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**Capitol Report**

**May 13, 2023**

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*Dear Neighbor,*

The first regular session of the 102nd Missouri General Assembly concluded at 6 PM on Friday. It was a contentious session, one like I have never experienced in the seven years I have served in the House.

I am disappointed that only 26 Bills were Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed. We wasted time spent on the discriminatory transgender issues, DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), attempts at broadening where guns can be carried in the state and attempting to take power away from the citizens of our state through new rules for the Initiative Petition Process. Sports Betting, which many Missourians favor, failed to get approval from the legislature for the third straight year.

I am very happy that we finally passed bills through both chambers dealing with celebratory gun fire, a compensation package for wrongful convictions, establishing a work place sponsored retirement savings plan as well as fixing several public pension plans to ensure the plans long-term stability and protect retirement income for the retirees. These pieces of legislation are headed to the governor's desk and await his signature to become law.

I am very pleased that several pieces of legislation I worked on and helped to craft will reach the governor's desk. During the interim, I will begin preparing for the new legislative session that will begin in January 2024. There is still much work to be done as I enter the final

year of my final term in the Missouri House of Representatives.

***Yours in Service,***

***Rich***

### House Legislative Dashboard



## **GOP bills targeting transgender children win final passage**

The House of Representatives on May 10 sent a pair of bills to the governor making it illegal to provide gender-affirming health care to transgender minors and prohibiting transgender athletes from competing on a sports team that doesn't correspond with their birth gender. The bills together were a top priority for Missouri Republicans as part of a national movement among GOP-controlled states to enact laws persecuting transgender residents.

Senate Bill 49 would ban gender-affirming surgery for minors, which currently only happens in rare situations, and also outlaw the use of puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy for transitioning minors. Those who have already started transitioning when the bill is slated to take effect on Aug. 28 would be exempt from the latter restriction. The House voted 108-50 in favor of the bill.

Senate Bill 39 would prohibit public and private schools from allowing transgender athletes to compete on sports teams that corresponds with their gender identity at any level, from kindergarten through college. The House passed it on a vote of 109-49, with one member voting "present."

As part of a compromise brokered when the Senate originally approved the bills in March, the restrictions on athletic participation and the limits on puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy are set to expire in 2027 unless lawmakers later renew them. Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, is expected to sign both measures into law.



## Governor's office: 'Special Session is likely not necessary' after two anti-transgender bills pass legislature

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (KMIZ)

The Missouri legislature sent two bills to the governor's desk Wednesday that would restrict transgender children.

One of the bills would prevent transgender students from participating in women's sports, and the other would ban gender transition care for minors.

Gov. Mike Parson previously said he'd call lawmakers back for a special legislative session if these bills were not passed. When ABC 17 News asked his office about the bill, his office replied, "since both bills have been truly passed, a Special Session is likely not necessary."

The sponsor of one of the bills, Sen. Mike Moon (R-Ash Grove) said on Twitter, "This bill prohibits the chemical mutilation and physical castration of minors. It is now

headed to the Governor's desk."

This vote was so controversial in the house, that one republican said he's now considering switching parties. Rep. Chris Sander (R-Jackson County) is one of three republicans who voted against these bills. He's openly gay, and joined Democratic representatives for a news conference where he said he's questioning his party affiliation.

"That's party politics," Sander said. "I'm LGBTQ, questioning my party at the moment. I'm not questioning me being a gay Republican, I'm questioning if I'm a Republican."

According to [Ballotpedia](#), only three Missouri lawmakers have changed political parties in the past.

**Democratic Kansas City Rep. Richard Brown is concerned about how FIFA will react if these bills are signed.**

"When the World Cup, FIFA, was here, some of the language in their contract said that this type of law against transgender people is something that they oppose and could possibly keep us from getting the world cup," Brown said.

[Watch the video here](#)



## **Lawmakers approve ban on texting, phone use while driving**

Texting while driving would be illegal for motorists of all ages under legislation sent to the governor on May 10 by votes of 97-40, with 12 members voting “present,” in the House of Representatives and 26-7 in the Senate.

Under existing law, texting while driving is prohibited only for drivers under age 21.

In addition to imposing a broader prohibition on texting while driving, Senate Bill 398 would bar drivers from talking on a cell phone when behind the wheel unless using hands-free technology or making a call to report an emergency situation.

Police would be prohibited from stopping motorists solely for using an electronic device, but could issue a citation if the stop is for another offense or an accident is involved. Until Jan. 1, 2025, officers could only issue



warnings. After that, a violation would be an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of \$150 for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense within a two-year period and \$500 for a third or subsequent offense in a two-year period.

SB 398 also would require car dealers to collect sales taxes on motor vehicle purchases at the point of sale. Under existing law, the sales tax is paid when the owner licenses the vehicle with the state. To avoid paying the tax, however, some vehicle owners will continue driving on the temporary tags they receive from the dealer long after the tags have expired.



**Lawmakers agree to expand coverage for post-partum care**

The Senate on May 8 voted 26-1 to grant final passage to legislation expanding coverage for postpartum care under Medicaid from 60 days following a pregnancy to one year. The House of Representatives had approved the bill, which includes several other provisions related to health care generally and women's health in particular, the previous week on a vote of 119-23, with four members voting "present."

Democratic lawmakers have pushed for expanded postpartum coverage for years in an effort to combat Missouri's rising maternal mortality rate. Majority Republicans took up the cause this session after the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated the constitutional right to abortion last summer, allowing a Missouri law to take effect that bans the procedure in nearly all circumstances. With abortion no longer an option for many Missourians, the demand for post-partum care is expected to significantly increase.

Senate Bill 106, sponsored by state Sen. Lauren Arthur, D-Kansas City, also prohibits health care providers from performing prostate, anal or pelvic examinations on an anesthetized or unconscious patient without the patient's advance permission. In addition, the bill bars insurers from imposing cost-sharing requirements for diagnostic breast examinations, supplemental breast examinations or mammography screenings.

Another important provision, added by the House to the wide-ranging bill, ends the "cliff effect" that strips participants in the welfare, food stamp or child care subsidy programs of their benefits if they start earning too much money from their job to qualify. The bill creates transitional benefits to allow working recipients to continue receiving some assistance until they earn enough to be self-sufficient.





## **House votes to exempt Social Security benefits from taxation**

The House of Representatives on May 8 voted 154-2 to grant final passage to legislation fully exempting Social Security benefits from state income taxes. The bill, which will cost the state an estimated \$318.77 million a year in lost revenue, also authorizes counties to provide a homestead property tax credit to senior citizens.

Existing state law already exempts Social Security benefits from taxation for most Missourians, those who earn less than \$85,000 for an individual, or \$100,000 for a married couple filing jointly. Senate Bill 190 would extend the exemption to higher-income recipients.

Another provision of the bill would authorize individual counties to establish a tax credit that eligible senior citizens could claim on property taxes owed on a home

that they both own and live in as their primary residence. Counties could establish the credit either by enacting an ordinance or putting the matter on the local ballot for voter approval.

The Senate approved the SB 190 in April on a vote of 33-1. Since the House made no changes to it, the bill goes to the governor for his consideration.



## Missouri Republican weighing party switch after vote to restrict trans health care

- [Jack Suntrup](#) St. Louis Post-Dispatch May 11, 2023

JEFFERSON CITY — A rare party switch in the Missouri House could be in the offing after one Republican on Wednesday wasn't allowed to speak against a GOP plan to restrict gender-affirming care for minors.

Rep. Chris Sander, R-Lone Jack, one of two openly gay Republicans in the Legislature, said Wednesday that local, state and national Republicans needed to decide whether gay and transgender Republicans were welcome.

“If they want to tell all Republicans who are gay to get out and go to the Democrat Party, they just need to do that,” Sander, a 2001 graduate of Hazelwood West High School in St. Louis County, told the Post-Dispatch.

Sander was one of three Republicans to vote against the restrictions, which are headed to Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, for his consideration.

House Majority Leader Jonathan Patterson, R-Lee’s Summit, and Rep. Gary Bonacker, R-House Springs, also broke with their party to vote with Democrats against the ban.

[Continue Reading](#)



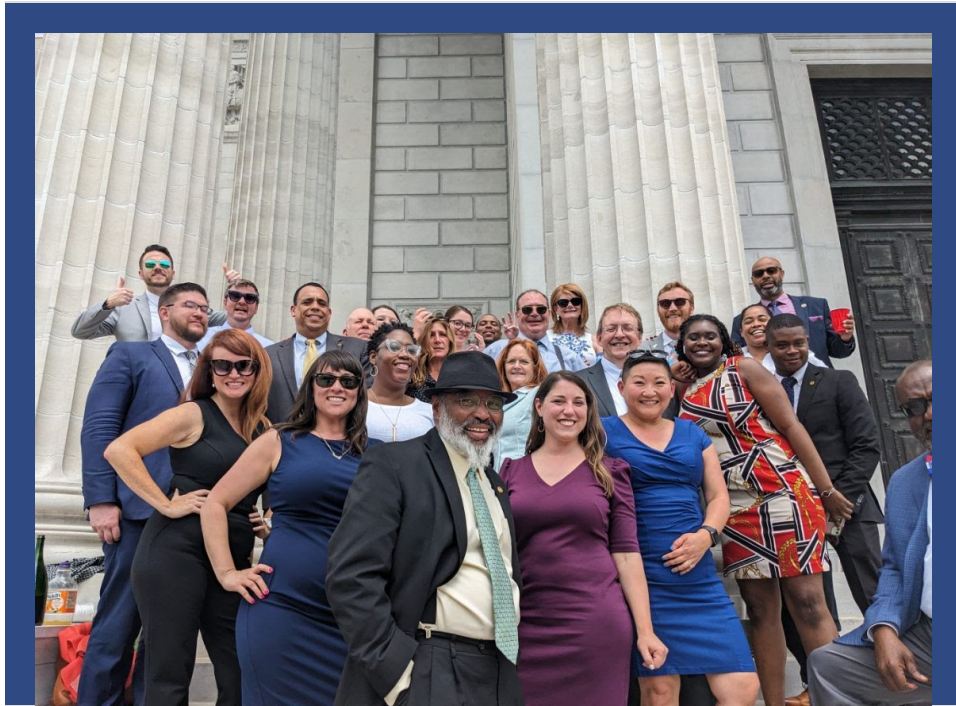
## Could you be the owner of unclaimed property?

The Treasurer's is currently holding **\$8,179,232.33** belonging to approximately 59,635 account owners in our district. Banks, businesses, and insurance companies turn over Unclaimed Property to the Treasurer's office after accounts have been inactive and owners cannot be successfully contacted for a statutorily defined period of time, generally five years.

1 in 10 Missourians has Unclaimed Property and the average return is \$300. The Treasurer's Office never charges to return Unclaimed Property.

To file a claim or check to see if you have unclaimed property,

you can visit [www.showmemoney.com](http://www.showmemoney.com)



House Democrats gather on the Capitol steps on the last day of session. I am blessed to be able to come to work each day with this amazing group of people.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS**





## Obtaining the status of your tax return

The Missouri Return Inquiry System provides information regarding the status of your Missouri tax return. After entering your information, you will also have the option of being notified by text or email when the status of your tax return changes. You may only view the status of 2018 or later year returns.

**Formula Distribution!!**

CHC and Cradle KC are a formula distribution site! We have a variety of infant formula available. If we do not have the type of formula you need, we can request it.

Scan the QR code to submit your request

contact us at 913-371-9298 if you have questions

Cradle **kc** CHC Community Health Council of Wyandotte County

The reward has been raised to  
**\$30,000** for Dominic





**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS  
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator**

**SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide**

**KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.**

**Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.**

**KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.**

**A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.**

**Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City**

TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at [www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com), or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



**Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards**

**Tips Hotline**

**816-474-8477**

**Web Tips**

**[www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**

\* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

[Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.](#)



## **Rep. Richard Brown**

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