



Legislative Update

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VETO SESSION CONCLUDES

The Missouri House and Senate convened for Veto Session on September 14. The legislature overrode several bills passed during the Regular Session and vetoed by the Governor.

A recent Missouri Supreme Court ruling specifies that only bills returned by the Governor during the last week of session or after session ends may be taken up during Veto Session, while bills returned earlier must be taken up during the remainder of the Regular Session.

Accordingly, an attempt to reconsider the failed override attempt on HB 1891 (Rehder), the Paycheck Deception bill returned by the Governor on March 18, was contrary to this new ruling, and no such motion was made.

LEGISLATURE OVERRIDES PHOTO ID VETO

The legislature overrode Governor Nixon's veto and approved HB 1631 (Alferman), the implementing legislation for the proposed photo ID voter mandate placed on the November 2016 ballot by HJR 53 (Dugger). HB 1631 will not be enforced unless voters approve HJR 53, a constitutional change that would authorize legislation mandating photo ID for voting.

The House approved the measure by a party-line vote of 115-41, while the Senate approved the bill by a nearly party-line vote of 23-8. Sen. Bob Dixon joined the minority party members in opposing the bill.

Missouri NEA believes voting is a constitutional right that should not be restricted by unnecessary voter photo identification requirements or other additional barriers to the voting franchise. Similar bills enacted in several other states have recently been overturned by federal court ruling. The Association opposed both measures.

LEGISLATURE OVERRIDES ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE VETO

The legislature overrode Governor Nixon's veto and approved SS#2/SCS/HCS/HB 1432 (Vescovo). The bill requires a hearing to be held within 60 days if a public employee is placed on administrative leave to determine if the employee engaged in misconduct. The final version contains an extension up to 180 days for good cause, but with no definition of cause.

The House approved the measure by a vote of 113-42, while the Senate vote was 23-8. Sen. Kurt Schaefer joined the minority party members in opposing the bill.

The bill may force school boards to make determinations regarding the status of employees placed on administrative leave before necessary investigations are complete. The confusing language of the bill is also likely to trigger costly litigation to resolve the uncertainty created by this new law. The Association opposed the bill.
