



Missouri Dental Association - 2024 End of Session Legislative Report

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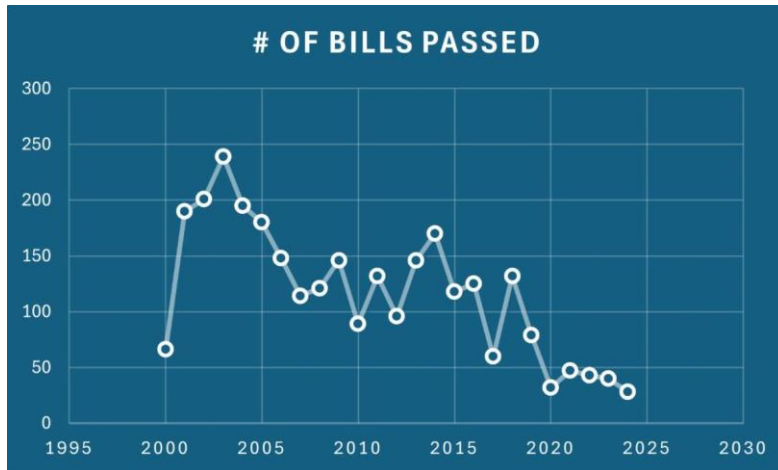
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Final Week Overview

2024 Session Ends in Gridlock: The Missouri legislative session concluded on Friday, passing only 28 non-budget bills, a record low number. Senate dysfunction was the prevailing theme, resulting in many senators' and representatives' non-controversial priorities simply dying on the debate calendars due to a lack of time. In fact, during the final week of the session, the Senate, which normally processes about 80% of the bills passed in a year, conducted no business at all. The Senate Freedom Caucus members had an agenda, and from the opening day of the session, they set the tone that unless they approved, issues would struggle to make progress and, in most cases, even reach the debate floor. This caused a bottleneck that became unrecoverable. In many instances, more hours were spent reading books on the Senate floor than debating the topics before them. For the first time in our experience at the state capitol, no legislation was sent to a conference committee.

The House of Representatives processed all the bills they could without needing Senate concurrence. They too faced controversy throughout the session, but their rules and processes allowed them to work around these issues and remain functional on the floor. The House continued working on the final day of the session to pass key legislation but ran out of tasks once the Senate concluded their day that morning.

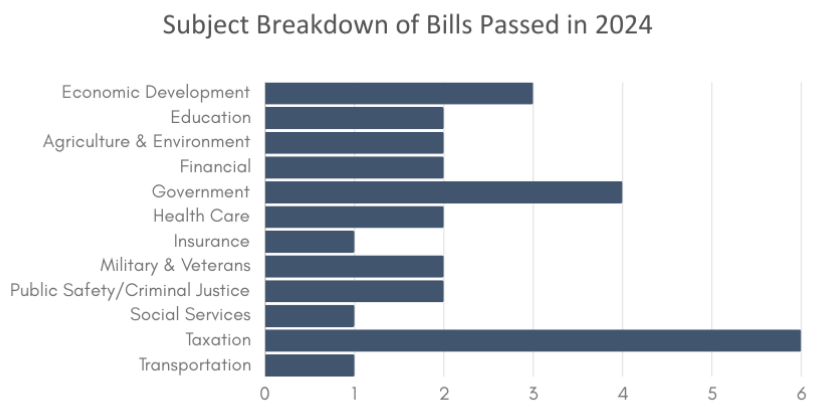
The legislators now turn their attention to the upcoming August primaries, which will determine the November winners in 90% of the races, including most of the statewide races. One U.S. Senator and five of the six statewide officeholders (excluding the Auditor) will be elected.



Pictured Above: A total of 28 policy bills passed in 2024, the lowest in recent history and the first time no bills were sent to conference committee. A total of 32 policy bills passed in 2020 when the legislature was out for six weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why Didn't More Bills Pass in 2024? There are an endless number of variables to consider when evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the Missouri General Assembly in any given year. A few examples for the 2024 session:

- Election Year Posturing: legislators prioritize issues for voter appeal, slowing down legislation.
- "No Such Thing as Bad Publicity": some legislators seek attention through controversial issues, hindering cooperation.
- The Role of the Freedom Caucus: ideological stances obstruct bipartisan bills, leading to gridlock.
- Increasing Partisanship: partisan divides reduce collaboration, impeding legislative progress.



What Passed? Legislation that navigated its way through the narrow passage and to the Governor's desk included:

- **Balanced Budget:** A \$50 billion state budget
- **Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA):** A funding bill renewing a mechanism to draw down federal money to help pay Medicaid providers for health care for Missourians
- **School Choice & Teacher Pay:** An education bill granting both public and private education greater abilities to educate students
- **Defund Planned Parenthood:** Planned Parenthood defunding legislation, precluding state money from going to Planned Parenthood
- **340B:** Expanding access to discounted prescription drugs

MDA 2024 Legislative Priorities

Virtual Credit Cards: Our virtual credit card legislation passed this year in [Senate Bill 1359](#)! With so few bills being truly and finally passed, virtual credit card legislation found success by being amended onto SB1359, sponsored by Senator Curtis Trent. The original law we passed allowed for dentists to “opt out” of this type of payment, however we learned from you that the insurance companies implemented this law in various ways, making the process still very cumbersome for providers. This year, our bill requires an “opt in” only provision, therefore requiring carriers to receive explicit, written consent from the provider before issuing payment via a virtual credit card. This legislation will go into effect August 28 if signed by the Governor.

Assignment of Benefits: Assignment of benefits legislation also passed this year in [Senate Bill 1359](#)! This legislation focuses on two things: 1) If a person with health insurance assigns their payment to an out-of-network healthcare provider, the insurance company must make the payment to the provider in accordance with the “prompt pay laws”, which is within 45 days. 2) If a person does not assign the benefits to a provider, then the insurer shall also pay the patient in accordance with the prompt pay law – which is 45 days from receipt of the claim. The bill has an effective date to match the beginning of the insurance policy year.

Dental Loss Ratio: [House Bill 2890](#) was filed by Representative Mike Stephens to require Medical Loss Ratio apply to dental plans in a similar way as it applies to medical plans. Given the late filing of this bill, opposition to the bill, and dysfunction in the General Assembly, this bill did not pass.

Appropriations:

- Medicaid Reimbursement Rates: Maintained (80% of 50th percentile of UCR)
- **INCREASE** - Dental anesthesia and extraction rates for parity with Medicare rates: \$2,465,091
- Elks Mobile Dental Services: \$600,000
- **INCREASE** - Donated Dental Services: \$180,000 from \$90,000

MDA Monitored Legislation

Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact: We are in support through collaboration of the Dental and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact. [House Bill 2075](#) was filed by Representative Jeff Coleman and [Senate Bill 778](#) was filed by Senator Karla Eslinger. We worked with ADSO’s lobbyists to try to change/correct the rhetoric surrounding the bill. The lobbyist for the American Association of Dental Boards – Alex Tuttle, was able to get the Freedom Caucus worked up – at one point claiming the compact was unconstitutional. The compact legislation did not pass this year.

Water Fluoridation Local Decision Making: Legislation that would require public water systems that intend to stop or start fluoridation of their water supply to first seek and receive information from their local health department about the impacts of fluoridation in their communities has been filed in recent sessions. Representative Doyle Justus filed [House Bill 1621](#) but it did not progress out of the first committee to which it was referred.

Vaccine Administration by Dentists: The Missouri dental schools filed legislation that would allow for dentists to give certain vaccines, either in a declared state of emergency or related to the oral cavity. The legislation would also require that dentists receive additional training as determined by the Missouri Dental Board before being able to administer any vaccines. [Senate Bill 1215](#), filed by Senator Steven Roberts, did not progress out of the first committee to which it was referred.

All TAFP “Truly Agreed & Finally Passed” Bills

- [SB 727 - Koenig](#) - Creates and modifies provisions relating to elementary and secondary education
- [SB 748 - Hough](#) - Modifies provisions relating to reimbursement allowance taxes
- [SB 751 - Brown \(16\)](#) - Enacts provisions relating to distribution of 340B drugs
- [SB 754 - Luetkemeyer](#) - Modifies provisions relating to public safety
- [SB 756 - Luetkemeyer](#) - Modifies a property tax credit for certain seniors
- [SB 802 - Trent](#) - Modifies provisions relating to business investment incentives
- [SB 872 - Eslinger](#) - Modifies provisions relating to the taxation of utility infrastructure
- [SB 894 - Fitzwater](#) - Modifies provisions relating to the promotion of business development
- [SB 895 - Trent](#) - Modifies provisions relating to landlord-tenant actions, including eviction proceeding moratoriums and filings for transfers of real property with outstanding collectible judgments
- [SB 912 - Brown \(26\)](#) - Modifies provisions relating to military affairs
- [SB 1111 - Black](#) - Modifies provisions relating to the regulation of child care
- [SB 1296 - O'Laughlin](#) - Conveys certain state property
- [SB 1359 - Trent](#) - Modifies provisions relating to financial institutions
- [SB 1388 - Razer](#) - Authorizes a sales tax exemption for certain nuclear facilities
- [SB 1453 - Brown \(16\)](#) - Designates "Dr Dan Brown Memorial Highway" in Phelps County
- [SJR 71 - Black](#) - Provides for the levying of certain costs and fees to support the salaries and benefits of sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, and circuit attorneys
- [SJR 78 - Brown \(26\)](#) - Modifies provisions relating to elections
- [HB 1495 - Griffith](#) - Requires the Missouri Veterans Commission recommend and implement efforts to prevent veteran suicide
- [HB 1751 - Haffner](#) - Modifies provisions relating to solid waste disposal area permits
- [HB 1803 - Thompson](#) - Increases the limit on investments in linked deposits by the State Treasurer
- [HB 1909 - Taylor](#) - Modifies the meeting requirements for county political party committees
- [HB 1912 - McGirl](#) - Modifies provisions relating to the taxation of pass-through entities
- [HB 2057 - Keathley](#) - Modifies provisions relating to video service providers
- [HB 2062 - Brown](#) - Modifies provisions relating to the use of property
- [HB 2111 - Christofanelli](#) - Modifies powers of the state auditor
- [HB 2134 - Lewis](#) - Creates new provisions relating to water pollution
- [HB 2287 - Christofanelli](#) - Establishes provisions relating to elementary and secondary education
- [HB 2634 - Smith](#) - Modifies provisions relating to public funding of abortion facilities and affiliates and provisions relating to MO HealthNet providers

Legislative Resources

- [TAFP Bills \(Truly Agreed & Finally Passed, Sent to the Governor\)](#)
- [Bills Signed by the Governor](#)
- [MDA 2024 LIVE Bill Tracking List](#)

Important Dates:

- September 11 – Veto Session

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