



# Legislative Update

**May 8, 2026**

The penultimate week of the Missouri legislative session is traditionally defined by the constitutional mandate to finalize the state's operating budget. To meet this requirement, the General Assembly typically maintains a rigorous schedule to advance as many bills as possible before the deadline.

While the FY 2027 budget was successfully completed on time, the overall pace of the week was uncharacteristically measured. Both chambers concluded their work early, adjourning for the week on Thursday. The Missouri House alternated between passing narrow, non-controversial bills and loading up others with numerous amendments in a final push to move priority legislation. For the Senate's part, they spent the week navigating floor debates and focusing on issues that avoided lengthy or stalled deliberations on high-conflict topics.

As we enter the final week of the legislative session, it's anybody's guess how hard our legislators will be working to pass legislation before the constitutionally mandated 6:00PM deadline Friday, May 15th.

## **In Brief...**

- On Thursday, Governor Kehoe signed eight bills into law. Notable entries include [SB 907](#), which creates the Act Against Abusive Website Access Litigation, and [SB 914](#), modifying sewage regulations. Other signed legislation includes [SB 982](#) (sex offender registry updates) and [HB 1866](#) (peace officer training and licensure).

## **State Budget Update**

Heading into the session, there was a general expectation that significant spending cuts would be necessary to balance a state budget that had grown disproportionately. This growth was largely due to increased federal funding during the COVID-19 pandemic without state revenues to replace it once expired. Ultimately, the 16 spending bills sent to Governor Kehoe's desk appropriate \$50.7 billion for FY 2027, which begins July 1, 2026. This plan addresses a \$2.3 billion deficit in the \$15.9 billion general revenue budget by drawing on surpluses accumulated between 2021 and 2023.

Allegations of bad faith communication regarding education funding sources have sparked significant controversy this week. While some attribute the friction to legislative shenanigans, the underlying issue is structural: the Kehoe administration's budget relies on revenue estimates that critics view as more aspirational than grounded. This gap between projection and reality ensures that funding priorities will remain a point of contention as the fiscal year unfolds.

The Governor has until June 30<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto the various operating budgets.

## **Floor Action**

The General Assembly put a 133-page bill with the amorphous title of *Activities Requiring Licensure* on Governor Kehoe's desk this week. [Senate Bill 1233](#) started out as a bill relating to the Licensing of Accountants. Along the path to the Governor's desk the bill picked up the following provisions:

- Creates licensed interior designers
- Enjoins Missouri to the Dietician Licensure compact
- Social worker supervision requirements



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- Creates emergency suspensions for massage therapy and chiropractors
- Clarifies telehealth laws
- Expands pharmacists' ability to administer certain vaccines

## 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 15 - Last Day of Session
- September 16 – Veto Session

## Questions/Feedback

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