support for expansion in their districts and the cost of the program to the state in the future. Several would-be Medicaid recipients have now sued the state to allow them to enroll, and the MCC anticipates a ruling to be issued prior to July 1st. In this issue of Good News, you can see how your legislator voted on an amendment offered during debate on the budget that would have funded the program.

You can also see how your legislator voted on an education reform bill that creates a scholarship program to allow students to attend private school. The legislation creates a tax credit for donations people and businesses make to education scholarship organizations. Individuals can claim a state tax credit amounting to 100% of their donation, up to 50% of their state tax liability. The scholarship-granting organizations, in turn, grant scholarships to students currently attending public school who either have an individualized education plan (IEP) reflecting a learning disability of some kind, or whose parents earn less than 100% of the amount necessary to qualify for free and reduced lunch. Donors are not able to make donations to benefit their own children.

Read more in the pages of this Good News.

Pro-Life Legislation

Two bills that encourage adoption and foster care passed this session, and have already been signed by Governor Parson. HBs 429 and 430, both sponsored by Representative Hannah Kelly (R-Mountain Grove), will expand the current adoption tax credit to apply to all adoptions in the state, rather than just special needs adoptions, providing adoptive parents up to $10,000 in tax credits for one-time adoption expenses. The bills will also allow Missourians who serve as foster parents for at least six months in any year to receive a tax credit to cover the cost of providing that care up to $2,500 per taxpayer or $5,000 for married couples.
Juvenile Justice Reform

The 2021 legislative session ended with several reforms of the criminal justice system. SB 53, an omnibus public safety bill, includes language implementing legislation passed several years ago raising the age at which juvenile offenders can remain in the juvenile justice system from 17 to 18. The bill also provides that juveniles being detained on adult charges be held in juvenile facilities unless a court finds adult prison would be more appropriate after a hearing. SB 26, a separate omnibus public safety bill, includes a provision allowing juveniles sentenced to prison terms longer than 15 years to apply for a sentencing review after serving 15 years.

Earned Income Tax Credit

SB 153, which will require online retailers to collect Missouri sales taxes, also includes a newly created state earned-income tax credit (EITC) as a means of encouraging work. It provides low-income wage earners a state tax credit amounting to between 10 and 20% of the amount they can claim under the federal earned income tax credit. The newly created tax credit is non-refundable and cannot exceed the taxpayer’s state tax liability. The new credit can also only be claimed if state revenues increase from prior years at certain thresholds.

2021 MCC Votes of Interest

House Votes

Vote 1 – House Third Read and Passed HB 349. Establishes the “Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program”. (HCS HB 349 House Third Read and Passed; 2/25/2021)

MCC Position: Support

Vote 2 – House voted down an amendment to expand the Medicaid Program in Missouri. (HCS HB 5 HA 5; 03/30/21)

Voting key:

Y — Yes
N — No
AL — Absent with leave
P — Present

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

**Rep. Rick Roeber (R-Lee's Summit)**  Y  N

**Rep. Andrew McDaniel (R-Deering)**  Y  Y

**Rep. Wes Rogers (D-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**Rep. Wes Rogers (D-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**Rep. Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia)**  N  N

**Rep. Raychel Proudie (D-St. Louis)**  N  Y

**Rep. Martha Stevens (D-Columbia)**  N  Y

**Rep. Randy Pietzman (R-Troy)**  Y  AL

**Rep. Mitch Boggs (R-La Russell)**  Y  N

**Rep. Dan Houx (R-Warrensburg)**  N  N

**Rep. Tony Lovasco (R-O'Fallon)**  Y  N

**Rep. Mike Haffner (R-Pleasant Hill)**  Y  N

**Rep. Dale Wright (R-Farmington)**  N  N

**Rep. Rick Francis (R-Perryville)**  N  N

**Rep. Adam Schnelting (R-St. Charles)**  Y  N

**Rep. Rob Vescovo (R-Arnold)**  N  N

**Rep. Tim Taylor (R-Bunceton)**  Y  N

**Rep. Wiley Price (D-St. Louis)**  N  Y

**Rep. LaKeySha Bosley (D-St. Louis)**  AL  Y

**Sen. Lauren Arthur (D-Kansas City)**

**Rep. Mike Person (D-Ferguson)**  N  Y

**Rep. Darrell Atchison (R-Williamsville)**  N  N

**Rep. Marlon Anderson (D-St. Louis)**  N  Y

**Rep. Ron Copeland (R-Salem)**  N  N

**Rep. Chris Brown (R-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**Sen. Greg Razer (D-Kansas City)**

**Rep. Mark Ellebracht (D-Liberty)**  N  Y

**Rep. Emily Weber (D-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**Rep. J. Eggleston (R-Maysville)**  Y  N

**Rep. Jay Mosley (D-Florissant)**  N  Y

**Rep. Bob Bromley (R-Carl Junction)**  Y  N

**Rep. Raychel Proudie (D-St. Louis)**  N  Y

**Rep. Emily Weber (D-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**Rep. Jamie Burger (R-Benton)**  N  N

**Rep. Doug Richey (R-Excelsior Springs)**  Y  N

**Rep. Steve Butz (D-St. Louis)**  AL  Y

**Rep. Bill Owen (R-Springfield)**  Y  N

**Rep. Jonathan Patterson (R-Lee's Summit)**  Y  N

**Rep. Jay Mosley (R-Florissant)**  N  Y

**Rep. Michael O'Donnell (R-St. Louis)**  Y  N

**Rep. Brandy Bills (R-Salem)**  N  N

**Rep. Michael O'Donnell (R-St. Louis)**  Y  N

**Rep. Cyndi Buchheit-Courtway (R-Festus)**  Y  N

**Rep. Nate Tate (R-St. Clair)**  N  AL

**Rep. Michael O’Donnell (R-St. Louis)**  Y  N

**Rep. Ricky Jowers (R-Excelsior Springs)**  Y  N

**Rep. Dan Stacy (R-Blue Springs)**  Y  N

**Rep. Terry Thompson (R-Brown)**  Y  Y

**Rep. Travis Smith (R-Adair)**  Y  Y

**Rep. Dan Stacy (R-Blue Springs)**  Y  N

**Rep. Dottie Bailey (R-Eureka)**  Y  N

**Rep. Bennie Cook (R-Houston)**  N  N

**Rep. John Wiemann (R-O'Fallon)**  Y  N

**Rep. Hannah Kelly (R-Mountain Grove)**  Y  N

**Rep. Willard Haley (R-Eldon)**  N  N

**Sen. Jeanie Riddle (R-Holts Summit)**

**Rep. LaKeySha Bosley (D-St. Louis)**  AL  Y

**Rep. Dan Houx (R-Warrensburg)**  N  N

**Rep. Mark Ellebracht (D-Liberty)**  N  Y

**Rep. Ashley Aune (D-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**Sen. Holly Rehder (R-Scott City)**

**Rep. Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green)**  Y  N

**Sen. Bill Eigel (R-St. Peters)**

**Sen. Paul Wieland (R-Imperial)**

**Rep. Betsy Fogle (D-Springfield)**  N  Y

**Rep. Peggy McGaugh (R-Carrollton)**  N  N

**Rep. Richard Brown (D-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**Rep. Aaron Griesheimer (R-Washington)**  Y  N

**Rep. Kevin Windham (D-St. Louis)**  N  Y

**Rep. LaKeySha Bosley (D-St. Louis)**  AL  Y

**Rep. Dan Stacy (R-Blue Springs)**  N  N

**Rep. Jerome Barnes (D-Raytown)**  AL  Y

**Rep. Jeff Porter (R-Montgomery City)**  N  N

**Rep. Rudy Veit (R-Wardsville)**  AL  N

**Rep. Sara Walsh (R-Ashton)**  Y  N

**Rep. Bridget Walsh Moore (D-St. Louis)**  N  Y

**Rep. Emily Weber (D-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**Rep. John Wiemann (R-O'Fallon)**  Y  N

**Rep. Kevin Windham (D-St. Louis)**  N  Y

**Rep. Dale Wright (R-Farmington)**  N  N

**Rep. Yolanda Young (D-Kansas City)**  N  Y

**AL vacant**

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**Senate Votes**

Vote 1 – Senate Third Read and Passed HB 349. Establishes the “Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.” (HCS HB 349 Senate Third Read and Passed; 05/06/2021)

Vote 2 – Senate voted down an amendment to expand the Medicaid program in Missouri. (SA1 to SA1 to SS SCS HCS HB 10; 04/28/2021)

**MCC Position:**

Support

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**Read the End of Session Report at mocatholic.org to find out where all MCC tracked bills ended up this session.**
New Episode of MCC from the Capitol: Lobbyists Discuss Details of 2021 Legislative Session

Looking for more inside news about the 2021 legislative session? In the latest episode of MCC from the Capitol, our lobbyists discuss the surprises, setbacks, and successes of this year’s Missouri legislative session. Scan the QR code or visit our website, Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts to listen today!

To scan a QR code, open the camera app on your phone, and focus the camera on the QR code. A link will appear directing you to the available content.