



Legislative Update

May 1, 2026

In the third-to-last week of the legislative session, one would typically expect a frenzy of activity as lawmakers scramble to position bills for the final stretch; however, that was not the case this week. The Missouri House, which had maintained a consistent habit of holding both morning and afternoon floor sessions throughout most of the session, deviated from that pattern for the second consecutive week. By forgoing afternoon sessions and working through only a limited number of bills during their morning windows, the body maintained a notably measured pace.

The Senate followed a similarly stalled trajectory, bringing a high volume of legislation to the floor for debate but failing to move the needle on the vast majority of it. While many bills were discussed, very few actually received the votes necessary to progress through the procedural pipeline. With only two weeks remaining in the session, the legislative focus now shifts toward the looming constitutional deadline next Friday to pass the state operating budget. Expect a significant amount of time to be dedicated to this task next week as House and Senate Budget Conferees begin meeting to resolve the discrepancies between each chamber's legislative spending priorities.

With two weeks left and lots of proposals still trying to find a way across the finish line it promises to be exciting to the finish. Don't be surprised if this report is delayed or absent next week as the legislature may still be working late on Friday.

In Brief...

- Two Missouri cannabis companies have filed a class-action lawsuit against industry giant Good Day Farm, alleging the company operates an illegal cartel by controlling three times the number of dispensaries allowed under the state constitution. The suit claims Good Day Farm uses this excessive market power to suppress wholesale prices and unfairly shut out independent growers and manufacturers from the state's \$1.5 billion market.
- On Thursday the Missouri Court of Appeals ordered the revision of a ballot summary for a potential referendum on the state's new congressional map, ruling that the original language drafted by Secretary of State Denny Hoskins was biased and misleading. The court struck down phrases that characterized the map as "better reflecting statewide voting patterns," though it allowed descriptors regarding the map's compactness and preservation of city and county boundaries to remain.

State Budget Update

The House and Senate conferees have been named, and this week there was work behind the scenes to lay the ground for next week's conference committees. Governor Kehoe detailed some of his concerns with some ways in which the Senate spending plan takes from one-time funding sources. These concerns were echoed by the House Budget Chair, which sets up some difficult negotiations to iron out the differences next week.

Committee Activity

The House Health and Mental Health Committee voted out [Senate Bill 878](#) this week. This bill has a number of reforms relating to the duties of pharmacists including regarding vaccines administration and prescribing certain medical devices.



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There are also provisions in that bill that would allow for pharmacists to dispense ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine without a prescription. Rep. Hruza, a dermatologist, questioned the provisions during the hearing, citing risks associated with improper administration. The Senate Freedom Caucus introduced the language as a rebuttal to how these drugs were treated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Omnibus Healthcare Bill

The Senate Seniors and Families Committee advanced [House Bill 2372](#). This is an omnibus healthcare bill that is over 130 pages and contains a myriad of different health care topics that range from designating certain days for various awareness of medical conditions to doula services. Some highlights:

- Authorizes pupils to possess and self-administer medication for chronic conditions like asthma or anaphylaxis if specific medical and parental requirements are met.
- Requires school districts to keep duplicate prescription medication in a location with immediate access during emergencies.
- Authorizes school nurses to maintain a supply of epinephrine delivery systems and permits trained school employees to administer them during life-threatening allergic reactions.
- Defines community paramedic services and sets certification and practice standards for community paramedics.
- Enacts the "Hope for Missouri Patients Act," allowing eligible patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses to access individualized investigational treatments.
- Prohibits licensing boards from taking disciplinary action against healthcare providers solely for recommending individualized investigational treatments.
- Authorizes state medical officers to issue standing orders for doula services and prenatal vitamins.
- Updates telemedicine requirements, including the use of evaluation questionnaires and the necessity of providing reports to a patient's primary healthcare provider.
- Requires alpha-gal syndrome to be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services.
- Establishes a "dementia services coordinator" position within the Division of Senior and Disability Services.
- Increases the annual purchase limit for ephedrine or pseudoephedrine products from forty-three and two-tenths grams to sixty-one and two-tenths grams.
- Requires hospitals to display prominent signs warning that assaulting a healthcare professional is a serious crime.
- Enacts the "Food is Medicine Act," requiring the state to seek a federal waiver to provide medically tailored meals or groceries to certain MO HealthNet participants.
- Enacts the "Missouri Doula Reimbursement Act" to provide MO HealthNet coverage for doula services.
- Expands the definition of "other authorized health care practitioner" for the purpose of certifying disability for license plates or placards.
- Expands the practice of pharmacy to include ordering and administering a wider range of FDA-approved vaccines.



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- Prohibits entities from representing that artificial intelligence is capable of acting as a mental health professional or providing therapy.

MAFP Bill Report

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

2026 Dates of Interest

- 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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