

Legislative News



January 20, 2012

New Higher Education Legislation

[HB 1353 - Schupp \(D-Creve Coeur\)](#)

The bill would allow the governor to appoint a student as a voting member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

[SB 655 - Green \(D- Spanish Lake\)](#)

The bill would create the Higher Education Capital Fund in the State Treasury, to be administered by the commissioner of higher education, for the purpose of providing public colleges and universities matching funds up to 50% for capital projects.

Governor Nixon delivers State of the State and budget recommendations

Governor Nixon delivered his third State of the State Address on Tuesday evening in Jefferson City. Among many other points during the evening, he stressed the importance of higher education for the future of Missouri.

"Our economy is changing. And education can't stop at high school," Governor Nixon said. "Because by the next decade, nearly two-thirds of all jobs in the United States will require some kind of post-secondary education. That means more Missouri kids will need a college degree."

The governor recommended stable

funding for financial aid programs including Access Missouri, Bright Flight and the A+ Scholarship program. However, a budget year in which a significant budget shortfall is anticipated means cuts in other places.

"To balance our budget in a way that protects our scholarships and academic programs, I am calling on all our colleges and universities to continue to look for more ways to cut overhead and administrative costs and run smarter, more efficient operations," explained Governor Nixon.

The governor's budget recommendations included a 12.5% reduction in appropriations for the state's colleges and universities from their available amounts in fiscal year 2012.

The House of Representatives will now go to work on Governor Nixon's budget recommendations. Traditionally, the House has transmitted its version of the budget to the Senate around legislative spring break. That is scheduled for March 8 through March 19 this year.

The final budget for FY 2013, passed by both the House and the Senate, is due on Governor Nixon's desk by Friday, May 11.



Governor Nixon delivers the State of the State Address from the House Chamber.

Committee work continues

The Senate Committee on Education and the House Appropriations—Education Committee met this week as the legislative session begins to gain steam.

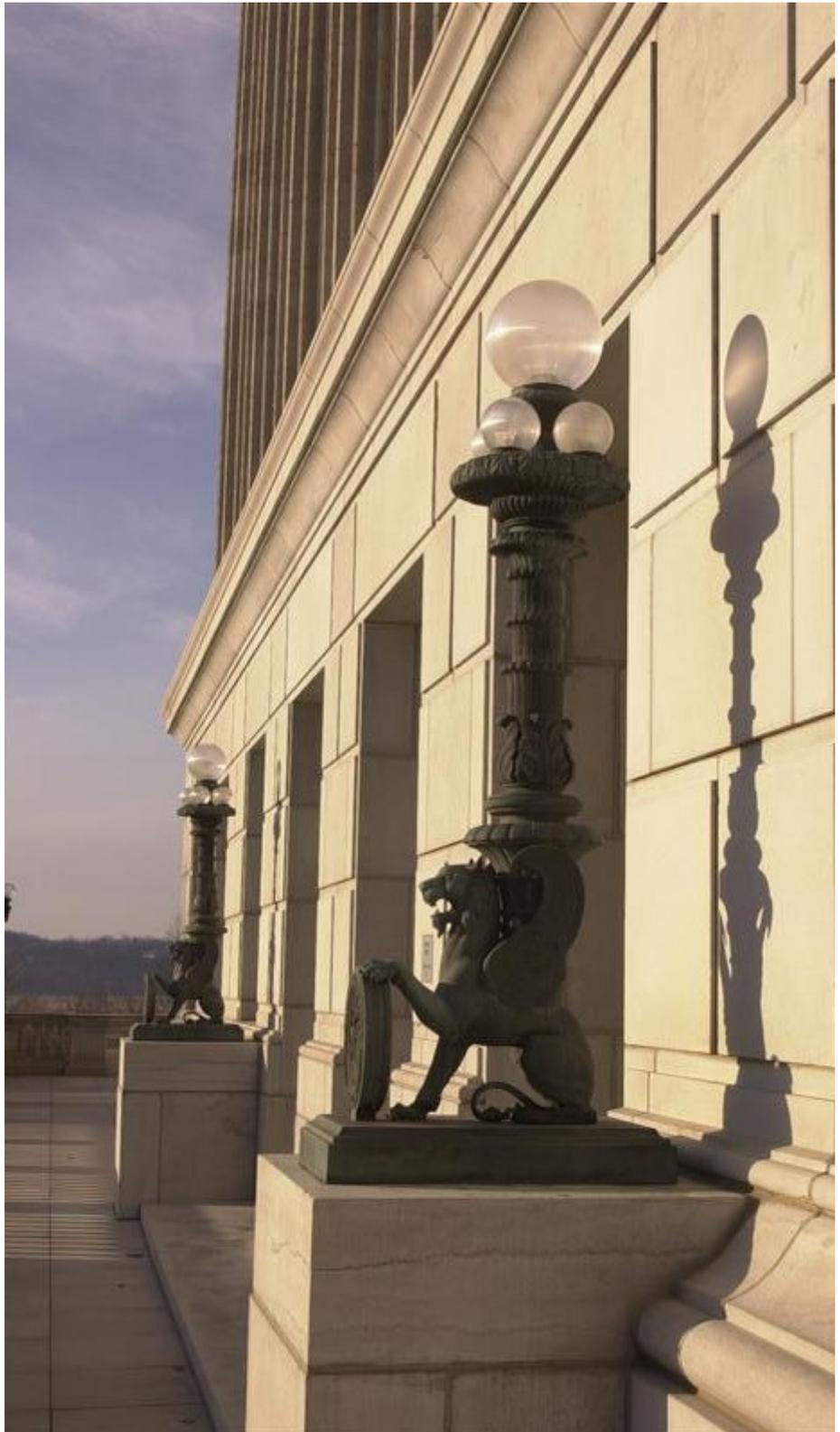
Senate education held executive session on two higher education bills on Wednesday. The committee voted to pass on SB 455 and SB 482. The bills now await being reported out of committee to the chamber.

The House Appropriations-Education Committee heard public testimony on Tuesday. A representative from MOREnet spoke in favor of a budget request for \$317,000 to be used for subsidizing MOREnet members currently paying above the median for internet service. A representative of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Missouri also urged the committee to support the Access Missouri program.

The House Higher Education Committee will conduct its first hearing of the session on Tuesday, January 24. The committee will hear HB 1041 and HB1042 at the meeting of the committee.

Budget hearings will begin soon as the House begins its work on the fiscal year 2013 budget.

Hearing schedules can be found on the websites of both the House and Senate available at www.house.mo.gov and www.senate.mo.gov.



A sunny winter day outside the Capitol.

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