



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI

Legislative Update April 16, 2018

Petition Signatures

The deadline for signatures for initiated measures to be on the November ballot is May 6. *Clean Missouri* is especially short in Congressional District 3. The initiative would limit lobbyists and take money out of politics, establishing new limits on campaign contributions for legislative candidates and rules to prevent gerrymandering.

Human Trafficking

HB1246 recently passed, directing the Missouri Department of Public Safety to prepare posters in 150 languages. Here is the number for a Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-337-7888.

Here's a site with more info:

<https://dps.mo.gov/news/newsitem/uuid/4fa7a1bc-151a-4963-af14-6ca57bb961c1>

Equal Rights Amendment

Senate Concurrent Resolution 41 (SCR41). A hearing was conducted on February 20 in the Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee, but apparently no vote was taken. *No action*. In the meantime, the *Illinois* State Senate has approved passage of the E.R.A. legislation. If it passes in Illinois, only one state remains for final passage of a national Equal Rights Amendment.

SNAP

HB 1486, sponsored by Representative Kelly, modifies provisions relating to work requirements for the supplemental nutrition assistance program. The bill was third read and passed out of the House with a vote of 107-43 on April 3rd. It was then sent to the Senate.

This bill requires any individual participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to comply with the work requirements described in federal statute and regulations. Any nonexempt participant who refuses or fails without good cause to comply with the work requirements will be ineligible to participate in the program for the duration of the disqualification period for three months to up to two years, depending on the number of occurrences of noncompliance.

Public Hearing Scheduled (S) - Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 2:00 p.m., SCR 1

Funding Bills – Information from the “Missouri Budget Project”

Here is a link to information about Missouri House funding bills:

<http://www.mobudget.org/house-budget-committee-advances-fy-2019-budget-bills/>

HB1936 – The Carrying of Concealed Weapons (“Guns Everywhere”)

Passed by the General Laws Committee on February 28. Passed by the Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee on March 29. Not currently on a House calendar. This bill expands the list of locations an individual can carry a concealed firearm. It would prevent political subdivisions and public institutions of higher learning from setting firearm restrictions on their own premises. This includes public facilities such as hospitals and amusement parks, possibly including the St. Louis Zoo.

The League position is to limit the accessibility of firearms to protect the health and safety of citizens.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Jered Taylor (R-Nixa).

Alert your House member to watch for this bill to be put on the calendar at any time.

HB2247 – Charter School Expansion

Committee substitute approved by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee on Feb. 5. Approved by the Rules Committee 9-3 on March 13. This was placed on the Informal Calendar on April 10.

This bill would allow charter schools to operate in many districts and not just St. Louis and Kansas City. It also allows outside entities to sponsor charter schools.

The League opposes this bill since it bypasses locally-elected school boards. Charter schools should be subject to the same standards of accountability, transparency and respect for the rights of students, parents and staff as traditional public schools.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Rebecca Roeber. Thank Reps. Anders, Bangert, Burnett, Morgan, Swan and Wood for their bipartisan opposition in committee. Alert your House member to watch for this bill.

HB2540 – Tax Reform

The House Ways and Means Committee approved the bill on March 13 and the Rules Committee approved it on March 15. Fiscal Review – reported Do Pass with Amendments on April 10.

While this bill would create a fairer tax structure, streamline sales tax collections and eliminate timely filing discounts, it would reduce state revenue for services by an estimated \$144 million. It would reduce the top income tax rate for individuals and corporations and eliminate the circuit breaker tax credit for seniors and people with disabilities who rent their homes. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Elijah Haahr.

Alert your House member to watch for this bill to be put on the calendar at any time.

HB1255 - Juvenile Justice

The House Judiciary Committee held a hearing Feb. 20 and approved the bill March 6. On March 14, the Rules Committee sent it back to the committee of origin which held another hearing March 27. This was referred to the Rules-Oversight Committee on April 10. This bill requires children under the age of 18 to be prosecuted for most criminal offenses in juvenile courts unless the child is certified as an adult.

The League supports giving juvenile court exclusive original jurisdiction over anyone under 18 as part of a coordinated system of juvenile justice which treats children fairly and effectively. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Nick Schroer. Contact members of the House Rules-Oversight committee to urge passage.

[Click here for a link to all House committee members.](#)

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