



# Legislative Update

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## **SESSION BEGINS!**

The 2022 legislative session began at noon on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. The House and Senate also convened on January 6. At this stage of the session, the primary business to be conducted is to organize, adopt rules and read in the many bills filed by legislators. More than 1300 bills and joint resolutions have already been filed and many more will be filed in the coming days and weeks.

Both chambers will continue with the legislative leaders selected for the 2021 session. Senate leaders include Sen. Dave Schatz as President Pro Tempore, Sen. Caleb Rowden as Majority Floor Leader, and Sen. John Rizzo as Minority Floor Leader. House leaders include Rep. Rob Vescovo as Speaker, Rep. Dean Plocher as Majority Floor Leader and Rep. Crystal Quade as Minority Floor Leader.

The House was only in session on January 5 long enough to act on the typical start of session motions and to hear remarks from several members who were resigning office. After the latest round of resignations, the Republican caucus now has 108 members in office, which is one short of the 109 required for a two-thirds majority to approve an emergency clause. Support from at least one minority caucus member may be required to approve the emergency clause needed to enact a Congressional redistricting bill and put it in place for the primary election on August 2, 2022. The normal effective date for bills without an emergency clause will be August 28, 2022.

The Senate was in for a longer time on January 5th, while several conservative Senate members aired ongoing complaints about how Senate leaders have conducted business during the last year. This continuing discontent is likely to affect Senate legislative action this session.

## **URGENT TASKS: SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND REDISTRICTING**

The legislature faces several tasks with urgent deadlines prior to the end of session in May. These tasks include supplemental appropriations for federal ARP ESSER III funding and Medicaid expansion and approval of a new Congressional redistricting map for the upcoming election cycle.

Missouri NEA urges the legislature to promptly approve an appropriation measure for the federal ARP ESSER III funding for schools. This \$1.9 billion in federal grant funding was approved by Congress and should be appropriated as soon as possible to allow the funds to be used according to district plans to provide a safe return to school, address learning loss and help students recover from the impact of the pandemic. The Association encourages the Governor and legislature to approve the funds quickly in a concurrent special session.

## **MNEA'S EDUCATION ADVOCACY**

Students are at the center of Missouri NEA's legislative advocacy. MNEA believes that every child has a basic right to attend a great public school. The Association strives to ensure that all students have the time and resources to learn, caring and qualified teachers and an education that inspires their natural curiosity and desire to learn.

MNEA also continues to lead the fight to defeat the proposals that would harm public education. The Association's legislative advocacy must ensure that legislators fulfill their commitments to stand up for children and public education during the legislative session.

House and Senate committee rosters will be updated, and committees will begin work soon. The MNEA Legislative Update will keep you informed in a timely manner concerning developments on legislation affecting students and schools and will advise you of actions you can take to affect the legislative process.

## **BECOME AN MNEA EDUCATION ADVOCATE!**

Commit to being an advocate in your legislative district! MNEA's Education Advocate program seeks members who will be a contact person to their respective State House or Senate members on public education issues. MNEA's Government Relations department will pair members with their legislators and provide information, talking points, and resources to conduct important legislative outreach throughout the year.

You can find more information and sign up at <https://www.mnea.org/edadvocates>.

### **Legislative Update 2022**

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