



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KEITH ELLIOTT**  
153<sup>RD</sup>  
DISTRICT



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## CAPITOL REPORT

March 3, 2026

On Friday evening, February 27th, 2026, I had the pleasure of attending the School Superintendents Legislative Update alongside nine of my House colleagues and one Senator. For about two hours, superintendents shared their concerns and asked thoughtful questions about funding, potential budget challenges, and the Governor’s proposals. A major topic of discussion was the Governor’s request for additional funding for private schools—a proposal that has raised concerns among many of our rural public-school districts, which are already managing tight budgets. While there weren’t any simple answers, it was clear that all of us—representatives and senators alike—are fully engaged, listening carefully, and working to support the schools and students in our communities.

As we approach **Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 2–6**, it’s a good reminder that spring in Missouri brings more than blooming flowers—it also brings storm season. With last year marking the deadliest tornado season since 2011, the **statewide tornado drill at 11 a.m. on March 4** is a perfect opportunity for families and schools to review emergency plans and practice safety measures.

In last month’s February capital report, I highlighted ongoing efforts to secure financial resources for improved radar coverage. This month, your representative continues that focus in Jefferson City, in addition the Missouri House has been busy advancing legislation that impacts state finances, public safety, education, and everyday life for Missourians. From proposed constitutional amendments to reforms in taxes, school policies, and vehicle registration, lawmakers are moving a wide array of bills to the Senate for further consideration.

I also want to clarify that this Capital Report is simply that—a report from the Capitol outlining legislation being addressed each week. It does not necessarily mean I support every bill in its entirety or every provision within it. Its purpose is to keep constituents informed and to invite feedback from people like you. I represent the people, and I sincerely welcome your continued thoughts and insights.

Below is a quick roundup of the latest key developments:

# Missouri Legislative Update – March 2026

## Key Legislative Highlights

- **Five-Year Vehicle Registration Option:** HB 2189 would allow eligible vehicles under six model years old to register for up to five years at a time beginning in 2027, simplifying renewals and eliminating model-year-based registration requirements.
- **Property Tax Assessment Reforms:** HCS HB 2178 shifts the burden of proof to assessors for commercial and industrial properties using computer-assisted valuations and requires physical inspections for large increases. Taxpayers may recover costs if successful in challenges.
- **School Athletics Policy made Permanent:** HCS HB 1663, 1607 & 1973 removes the expiration date on Missouri's law requiring students to compete on teams matching their biological sex listed on their birth certificate. The measure passed 98-37.
- **Student Expression Protections Expanded:** HCS HB 2682 (SPEAKS Act) expands student free speech protections in K-12 schools to include political and ideological expression, alongside religious speech, allowing legal recourse for violations. Passed 99-47.
- **Teacher Licensing Compact:** HB 2274 would add Missouri to the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, easing licensure for teachers moving from other states and military service members. Passed 133-13..
- **Tobacco Regulation:** HCS HB 2085 centralizes regulation at the state level, limiting local authority while maintaining existing local rules of tobacco and vapor products and limiting future local ordinances.
- **Ballot Language and Tax Transparency:** HCS HB 1790 requires clearer, neutral wording and numerical/alphabetical labels for tax-related ballot questions.
- **Sales Tax Updates:** HCS HB 1883 updates exemptions for certain medical equipment and auction sales, expanding coverage for wheelchairs and accessories. Passed 98-36.
- **Constitutional Spending Limits:** HCS HJR 169 proposes caps on state and local revenue growth and spending, requiring voter approval for most tax increases, debt obligations, or extensions of expiring taxes. Excess revenues could be returned to taxpayers, and stricter notice and reserve fund requirements would be implemented. Passed 87-49 in the House of Representatives.
- **Supplemental Budget Approved:** HCS HB 2014 adds roughly \$3.1 billion for the remainder of the 2026 fiscal year to cover unforeseen costs and obligations.

- **Athletic Trainer Compact:** HB 1844 allows licensed athletic trainers to practice across states without additional licensing.
- **Outdoor Advertising & Highway Signage:** HCS HB 2145 requires population signs on city limits, exempts certain school/nonprofit signs from permits, and allows small business signage across highways. Passed 142-2.
- **Citizen Initiative Amendment Revised** – A Cole County Judge ordered changes to HJR 3’s ballot language, which would require amendments via citizen petitions to win both statewide majority and a majority in all congressional districts.

Together, we will continue working to keep our district strong and our communities thriving.



State Representative  
District of 153<sup>rd</sup>

*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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