



## Tab 10 2020 Legislative Preview

Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
December 11, 2019

### BACKGROUND

The Second Regular Session of the 100<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will begin on January 8, 2020. Pre-filing of legislation began on Monday, December 2. Policies impacted higher education will be a topic of considerable interest to legislative leaders. The Department of Higher Education and Workforce will continue its efforts to promote its FY2021 budgetary priorities. However, we anticipate the introduction of legislation in several areas that could impact the department and the state's colleges and universities.

### CURRENT STATUS

#### Conceal Carry and School Safety

- As of October 2019, the United States has registered over 20 school shootings this year. The concerns over safety overall has only escalated following the October shooting in Marshall, MO and the influx of children-related deaths in the St. Louis region over the summer. During the General Assembly's September special session, several members introduced legislation that would establish extreme risk protection orders and gun violence seizure warrants, and prohibitions of certain persons possessing a firearm. In September, Governor Parson announced a state plan to help combat violent crime, specifically in the St. Louis Region, and promised to continue conversations on addressing violent crimes and mental health during the 2020 General Assembly regular session. In October, a new interim committee was established to discuss gun violence and public safety matters. The Interim Committee on Public Safety is chaired by Republican Sen. Doug Libla with Sen. Jeanie Riddle serving as vice chairwoman.
- Missouri law currently prohibits firearms on the campus of any higher education institution without the consent of the governing body of the higher education institution. However, possession of a firearm in a vehicle on the premises of any higher education institution is permitted so long as the firearm is not removed from the vehicle or brandished while the vehicle is on the premises. Changes to these requirements continue to be of legislative interest. Nine states, including two that border Missouri (Kansas and Arkansas), either already allow carrying firearms on campus or will in the near future.

#### Title IX

- Title IX is the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities that receive federal funding. In September 2017, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) rescinded two USDE Office for Civil Rights guidance documents through which the Obama Administration prescribed how schools must respond to reports of sexual harassment and sexual assault. In November 2018, the USDE released its proposal on improving schools' responses to sexual harassment and assault after a comment period. As of November, USDE has not released a final rule.
- Several bills were introduced during the 2019 legislative session impacting how institutions of higher education would need to address Title IX complaints, this included changes to the due process proceedings for Title IX complaints at these institutions.
- With or without a final rule by the USDE, proposed legislation is expected during the upcoming session.

#### Immigration

- During the first regular session of the 100<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, HB 3 was sent back to the Conference Committee on the Budget due to contentious language in the legislation surrounding eligibility of in-state tuition at Missouri's public institutions. Originally, the conference committee removed language that undocumented immigrants be charged international tuition, instead allowing public colleges and universities to set their own policy. The final truly agreed to and finally passed legislation maintained language which prevents public institutions of higher education from offering in-state tuition to students with unlawful immigration status. The provision has remained in place since 2015.

#### Funding for Higher Education

- State appropriations to higher education will continue as major focus for many legislators during the next session. The state's economy continues to show signs of steady growth, but there are general concerns for how long unprecedented, sustained growth and low unemployment will continue. It is unclear at this time whether what direction the legislator will go on funding both institutions and the department. Specific recommendations for funding of institutional core operations are included with these board materials. Funding increases for student aid programs administered by the department are needed to maintain their value to students, but it is unclear if resources will be available to fund the increases recommended by the CBHE in September.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

This is an information item only.

#### **NO ATTACHMENTS**