



Legislative Update

January 30, 2026

In a week characterized by mounting tension between the legislative and judicial branches, the Missouri General Assembly saw routine proceedings give way to a significant standoff. Tensions peaked on Wednesday when a planned joint session for the annual State of the Judiciary address was abruptly canceled. Senate Republicans staged a filibuster and boycotted the event in protest of a recent unanimous Supreme Court ruling that struck down a GOP-backed law regarding ballot summaries.

While the House continued its work on tax reform and budget hearings, the Senate's internal friction has once again slowed the floor's momentum. Despite the procedural delays, committees in both chambers continue to vet a massive influx of legislation, with nearly 2,500 bills already filed for the 2026 session.

In Brief...

- The Missouri House Commerce Committee held its first hearing this week on a high-priority proposal from Governor Mike Kehoe and House leadership to replace the state's individual income tax with an expanded sales tax. While supporters argue the move will make Missouri more competitive, critics and lobbyists warned during Wednesday's testimony that the shift could disproportionately increase the tax burden on low-income and fixed-income residents.
- The House Government Efficiency Committee passed legislation this week that would eliminate mandatory safety inspections for most noncommercial vehicles in Missouri. Proponents of the bill argue the current \$12 inspection fee is a financial drain on automotive garages and that the requirement causes significant delays for rural residents, though opponents cite a state study suggesting these inspections reduce traffic fatalities.

State Budget Update

This week, the House Budget Committee heard from the Department of Social Services (DSS) regarding their proposed FY 27 budget. During the presentation, DSS Director Jess Bax detailed the administrative and budgetary challenges facing her department. Key among the concerns raised during the hearing include:

- **Medicaid Expansion and Redeterminations:** The implementation of the Big Beautiful Bill requires Medicaid eligibility redeterminations for the adult expansion group to occur every six months instead of annually. This change effectively doubles the processing workload for the Family Support Division. Furthermore, new Medicaid work requirements were scheduled to begin on December 31, 2025, necessitating substantial technology and process updates by June 2026.
- **Fiscal Claw Back Risks and Error Rates:** Missouri faces a massive potential federal claw back of approximately \$1.2 billion in 2029 if Medicaid and SNAP error rates are not brought



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below a 3% threshold. The state's 2019 Medicaid error rate was significantly higher at 35%. Starting in 2029, the federal government will no longer have the authority to waive these penalties based on a state's "good faith effort," making performance benchmarks critical to avoiding severe state-share increases.

- **Provider Tax Implications:** Federal changes to provider taxes will trigger a permanent state share increase starting in 2029. This is projected to create an annual fiscal burden of \$416 million for Missouri by 2032

Hearings of Interest Update

Telehealth

[House Bill 2974](#), sponsored by [Representative Melanie Stinnett](#), aims to modify Missouri's existing universal license reciprocity statutes to explicitly include the right to practice telehealth. While proponents argue that current law already implies this authority, the bill serves as a "belt and suspenders" measure to eliminate any legal ambiguity because access to telehealth is one of the criteria used in the scoring rubric for future allocations of funds from the Rural Healthcare Transformation Funding.

MAFP is working with the Department of Professional Registration to add clarifying language that ensures providers using telehealth in Missouri stay within the scope of practice laws applicable to a given healthcare provider.

Healthcare Omnibus

[Representative Tara Peters](#) presented [HB 2372](#) to the House Health and Mental Health Committee on Thursday. This is an omnibus healthcare bill that is already 51 pages long and contains numerous provisions relating to healthcare broadly.

Some of the provisions include:

- **Awareness Designations:** Brain Aneurysm Month and Infertility Awareness Week.
- **Medication Access:** Expansion of pseudoephedrine purchase limits and updating EpiPen language to "epinephrine delivery systems" to include nasal sprays and films.
- **Workplace Safety:** Requiring signage in hospital emergency rooms regarding workplace violence against healthcare workers.
- **Specialty Services:** Doula eligibility for MO HealthNet reimbursement and dental services for correctional centers.
- **Regulatory Updates:** Modifying long-term care facility inspections for those with high star ratings and reducing the sunset on the Rx Cares for Missouri program.



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- **340B Drug Pricing Protections:** Prohibits health carriers and PBMs from discriminating against covered entities (like community health centers) regarding reimbursement rates or network participation.
- **Non-Opioid Alternatives:** Requires certain coverage protections and disclosures for non-opioid treatments to address the opioid crisis.
- **Telehealth Services:** Updates the definition of medical evaluations to ensure physicians are licensed in Missouri.
- **Vaccine Administration:** Allows pharmacies to administer the RSV vaccine to seniors, potentially changing the flow of immunizations in primary care.
- **Anesthesia Time Units:** Prevents insurance companies from arbitrarily limiting "time units" for anesthesia during procedures.

The insurance lobby objected to several provisions in the bill and pointed out that recent court rulings have frowned upon omnibus bills like this by finding them unconstitutional because they violate the single subject provision.

OT Handicap Certification

[Representative Terri Violet](#) presented [House Bill 1827](#) to the House Health and Mental Health Committee this week. This bill would add Occupational Therapists to the list of healthcare professionals that can approve handicap plates or placards.

Supporters highlighted that OTs are experts in functional assessments and are often the ones providing the data that physicians currently use to sign these forms.

Hearings Next Week

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

After copying and pasting that same sentence for a few weeks, we want to provide some context. Hearings are occurring but the trend in the Capitol this legislative session is to post hearings much closer to their scheduled date. Previously, hearings for the next week were often posted by Thursday. However, they are now being posted just a few days prior - often on Mondays.

If a hearing of interest is posted and we need testimony, we will let you know through this e-mail channel as soon as we can.



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Family Physician Advocacy Day

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. The last day to book in our group was January 24, 2026. MAFP has already expanded our room block, and we expect the hotel to completely sell out. You can try to book at this link [Missouri Academy of Family Physicians Lodging Link](#) or call (573) 761-1400 and tell them you are with MAFP.

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 staying informed strengthens our shared voice.

MAFP Bill Report

MAFP is currently tracking 147 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

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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>