

# This WEEK in the Missouri House

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Committee Updates...

- **House Budget Committee** approved supplemental appropriations for MO SMART (HB 2022), a task force focused on fighting meth, and Utilicare (HB 2015), a program to help low income Missourians pay their heating bills. (1.14.08)
- **Special Committee on Agri-Business** met to consider legislation (HB 1425) that would double the caps on agricultural tax credits, including the New Generation Cooperative Incentive Program. (1.15.08)
- **Ways and Means** heard a bill (HB 1321) that would increase the property tax relief for the senior citizens' program known as the circuit breaker. (1.17.08)
- **Special Committee on Health Care Transformation** held four hearings to study Insure Missouri.

## Floor Action...

On 1/17/08, the Missouri House gave initial approval to three supplemental budget items.

- \$6.4 million from state general revenue funds to the Utilicare Stabilization Fund. (HB 2015)
- \$1.9 million for MOSMART (HB 2022)
- \$10 million for the Missouri Department of Conservation to be used for various building projects. (HB 2021)

## Did you know?

All stone used to build our state Capitol is from Missouri, except the granite used for the columns in the House, which came from New Hampshire.



## State Budget in Numbers

\$21.5 billion: Missouri's state operating budget for FY 2008, which ends June 30, 2008

7: House Committees that deal with appropriations

18: Appropriation bills passed in 2007

## Fast Facts:

- There are 163 House Districts
- 89 current members are Republicans
- 70 current members are Democrats
- 31 women serve in the House, including 22 Democrats and 9 Republicans
- 4 Current Vacancies (16, 18, 65, 158)
- There are 8 doctors, 22 farmers, and 20 attorneys in the House\*
- 21 Members are not eligible for re-election in Nov. 2008 due to term limits - 12 Republicans and 9 Democrats

\*Approximate numbers

## Upcoming Dates of Interest

- Feb 5 - Joint Session - State of the Judiciary Address - 10:30 a.m.
- Feb 6 - Joint Session - State of Transportation Address - 10:30 a.m.
- March 13 - Spring break begins
- March 25 - Spring/Easter break ends - Reconvene at 4:00 p.m.
- April 1 - Last Day for Introduction of Bills
- May 9 - Appropriation Bills must be Truly Agreed and Finally Passed - 6:00 p.m.
- May 16 - Session Ends - 6 p.m.

## Photo of the Week:

Speaker Rod Jetton, R-156, drops the gavel to bring the House to order for his fourth and final year as Speaker.



## House Actions as of 1/22/08 10:15 a.m.

# House Bills Filed 2008 459

# House Bills referred to Committee 2008 133

# House Bills Perfected 2008 3

# of House Committees (Standing and Special) 50

# of House Bills filed in 2007 1,758