

MEMORANDUM

TO: St. Joseph Area Legislative Partnership

FROM: Mark Rhoads and Trent Watson

RE: Legislative Report

DATE: January 3, 2011

LEGISLATIVE SESSION WILL COMMENCE ON WEDNESDAY: The First Regular Session of the 96th General Assembly will convene at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. Most of the activities on Wednesday and Thursday will involve the pomp and ceremony of swearing in the newly elected members of the General Assembly, a legislative ball and the filing of bills. Hundreds of family, friends and visitors are expected to swarm the capitol to participate in the festivities. House and Senate members will formally elect the Speaker and President Pro Tem as session begins on Wednesday. Rep. Steve Tilley (R-Perryville) and Senator Rob Mayer (R-Dexter) were selected by the republican caucuses shortly after the November election to lead their respective chambers.

In the news...

- A couple of notable new laws went into effect on January 1, including a new health insurance mandate that insurers cover autism therapies for individuals up to the age of 19, capping annual coverage at \$40,000 per individual. Also, the legislatively mandated merger of the Missouri Water Patrol into the Missouri Highway Patrol took effect resulting in new blue highway patrol uniforms and additional training for water patrol officers. The impetus of the new law is to effect pension savings.
- Major newspapers this past week highlighted the projected budget shortfall of approximately \$700 million that lawmakers face as they begin session this week. According to the *Kansas City Star*, state revenues have fallen by about \$1 billion since 2008 and federal stimulus funds will shrink from \$900 million to about \$200 million for the coming year. The article says that State Budget Director Linda Luebbering believes that cuts to K-12 education, higher education, health care and the state's work force are probably unavoidable.
- Several newspaper stories this past week focused on what may be a new round of debate relating to the passage of Proposition B in November's election, the ballot initiative that imposes new restrictions on dog breeders in Missouri. Several rural legislators are filing legislation to alter the provisions of the newly passed state law, arguing that the language is vague, is an attack on animal agriculture and contains no funding mechanism for enforcement. In response, Missourians for

the Protection of Dogs paid for billboards in the Jefferson City area featuring a picture of a dog with the message “Missouri voters have spoken. Will you listen?”

- Hot political news:
 - An announcement that former Governor Matt Blunt has forgiven a \$300,000 campaign loan to Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder. The announcement prompted political watchers to predict that Kinder will run for governor against incumbent Governor Jay Nixon in 2012.
 - Statements by Speaker-elect Steve Tilley (R-Perryville) that the House will investigate allegations of voter misconduct and alleged fraud in the election of Democrat John Joseph Rizzo, who won the democratic primary against opponent Will Royster by one vote (district 40 – Kansas City). Rizzo will be sworn in with the other 162 members of the House on Wednesday of this week. House rules provide that the complaint filed with the House by Democrat Royster and Libertarian Sean O’Toole must be referred to a committee and investigated. Some members of the general Assembly are using the election as reason to call for mandatory voter identification measures for voting.
 - On December 30, Democrats of the 9th Senatorial District Committee nominated Rep. Shalonn “Kiki” Curls as the Democratic candidate in a February 22 special election to succeed Senator Yvonne Wilson who resigned her seat two years early to spend time with family. Senate District 9 covers parts of Kansas City and Eastern Jackson County and is heavily democratic. Curls will face Republican Nola Wood who was selected by the Republican 9th Senatorial Committee.

BILLS OF INTEREST: Pre-Filed bills of Interest.

Holding down the “Ctrl” button and clicking the bill number will take you to the bills website.

<u>HB 26</u>	<u>Jones-63</u>	Changes voter reauthorization on city earnings taxes from five years to 20 years.
<u>HB 43</u>	<u>Conway-27</u>	Adds the counties of Andrew and Buchanan to the list of counties authorized to enact nuisance abatement ordinances regarding the condition of real property.
<u>HB 45</u>	<u>Hoskins-121</u>	Changes the laws regarding the Big Government Get Off My Back Act and provides an income tax deduction for certain small businesses that create new full-time jobs.
<u>HB 52</u>	<u>Ellinger</u>	Requires the Department of Revenue to establish the necessary rules to implement the compliance provisions of the multistate Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.
<u>HB 53</u>	<u>Meadows</u>	Prohibits any entity that is authorized to issue traffic tickets to

use an automated speed enforcement system to enforce speeding violations except in a school, construction, or work zone.

<u>HB 59</u>	<u>Brown-50</u>	Requires the State Board of Education to establish a coordinated health program board to develop a program on the prevention of student obesity, cardiovascular disease, and type II diabetes.
<u>HB 60</u>	<u>Nolte</u>	Limits the increase in assessed valuation of residential property by the percentage of increase in the federal Social Security benefits for the elderly and disabled who own and live in their principal residence.
<u>HB 70</u>	<u>Phillips</u>	Changes the compensation and mileage allowance for certain members of a county highway commission.
<u>HB 76</u>	<u>Nolte</u>	Caps corporate income taxes at two million dollars.
<u>HB 77</u>	<u>Nolte</u>	Phases-out the corporate franchise tax over a five year period.
<u>HB 78</u>	<u>Nolte</u>	Phases in a 50% exemption from income tax for business income over 5 years.
<u>HB 88</u>	<u>Gatschenberger</u>	Allows the court to transfer a public administrator's case to another county upon petition by the public administrator if venue requirements are met and the public administrator of the receiving cou.
<u>HB 90</u>	<u>Scharnhorst</u>	Prohibits a political subdivision from adopting an ordinance, rule, or code requiring mandatory installation of a sprinkler system in new residential construction.
<u>SB 12</u>	<u>Pearce</u>	Modifies the elementary and secondary education foundation formula.
<u>SB 16</u>	<u>Lembke</u>	Prohibits political subdivisions from using automated photo red light enforcement systems to enforce red light violations.
<u>SB 25</u>	<u>Schaaf</u>	Authorizes Andrew and Buchanan Counties to enact nuisance abatement ordinances.
<u>SB 49</u>	<u>Wright-Jones</u>	Creates special rules for the formation of transportation development districts to operate mass transportation systems.
<u>SB 52</u>	<u>Cunningham</u>	Requires county assessors to consider market factors in

determining value of real property for tax purposes.

<u>SB 57</u>	<u>Callahan</u>	Requires courts to transfer certain cases upon the request of the public administrator.
<u>SJR 1</u>	<u>Ridgeway</u>	Replaces all taxes on income with a sales and use tax.

If you would like the full text of a bill or a bill summary, they will be posted at <http://www.moga.state.mo.us/> as they become available. This report was distributed by the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce with support from the City of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Heartland Health.

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