

THIS WEEK IN THE MISSOURI HOUSE

95th General Assembly
First Regular Session

Volume 2, Issue 14
April 27, 2009

FLOOR ACTIONS

Last week, the House passed **HCS HB 64 and 545** by a vote of 113 to 47. The bill revises the Missouri individual income tax rate schedule and increases the dependency exemption to \$1,600 per dependent. The dependency exemption had not been changed since 1998. In addition, the bill increases the federal tax deduction for the individual income tax from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for single taxpayers and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for married taxpayers.

The House also passed **HCS HB 316 and HJR 11**. **HCS HB 316** changes the laws regarding the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law. This bill passed the House by a vote of 158 to 0. **HJR 11** proposes a constitutional amendment guaranteeing a citizen's First Amendment right to pray on public property and reaffirming a citizen's right to choose any or no religion. If passed by the Senate, this proposal would be placed on the 2010 ballot.

The House also passed:

- **HJR 17**, which proposes a constitutional amendment delaying repayment to the Budget Reserve Fund for three fiscal years.
- **HCS HB 426**, which establishes the Large Carnivore Act. This Act regulates the ownership, possession, transportation and breeding of large carnivores.

Last Week

The House perfected
21 bills, third read 21
bills and passed 46
bills out of committee.

BY THE NUMBERS

House Actions
as of 4/27/09
9:30 a.m.

# House Bills Filed	1,241
# HBs Referred to Committee	1,221
# HBs Reported Do Pass	209
# HBs Reported Do Pass Consent	111
# HBs Perfected	187
# HBs Third Read	184
# HBs Reported Do Pass in the Senate	124
# HBs Third Read in the Senate	39

Dates of Interest

- May 8 - Appropriation bills must be Truly Agreed and Finally Passed
- May 15 - Session ends
- July 14 - Deadline for the governor to sign bills
- September 16- Veto session begins

Photo of the Week



Rep. Walt Bivins (left) discusses legislation with Rep. Terry Witte (right) on the House floor.



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FAST FACTS

Below is a comparison of House and Senate actions as of April 27 of each year.

Year	HBs Filed	SBs Filed	HBs 3rd Read	SBs 3rd Read	HBs TAFP	SBs TAFP
2009	1,241	594	184	122	5	2
2008	1,336	600	171	118	7	1
2007	1,330	732	150	176	14	7
2006	1,207	723	171	196	3	20
2005	991	576	144	165	17	24

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- Last week the House refused to concur with the Senate Substitute for **HBs 2 - 13** and were sent to conference committee.
- The **Senate Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee** passed **HCS HJR 10**, which proposes a constitutional amendment increasing the number of governor-appointed citizens serving on the Appellate Judicial Commission and the number of candidates nominated for vacancies.
- The **Senate Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee** passed **HB 65**, which allows rural empowerment zones to exist in any county with 18,000 or fewer residents and prohibits more than two rural empowerment zones in any county.
- The **Senate Education Committee** held a hearing on **HB 96**, which changes the laws regarding school employee liability, safety practices, and reporting acts of violence.
- The **Senate Ways and Means Committee** held a hearing on **HCS HB 381**, which requires the Department of Revenue to give first priority to charitable organizations and then to local political subdivisions when awarding fee office contracts.

Did you know?



The Missouri House members have been using laptops in the chamber since 1997. On the other hand, the Senate does not allow members to use laptops in the Senate chamber, although there have been proposals to allow them each of the last four years.