

Legislative Update – March 31, 2023

There are 6 weeks left in the 2023 Legislative Session. The budget deadline is Friday, May 5th and the 2023 Legislative Session ends at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12th.

This week in the Missouri State Legislature:

Missouri House of Representatives:

1. The House 3rd read and passed the budget to the Senate. The Senate now will process and debate the budget and then it will move to final approval by both chambers.
2. The House is trying a different approach to the defunding of Planned Parenthood. They have zeroed out public monies from going to any facility that performs or induces abortions.
3. Since abortion is banned in Missouri, organizations such as Planned Parenthood, which is the largest abortion provider in the United States, will continue to receive our state tax dollars even though Planned Parenthood has vowed verbally in multiple committee hearings to continue their “full range of services including abortion or abortion referrals”.
4. An interesting statement by Planned Parenthood in these committee hearings is that they are affiliated with a 4-state region of their organization to surrounding states that do perform abortions. We will keep you updated.

Missouri State Senate:

1. The Missouri Senate took up the issue of protecting our Missouri Constitution and ensuring that everyone across Missouri has a voice in how MO Constitution can be changed. The pro-abortion Democrats took over the floor to filibuster and put out deceptive information.
2. The bill has not been amended and has not passed the Senate yet.
Watch for upcoming Action Alerts on Amendment(s) needed on HCS HJR 43.
See information regarding our objections at the end of this legislative report on HCS HJR 43 and why amendment(s) are needed.
3. The Missouri Senate took up and passed SCS SB 133 which will give a tax deduction for unborn children. This bill now moves to the House for approval. Watch for more information on this in these last weeks of session!

Please watch for Action Alerts in our weekly lifeline and on our website in these last weeks of this legislative session. www.missourilife.org

Bills to Watch:

NOTE: In the following lists Missouri Right to Life’s position could change at any time depending on amendments that are needed or amendments that can happen at any point in the legislative process.

In the Missouri State Senate:

SB 45 & SB 90 – Sponsor: Elaine Gannon - Modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet services for pregnant and postpartum women (**Support**)

April 4, 2023 – House Hearing Scheduled in House General Laws Committee

March 6, 2023 – House Second Read

March 2, 2023 – Senate Third Read and Passed to the House
February 27, 2023 – Senate Formal Calendar, Senate Bills for Third Reading
February 21, 2023 – Senate Informal Calendar, Senate Bills for Perfection
February 1, 2023 – Bill Combined in Committee with SB 90
SCS SB 133 – Sponsor: Mike Moon – Tax deduction for unborn Children (**Support**)
March 30, 2023 – House First Read
March 30, 2023 – Senate Third Read and Passed
March 23 - Formal Calendar Senate Bills for Third Reading
SB 160 – Sponsor: Nick Schroer – Modifies provisions relating to public funding of abortion facilities and affiliates and provisions relating to MO HealthNet providers (**Support**)
March 8, 2023 – Voted Do Pass in Senate Health and Welfare Committee
February 22, 2023 – Hearing Held in Senate Health and Welfare Committee
January 26, 2023 – Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate Health and Welfare Committee
SB 214 – Sponsor: Pro-Abortion Doug Beck – Modifies provisions relating to child support for unborn children (**Monitor**)
April 3, 2023 – Informal Calendar Senate Bills for Perfection with amendments pending
March 27, 2023 – Formal Calendar Senate Bills for Perfection
SB 228 – Sponsor: Mary Elizabeth Coleman – Modifies provisions relating to do-not-resuscitate orders for children at home under medical care (**Language Reviewed and MRL Neutral – MRL Will Monitor This Bill**)
April 3, 2023 – Formal Calendar Senate Bills for Perfection
March 27, 2023 – Formal Calendar Senate Bills for Perfection
SB 267 – Sponsor: Pro-Abortion Doug Beck – Prohibits Discrimination Based on Pregnancy (**Language Under Review**)
February 9, 2023 – Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate General Laws Committee
SB 356 – Sponsor: Mike Moon – Abolition of Abortion (**Language Under Review to See How This Affects our Pro-Life Laws**)
February 23, 2023 – Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate Health and Welfare Committee
January 4, 2023 – Senate First Read
SB 453 – Sponsor: Mike Moon – Establishes civil actions for violations of the pro-life laws of this state and for economic detriment to a person for misapplication or unequal enforcement of the law (**Language Under Review to See How This Affects our Pro-Life Laws**)
March 2, 2023 – Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate Health and Welfare Committee
SB 491 – Sponsor: Mike Cierpiot – Modifies provisions relating to abortion, including the importation and distribution of drugs used to perform or induce abortions (**Support**)
March 23, 2023 – Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate Health and Welfare Committee
SJR 8 - Sponsor: Bill Egle – Prohibits expenditures of public funds to abortion facilities (**Support**)
March 8, 2023 – Voted Do Pass in Senate Health and Welfare Committee
February 22, 2023 – Hearing Held in Senate Health and Welfare Committee
January 12, 2023 – Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate Health and Welfare Committee
SJR 19 – Sponsor: Mike Moon – Recognizes that nothing in the Missouri Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion (**Support**)
February 22, 2023 – Hearing Held in Senate Health and Welfare Committee
January 19, 2023 – Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate Health and Welfare Committee

Senate Initiative Petition and/or Constitutional Amendment Reform:

SJR 2 – Sponsor: Andrew Koenig – February 13, 2023: Hearing Held in Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

SJR 5 – Sponsor: Caleb Rowden – February 13, 2023: Hearing Scheduled but Bill not heard in Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

SJR 10 – Sponsor: Sandy Crawford – February 13, 2023: Hearing Held in Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

SJR 28 – Sponsor: Jill Carter – February 27, 2023: Voted Do Pass in Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

SJR 33 – Sponsor: Mike Moon – January 19, 2023: Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

SB 490 – Sponsor: Nick Schroer – March 23, 2023: Senate Second Read and Referred to Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

In the Missouri State House:

HB 254 – Sponsor: Brad Pollitt - Modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet services for pregnant and postpartum women (**Support**)

March 29, 2023 – HCS Reported Do Pass to the House

HB 457 – Sponsor: Doug Richey – Tax Deduction for an unborn child (**Support**)

January 5, 2023 – House Second Read

NOTE: As of March 30th, SB 133 was 3rd Read and Passed by the full Senate and is on its way to the House for consideration. SB 133 is the same issue as HB 457.

HB 594 – Sponsor: Hannah Kelly - Modifies provisions relating to do-not-resuscitate orders for children at home under medical care (**Language Reviewed and MRL Neutral – MRL Will Monitor This Bill**)

March 28, 2023 – Hearing Held in House Children and Families Committee

HB 714 – Sponsor: Hannah Kelly – Modifies provisions related to the Adoption Tax Credit (**Support**)

March 27, 2023 – HCS Voted Do Pass in House Rules Committee

HB 965 – Sponsor: Melanie Stinnett – Modifies provisions relating to health care services for pregnant and postpartum women (**Support**)

March 29, 2023 – HCS Reported Do Pass to Full House

House Initiative Petition and/or Constitutional Amendment Reform:

HCS HJR 43 – Sponsor: Mike Henderson

March 29, 2023 – Placed on Senate Informal Calendar with amendments pending from pro-abortion Democrats to try and kill HCS HJR 43 and prevent all Missourians from having a voice in how our constitution can be changed

February 28, 2023 – Referred to Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee

February 27, 2023 – Executive Session Held in Senate Local Government and Elections Committee – HCS HJR 43 Voted Do Pass

February 13, 2023 – Senate Hearing Held in Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

February 2, 2023 – House Third Read and Passed, Sent to Senate and Senate First Read

January 26, 2023: Executive Session Held in House Committee on Elections and Elected Officials – HCS HJR 43 Voted Do Pass

NOTE ON HCS HJR 43:

As of April 3, 2023, HCS HJR 43 will not protect our Missouri Constitution and leaves Missouri wide-open for pro-abortion forces to deceive the public and put a right to abortion in our Constitution.

The pro-abortion forces have filed their initiative petitions to make abortion legal all nine months of pregnancy; and their language includes letting a baby born alive after surviving an abortion to be left to die, it is even more important now to amend HCS HJR 43.

HCS HJR 43 needs to be amended in the Senate with stronger language supported by Missouri Right to Life in order to protect our pro-life laws and our Missouri Constitution from pro-abortion attacks.

**Information on the Initiative Petitions and why
HCS HJR 43 MUST BE AMENDED
TO PROTECT WOMEN AND UNBORN CHILDREN**

The pro-abortion initiative petitions are dangerous to our Missouri way of life because:

1. The structure and support system for Missouri women would be seriously damaged if this initiative were passed. It would (a) allow for abortions to be performed up until the moment of birth, (b) allow anyone to perform an abortion with no licensing requirements, (c) deny any woman harmed by an abortionist her right to sue for malpractice to recover for her injuries, and (d) allow for the funding of abortions with public tax dollars.
2. Pregnancy Resource Centers could be forced to refer for abortion. Alternatives to abortion funding and tax credits for Pregnancy Resource Centers could be taken away.
3. These initiatives could infringe on multiple constitutional rights such as:
 - (a) Clergy being prosecuted for not offering counseling for abortion;
 - (b) Praying on the sidewalk and counseling women on alternatives to abortion could be illegal.
4. Taking the life of a baby born alive after an abortion could be considered constitutional under this initiative. Physicians that choose not to give care to a baby born alive after an abortion, could not be prosecuted because it would be considered "reproductive choice" of the woman.