



Legislative Update

January 9, 2026

The Missouri General Assembly convened on Wednesday, January 7th for the Second Regular session of the 103rd General Assembly. Unlike past years, there were no formal opening speeches given by leadership in either the House or Senate. Despite the lingering tension from previous sessions, the first week of legislative business proceeded smoothly and without incident.

Most observers are now focused on Governor Mike Kehoe's State of the State address, which is scheduled for next Tuesday the 13th. We expect the Governor to outline his agenda for the session, with a specific focus on his plans for income tax cuts. He will also present his formal budget proposal which many anticipate will be significantly trimmed down, as years of substantial federal funding infusions are no longer available.

In Brief...

- The new congressional maps passed during the last extra session of the General Assembly continue to be the subject of litigation and intrigue in Jefferson City. This week, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins informed local election authorities that nearly one-third of the signatures gathered by opponents of those maps who are seeking a referendum to block the changes will not be counted toward the petition.
- The State of Missouri has posted a job opening for the Director of the Rural Health Transformation program. This individual will be responsible for providing executive leadership and oversight for the implementation of the state's federally funded health modernization initiative and the allocation of federal moneys sent to the states through the passage of the One Big Beautiful bill. This development follows Missouri's recent announcement that the state was awarded \$216 million in federal funding dedicated to transforming rural healthcare.

While the primary legislative concerns for the Academy remain consistent with previous sessions, a new federal dynamic has shifted the landscape. This session, the push for expanded scope of practice and modified collaborative practice arrangements is bolstered by a federal scoring rubric.

Under the Rural Healthcare Transformation program, the federal government is incentivizing states with increased future funding allocations for implementing specific measures designed to improve healthcare access, including the expansion of practice authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

Multiple bills propose eliminating geographic proximity requirements and allowing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) with 2,000 hours of documented experience to practice independently of a formal collaborative arrangement.

Consistent with previous legislative sessions, MAFP will oppose expansion of practice authority for physician extenders. While our lobbyists will work hard to oppose this legislation, the voice of Missouri's family physicians needs to be heard by legislators now more than ever.

MAFP LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Legislative Update

MAFP Lobby Team

Speaking of MAFP lobbyists, our members should be aware of who is working for them every day in the Capitol. They spend long days and have consequential discussions with lawmakers from both sides in both the House and the Senate.

During this portion of the legislative session, our lobbyists get to introduce themselves to lots of new legislators, and it feels warranted to offer the same introduction to our members that they haven't had the chance to meet personally - yet. So, a word from our lobbyists:

We want to say what an honor it is to work for the family doctors of our state. You have a great story to tell, and it's been our honor to carry that message in the Capitol for the last 8 years. We have both been amazed and inspired by the personal testimony you've provided on countless occasions to impact legislation that has a real impact on you and your colleagues. Your professionalism, expertise, and dedication to providing the best care for your patients and local communities is apparent in all you do. We enjoy spending time with you at Advocacy Day and any other time you make your way to Jefferson City so don't be strangers!



Randy Scherr brings more than 50 years of experience in politics and government to clients. Scherr began his career in 1977 working for Mid-Continent Farmers Association. In 1981, Scherr founded R.J. Scherr & Associates, a full-service lobbying and association management firm. Scherr is a graduate of the University of Missouri and Lincoln University with both a Bachelor and Master of Arts Degrees in Political Science.



Brian Bernskoetter began his career in politics in 2000 working on Missouri House of Representative election campaigns followed by a brief tenure in the Missouri House as a Communications Specialist. Bernskoetter joined R.J. Scherr & Associates in 2007. Bernskoetter is a native of Jefferson City and a graduate of Rockhurst University with a degree in Marketing.

Hearings for Next Week

There are no hearings of interest currently scheduled for next week.

Family Physician Advocacy Day

We hope you'll join us for Family Physician Advocacy Day at the Capitol 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



Legislative Update

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/>.

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 Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 12 midnight. MAFP has already expanded our room block, and we expect the hotel to completely sell out. If you plan on staying in the host hotel, do not delay reserving your room!

[Missouri Academy of Family Physicians Lodging Link](#) - MAFP has already added rooms to our room block, and we expect the hotel to completely sell out. If you plan on staying in the host hotel, do not delay reserving your room!

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 tracking 126 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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