

Legislative News



May 14, 2010

What happens after a bill is TAFP?

"Truly agreed and finally passed" (TAFP'ed) bills are signed in open session by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate. At the time of signing, any members may file written objections, which are sent with the bill to the Governor. The Governor has 15 days to act on a bill if it is sent to him during the legislative session, and 45 days if the legislature has adjourned.

The Governor has four options:

1. **Sign the bill**, making it become part of Missouri law.
2. **Veto the bill**. In this case, the bill is returned to the General Assembly where a two-thirds vote of both houses is required to override the veto.
3. **Not sign the bill**. Should the Governor take no action within the prescribed time, the bill goes to the Secretary of State, who then enrolls the bill as an authentic act. It then becomes law.
4. **Veto line-items in an appropriation bill**. On appropriation bills only, the Governor may choose to veto selected items within the bill. The General Assembly may override this veto by a two-thirds majority of both houses.

No law passed by the General Assembly can take effect until 90 days after the end of the session at which it was enacted (August 28 for regular sessions). However, if a bill was passed with an emergency clause attached, it takes effect immediately upon the Governor's signature. In addition, some bills specify the exact date when they are to take effect, which is usually a period of time longer than 90 days.

From the [Missouri House of Representatives](#).

Bills Truly Agreed and Finally Passed

The legislature passed several higher education bills that could impact institutions around the state. [A complete list](#) of bills that were truly agreed and finally passed during this session is available online.

Financial Assistance

[Senator David Pearce's SB 733](#), which originally extended the period that certain students who enter the military may defer [Bright Flight](#) awards then grew to include language included in HB 1812 and SB 784 (Access award amount equalization) and an exception to the Sunshine Law. The bill also includes language that clarifies several issues related to Bright Flight, such as the fact that home-school students and GED recipients may receive awards and when the "cut scores" for the ACT and SAT are established.

[Representative Dan Brown's HB 2147](#), a bill that exempts certain students who are dependents of recently retired military personnel from the three-year attendance requirement under the A+ Schools Program.

[Representative Jake Zimmerman's HB 1858](#), which would officially bring the [Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program](#) from [DNR](#) to the [MDHE](#), and also move the [Minority Teaching Scholarship Program](#) currently assigned to [DESE](#) to the MDHE.

College Savings

[Senator Delbert Scott's SB 772](#) which makes changes to the Missouri Higher Education Savings (MOST) Program. Currently, the minimum time for holding investments in the program is 12 months. This act removes that requirement. The sunset provision governing the program is also removed.

Research

[Senator Bill Stouffer's SB 987](#), a bill that increases the award amount the University of Missouri's Board of Curators may award per project from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Projects must advance knowledge of spinal cord injuries and congenital or acquired disease processes.



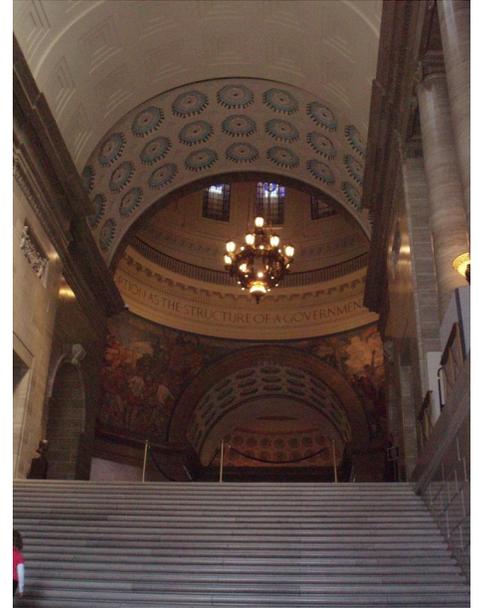
Important Bills that *Didn't* Pass

Despite the relatively small number of significant higher education-related bills that passed, higher education was a major topic of discussion this legislative session. The following issues got a lot of airtime – even if they didn't ultimately pass.

Rebooting State Government

[Senator Charlie Shields' SJRs 44 and 45](#), which would have proposed a constitutional amendment creating a new department of education and defining the governing board of the new department of education, both stalled in the [House Higher Education Committee](#) after being passed by the Senate.

After two public hearings on the bill, the committee chair decided that there was not enough time or information to reach a consensus and vote the resolutions out. They committee did state that they would refer the issue to the Joint Committee on Education for further review between sessions.



Financial Assistance

[Senator Scott Rupp's SB 907](#), which would create a scholarship for students who graduate high school early. The scholarship would be for a student's first year of higher education and could be used at any type of higher education institution. The award amount would be the lesser of the student's actual tuition and required fees or 80% of the state aid

Pensions

[Senator Jason Crowell's SB 714](#), which would change retirement contribution requirements for new state employees hired after January 1, 2011. The change in the pension plan applies to those enrolled in the [Missouri State Employees Retirement System](#) and workers covered by the retirement programs of the [Missouri Department of Transportation](#) and the [Missouri State Highway Patrol](#).

The bill was third read and passed by the Senate, and the [House Retirement Committee](#) heard the bill. The committee did not vote on the bill.

attributable to that student at the school district from which the student graduated. That district would receive an amount equal to 20% of the state aid they would have received for that student.

This bill was voted due pass from the [Senate Education Committee](#) but was never discussed on the floor.

Land Issues

[Representative Robert Schaaf's HB 1494](#), which removes the expiration date of August 28, 2011, from the provision that allows certain state university boards to convey or transfer real property without authorization from the General Assembly. This bill was voted out of the [House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee](#) and the [House Rules Committee](#) before being defeated on the House floor.

[Representative Chris Kelly's HJR 77](#), a bill that proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to issue bonds to fund higher education improvements, construction, landscaping, and land purchases. While this bill was a substantive topic during the beginning of session, it never made it past its second reading.

Bills That Could Still Pass

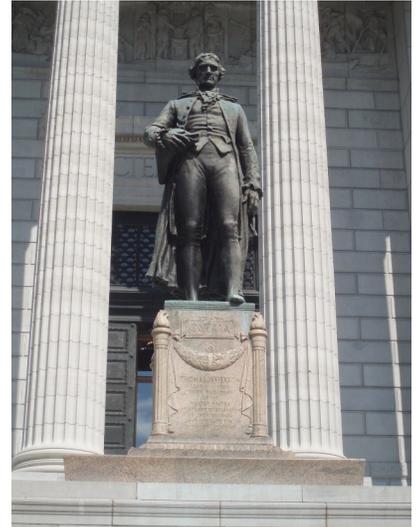
Session ends at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 14, so bills have until then to be passed. There's a joke in the Capitol that goes, "There are two days of session left, so it's almost half over."

The information presented here is current as of NOON on Friday, May 14.

Financial Assistance

[Representative Mike Thomson's HB 1473](#), which would have lowered the GPA required for certain lower-division students to receive renewal [Access Missouri](#) awards from a 2.5 to a 2.0.

This bill was approved by the [Senate Education Committee](#) last week and is currently on the Senate calendar.



Thank you for subscribing to the MDHE Legislative Newsletter for the 2010 Session. We will see you again next session!