



**STATE
REPRESENTATIVE
DAN HOUX
54TH DISTRICT**



Committees
**Vice Chair, Rules-Legislative
Oversight
Financial Institutions
Conservation and Natural
Resources
Special Committee on
Employment Security**

QUICK LINKS:
www.state.mo.us
www.house.mo.gov
www.modot.org

**Capitol Report
January 18, 2018**

I had the pleasure of hosting both the Johnson and Pettis County Boards of Realtors this week. I saw many familiar faces and I appreciate them taking the time to visit the Capitol and advocate for issues which are of importance to them.

The members of the Missouri House of Representatives convened in the House Chamber on Wednesday, January 3 to officially open the 2nd session of the 99th General Assembly. This session the House will focus on similar issues as last year: lobbyist gift ban, regulatory reform, and passing a balanced budget.

The first bill the House passed was a ban on lobbyist gifts. For too long Missourians have felt they can't trust their government and this ban will help restore public trust. Earning back this trust starts by getting rid of the undue influence of lobbyists and special interest. Missourians can be assured their legislators are fighting for them and not special interest groups. Missouri currently has no limits on lobbyist gifts.

The bill which was advanced out of the House to the Senate this week would create a gift ban on gifts such as meals or tickets to concerts or sporting events. The bill contains some common sense exceptions such as one that would allow for events to which every member of the House and Senate are invited at least three days in advance. The sponsor explained the exception is meant to allow for grassroots-driven events where large groups of Missourians have the opportunity to meet with all members of the legislature. The bill also contains an exception that would allow a legislator to receive an award or accept flowers for the funeral of a loved one without breaking the law.

This week the House GOP also passed HB 1500, known as the hair braiding bill. The bill number 1500 represents the number of hours of hands on training it currently takes to become certified to braid hair. As a comparison, a person may obtain a private pilot license to operate a single engine aircraft with approximately 50 hours of classroom and flight time. This bill lowers regulations for certification, making it easier to open a small business. Just over 47% of all workers are employed by small businesses. Lowering regulations, like hair braiding requirements, will reduce barriers and lead to the creation of more jobs in Missouri.

Another important piece of legislation passed through the House this week was HB 1246. The passage of this bill is a step forward in addressing the human trafficking in Missouri. HB 1246 requires certain places, such as airports and train stations, to display posters informing victims of resources and services available to them. We must continue to take steps forward in addressing and fighting the problem of human trafficking.

I remain in your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Houx". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dan Houx

Please contact me at:
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 116A-1
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Phone: 573-751-3850
Email: Dan.Houx@house.mo.gov

If you would like to unsubscribe to this Capitol Report,
Please contact: Dan.Houx@house.mo.gov.