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Capitol Report

September 13, 2018

House Moves to Override Four Budget Vetoes during Annual Veto Session

Lawmakers converged on the capital city Wednesday for the annual Veto Session where they had the opportunity to override vetoes made by the governor to various pieces of legislation passed during the regular session. Each override required the support of at least 109 House members, and each received bipartisan support with at least 118 votes.

- \$45,000 for the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- \$100,000 for the Office of Child Advocate to fund two positions necessary to fully implement independent reviews of foster care case management concerns.
- \$153,546 to provide funding and staffing for the Time Critical Diagnosis (TCD) Program that designates hospitals as trauma, stroke facilities.
- \$487,000 for the State Public Defender System to create a Children's Defense Team that would work with the state's juvenile indigent population.

While House members gave their support to overrides of the vetoes on the four appropriations, the Missouri Senate did not attempt to complete the override motions. The Senate Appropriations Chairman told his colleagues the governor has pledged to fund the items through existing budgets or through supplemental spending requests that would happen when the legislature returns in January.

House Approves Legislation to Improve Access to Treatment Courts (HB 2)

Following the Veto Session, lawmakers shifted their focus to the Extraordinary Session called by the governor to address two pieces of legislation he vetoed but indicated he would be receptive to signing if the language was changed. The first bill passed by the House would expand access to

treatment courts with the goal of rehabilitating more Missourians so they can return to being productive members of society.

The legislation would consolidate Missouri's treatment courts – adult treatment court, DWI court, family treatment court, juvenile treatment court, and veteran's treatment court – and update state statute to reflect the reality of the treatment court system today.

The sponsor of the legislation noted that “Missouri treatment courts have been a great success at changing lives for the better, lowering criminal recidivism rates, saving tax-payer dollars by reducing incarceration, all the while making our communities safer and aiding our citizens in their quest to be more productive and improve their quality of life.”

House Approves Legislation to Promote Careers in the STEM Fields (HB 3)

The second bill approved by the Missouri House of Representatives during the Extraordinary Session takes an important step to encourage more young people to pursue career paths in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields..

The legislation would also require DESE to develop a high school graduation policy that allows a student to fulfill one unit of academic credit with a district-approved computer science course for any math, science, or practical arts unit required for high school graduation. In addition, it works to support teachers pursuing STEM training and professional development by creating the “Computer Science Education Fund”, and creating a special license endorsement for teachers demonstrating sufficient STEM content knowledge.

HB 2 and 3 now await approval in the Senate before moving to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

Real ID Grace Period Granted

Missouri recently received a grace period that will allow Missourians to continue using their current forms of identification to fly domestically and enter federal facilities. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had granted an extension until October 10, 2018, but informed the Missouri Department of Revenue of a new grace period that will run through January 21, 2019. The new licenses that are compliant with the REAL ID Act are not projected to be available until March of 2019.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your voice in Jefferson City.



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