

February General Legislative Recap

The end of February has brought us a somewhat functional Missouri General Assembly. After weeks of Senate in-fighting, mainly among two factions of Republican Senators, the disrupters in the Senate have finally stepped aside and allowed forward movement of a few bills.

One of the priorities of the group of disrupters in the Senate was Initiative Petition reform. SJR74, sponsored by Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman, which would change the initiative petition process, has passed the Senate. The Joint Resolution states that in order to approve a change to the constitution, both a statewide majority of voters would have to approve the measure, *and* it would also require a majority vote in 5 of the state's 8 congressional districts.

Democrats mounted a filibuster that lasted more than 20 hours, as they argued the initial proposal by Coleman would have too much "ballot candy", thus enticing voters to support the measure. The filibuster of the bill ended after Republican Senator Mike Cierpiot offered an amendment that would remove what was being referred to as "ballot candy". After spending days debating, and a nearly 24-hour filibuster by the Senate Democrats, the Senate passed SJR74 which now heads to the House for consideration.

We look forward to seeing everyone next week (March 4 – 5) in Jefferson City at the MHCA Mid-Year Conference and Lobby Day. If you have not registered yet, it is not too late. You can register here: <https://forms.mohealthcare.com/event/MidYear2024>