

January General Legislative Recap

Missouri GOP Clash: Senators Ousted Amid Filibuster Frenzy and Power Struggle:

An escalating war among Missouri Senate Republicans has seen the majority leader strip four conservative 'Freedom Caucus' lawmakers of leadership roles, accusing them of obstructionism. The affected senators fired back, alleging abuse of power and politically-motivated retaliation tied to looming statewide elections. The high-profile clash highlights growing tensions between the GOP establishment and an activist right flank vying for dominance. Senate President Pro-Tem Caleb Rowden (R-Columbia), in a press conference last Thursday, highlighted that the Senate has engaged in 17 hours and 52 minutes of floor debate this year. However, he expressed concern that a significant portion of this time, specifically 16 hours and 45 minutes, was consumed by a filibuster devoid of substantive content, with no bills progressing to the debate stage.

There was compromise made on the senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments which includes the appointment of Acting DHSS Director Paula Nicholson and Acting DSS Director Robert Knodell. In addition, it included two appointments to the Board of Nursing Home Administrations. Both Libby Youse and Deanna Bokel were appointed and confirmed to this important board. These departments and board, as you know, are heavily involved in the regulation and reimbursement of the LTC industry. Having stability in these departments is a step in the right direction.

Governor's Final State of the State Address:

The Governor gave his annual State of the State address on Wednesday, January 24, before the House and Senate in the House chambers. This was Gov. Parson's final state of the state address. Much of the address focused on highlighting his accomplishments since becoming Governor. He also spent time discussing a few of his policy and budget priorities for the year. The Governor and Lawmakers are cautious about increasing ongoing expenses with flat revenue growth expected. As such, there were very few increases recommended to current spending. Unfortunately, his budget recommendation did not include any increase for the SNF Medicaid rates.