



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI

Legislative Update

April 2, 2018

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

HB2188 – Tax Credit Style Vouchers

The House Ways and Means Committee heard this bill on Feb. 6 and referred to the Rules Committee on Feb. 28. Not currently on a House calendar.

The bill creates a new 100% state tax credit capped at \$50 million per year for taxpayer contributions to third-party organizations that will give parents “Show Me Opportunity” scholarships for private school tuition and other school expenses.

The League opposes funds to divert public funds to private schools. Missouri is in a severe budget crisis and shouldn't reduce state funding by creating new tax credits.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Mark Matthiesen.

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

HB2540 – Tax Reform

The House Ways and Means Committee approved the bill on March 13 and the Rules Committee approved it on March 15.

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

HB1856 – MO HealthNet Work Requirements

The House Children & Families Committee approved the bill on March 15 and referred to the Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee.

Committee heard testimony on a bill to require work activities for MO HealthNet recipients, potentially eliminating coverage for 17,000 to 52,000 participants. It would require participants to work, look for work or go to school for 80 hours a month.

The League is concerned that the fiscal impact is unclear. The bill doesn't raise income limits, which could cause custodial parents who worked hourly for minimum wage to lose coverage.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Curtis Trent. It's similar to Sen. David Sater's SB948. Contact Rules Committee Chairman Shawn Rhodes and Reps. Deb Lavender, Dan Houx, Jack Bondon, Michael Butler, Courtney Allen Curtis, Jay Eggleston, Travis Fitzwater, Elijah Haahr, Don Rome, Noel Shull, Lindell Shumake and Fred Wessels.

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. **There will be a hearing in the Judiciary Committee on 4/3/2018 at 5:00 PM or upon adjournment (whichever is later) in House Hearing Room 1.**

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 Judiciary and Rules committees to urge passage.

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

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