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Tila Hubrecht's Capitol Report: Friday, January 29, 2016

FEBRUARY 01ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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House and Senate Budget Leaders to Move Forward Cautiously with Budget Process

The House Budget Committee Chairman this week filed the appropriations bills that will make up the Fiscal Year 2017 state operating budget. For the first time in several years, the House Appropriations Committees and the House Budget Committee will begin their budget work based on the governor's spending recommendations. Budget Chairman Tom Flanigan said the process will be a difficult one because the governor's proposed budget is inflated and based on unrealistic revenue projections.

“The governor has a budget based on numbers we think are unrealistic, which means we will have our work cut out for us as we do our best to transform his proposal into a fiscally responsible spending plan,” said Flanigan.

Flanigan said the governor's refusal to abide by a true consensus revenue estimate will force the legislature to use an abundance of caution in crafting the nearly \$27 billion state operating budget. House Budget Chairman Tom Flanigan and Senate Appropriations Chairman Kurt Schaefer said the games played by the governor's office have made it nearly impossible to work toward a fiscally responsible budget based on realistic revenue projections.

“As a legislature we want to be fiscally responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, but it's a constant fight against a governor who continues to move the goal line any time it suits

him,” said Flanigan.

House Committees Release Planned Parenthood Report; Chairs File Legislation

The Missouri House Committees on Children and Families and Ways and Means released their report and legislative recommendations this week following the investigation into the actions of Planned Parenthood in Missouri.

The investigation began following the mention of St. Louis’ Planned Parenthood facility in a series of videos released last summer exposing the organization’s practices. Committee chairs invited top Planned Parenthood officials from its St. Louis region to testify on the organization’s procedures to no avail. As a result, the committees were unable to confirm whether the practices occurred or did not occur in Missouri, and committee leaders said measures stemming from the investigation would be proactive to make certain practices seen in the videos do not occur in the state.

State Representatives Diane Franklin, Children and Families chair, and Andrew Koenig, Ways and Means chair, outlined the investigation’s findings and steps forward to turn gray areas in the state’s abortion laws and regulations black and white. Franklin has filed four abortion bills stemming from the hearings with at least two more bills to come concerning family planning funding prioritization and legislative oversight. Koenig has introduced legislation regarding the abortion-to-disposal process for tracking and reporting purposes.

The bills filed by Franklin and Koenig include:

- HB 2068 that would prohibit a person from knowingly donating or making an anatomical gift of the fetal organs or tissue resulting from an abortion to any person or entity for medical, scientific, experimental, therapeutic, or any other use.
- HB 2069 that would provide whistleblower protections for employees who work in facilities that handle aborted fetal remains.
- HB 2070 that would change the definition of "remains of a human fetus".
- HB 2071 that would require all tissue removed at an abortion to be sent to a pathologist rather than just a representative sample of tissue.
- HB 2371 that would change the law regarding abortions.

“I look forward to moving these and other pieces of legislation to reform the abortion and disposition processes in Missouri,” Franklin said. “The committee hearings were the preliminary steps to taking action to protect and dignify innocent life in Missouri.”

Second Round of Ethics Reform Bills Headed to the Senate (HB 2166, HB 2203, HB 2226)

On the first day of the legislative session, House Speaker Todd Richardson called on the Missouri House to make substantive ethics reform a top priority for the 2016 legislative session. Just a few weeks later, the House had made good on his promise by approving seven separate bills that take a multitude of steps to improve the culture at the state Capitol.

This week the House gave overwhelming approval to HB 2166 to alleviate the undue influence of lobbyists in Jefferson City by banning gifts and meals provided by lobbyists to elected officials; HB 2203 to limit how long campaign funds can be invested and how they can be used; and HB 2226 to prohibit task force and commission appointees from profiting from the recommendations they make. All three bills now head to the Missouri Senate for discussion.

The bills join four pieces of legislation already moving through the Senate. HB 1452 would require elected officials to file a personal financial disclosure twice each year. Current law requires only a single disclosure each year. HB 1575 would require elected officials to report lodging and travel expenses in a timely fashion. The bill requires the expenses to be filed within 30 days of the reportable event. HB 1979 would require elected officials to have a one-year “cooling off” period after leaving office before they could become lobbyists. HB 1983 would make it clear that no statewide official or member of the General Assembly can serve as a paid political consultant while in office. All four bills have already received a public hearing in the Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions, and Ethics Committee.

Helping Small Businesses to Grow and Prosper (HB 1870)

The House approved and sent to the Senate this week a piece of legislation meant to cut the bureaucratic red tape that too often stifles the growth of small businesses in Missouri. House members approved legislation to revive the Big Government Get Off My Back Act for tax years 2016 through 2021.

The act originally ran from 2009 to 2014 and was instrumental in prohibiting new rules and regulations on small businesses, as well as unnecessary fee increases. The act also gives a \$10,000 tax deduction for any small business, with 50 employees or less, that hires additional employees and pays them at least the average county wage. In its final year in 2014, the act provided tax relief to 196 small businesses throughout Missouri. Proponents hope to provide assistance to even more businesses by reviving the program.

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Jason Smith's Capitol Report: Friday, January 29, 2016

FEBRUARY 01ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith's Capitol Report: Friday, January 29, 2016

Congressman Jason Smith Capitol Report: Overriding a Presidential Veto Friday, January 29, 2016

Next week the U.S. House will take the historic action of attempting to override a Presidential Veto. In early January, for the first time since Obamacare was signed into law without a single Republican vote, Congress sent a bill repealing the President's namesake law to his desk. I voted in support of that repeal, a vote which would have dismantled Obamacare, fully defunded Planned Parenthood, and reduced the deficit by \$516 billion.

With that vote, the U.S. House and Senate stood with the American people and delivered

Obamacare its biggest blow yet. The bipartisan repeal bill would have ended the catastrophic and costly individual and employer mandates, eliminated a host of associated taxes, and reduced the government intrusion between you and your doctor. Unfortunately, as soon as that bill hit President Obama's desk, he promptly vetoed it.

Next week I will be supporting Congress's first veto override attempt of this President. Simply put, the American people deserve a patient-centered health care system which is free of government intrusion. I will vote to override the President's veto because repealing Obamacare is the right thing to do in order to restore the doctor-patient relationship and get our country on track to create a market based, competitive health care system that's actually affordable.

Obamacare is a failure, even by the government's own standards. The Congressional Budget Office recently reported that by 2025 Obamacare will cost the economy an equivalent of 2 million full-time jobs. Consumers have been left with fewer choices and health care remains un-affordable.

You elected me to put a major repeal of Obamacare on the president's desk and to force him to answer the question, "Whose best interest do you have at heart?" When President Obama vetoed this bill he answered loud and clear, "I've chosen my own legacy and my own interests, over those of hardworking Americans." He cares more about protecting his signature namesake law, than improving the healthcare system in this country. Individuals should have the ability to choose their own doctor. They should be able to purchase affordable, high-quality health care insurance that offers the best healthcare safety net option for their family. Competition without government intrusion should help drive down prices and businesses should not be hampered by confusing and conflicting healthcare regulatory paperwork. Unfortunately, even bipartisan agreement in Congress isn't enough to get this President to accept changes to his namesake healthcare law. I know many will join me next week in attempting to override his veto and I can only hope it's enough. When it comes to affordable and accessible healthcare, we all deserve better.

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Tila Hubrecht's Capitol Report - January 22, 2016

JANUARY 25TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Tila Hubrecht's Capitol Report - January 22, 2016

House Speaker Delivers Response to Governor's State of the State Address

Governor Jay Nixon delivered his final State of the State Address this week as he called on legislators to work with him to advance several issues including ethics reform. Immediately after he finished his speech, House Speaker Todd Richardson delivered his response to the governor's call to action. It was during his response that Richardson noted that the governor has too often been someone who pledges to work with the General Assembly, but then fails to live up to his promise.

"The hallmark of this governor is talk and not action," said Richardson in his response. "Each January he comes to the General Assembly and promises to meaningfully engage on the challenges facing Missouri. With few exceptions, he has failed to deliver on that promise."

Richardson went on to say, "This Republican legislature has pledged to lead even in the governor's absence. Because of his lack of leadership, Governor Nixon has been overridden more times than every other governor in the history of this state combined."

Richardson used his response to highlight the many accomplishments the legislature has made in recent years. He focused on the tax cut approved by the legislature and then put into effect as law over the governor's veto. As Richardson said, "Because of these actions, and despite the governor's objections, this year Missouri families will see their first income tax cut in nearly a century."

The Speaker also mentioned the legislature's efforts to protect the Second Amendment rights of Missourians. "Just last year this General Assembly defeated a proposal to enact a massive tax on guns and ammunition, and we will continue to defeat similar proposals going forward," said Richardson.

The House Speaker also noted that the legislature has made great strides in protecting the lives of the unborn. He said because of legislative efforts there are now thirty percent fewer abortions in Missouri than there were a decade ago.

In his State of the State Address, the governor again called for Medicaid expansion, and the Speaker responded by saying the legislature will continue to stand firmly opposed to the federal health care plan. Speaker Richardson noted that even without expansion, Medicaid enrollment has increased 15 percent in the last 18 months, and spending has increased 26 percent since Governor Nixon took office.

"Republicans have stood adamantly opposed to an ever encroaching federal government and this is especially true with our health care," said Richardson. "We will continue to oppose this president, this governor, and the Democrat party in their efforts to expand the failed and flawed Obamacare system."

House Speaker Calls for New Investment in Missouri's Transportation System

One of the major issues discussed by House Speaker Richardson in his response is the need to increase investment in the state's transportation infrastructure. Richardson noted that, "investing in our state's transportation funding isn't just a convenience issue; it's one of economic necessity and public safety."

The Speaker said he is proposing, along with his fellow House and Senate leaders, that the state reinstitute the Missouri Department of Transportation cost-sharing program. Richardson said the once popular program among Missouri cities and counties will allow local governments to work with the state to meet the

infrastructure needs of their communities.

“While this proposal won’t solve all our transportation problems, this investment will send a clear signal to job creators and industry that our state is making the necessary investments and improvements to our infrastructure to allow business to capitalize, expand, and grow,” said Richardson. “And we can do it without asking Missouri families for a single penny.”

House Moves to Reject Tax Increase on Agricultural Land (HCR 58)

As it has done several times over the years, the Missouri House of Representatives took action this week to reject a proposed tax increase on Missouri’s agricultural land. The House gave bipartisan support to HCR 58, which would reject a recommendation made by the Missouri Tax Commission for a five percent tax increase on farm and ranch properties.

A five percent increase went into effect in 2015 after the Tax Commission made a similar recommendation in 2014. Proponents of rejecting the new proposed increase said now is not the time for yet another tax increase on farmers and ranchers who are struggling in the current economy. They also noted that many of Missouri’s agricultural lands have been adversely impacted by flooding, which is something the commission doesn’t take into account when making its recommendation.

With House approval, the measure now moves to the Senate where it is expected to move quickly through the process.

Voter ID Legislation Receives House Approval (HJR 53 and HB 1631)

The House approved and sent to the Senate this week two pieces of legislation designed to require a valid form of photo identification in order to vote.

One piece of legislation would change the Missouri Constitution to allow a system of voter identification. If approved by the legislature, the change would then need to be approved by Missouri voters. The constitutional change is necessary because a voter identification requirement put into law in 2006 was ultimately struck down as unconstitutional by the Missouri Supreme Court. Lawmakers hope to avoid a similar challenge in the future by amending the constitution to allow

voter identification.

The second piece of legislation would implement the system of voter identification if the constitutional amendment is approved by voters. The bill would require voters to present a specified form of identification in order to vote in a public election. Valid forms of identification would include photo IDs issued by the state, the federal government or the military. The bill also would require the state to pay for individuals to obtain a valid ID if they do not have one, or to obtain documents necessary for an ID. The bill also states that individuals without a photo ID could still vote by casting a provisional ballot.

Supporters called the measures a necessary step to protect the integrity of the elections process. They said providing a valid photo ID is the best way to ensure voters are who they say they are when they cast their vote. They also deflected criticism that the bill would disenfranchise Missourians without an ID by pointing to the provisions that would require the state to help such individuals obtain state-issued photo identification.

Both measures now move to the Senate for discussion.

House Continues Discussion on Ethics Reform (HB 2166, HB 2203, HB 2226)

The members of the Missouri House recently approved four pieces of legislation meant to improve the culture at the Capitol, and several more bills are now set to make their way to the House floor for discussion. The House Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability this week gave its stamp of approval to three more reform bills.

One piece of legislation (HB 2166) is meant to alleviate the undue influence of lobbyists in Jefferson City by banning gifts and meals provided by lobbyists to elected officials. Under current law, no limit exists on the amount of gifts a lobbyist can provide to a legislator or other state elected official. The bill approved in committee would impose a strict gift ban for members of the General Assembly and other statewide officials. The legislation is modeled after law in Arizona and contains some common sense exceptions that would allow a legislator to, for example, receive an award without breaking the law. However, the intent of the bill is to prohibit all gifts that could create an appearance of impropriety.

The committee also approved HB 2203 to limit how long campaign funds can be invested and how they can be used, and HB 2226 to prohibit task force and commission appointees from profiting from the recommendations they make.

All three bills now move to the House floor for discussion.

Shown in the photo: Tila Hubrecht, Matt Bain, Zachary Bell and Rep. Holly Rehder. Mr. Bell is a farmer from our area who was visiting the Capitol this week. Mr. Bain is also from Southeast Missouri and works in the Lt. Governor's office.

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Tila Hubrecht Introduces House Bill 1366

JANUARY 25TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Tila Hubrecht Introduces House Bill 1366](#)

From the desk of Tila Hubrecht, 151st State Representative - Missouri

I presented HB 1366 this week to the Committee on Emerging Issues. This bill will allow a pathway for the substitution of Biosimilar Medications for Biologic medications.

These medications are very expensive medications and most commonly found in oncology, arthritis and other types of disease processes. If this bill passes and makes it across the Governor's desk it will result in a significant savings for patients as well as for the state of Missouri.

I was very pleased with the hearing this week, there was no opposition voiced to the bill and many groups voiced supported the bill. This bill will be voted in committee next week and if it passes this committee will go to the second level of committee for review. If the bill passes the second committee level it will be heard on the House Floor.

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Senator Doug Libla Statement on Noranda Aluminum

JANUARY 16TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Senator Doug Libla Statement on Noranda Aluminum Press Release

?Statement on Noranda Aluminum Workforce Reduction

Jefferson City, Missouri - It's a sad day in Southeast Missouri with the recent announcement by Noranda Aluminum in New Madrid that two of their three potlines have gone offline due to a catastrophic loss of electrical supply. Therefore, in the upcoming weeks Noranda announced reduction of employees at the New Madrid Smelter to adjust for operating only a single potline instead of three. This is a tragedy for all of the workers and their families who depend on Noranda and their good paying jobs. The local communities and subsidiary companies that supply Noranda will also be affected.

Manufacturing companies across the United States have been struggling due to burdensome regulations and unfair trade laws passed by the federal government. The reluctance of USA custom agents and other government officials to enforce our country's trade laws has resulted in foreign countries like China to continue dumping cheap, inferior products, and manipulating currency exchange rates.

Coal-fired power plants over the past several years have also come under attack by the federal government, making it harder for families and businesses to pay their electric bills, especially in the Midwest. Affordable and reliable electric rates are vital to businesses remaining open and providing jobs

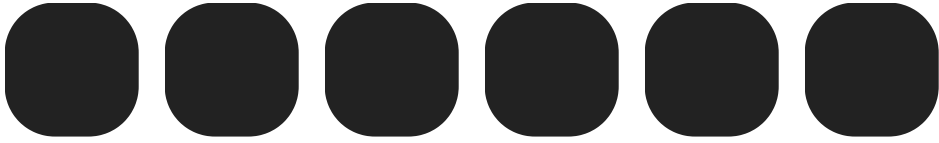
We need Washington D.C. to quit passing burdensome regulations and defend our homegrown manufacturers from unfair government subsidized trade practices by foreign competitors. The combination of rising electrical costs, lack of enforcement of our trade laws, and job killing regulations is destroying manufacturing and businesses across our country. Many of Noranda's domestic competitors have been going out of business in recent years because of these very same issues. It is very difficult to remain in business without affordable electrical rates. USA manufacturers cannot afford to continue producing products and selling below manufacturing cost.

Until our federal and state governments change their ways, we will continue to see more American companies struggle or close. I will continue to do everything I can in Jefferson City to assist Noranda and its employees through this stormy period. My prayers and sympathy goes out to the workers and families of Noranda already affected by the layoffs, and those who may be in the future.

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