



Legislative Update

December 26, 2025

The 2026 Regular Session of the 103rd General Assembly is poised to be defined by ambitious tax reform proposals, intense debates over land use for energy, a significantly challenging budget environment, and fierce scope of practice battles. Prefiling began December 1 and the Missouri House saw a record-setting first day with more than 500 bills filed. In addition to the major issues already mentioned, several unresolved matters from previous sessions such as tort reform, public school funding allocation challenges, and property tax reform are expected to return when the General Assembly gavel in on January 7.

Governor Kehoe's Income Tax Elimination Proposal

Governor Mike Kehoe has identified the gradual elimination of the state's personal income tax as his top legislative priority for the 2026 session. He intends to work closely with House and Senate leadership on a plan to phase out the individual income tax over several years.

Currently, the individual income tax generates more than 60% of Missouri's general revenue. Eliminating this source would require replacing approximately \$10 billion in funding. Governor Kehoe suggests that as the economy grows, alternative revenue sources and fees may help offset the loss. Opponents, including the Missouri Budget Project, warn that eliminating the income tax would eliminate "more than 60%" of state revenues, necessitating "massive" cuts to public services.

Budget Outlook for Fiscal Year 2027

The session will unfold against the backdrop of a significantly tightened state budget. Governor Kehoe has announced that Missouri expects nearly a \$1 billion shortfall in general revenue beginning in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY 2027). This shortfall is driven largely by the continued implementation of previously passed tax cuts that are still phasing in and are anticipated to reduce state general revenue by more than \$3.6 billion per year once fully implemented.

The deficit is further magnified by the depletion of extraordinary federal COVID-era funds that temporarily bolstered the state budget in recent years, creating a structural "budget cliff." Given this tight fiscal environment, legislators will face pressure to enact deep cuts to existing services to maintain a balanced budget. These efforts will be complicated by the fact that Medicaid benefits are protected in the Missouri Constitution, making reductions difficult.

MAFP has had recent success in securing funds for GME expansion from general revenue. We anticipate every expense to be questioned and require justification, including GME expansion. As you interact with your legislators, it would be wise to remind them of the importance of local Graduate Medical Education funding.

Solar Farm Moratoriums

Land use and renewable energy development are expected to be major points of contention. Several bills focused on solar projects have already been pre-filed. At least two Senate Bills (SB 849 and SB 933) would



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impose moratoriums on the construction of solar projects. SB 849, for example, would immediately halt construction, prevent new permitting, and suspend any ongoing but incomplete solar development projects.

Proposed Property Tax Reforms for the 2026 Session

The 2026 session is expected to bring several proposals aimed at property tax relief, primarily through constitutional amendments requiring voter approval in November 2026. These efforts are emerging in response to the constitutional lawsuit challenging Senate Bill 3 (2025), which enacted substantial but uneven changes to the property tax structure across counties. The lawsuit places renewed pressure on the General Assembly to craft broad-based, constitutionally sound reforms.

Lingering Tensions and 2026 Elections

The closing days of the 2025 regular session along with the subsequent extraordinary sessions focused on congressional redistricting and initiative petition reform were marked by tension, filibusters, and an unprecedented parliamentary maneuver in the Senate. Democratic lawmakers sharply criticized the actions of the Republican majority, signaling a challenging political environment heading into 2026.

Family Medicine Legislation

Regarding issues specific to family medicine, many of the familiar proposals are returning: independent practice for APRNs, scope-of-practice expansions for mid-level providers, and prior authorization reform, among others. However, this year carries a new and urgent wrinkle. Federal incentives included in the "One Big Beautiful Bill" (which every state, including Missouri, is actively pursuing) place direct pressure on legislatures to expand scope of practice. These external incentives will accelerate movement on scope expansion proposals in ways we have not seen in previous sessions. This makes engagement from every Missouri family physician absolutely critical.

Scope-of-practice decisions made this session could reshape the delivery of primary care for decades. We urge all MAFP members to stay informed, respond to action alerts, contact their legislators, and participate actively in the legislative process. Your voice is essential to protect the integrity of family medicine and ensure patients continue receiving safe, high-quality care.

The 2026 legislative session will have consequential legislation introduced, debated, and voted on that will directly impact how you practice medicine. Once the legislative session begins, MAFP will keep you informed and engaged by sharing legislative updates every Friday throughout the session, highlighting key bills, hearings, and opportunities to weigh in. Please watch for these messages and proactively engage in the legislative process. Your unique perspective and personal engagement with your legislators to explain how proposed legislation will impact you, your patients, and your communities will be more important than ever. Your representative and senator should know the good work you do for their constituents, right? If you have not interacted with them, we strongly encourage every member to get to know their elected officials and discuss issues that are important to you and your patients. It is easy to find your legislators' information at <https://www.senate.mo.gov/legislookup/default>



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Just a reminder... A regulatory item that deserves your urgent attention is a proposal from the Missouri Board of Healing Arts to mandate one hour of Nutrition CME for all physicians. The rule was published in the [December 15 version of the Missouri Register](#). Please see page 1851, or page 53 of the PDF. While nutrition education is important, MAFP has concerns about adding specific mandates that limit physician-directed CME and fail to recognize the broad nutrition training and counseling family physicians already provide. MAFP voiced opposition at the meeting where this rule was introduced and will send a letter opposing this mandate. We encourage members to submit comments to the Board before the public comment period closes. The address to send comments and a template message are below. Please personalize this message to reflect your perspective.

Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with the Missouri State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts, PO Box 4, 3605 Missouri Boulevard, Jefferson City, MO 65102, by facsimile at (573) 751-3166, or via email at healingarts@pr.mo.gov. To be considered, comments must be received by January 15, 2026.

Dear Members of the Missouri Board of Healing Arts,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed requirement for one hour of nutrition CME.

As a proud family physician in [insert practice location], diverse, self-directed CME is essential for me to stay informed of the best care standards for my patients. Nutrition is frequently incorporated in CME that I choose to best serve my patient population. An additional mandate of tracking this CME creates unnecessary administrative burden without clear benefit.

[Insert other reasons you oppose state mandated CME]

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to reconsider this requirement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name], MD/DO/Other Designations

Family Physician

[City, Missouri]

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 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 to



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coordinate appointments. Details (including schedule once finalized) and registration can be found at <https://www.mo-afp.org/advocacy/advocacy-day/>.

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 several bills on behalf of our members which are included in the attached priority legislation report.

2026 Dates of Interest:

- December 1, 2025 - Pre-filing of Bills
- January 7 - First Day of Session
- January 19 - Martin Luther King Holiday -- No Session
- February 27 - Last Day to file Senate Bills (Rule 48)
- March 13 - Last Day to Place Senate Consent Bills on the Senate Calendar (Rule 45)
- 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 (Rule 45)
- May 8 - Last Day for Floor Action on Appropriation Bills
- May 15 - Last Day of Session (Article III, Section 20(a), Const.)
- 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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