



# Legislative Update

**April 23, 2026**

This week, the Missouri House gave final approval to a landmark proposal that would abolish the state's personal income tax in favor of a broader, higher-rate sales tax. A cornerstone of Governor Kehoe's legislative agenda, the plan now heads to the ballot, where it is expected to be a fiercely contested issue. This tax overhaul joins a 2025 measure to revise the initiative petition process, ensuring Missourians will face at least two major constitutional questions this election season.

## **In Brief...**

- On Tuesday, Governor Kehoe signed four bills into law regarding specific protections against antisemitism, a bill dealing with financial regulations, a measure to outlaw intoxicating hemp products, and to modify the St. Louis Regional Convention and Visitors Commission governance.

## **State Budget**

The expectation at the start of this session was that the state would face major spending cuts, as revenues were projected to fall well below the costs of maintaining programs that expanded during the era of federal COVID-19 funding.

Throughout the budget process, however, attempts to implement large-scale cuts to ongoing expenses have been largely avoided by utilizing one-time funds or adopting optimistic revenue projections to bridge the gaps. This trend continued this week during the full Missouri Senate's debate on the nearly \$50 billion FY 2027 state operating budget.

During the floor debate, Appropriations Chairman Rusty Black acknowledged that the current Senate version relies on one-time funding originally earmarked for Capitol renovations, as well as revenue projections from sources such as the state lottery and online sports betting.

As the budget moves to a conference committee to reconcile spending differences between the two chambers, significant cuts remain unlikely. Consequently, the responsibility for maintaining the state's fiscal health will likely fall to Governor Kehoe, who will face the difficult task of managing the budget withhold process to keep operations sound.

## **Committee Update**

### **Prior Authorization Reform**

During the Senate Insurance and Banking Committee hearing on April 21, 2026, Representative Melanie Stinnett presented [House Bill 3010](#), a prior authorization reform bill designed to streamline medical approvals through a "gold carding" system. The legislation allows healthcare providers who maintain a 90% prior authorization approval rate to be exempt from the process for a set period. Supporters, including the Academy, argued that the current system causes dangerous delays in patient care and imposes a massive administrative burden.

Conversely, opponents from the insurance industry argued that the bill is too permissive. They expressed concern that the inclusion of pharmaceuticals could lead to significant cost spikes and noted that prior authorization serves as a critical safety check against improper prescriptions and billing errors.

A significant portion of the hearing focused on the ongoing negotiations and the "sticking points" preventing a total compromise. Representative Stinnett and several witnesses noted that while the bill has been debated for



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years, recent progress is being made. However, the primary conflict remains the exemption threshold: providers are advocating for 90% to protect smaller, rural practices, while insurance carriers have moved from an initial 95% down to 93%, and are trying to make that a sticking point in the negotiations. Additionally, the exclusion of pharmaceuticals remains a "nonstarter" for insurers, while proponents argue that their inclusion is necessary for meaningful reform.

## Pharmacist Scope of Practice

[Senate Bill 878](#) was heard on Thursday in the House Health and Mental Health Committee. This bill proposes changes to the scope of pharmacy practice, specifically expanding how patients can access medical devices and certain medications. Under the new medical device provisions, pharmacists are authorized to prescribe Class I and Class II medical devices as classified by the FDA. These devices must be primarily for medical purposes, appropriate for home use, and typically not useful in the absence of illness or injury. The specific list of authorized devices will be determined through joint rules established by the Board of Pharmacy and the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts.

Furthermore, the bill creates a new pathway for patients to obtain ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine without a traditional prescription from a healthcare practitioner. This was a provision added in the Senate by members that were upset how the drugs were regarded during the COVID pandemic.

Under the bill, pharmacists may dispense these medications directly to individuals provided they follow standardized procedures or protocols issued by the Board of Pharmacy. This process includes the approval of a warning label for the medication's use and indication, as well as providing the patient with instructions on proper usage if required.

Additionally, SB 878 updates the pharmacist's role in administering vaccines, allowing them to order and administer FDA-authorized vaccines to individuals aged seven and older, while also maintaining records in the ShowMeVax system.

## 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

- 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

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