



May 19, 2010

LACK OF CONSENSUS DEFINED 2010 SESSION

The Second Regular Session of the 95th General Assembly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 14 amidst one of the worst fiscal years for Missouri in recent memory. Legislators scrambled to pass a balanced budget more than a week ahead of the deadline, making cuts to virtually every area of the state budget, from economic development to education. The cuts total an additional \$484 million from the governor's proposed FY 2011 budget. As a result of the failure of the major bills aimed at re-inventing state government that were being counted on to balance the budget, the governor will most likely have to make additional withholds in the coming fiscal year.

The tough economic situation soured sentiments among many legislators and added to a contentious climate. In the final weeks of session, action amongst both the House and Senate slowed to a crawl. Most bills remained held up in committee or were not taken up on the floor, and many died under the extra weight of extraneous amendments and pages of additional last-minute provisions. Lawmakers proposed 1,784 bills and another 81 joint resolutions (proposed constitutional amendments) this year.

Ultimately, only 105 bills became law and no proposed constitutional changes survived. This represents the lowest number of bills passed since 2000 and underscores the tough sledding that anything that was the least bit controversial faced. Fortunately, many proposals that would have mandated additional duties and costs on counties, or reduced county revenues, were among the casualties. The most prominent of those are highlighted in this bulletin, but there were scores of others that are not included.

Appropriations

Funding for many state programs was slashed under the adopted FY 2011 state budget, and county appropriations were no exception. The House Budget Committee originally kept the current prisoner per diem level at \$22. However, the Senate Appropriations Committee reduced the amount by 10 percent to \$19.58, which unfortunately remained the agreed-upon number by the conference committee. Assessment maintenance funding remained at \$4 per parcel, the same level as the governor withheld at the end of last year, but down from \$6 as passed by the Legislature in the 2010 budget. Appropriations for single county circuit juvenile employees salaries and juvenile per diem remain at current levels.

Local Government Omnibus Bill -- FAILED

SB 580 (Griesheimer) passed the Senate; however, it languished in the House where it was loaded up with amendments and, at 192 pages, died under its own weight. After the "village law" debacle of several years ago, legislators were leery of taking up any bill which contained lengthy language due to various last-minute amendments.

In the closing days of session, both SB 605 (Mayer) and SB 808 (Callahan) ended up as vehicles for local government provisions. SB 605 passed the Senate and the House, but ultimately died on the final day. A stripped-down version of SB 808 did pass and is included below.

County Budget Law -- FAILED

A key issue for counties this session has been county budget reform. Currently, counties are the only political subdivision that can increase their budgets when revenues increase, but cannot amend their budgets due to a revenue shortfall. HB 1793 (Molendorp) would have allowed the county commission to also decrease the budget as needed during the fiscal year. Language, in one form or another, that would have empowered counties to amend their budgets downward survived most of the session and ultimately resided in SB 808. However, in the closing hours on the last day the language was stripped from the bill before passage. The inability of county commissions to decrease the budgets during times of unanticipated revenue shortfalls poses a significant problem for county operations. The Missouri Sheriffs' Association worked strongly against any proposed change to the current law.

County Incarceration of State Inmates -- FAILED

SB 1014 (Bartle) would have modified various provisions related to crime and had the potential to divert many additional state inmates to county jails. One of the re-inventing government proposals adopted by the Senate, SB 1014 ran into fierce opposition in the House as a result of the outcry from county officials to a huge unfunded mandate.

Public Administrators' Training -- PASSED

SB 808 includes provisions stating that public administrators from a second, third, or fourth class county or St. Louis City, who choose to receive an annual salary shall receive \$2,000 of such salary only if he or she has completed at least 20 hours of instruction each year approved by a professional association of the county public administrators of Missouri. The professional association approving the

program shall provide a certificate of completion for the training and send a list of certified public administrators to the treasurer of each county. Expenses incurred for attending the training session shall be reimbursed to the public administrator in the same manner as other expenses.

County Classification Changes -- PASSED

HB 1806 (Franz) passed regarding county classification changes. The assessed valuation for counties of the first classification is increased from \$600 million to \$900 million. The assessed valuation for counties of the second classification is increased from \$450 million to \$600 million. All counties with an assessed valuation of less than \$600 million will be counties of the third classification. However, counties of the second classification, which on Aug. 28, 2010, have had an assessed valuation of at least \$600 million for at least one year may, by resolution, instead choose to be a county of the first classification. Also, any county of the second classification which, on Aug. 28, 2010, has had an assessed valuation of at least \$600 million for at least five years may, by resolution of the governing body of the county adopted prior to Dec. 31, 2010, elect to remain a county of the second classification until the assessed valuation of the county after 2009 is such as to place it in another classification and it has maintained at the necessary valuation for the required period of time. The required assessed valuation for each classification shall be increased annually by an amount equal to any percentage change in the annual average of the consumer price index for all urban consumers or zero, whichever is greater. The State Tax Commission shall calculate and publish this amount so that it is available to all counties. Please note: Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties are not impacted by HB 1806.

SB 711 "Fix" -- PASSED

Under current law, enacted under 2008's SB 711, assessors in charter counties and the City of St. Louis are required to provide taxpayers with a projected tax liability notice which must accompany a notice of increased assessed value. Assessors in all other counties will be subject to the same projected tax liability notice requirements effective Jan. 1, 2011. SB 588 (Nodler) extends the effective date for the projected tax liability notice requirements for assessors in counties without a charter form of government and Jefferson County to Jan. 1 following the year in which such assessors receive software from the State Tax Commission which is necessary to provide such notices. For all calendar years prior to Jan. 1 following receipt of such software, all assessors in counties without a charter form of government and Jefferson County will be required to provide property owners with additional information accompanying the notice of increased assessed value. The notice shall include the previous assessed value and any increase, provide a statement indicating that the change in assessed value may impact the record owner's tax liability, and provide processes and deadlines for appealing determinations of the assessed value. Such notice shall be provided in a way that alerts the record owner of the potential impact on tax liability and the available appellate processes. The bills also state that effective Jan. 1, 2011, the St. Louis County Assessor must provide taxpayers with a notice that information regarding the assessment method and computation of value for such real property is available on the assessor's website and provide the website address whenever the assessor notifies such taxpayers of changes in assessed value. Such notification shall provide the assessor's contact information so taxpayers without Internet access can request and receive such information.

Property Tax Collection -- PASSED

HB 1316 (Deeken) changes several provisions regarding property tax collection. It includes the relief provided in SB 588 regarding projected tax liability notices, and also does the following: (1) changes the laws (most notably the notification requirements) regarding the sale of real property for the collection of delinquent taxes; (2) specifies that in counties adopting a charter form of government after Jan. 1, 2008, the county collector will receive a 7 percent fee for the collection of delinquent and back taxes, rather than the 2 percent or 3 percent fee that all other charter county collectors receive (currently, this only applies to Jefferson County); (3) allows certain first and second classification counties to collect property taxes using electronic records and disbursements; (4) specifies that a county adopting a charter form of government after Jan. 1, 2008, is required to have a tax maintenance fund (currently, this only applies to Jefferson County); (5) specifies that the county collector-treasurer will assume all duties, compensation, fee schedules, and requirements of the collector-treasurer if a third or fourth class county abolishes its township form of government or a county collector becomes a collector-treasurer; (6) requires county auditors in first and second class counties to have access to all records for county-issued licenses and to receive a monthly listing of the licenses issued with the specified related information from each county office issuing the licenses (currently, these county auditors are required to countersign all county-issued licenses and keep a record of them); (7) and requires county collectors in first and second class counties to file with the county clerk and auditor by the fifteenth day of each month a detailed statement of all taxes and license fees collected during the preceding month and to disburse those funds, less commissions, to the appropriate taxing entities and the Dept. of Revenue. Taxing authorities are required to request notification of current taxes paid under protest by Feb. 1, and county collectors must provide the information by March 1.

Property Tax Rates -- PASSED

HB 1392 (Kirkton) changes the laws regarding property tax rates. Among its provisions, the bill does the following: (1) changes the deadline from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1 for charter counties to set ad valorem property tax rates, (2) requires fire protection districts in charter counties to certify their property tax rates by Oct. 1 (all other fire districts must certify their rates by Sept. 1), and (3) authorizes each party to an appeal that is scheduled to be heard before the State Tax Commission to request one change of the assigned hearing officer by filing a written application to disqualify the officer within 30 days of the assignment (this language is also present in HB 1442 (Jones, T.)).

Douglas County Fire Protection Districts -- PASSED

HB 1340 (Dugger) repeals the authorization for the governing body of any fire protection district in Douglas County to impose a sales tax of up to 1 percent for operational costs if the district reduces its property tax levy annually by 50 percent of the previous year's sales tax revenue.

Fire and Emergency Dispatching -- PASSED

Currently, funds collected from a central fire and emergency dispatching services tax must be used solely for the purpose of establishing and providing the joint services except in St. Louis County where the funds are used for equipment and services by cities, towns, villages, counties, or fire protection districts which contract with the joint central fire and emergency dispatching service except for salaries, wages, and benefits. HB 2070 (Kelly) specifies that all funds derived from the tax, including any existing surplus funds, may be used by any city, town, village, county, or fire protection district or a central fire and emergency service board for these purposes. Fire protection districts in Jefferson County that have levied property taxes under Sec. 321.243, *RSMo*, and imposed any communications tax for central fire and emergency dispatching 53 services are authorized to use, upon voter approval, the property tax revenue for general revenue purposes. The bill authorizes St. Louis County to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax on all retail sales, except sales of food, to establish, operate, and maintain an emergency communications system. The director of the Department of Revenue will collect and deposit the sales tax revenue, less a 1 percent collection fee, into the newly created County Emergency Communications Sales Tax Fund. The department director will disburse the funds monthly to the appropriate county.

Emergency Service Boards -- PASSED

Currently, county emergency telephone service 911 boards must consist of 11 members appointed by the county governing body, with at least six members representing public safety agencies. HB 1942 (Parson) specifies that at least seven members of the Polk County board must represent specified public safety agencies including the county sheriff, county presiding commissioner, chief of police of the county seat, mayor of the county seat, president of the county fire association, and the chief executive officer and the director of emergency services of the memorial hospital located in the county seat. An emergency services board must annually establish a tax rate sufficient to fund emergency services expenditures by Sept. 1, publish the rate in its minutes, and notify every retailer by mail of the new rate. The bill specifies that an emergency service board will be a body corporate and a political subdivision of the state.

Assessment Funding -- FAILED

HB 1507 (Sutherland) would have required the total sum of state reimbursements and collections deposited into a county assessment fund to equal \$7 per parcel or an additional percentage of all property tax collections will be deducted to ensure that the \$7 per parcel is achieved.

Fair Tax Amendment -- FAILED

SJR 29 (Purgason) and HJR 56 (Emery) were this session's "Fair Tax" measures that aimed to replace the state individual and corporate income tax and state sales and use tax with a sales tax of 5.11 percent on retail sales of new tangible personal property and taxable services beginning Jan. 1, 2012. Supporters have vowed to come back next year and, if necessary, submit this question to voters through the initiative petition process.

Sunshine Law -- PASSED

SB 851 (Schmitt) and HB 1444 (Jones, T.) require counties and other political subdivisions to give four days notice prior to voting or holding a public meeting to allow public comment on issues regarding a tax increase, retail development project utilizing the power of eminent domain, creation of a transportation development or community improvement district, or the approval of a redevelopment plan that pledges public funds as financing for the project or plan. Any legal action challenging the notice requirements must be filed within 30 days or the meeting will be deemed to have been properly noticed and held.

Elections -- FAILED

Several bills this session dealt with modifying Missouri's elections laws, including photo ID and advance voting provisions: (1) HB 1966 (Diehl) contained several provisions. Most notably, it would have established advance voting requirements and allowed citizens to vote absentee for any or no reason. It also included a photo identification requirement. (2) HJR 64 (Cox) proposed a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to require a person to provide a photo identification in order to vote in elections.

A number of bills also dealt with modifying laws regarding initiative petitions: (1) SB 818 (Lembke) would have created a 30-day window to validate signatures collected after the final day for filing, would have changed procedures for modifying ballot title language, would have reduced the timeline for approval or rejection notifications of petitions submitted to the Secretary of State from 30 days to 15 days, and would have made it a misdemeanor to knowingly and fraudulently gather signatures. (2) HB 1788 (Parson) would have prohibited anyone that has been convicted of forgery to be a petition circulator, would have prohibited compensation of petition circulators on a per-signature basis, and would have specified that anyone knowingly signing any name other than his/her own is guilty of a class one election offense. (3) HJR 63 (Parson) proposed a constitutional amendment which, upon voter approval, would have changed the requirements for submitting an initiative petition by increasing the number of signatures required. Currently, a petition must be signed by 8 percent of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of the state's Congressional districts before it can be placed on the ballot. The resolution would have required 15 percent of the legal voters in each of the Congressional districts to sign the petition. The number of signatures required for a petition proposing a law would also have been increased from 5 percent to 10 percent of those voters. (4) HJR 94 (Dethrow) proposed a constitutional amendment that, upon voter approval, would have changed the minimum legal voter signature requirement for placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot through the initiative petition process from 8 percent of the legal voters in two-thirds of the Congressional districts in Missouri to 8 percent of the legal voters in each of the Congressional districts.

Enhanced 9-1-1 -- FAILED

SB 966 (Barnitz) would have established the Wireless Service Provider Enhanced 9-1-1 Advisory Board and would have created a funding mechanism for Enhanced 9-1-1 across the state.

Cadastral Mapping -- PASSED

HB 1692 (Smith) contains provisions authorizing the Office of the State Land Surveyor within the Department of Natural Resources to establish rules setting minimum standards for digital cadastral parcel mapping. Any map designed and used to reflect legal property descriptions or boundaries for use in a digital cadastral mapping system must comply with the rules established by the office with certain exceptions. The bill also adds the determination of land boundaries and positions of the United States Public Land Survey System and the creation, preparation, and modification of electronic or computerized data to the list of work or services that a professional land surveyor can perform.

Plumbing Codes -- FAILED

SB 1006 (Schaefer) and HB 1871 (Schoeller) would have changed several provisions regarding environmental protection and water quality. Most notably for counties, both bills would have required counties that contain any portion of a water body that runs through or borders a state park or national park to adopt a plumbing code. The code would have been required to be at least as stringent as a nationally recognized plumbing code. Agricultural buildings would have been exempt from having to comply with the plumbing code. SB 886 (Schaefer) would have also required the governing body of each county to adopt, by ordinance, a plumbing code that has equivalent or higher standards than the uniform plumbing code, as published by the international association of plumbing and mechanical officials, and as amended.

Sales Tax On Ticket Sales -- PASSED

SB 928 (Lager) provides that in general, sales for resale will not be subject to sales tax provided such subsequent sale is taxed in this or another state, for resale, or exempt from tax. Two exceptions to the general rule are created for charges for admission or seating accommodations at places of amusement, entertainment, or recreation, and for charges for rooms, meals, and drinks. In the case of the two exceptions, operators of such places must remit tax on the gross receipts received by such operators, and subsequent sales will not be subject to tax if they are an arm's length transaction for fair market value with an unaffiliated entity. This language is also present in HB 1442 (Jones, T.), among other provisions.

Local Taxes -- PASSED

SB 644 (Shields) contains several provisions regarding local taxation. In its provisions, the bill does the following: (1) authorizes Montgomery County to impose, upon voter approval, a transient guest tax of between 2 percent and 5 percent per occupied room per night for the promotion of tourism; (2) allows the City of St. Joseph and Buchanan County to also use transient guest tax revenue for capital expenditures related to the promotion of tourism and convention facilities. Currently, the tax revenue may only be used for the promotion of tourism and convention facilities; (3) authorizes the City of St. Joseph to contract with Buchanan County to share transient guest tax revenues to promote tourism and for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of a convention center and recreational facilities; and (4) authorizes real property owners in Caldwell, Clinton, Daviess, and DeKalb counties to seek voter approval for the creation of exhibition center and recreational facility districts. If such a district is created, it may seek voter approval for the imposition of a one-quarter of one percent sales tax, for a period not to exceed 25 years, to fund the district.

HB 1442 (Jones, Timothy) contains the above provisions 1-3, and also does the following: (1) clarifies that certain purchases made for resale are not to be considered as retail for sales and use tax purposes when the subsequent sale is taxed in the state or another state, is for resale, is excluded from tax, is subject to tax but is exempt, or is exempt in another state where the subsequent sale occurs; (2) authorizes a state and local sales and use tax exemption for any sale of utilities at cost by a sports complex authority which is ultimately consumed in the operation of a sports complex leased to a professional sports team; (3) authorizes Carter County to impose, upon voter approval, a transient guest tax of up to 5 percent per occupied room per night, with 50 percent of the proceeds to fund law enforcement and 50 percent to fund tourism; and (4) allows one change of a hearing officer for each party to an appeal heard by the State Tax Commission. A written application will suffice to disqualify the officer. An officer is deemed assigned once he or she signs a scheduling order unless otherwise stated in the order.

Service-Disabled Veteran Businesses -- PASSED

HB 1524 (Largent) changes the laws regarding veterans and members of the military and establishes the Missouri Youth Challenge Academy. The bill requires all agencies and political subdivisions of this state to give a three-point bonus preference to a service-disabled veteran business operating as a Missouri business when letting a contract for the performance of any job or service. Currently, they must give preference to a disabled veteran business if the quality of performance is equal or better and the price quoted is the same or less. If there is an insufficient number of veteran businesses or none that submits a bid or proposal for a contract, the provision requiring the Commissioner of the Office of Administration to have a goal of 3 percent of all contracts to be let to service-disabled veteran businesses will not apply.

The bill also requires the Secretary of State to establish procedures for absent uniformed services and overseas voters to request voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications. At least one form of electronic communication for use by absent uniformed services and overseas voters must be designated for requesting voter registration applications and absentee ballots. These voters may request and designate a preferred method of electronic transmission of these applications and ballots or request receipt by mail. The Secretary of State must also develop, in coordination with local election authorities, a free access system by which these voters may determine whether an absentee ballot has been received by the appropriate election authority. A sufficient quantity of paper ballots for federal elections must be printed and available for these voters within 45 days prior to the election, and the election authority must begin transmitting the ballots to these voters who have submitted an absentee ballot application. Registration applications and paper ballots cannot be rejected by an election authority because of any restriction on the paper or envelope type. Missouri is required to use the special write-in absentee ballot provided in Sec. 115.292, *RSMo*, for all elections for federal office as authorized by federal law.

Recorded Documents -- PASSED

HB 1643 (Brown) changes the laws regarding certain documents recorded with the county recorder of deeds. In its main provisions, the bill does the following: (1) authorizes the recorder of deeds in Jackson County to collect a \$1 donation over and above any required fees charged for recording or providing a certified copy of a marriage license or birth certificate (the recorder must provide a check-off box for the donation on any required form). Monies collected will be deposited into the housing resource commission fund to assist homeless families and provide financial assistance to organizations addressing homelessness in the county; (2) requires a request for records filed or recorded by the county recorder of deeds dated after Dec. 31, 1969, to be made to the office in which the record was originally recorded; and (3) changes the method by which notice of a mechanic's lien on real property of an absent or nonresident owner may be given and requires an applicable recording fee.

Streamlined Sales Tax -- FAILED

SB 905 (Bray) and HB 2302 (Sutherland) would have brought Missouri sales and use tax laws into compliance with the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

Driving While Intoxicated -- PASSED

HB 1695 (Stevenson) changes the laws regarding driving while intoxicated. Among its many provisions, it modifies court procedures regarding DWI litigation; it raises the penalty for DWI from a class B misdemeanor to a class A misdemeanor if the offender's blood alcohol content is .15 or higher; it increases the minimum imprisonment duration for a recurring offender; and it allows any circuit court to establish a DWI docket.

County Depository -- PASSED

SB 771 (Scott) specifies that each bid from a bank to be the depository for the county must be accompanied by a certified check for an amount equal to a certain percentage of the county general revenue, rather than all county revenue. Such check serves as guaranty of good faith that the required security will be provided. This bill also changes outdated references to "ex officio treasurer" to reflect the current term, "collector treasurer."

Public Funds For Lobbying -- FAILED

HB 1872 (Schoeller) would have established that no state agency, political subdivision, or private entity that receives any amount of funding appropriated by the state or any amount collected from any local tax authorized by statute would have been able to be used for public resources to pay the costs of employing or contracting for the services of any person who lobbies on behalf of the state agency, political subdivision, or private entity receiving state appropriations in an attempt to influence the passage or defeat of any legislative measure. No state agency or political subdivision would have been able to use any public resources to pay any membership dues on behalf of the agency or political subdivision or any officer or employee of the agency or political subdivision to any organization or association if such dues directly or indirectly pay all or part of the salary of any person required to register as a lobbyist.

Ethics -- PASSED

SB 844 (Shields), which modifies several laws regarding ethics, passed on the final day of session. It creates new provisions that regulate lobbyist contribution limits, new penalties regarding bribery, new laws regarding ethics violations investigations, new guidelines for political action committees, and new provisions regarding financial disclosure of candidates running for office.

Port Improvement Districts -- PASSED

SB 578 (Shields) allows port authority boards to establish port improvement districts to fund projects with voter-approved sales taxes or property taxes.

Sexually Oriented Businesses -- PASSED

SB 586 (Bartle) regulates sexually oriented businesses. It also provides that political subdivisions are authorized to enact ordinances to regulate sexually oriented businesses which are stricter but not inconsistent with the bill.

Cemeteries Trust Funds -- PASSED

SB 753 (Dempsey) allows county commissions to invest cemetery trust funds in certificates of deposit. SB 754 (Dempsey) also contains this language, as well as various licensing provisions regarding certain professions, death certificates, public assistance programs, life and health insurance, and various other provisions.

Industrial Development Corporations -- PASSED

HB 1595 (Dugger) revises the definition of "project" as it relates to industrial development corporations to include the construction, extension, and improvement of public roads.

Sewer Districts -- PASSED

HB 1612 (Molendorp) changes the laws regarding common sewer districts. In its main provisions, the bill does the following: (1) allows a majority of the remaining members in office on the board of trustees of a common sewer district to fill a vacancy on the board if the county governing body fails to fill the vacancy within 60 days of receiving written notice of the vacancy. Trustees of a common sewer district may also appoint a member to a sewer subdistrict's advisory board if a vacancy is not filled by a county or political subdivision within 60 days of receiving a written request from the district; (2) increases, from eight to 10, the number of members on the sewer district boards of trustees in the counties of Cass and Jackson. Each board will consist of the county executive, mayors of the five largest-user cities, mayors of three other cities who are members of the sewer district advisory board, and one member of the county legislature. In the event the district extends its boundaries into a bordering county, the presiding commissioner or county executive of the bordering county will

become the eleventh member of the board; (3) authorizes a sewer district in a third class county to develop an agreement with a city to provide sewer service in annexed areas of the district that were not receiving sewer service at the time of annexation. Currently, the City of Poplar Bluff and sewer districts in Butler County are authorized to develop agreements to provide sewer services; (4) allows a board member to serve in multiple positions on a common sewer subdistrict advisory board if the board consists of less than three members; and (5) authorizes a sewer district to establish and collect charges for sewer services including tap-on fees and requires private water companies and public water supply districts to provide water service data at a reasonable charge upon a reasonable request to a sewer district in order to calculate the rates for service. Currently, water supply districts are required to provide this data to cities, towns, and villages.

Statewide Vote on National Health Insurance -- PASSED

HB 1764 (Diehl) prohibits any person, employer, or health care provider from being compelled to participate in any health care system. Individuals and employers may pay directly for lawful health care services, and health care providers can accept payment for health care services from individuals or employers without being subject to fines or penalties. The purchase or sale of health insurance in private health care systems cannot be prohibited by law or rule.

The bill contains a referendum clause and will be submitted to qualified voters in August 2010.

Liquor Control Enforcement -- FAILED

HB 1868 (Scharnhorst) modifies the laws relating to the duties of the Office of Administration. It changes jurisdictions of certain departments and consolidates the Missouri Water Patrol into a department under the Missouri Highway Patrol. While the bill passed, a provision which would have consolidated and shifted liquor control enforcement to county sheriffs' departments was deleted.

Kansas City Zoological District -- PASSED

HB 2297 (Molendorp) authorizes the establishment of the Kansas City Zoological District, which may be composed of the counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte at the option of the voters of each county. Each member county may impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to 0.25 percent for the financial support of zoo activities within the district. However, the tax will not be effective in Cass, Clay, or Platte Counties unless Jackson County also collects the tax.

The district will be governed by a commission with up to 10 members as follows: (1) one member of the governing body of each county that is part of the district; (2) one member of the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Parks and Recreation; (3) the executive director of the zoo; and (4) one member appointed by the governing body of each eligible county from a list of candidates provided by the Friends of the Zoo, Inc. The Friends of the Zoo, Inc., will provide a list of three names to the governing body of each county. Each candidate must be at least 21 years of age, and a resident and registered voter of the county which will be appointing them. Jackson County must appoint its member by a simple majority vote. Cass, Clay, and Platt Counties must appoint a member with a unanimous vote.

The administrative expenses of the district incurred during the first six months after its creation must be appropriated to the commission by the member counties; thereafter, the district will be financed by the sales tax revenues collected and deposited into the newly created Kansas City Zoological District Sales Tax Trust Fund. Five years after its creation, the commission will be authorized to borrow money for the construction, operation, improvement, and maintenance of zoo facilities. The commission must submit an annual report to the governing body of each member county, the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Parks and Recreation, and the Friends of the Zoo, Inc., detailing the commission's operations and transactions.

Political Subdivision Construction Bidding Standards Act -- FAILED

SB 729 (McKenna), SB 881 (Green), and HB 2218 (Denison) would have modified provisions relating to political subdivision contract bidding. It would have created the "Political Subdivision Construction Bidding Standards Act." Except for certain violations, the bill would have not applied to political subdivisions that have specific state or local competitive bidding requirements that are equivalent or stricter than the ones contained in this act. If a political subdivision would have not been covered by a specific federal, state, or local law that is equivalent or stricter in its requirements, it would have had to comply with the advertising and bidding requirements outlined in this bill when soliciting bids and awarding contracts of \$6,000 or more. Several versions of this proposal were added to numerous bills but none passed.

Nuisance Abatement and Justice System Changes -- FAILED

SB 829 (Schaefer) would have modified provisions regarding nuisance abatement ordinances. It would have allowed Andrew, Buchanan, and Livingston Counties to enact nuisance abatement ordinances regarding the condition of real property. It would have also allowed the counties covered by the statute to adopt nuisance abatement ordinances involving land with tires or storm water runoff conditions resulting in damage to buildings.

Charter County Auditors -- FAILED

HB 1290 (Gatschenberger) would have increased the minimum value of county property that the auditor in a charter county must annually inventory.

Elimination of State Holidays -- FAILED

HB 1268 (Meiners) would have removed February 12th (Lincoln's birthday) and May 8th (Truman's birthday) as public holidays in Missouri. The bill passed the House and was amended by the Senate, but in the final days of session it died in conference committee.

New NACo Board Member Elected

Jasper County Collector Steve Holt has been elected by the MAC Board of Directors to represent Missouri on the NACo Board of Directors. He will serve the remainder of former NACo board member Pat Conway's one-year term and begin serving a full one-year term in July. Congratulations, Steve!