

Legislative Update – April 21, 2023

There are 3 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.

Watch for Action Alerts from MRL as we move in to these last 3 weeks!

This week in the Missouri State Legislature:

Missouri House of Representatives:

HCS SS SCS SB's 45 & 90 was voted do Pass in the House Rules Committee on Legislative Oversight and would extend insurance for a woman and her unborn child for up to 12 months after the birth of her baby. Some question if this also covers a woman who chooses an elective abortion and then we pay for her care afterwards. See Missouri Right to Life's Statement on this: <https://missourilife.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-Memo-to-Legislators-on-SS-SCS-SBs-45-90.pdf>

Missouri State Senate:

1. The Missouri Senate has been in Committee work on the state budget bills and will begin Senate floor debate soon.
2. Currently, in the House approach to the defunding of Planned Parenthood in the budget: The House has zeroed out public monies from going to any facility that performs or induces abortions.
NOTE: 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 tax dollars under this approach.
3. HCS HJR 43 regarding protecting our Missouri Constitution and ensuring that everyone across Missouri has a voice in how our MO Constitution can be changed is still on hold in the Senate waiting for a pro-life amendment.

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:

HCS SS SCS SB 45 & SB 90 – Sponsor: Elaine Gannon - Modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet services for pregnant and postpartum women. Some questions if this also includes public insurance for women who choose elective abortions

April 17, 2023 – Voted Do Pass in House Rules Committee on Legislative Oversight with No pro-life language. See Missouri Right to Life's Statement on this: : <https://missourilife.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-Memo-to-Legislators-on-SS-SCS-SBs-45-90.pdf>

HCS SCS SB 133 – Sponsor: Mike Moon – Tax deduction for unborn Children (**Support**)
April 19, 2023 – HCS SC SB 133 Voted Do Pass in House Rules Committee on Leg. Oversight
April 13, 2023 – House Ways and Means Committee loads up SB 133 with the following multiple issues (Senior Citizen Property Tax Credit, Assessment of Motor Vehicles, Motor Fuel Tax Refunds, Individual Income Tax Rate, Corporate Income Taxes, ESOP Income Tax Deduction, and Retirement Benefits Deduction). **House and Senate will have to work out the differences on this bill in order for families to get a tax deduction for their unborn children which was a stand-alone bill.**

SB 160 – Sponsor: Nick Schroer – Modifies provisions relating to public funding of abortion facilities and affiliates and provisions relating to MO HealthNet providers **(Support)**

April 21, 2023 – On Senate Formal Calendar Senate Bills for Perfection

April 6, 2023 – Reported to Senate from Senate Health and Welfare Committee

March 8, 2023 – Voted Do Pass in Senate Health and Welfare Committee

SB 214 – Sponsor: Pro-Abortion Doug Beck – Modifies provisions relating to child support for unborn children **(Monitor)**

April 21, 2023 – Informal Calendar Senate Bills for Perfection with amendments pending

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 Is Monitoring This Bill)**

April 21, 2023 – Informal Calendar Senate Bills for Perfection. Multiple amendments and Senate Sub on April 12, 2023

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

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

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 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

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 April 6th, SB 133 was Heard in the House Ways and Means Committee for consideration by the House. 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)**

April 13, 2023 – Reported Do Pass to the Full Senate

HB 703 – Sponsor: Mike Haffner – Modifies provisions for initiative petitions and referendums **(Watch)**

April 6, 2023 – Reported to the Senate and First Read

April 6, 2023 – Third Read and Passed the House

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

April 6, 2023 – Placed on House Informal Perfection Calendar

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 24, 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.