



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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153RD
DISTRICT



Committees
Agriculture Committee
Corrections and Public Institutions
Children and Families

CAPITOL REPORT
February 2, 2026

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www.state.mo.us
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This week, I'm back in Jefferson City working on behalf of District 153—reviewing legislation, supporting priorities that strengthen our communities, and helping keep our state budget on track. My focus is to ensure your tax dollars are used wisely and that our communities continue to receive the services they need.

Here's a quick recap at what we've been working on this week:

- General legislative review and committee work
- Budget oversight and spending discussions
- Supporting policies that promote strong schools, public safety, and local economic growth

If you have questions or want to share your thoughts on any issue, please reach out. Hearing from you helps guide my work in the House. Together as one, we will build a stronger, safer, and more resilient future.

Capitol Briefing — This Week's Highlights

Income Tax Elimination Takes Center Stage

- Governor proposes phasing out the individual income tax, with constitutional amendments being considered this week.
 - Two resolutions (HJR 173 & HJR 174) would end income tax beginning in 2031, tied to revenue growth triggers.
 - Proposals would expand sales/use taxes to replace lost revenue and adjust constitutionally imposed sales tax rates starting in 2029.
 - Ballot language would ask voters to approve income tax elimination, sales tax expansion, and reductions in other taxes.
 - Supporters **say** it improves competitiveness; opponents warn sales tax replacement could hit lower-income households harder.
 - Debate continues amid tighter budget projections and smaller surpluses, with lawmakers reviewing triggers and safeguards.
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Missouri Supreme Court Invalidates SB 22; State of the Judiciary Canceled

- The Missouri Supreme Court struck down SB 22, ruling it violated the Constitution's "original purpose" requirement.
 - The court found the bill expanded beyond its initial scope and declined to sever any portion.
 - Result: previous ballot summary review procedures remain, and the AG loses special appeal authority created by SB 22.
 - State of the Judiciary address was canceled after Senate Republicans signaled they would not attend, highlighting tensions between branches.
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Session Continues Despite Winter Weather

- Winter weather disrupted the schedule; House hearings were canceled Monday.
 - Governor Kehoe declared a State of Emergency, with the National Guard on standby.
 - Committees resumed later in the week, with 15 weeks remaining in the session.
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Key Bills Heard This Week

Employment of Unauthorized Aliens

- HB 2366 & HB 2511 would hold contractors liable if unauthorized workers are used.
- Expands AG authority and increases penalties, including monetary damages.

Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs)

- HB 2989 would create a statewide VLT framework, licensing and regulating terminals.

- Establishes an Illegal Gaming Enforcement Fund and directs revenue to education and local governments.

Firearms & Self-Defense

- HB 2176 would ban enforcement of red-flag laws, expand state preemption, and increase civil penalties.
- Also revises self-defense rules, lowers concealed carry age to 18, and limits local gun regulation.

No-Call List & Caller ID Anti-Spoofing

- Multiple bills aim to expand the No-Call List, remove renewal requirements, and enforce STIR/SHAKEN protocols.
- Creates stronger penalties for spoofing and allows civil damages up to \$5,000 per call.

Elementary Student Literacy

- HB 2872 focuses on evidence-based reading instruction, bans three-cueing, and creates a statewide reading screener.
- Includes parent notification, intervention plans, and funding tied to literacy outcomes.

School Accountability Measures

- HB 2710 would create an A–F school report card, meeting federal reporting requirements.
- Establishes rewards for high-performing schools through the Show Me Success Program.

School Funding Task Force Weighs Major Changes

- The task force is consolidating recommendations that could reshape school aid, but costs remain unclear.
- Governor’s budget keeps foundation funding flat and does not include required increases under current law.
- Major proposals include:
 - Raising the adequacy target (per-student funding benchmark).
 - Basing targets on top 100 scoring districts to reduce volatility.
 - Including student needs (low-income, special education, English learners) directly in the formula.
- Next meeting: Feb. 23; recommendations due Dec. 1.

Vehicle Safety Inspection Requirements Could Be Reduced

- House Government Efficiency Committee advanced bills to reduce or eliminate vehicle safety inspections for many noncommercial vehicles.
- Proposals include age/mileage exemptions, multi-year registrations, and repeal of odd-even renewal.
- Supporters say it reduces cost and burden; opponents raise road safety concerns.



District 153 State Representative

Ezekiel 33:7 NLT. “Now, son of man, I am making you a watchman for the people of Israel. Therefore, listen to what I say and warn them for me.”

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