



MEDC Annual Conference
June 13, 2017
St. Louis, MO

The Missouri Legislature 2017

Rodney Boyd
Partner
Dentons
rodney.boyd@dentons.com

Brian Grace
Principal
Dentons
brian.grace@dentons.com

Kate Casas
Managing Director
Dentons
Kate.Casas@dentons.com

Economic Development Budget items (HB7)

Sponsor: Scott Fitzpatrick (R-Shell Knob)

- \$5.3 Million- Customized Training Programs
 - At peak funding was \$18million
- \$2.5 Million- Missouri Technology Corporation
 - Last year was \$22million
- \$0- The Missouri Partnership
 - Last year \$2.5million

Economic Development

Missouri Works and Missouri Works Training (SB10)

Sponsor: Jay Wasson (R-Christian County)

- Status- **Failed**
- Streamlined several provisions relating to financial incentives for job creation primarily related to the Missouri Works and the Missouri Works Job Training Programs.

Economic Development

Chapter 100 Tax Abatement Programs (SB11)

Sponsor: Jay Wasson (R-Christian County)

- Status- **Failed**
- Modified the language for agreements that can be entered into by municipalities who participate in industrial development projects

Economic Development Ridesharing (HB 130)

Sponsor: Rep. Kirk Mathews (R-Eureka)

- Status: **Signed by the Governor**
- Creates a statewide framework under which transportation network companies, like Lyft and Uber, can operate in Missouri.

Labor Reform Right to Work (SB 19)

Sponsor: Sen. Dan Brown (R-Rolla)

- Status: **Signed by Governor**
- Employers are barred from requiring employees to become or remain a member of a labor organization. Any person who violates or directs another to violate this act is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Moreover, any person injured as a result of violation or threatened violation of this act is entitled to injunctive relief and damages.

Labor Reform

Project Labor Agreements (SB 182)

Sponsor: Senator Bob Onder (R-St. Charles County)

- Status: **Signed by the Governor**
- Prohibits the requirement that municipalities enter into project labor agreements.
- Proponents of the legislation believe PLAs drive up the cost of construction and thus cost taxpayers more than is necessary.
- Opponents believe PLAs ensure quality work and a tight budget on public projects such as the construction of schools, libraries or police stations

Labor Reform

Prevailing Wage (SB 20)

Sponsor: Sen. Dan Brown (R-Rolla)

- Status: **Failed**
- Would have eliminated the state's prevailing wage law for public works projects

Labor Reform

Paycheck Protection/Recertification (HB 251)

Sponsor: Rep. Jered Taylor (R-Springfield)

- Status: **Failed**
 - Requires authorization for certain labor unions to use dues and fees to make political contributions and requires consent for withholding earnings from paychecks. Also contained provisions relating to the certification and recertification of labor unions

Tort Reform Expert Witness (HB 153)

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Corlew (R-Kansas City)

- Status: **Signed by Governor**
- The bill would move Missouri's standard for expert witnesses to the federal Daubert Standard, which requires that an expert witness' testimony be in line with current scientific evidence while Missouri's current standard looks only at the qualifications of an expert witness.
- Proponents argue that this bill will decrease costs of trial and shorten litigation. Opponents argue it will prevent new, but quality science from being considered in the courtroom.

Tort Reform Discrimination Reform (SB43)

Sponsor: Sen. Gary Romine (R-Farmington)

- Status: **Passed**
- Will raise the standard of proof for employment discrimination cases under the Missouri Human Rights Act, exempts supervisors and managers who are not employers from being sued for discriminatory conduct, set caps on damages awarded to successful plaintiffs, limit the avenues of redress available to plaintiffs and alter relief and protections available to whistleblowers.
- Supporters of the bill believe it will improve the state's economic climate and foster job growth.
- Opponents of the bill say it guts the Missouri Human Rights Act

Tort Reform

Venue/Joinder (HB 460)

Sponsor: Rep. Glen Kolkmeyer (R-Odessa)

- Status: **Failed**
 - Modifies provisions relating to civil procedure for joinder, intervention, and venue in civil actions

Education (HB 2)

Sponsor: Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick (R-Shell Knob)

- Status: **Passed**
- Both chambers of the General Assembly voted to fully fund the K-12 funding formula for the first time since this funding formula was written and passed into law in 2005.

Real ID(HB 151)

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Corlew (R-Kansas City)

- Status: **Signed by the Governor**
- This bill repeals a provision of state law that prohibited the Missouri Department of Revenue from implementing a federal Real ID compliant driver's license.
- If the Governor signs this legislation it will ensure Missouri residents will not need a passport to fly domestically and will be able to enter federal facilities.

Minimum Wage Preemption (HB 1194)

Sponsor: Rep. Jason Chipman (R-Steelville)

- Status: **Passed**
- Prevents municipalities from raising their minimum wage above the state mandated minimum wage.
- It is currently unclear whether this bill will require St. Louis City to roll back its \$10hour wage increase.

Utility Rate Cases (SBs 190, 214 and 242)

Sponsor: Sen. Ed Emery (R-Barton County)

- Status: **Failed**
- All three publically owned utilities (gas, electric, water) launched efforts to modernize/reform ratemaking. All three were stalled by a handful of Senators.

Special Session

Aluminum Smelter and Steel Mill

Sponsor: Rep. Done Rone (R-Portageville)

- Status: **Passed**
- The legislation allows an aluminum smelter and steel mill that are new to the state and that will create new jobs to negotiate special utility rates with a publically owned utility company.

Thank you



Dentons US LLP
One Metropolitan Square
211 N. Broadway, Suite 3000
St. Louis, MO 63102-2741
United States

Dentons is the world's first polycentric global law firm. A top 20 firm on the Acritas 2015 Global Elite Brand Index, the Firm is committed to challenging the status quo in delivering consistent and uncompromising quality and value in new and inventive ways. Driven to provide clients a competitive edge, and connected to the communities where its clients want to do business, Dentons knows that understanding local cultures is crucial to successfully completing a deal, resolving a dispute or solving a business challenge. Now the world's largest law firm, Dentons' global team builds agile, tailored solutions to meet the local, national and global needs of private and public clients of any size in more than 125 locations serving 50-plus countries. www.dentons.com.

© 2015 Dentons. Dentons is a global legal practice providing client services worldwide through its member firms and affiliates. This publication is not designed to provide legal advice and you should not take, or refrain from taking, action based on its content. Please see dentons.com for Legal Notices.