



## LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI

8706 Manchester Rd. Suite 104 St. Louis, MO 63144-2724

314-961-6869 (fax 314-961-8393) email: [lwvmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmo@yahoo.com) [www.lwvmissouri.org](http://www.lwvmissouri.org)

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#### **Spring Break 3/17-3/27**

Your Legislators are at home, or at least they are not debating legislation in Jefferson City . This is your chance to call your Senator and Representative and take them out for coffee (or you name it) and encourage them to move bills that League supports (if we oppose-change or defeat) on through the process. Our directors have a short list of bills, in each area with talking points for your use as you talk to your legislators in these next 10 days.

#### **Legislative Update –Energy 3-15-06**

**ACTION ALERT: HB 1394 (Lowe) Renewable Energy Standards; Heard 3/7 by H. Special Com. on Energy & Environment. LWVMO spoke in support. YOUR CALLS NEEDED** move the bill out of committee.

Message: Mandatory standards for electric utilities are needed to assure timely development of Missouri’s renewable resources. A RES creates a reliable market for renewable energy. 20 states have RESs now. Call Reps. Bivins, Chinn, Bowman, Fares, Guest, Rucker, Schad, Wood, Muschany, and Oxford this weekend.

SCS SB 917 (Koster) 2<sup>nd</sup> read in House 3/6 No action needed at this time.

#### **Win Colwell- Director**

#### **Health Care**

LWVMO is following another health care bill of interest. SCS SBs 858 and 868 concerns health technology and was reviewed by Senator Shields (primary sponsor) at our Legislative Day this past week.

This legislation establishes the “Health Care Technology Fund” for the purpose of using

#### **(Healthcare, cont’d)**

technological advances to improve patient care, to decrease administrative burdens and to increase the safety, quality, and costs of health care services in the state. Electronic record keeping will be key. Twenty five percent of appropriated funds will disbursed to medically under served communities and populations.

League positions under health and meeting basic needs support this legislation and League will continue to monitor this bill, pending clarification of patient privacy and confidentiality. Concern on this issue has been sent to Sen. Shields.

SCS SBs 858 and 868 carries an emergency clause and is currently in the House for second reading. We can congratulate Sen. Shields for his leadership here.

SB901(Shields) establishes the “Joint Committee on Health” was reviewed in Leg.Bulletin 4.Urge its move.

#### **Lael Von Holt- Director**

#### **Taxes and TIF.**

SB832 (Griesheimer) returns Tax Increment Financing to its original meaning. Leg. Bulletin 4 discussed his bill and our support of it. Leaguers can thank him for his dogged determination to reform and improve TIF in his 14 years in the Legislature.

TABOR (HJR48) has not progressed but you would be helpful to oppose its passage. See Leg. Bulletin 4 for the discussion of this problem.

#### **Elaine Blodgett – Director**

## Children-

SB588(Bartle)strengthens sexual predator laws and was discussed in a previous Leg Bulletin. This bill passed the Senate on 3-9 and was first read later that day in the House. 3-10 it was second read but has not been referred to committee as yet. Speaker Rod Jetton should be urged to assign SB588 to committee and your Representative needs to be urged to vote to make it unanimous in passing this important legislation.

SB916(Koster) requires child passenger restraints depending on age, weight, and height. Passed Senate and 3-16 first read in House. Needs to be assigned to committee and progress through the House.

HB1071(Phillips) Childhood immunization. Dept of Health and Senior citizens to determine rules and regulations of certain immunizations for children including frequency. 3-16 House Calendar for Perfection.

**Laura Pitts -Director**

## ELECTIONS

**SB 1014** (ID for voting is our main concern) is stuck in the Senate for now; contact your Senator with your concern over spring break.

## EDUCATION FUNDING

The House completed perfection (floor debate and amendment) on the K-12 and higher education budget bills on March 15 without adoption of significant changes. The budget bills will probably be passed on Thursday, March 16.

While the current formula is about \$791 million underfunded in the current school year, the passage of the new formula last year conveniently reduces the formula funding call by locking in the current year's underfunding on the portion of state aid paid on the outgoing formula during the 7 year phase-in of the new formula.

## Education, Cont'd

Comprehensive revisions to the funding formula to provide adequate and equitable funding which includes a more adequate base amount are crucial to funding education adequately in this state, as is phasing in over a much shorter time than 7 years. This is not happening and will have tragic consequences as funding of public education falls farther and farther behind.

Contact your Senator to express your concern. Hearing this from the "non education" community might have an impact.

The education tax credit voucher bill (**HB 1783**) passed out of committee on March 12 and will be taken up by the House after spring break. The pressure is intense on House members to support this bill so please contact your Representative to **OPPOSE** it before Mar. 27. League opposes any measure to transfer state funds to private, religious or home schools that are not held accountable to the standards placed upon public schools.

There are several other education bills, some good and some harmful, that are moving and will be taken up after break. We hope to give you an overview of some of the best and worst next issue

**Nancy Copenhaver-Director**

Always refer to a bill by its name not number. That's how Reps. know them. Thanks.

Laura Worstell/Editor/1<sup>st</sup> V.P.

**Questions or comments on this bulletin should be directed to the editor, Laura Worstell**

**[lworstell@maain.com](mailto:lworstell@maain.com)**

**or mailed to: LWVMO/Attn. Leg. Bulletin**

**8706 Manchester Ste. 104**

**St. Louis MO 63144**

**314-961-6869**