



Legislative Update

January 23, 2026

Between large-scale protests and ongoing partisan friction, this week in the Senate was "business as usual," though far from ideal. Senate Democrats continued to block gubernatorial appointments for the second week in a row. This move signals retribution for the forced end of debate in 2025. While committee work continues, the timeline for a return to regular floor activity remains uncertain.

In Brief...

- During budget hearings this week, the Executive Director of Missouri Consolidated Healthcare Plan which provides healthcare coverage for employees and retirees of most state agencies, stated that prescription drug costs have increased from \$153 million on 2023 to \$218 million in 2025. It was noted that a large portion of this increase is accounted for in the increase of GLP-1 drugs which went from \$26 million in 2023 to a projected \$96 million for 2025.
- A Cole County Judge dismissed a lawsuit by two state legislators over the taxpayer-funded subsidies for professional sports teams stating they didn't have legal standing to move the case forward.

State Budget Update

During one of the House Budget Committee hearing this week, State Budget Director Dan Haug disclosed a \$261 million calculation error in the initially proposed budget. This correction occurred because spending for disaster relief and funding projects from the extra session this summer was double-counted on the General Revenue balance sheet.

While the discovery of this error increased the projected ending balance for the upcoming fiscal year from a precarious \$4.7 million to a more stable \$265.7 million, officials warned that it does not fundamentally change the state's tight fiscal outlook.

Director Haug emphasized that ongoing expenditures still exceed ongoing revenues, and the Governor maintains that this additional cushion should remain on the bottom line rather than being used for new ongoing spending.

Hearings of Interest

Missouri Lyme Disease Eradication Act

[Senate Bill 887](#) seeks to improve the reporting, education, and eradication of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses in Missouri. The bills aim is to empower the Department of Health and Senior Services with better data, establish a research fund, and protect physicians who use nontraditional treatments.

Proponents shared personal stories of grueling and expensive journeys to diagnosis due to faulty or outdated testing and pointed to the fact that Lyme disease is a growing public health crisis in the Midwest, not just the Northeast. Opposition was voiced by the insurance industry regarding mandates for coverage of holistic supplements and experimental treatments.



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Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Reform

[Senate Bill 968](#) aims to address anti-competitive practices by PBMs, specifically focusing on protecting independent pharmacies. Key provisions include ensuring pharmacies are not reimbursed below their acquisition cost and preventing PBMs from steering patients to PBM-owned mail-order pharmacies.

PBM Transparency and Fiduciary Duty

[Senate Bill 984](#) focuses on transparency in PBM pricing and establishes a fiduciary duty, requiring PBMs to act in the best interest of their clients. It also sets reasonable parameters for pharmacy audits, such as requiring 14 days' notice and limiting reviews to 25 prescriptions.

Proponents argued that PBMs raise the price of drugs through opaque nature and that a fiduciary standard is a necessary self-correcting measure to protect buyers.

Opposition from PBM trade groups was open to transparency and audit reform but vigorously opposed the fiduciary duty mandate, claiming it would lead to extreme liability costs and increased litigation.

Hearings Next Week

At this time, there are no hearings of interest currently scheduled for next week.

Family Physician Advocacy Day

Registrations are outpacing our record-setting attendance last year and we still have room for more!

We look forward to a great group that includes you for Family Physician Advocacy Day February 23 & 24. This two-day event is a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the state, share your story with lawmakers, and collectively advocate for policies that support patients and the practice of family medicine. Monday is dedicated to learning how to advocate, and we will go visit with legislators on Tuesday. The MAFP Team will work to schedule your legislative appointments. Early registration is appreciated to give your MAFP Team time to coordinate appointments. Details including schedule and registration can be found at <https://www.mo-afp.org/advocacy/advocacy-day/>. A full schedule is also included at the end of this report.

The host hotel is Courtyard by Marriott in Jefferson City. We have secured a limited number of rooms for \$154.00 + taxes and fees per night. The last day to book is January 24, 2026, at 12 midnight. MAFP has already expanded our room block, and we expect the hotel to completely sell out. As of yesterday, we have 10 rooms on Monday night left. After January 24 or those 10 rooms are reserved, we cannot guarantee any rooms for our attendees. ***If you plan on staying in the host hotel, register and reserve today!*** [Missouri Academy of Family Physicians Lodging Link](#)



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Thank you for your continued membership and for the work you do every day for your patients and communities. Your engagement through comments, advocacy, and simply staying informed strengthens our shared voice.

MAFP Bill Report

MAFP is currently tracking 142 bills on behalf of our members, which are included in the priority legislation report.

2026 Dates of Interest

- ~~January 19 — Martin Luther King Holiday — No Session~~
- February 27 - Last Day to file Senate Bills
- March 13 - Last Day to Place Senate Consent Bills on the Senate Calendar
- March 13 - Spring Break Begins
- March 23 - Return from Spring Break: Session Reconvenes
- April 6 - Easter Holiday
- April 15 - Last Day to Place House Consent Bills on the Senate Calendar
- May 8 - Last Day for Floor Action on Appropriation Bills
- May 15 - Last Day of Session
- September 16 – Veto Session

Questions/Feedback

Contact the MAFP office at (573) 635-0830, office@mo-afp.org, or our governmental consultants:

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FAMILY PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY DAY SCHEDULE

Monday, February 23

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Check-In & Buffet Breakfast
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome & Legislative Advocacy 101 <i>Sarah Cole, DO, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Commission Co-Chair</i> <i>Peter Koopman, MD, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Co-Chair</i>
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM	Advocacy Foundations: Understanding the Missouri Political Landscape <i>RJ Scherr Governmental Consultants</i>
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Patients and Constituents: Service in Action <i>Jon Patterson, MD, Missouri Speaker of the House</i>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Break - Sponsored by CoxHealth
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	In the Office: Issues Review and Meeting with Lawmakers <i>Sarah Cole, DO, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Commission Co-Chair</i>
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Advocacy Examples: The Legislative Meeting <i>Amanda Shipp, MD</i>
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch and Open Advocacy Forum
1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	Personal Advocacy: Advocating for Your Career, Family, and Community <i>Misty Todd, MD</i>
1:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Advocacy Examples: Everyday Advocacy <i>Amanda Shipp, MD</i>
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Break – Sponsored by CoxHealth
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	AAFP Advocacy Update: What's Happening and How to Get Involved <i>Julie Harrison, AAFP Senior Manager, State Affairs & Member Advocacy</i>
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Workshop: Craft Your Personal Advocacy Plan <i>Peter Koopman, MD, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Co-Chair</i>
4:00 PM	Deliver Issues Document to Capitol Dinner on Own in Jefferson City
6:30 PM	Virtual Legislative Briefing for All MAFP Members Live Audience at Courtyard by Marriott

Tuesday, February 24

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Check-In & Buffet Breakfast
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	MAFP Board Meeting
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Legislative Meetings in Missouri State Capitol <i>Trolley Supported by SSM Health</i>