



Missouri Dental Association - 2025 End of Session Legislative Report

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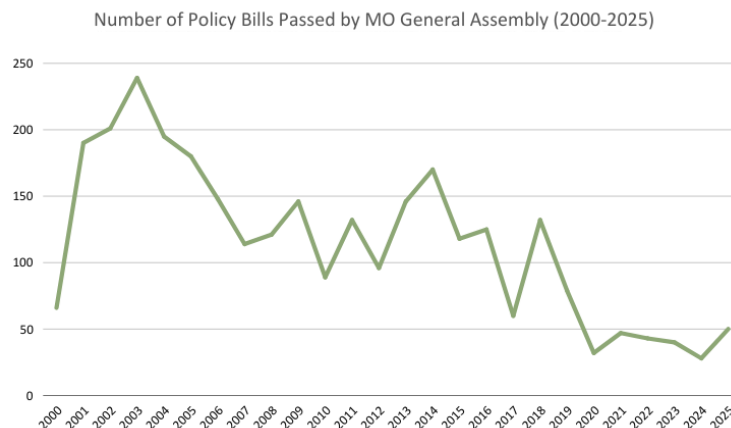
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Final Week Overview

Productive Session Until the Final Weeks: The session began with strong cooperation between the House and Senate, successfully passing key policies on public safety, tax reform, spending controls, election rules, and energy reforms. However, cooperation broke down in the last days, highlighted by the rare use of the “previous question” (PQ) motion, leading to stalled legislation and tension.

Major Priorities Passed, Others Stalled: While many significant measures became law—including repealing voter-approved paid sick leave and abortion protections—several important bills failed in the final days. This includes healthcare reforms, \$500 million in local projects, stadium funding for the Royals, downtown redevelopment incentives, amateur sports tax credits, and video lottery legalization.

Special Session Looming: Due to unresolved issues and late-session conflicts, Governor Kehoe hinted strongly at calling a special session in early June, primarily to address funding for the Chiefs and Royals stadium renovations. This sets the stage for lawmakers to return soon, potentially reigniting recent tensions.

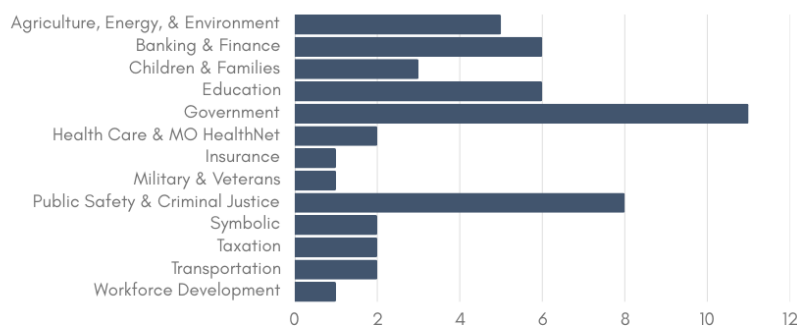


Pictured Above: 50 of the over 3,000 policy bills filed, approximately 1.5%, were passed by both legislative chambers and reached the Governor's desk.

Why Didn't More Bills Pass in 2025? There are an endless number of variables to consider when evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the Missouri General Assembly in any given year. While much of the 2025 session saw steady progress and bipartisan cooperation, with many legislators working in good faith to advance priority issues, negotiations ultimately broke down in the final week, halting momentum. A few key factors that contributed to the gridlock include:

- **Legislative Turnover:** The swearing-in of 54 new House members and 10 new senators in January, largely due to term limits, introduced a steep learning curve and altered the dynamics within both chambers, contributing to legislative delays and challenges in building consensus.
- **Leadership Transitions:** New leadership in both chambers, along with a number of new committee chairs, introduced different priorities, legislative styles, and procedural changes that impacted workflow and scheduling.
- **Use of the PQ Motion:** Tensions escalated in the Senate when leadership invoked the rarely used PQ motion, a procedural tool that forces a vote and ends debate, for the first time during a regular session since 2017. The motion was used to advance two contentious measures: repealing the voter-approved abortion rights amendment and overturning the state's paid sick leave law. The PQ followed extended debate and stalled negotiations, with little progress toward compromise. Representative Adam Schnelting, sponsor of HJR 73, pushed the measure forward without meaningful concessions, further heightening tensions. The move drew sharp criticism from Senate Democrats and is expected to significantly strain bipartisan cooperation in future sessions, including the anticipated special session.

Subject Breakdown of Policy-Related Legislation Passed in 2025



What Passed? Legislation that navigated its way through the narrow passage and to the Governor's desk included:

- **[St. Louis Police Oversight & Public Safety](#):** Establishes a state board to oversee the St. Louis Police Department, increases penalties for organized retail theft, bans street racing and stunt driving, and requires law enforcement to report immigration status for certain arrests. Signed into law.
- **[Utility Rate Reform](#):** Allows utility companies to use projected costs ("future test year" model) to set rates and seek increases for construction of natural gas plants. Signed into law.
- **[Ballot Language Control](#):** Limits the courts' ability to rewrite ballot language and gives more authority to the secretary of state. Also allows the attorney general to appeal preliminary injunctions on state laws. Signed into law.
- **[Tax Cut Package](#):** Eliminates the state tax on capital gains, including real estate and agriculture; removes sales tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products; and expands property tax relief for low-income seniors and people with disabilities under the "Circuit Breaker" program. Awaiting the governor's signature.

- **Child Welfare Reform:** Bans child marriage under 18, voids NDAs in childhood sexual abuse cases, and restricts the state from seizing foster children's benefits except for unmet needs like tuition and tutoring. Awaiting the governor's signature.

MDA 2025 Legislative Priorities

Dental Loss Ratio: Representative Kent Haden filed [House Bill 439](#) and Senator Jill Carter filed [Senate Bill 680](#), which was referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance and Banking. This legislation would require the Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) to apply to dental plans in a manner similar to how it currently applies to medical plans. Key revisions from last session include excluding charitable contributions from the numerator when calculating the Dental Loss Ratio (DLR) and adding a penalty provision for delayed rebate payments to ensure timely compliance. As more states adopt DLR requirements, we can demonstrate to lawmakers that these policies do not lead to higher premiums or cause insurers to exit the market. This evidence will help build support for further legislative action.

Appropriations:

- **Medicaid Reimbursement Rates:** The increased reimbursement rates for Missouri dental Medicaid providers, originally implemented in 2022, have been maintained. Additionally, the FY26 budget includes an increase in reimbursement for general medical anesthesia codes to approximately 63% of the 50th percentile usual, customary, and reasonable (UCR) rate.
- **INCREASE** - Elks Mobile Dental Services: Funding was increased for the Elks Mobile van at \$600,000 in the FY26 budget.
- **Donated Dental Services:** Funding for the Donated Dental Services Program was maintained at \$180,000 in the FY26 budget.

MDA Monitored Legislation

Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact: We are in support through collaboration of legislation to establish the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensure Compact, which would allow licensed dentists and dental hygienists to practice across state lines without additional licensure requirements. [House Bill 56](#), sponsored by Representative Jeff Coleman, passed the House by a wide margin (140–8), while [Senate Bill 327](#), sponsored by Senator Ben Brown, advanced through the Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration.

We opposed a separate version of the compact introduced in [Senate Bill 109](#) (Senator Justin Brown) and [House Bill 1290](#) (Representative Cameron Parker), which would have restricted licensure to those who completed the ADEX exam, an approach we view as exclusionary and a conflict of interest due to ADEX's affiliation with the American Association of Dental Boards. These bills were heard in committee but did not advance.

The compact language was also added to several omnibus bills—[Senate Bill 7](#), [Senate Bill 61](#), [Senate Bill 94](#), and [House Bill 943](#). However, none of these bills were sent to the Governor after the Senate adjourned early.

Vaccine Administration by Dentists: The Missouri dental schools filed legislation that would allow for dentists to give certain vaccines, either in a declared state of emergency or related to the oral cavity. The legislation would also require that dentists receive additional training as determined by the Missouri Dental Board before being able to administer any vaccines. [Senate Bill 374](#), filed by Senator Steven Roberts, did not make it across the finish line, but we look forward to offering support in 2026 if filed again.

All TAFP “Truly Agreed & Finally Passed” Bills

- [HB 105](#) – [Verneti](#) – Conveys certain state property
- [HB 121](#) – [Murphy](#) – Modifies provisions relating to services for new families
- [HB 145](#) – [Falkner](#) – Modifies provisions of the Judicial Privacy Act and the Missouri Sunshine Law
- [HB 147](#) – [Hovis](#) – Modifies provisions relating to retirement
- [HB 169](#) – [Brown](#) – Modifies provisions relating to cotton trailers
- [HB 199](#) – [Falkner](#) – Modifies provisions relating to political subdivisions
- [HB 225](#) – [Myers](#) – Modifies provisions relating to first responders
- [HB 262](#) – [Brown](#) – Establishes the "Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment and Recovery Act"
- [HB 296](#) – [Kalberloh](#) – Modifies provisions relating to school personnel
- [HB 419](#) – [Mayhew](#) – Modifies provisions relating to education
- [HB 495](#) – [Christ](#) – Modifies provisions relating to public safety
- [HB 516](#) – [Matthiesen](#) – Modifies certain provisions relating to the Radioactive Waste Investigation Fund
- [HB 567](#) – [Gallick](#) – Modifies provisions relating to employee compensation
- [HB 594](#) – [Perkins](#) – Authorizes an income tax deduction for capital gains
- [HB 595](#) – [Brown](#) – Modifies provisions relating to real estate transactions
- [HB 596](#) – [Brown](#) – Modifies provisions relating to the timing of service agreements between designated real estate brokers and buyers or tenants
- [HB 737](#) – [Schmidt](#) – Modifies provisions relating to child protection
- [HB 754](#) – [Oehlerking](#) – Modifies various provisions relating to banks and trust companies
- [HB 810](#) – [Baker](#) – Designates "Davy & Natalie Lloyd Memorial Highway" in Newton County
- [HB 974](#) – [Murphy](#) – Enacts provisions relating to insurance for certain uses of motor vehicles
- [HB 1041](#) – [Diehl](#) – Modifies provisions relating to alcoholic beverages
- [HJR 23](#) – [Caton](#) – Requires all county assessors in charter counties to be elected
- [HJR 73](#) – [Lewis](#) – Establishes provisions relating to reproductive health care
- [SB 1](#) – [Crawford](#) – Modifies provisions relating to county officials
- [SB 2](#) – [Crawford](#) – Modifies provisions relating to financial statements of certain local governments
- [SB 3](#) – [Crawford](#) – Modifies or enacts provisions relating to Department of Revenue fee offices
- [SB 4](#) – [Cierpiot](#) – Modifies and creates new provisions relating to utilities
- [SB 22](#) – [Brattin](#) – Modifies provisions relating to summary statements for statewide ballot measures
- [SB 28](#) – [Bean](#) – Modifies provisions relating to transportation
- [SB 43](#) – [Fitzwater](#) – Modifies provisions relating to protection of vulnerable persons
- [SB 47](#) – [Trent](#) – Amends Supreme Court Rule 52.08 relating to class actions
- [SB 49](#) – [Black](#) – Authorizes school districts and charter schools to employ or accept chaplains as volunteers
- [SB 63](#) – [Brown \(26\)](#) – Creates and modifies provisions relating to the participation of certain students in nontraditional educational settings
- [SB 68](#) – [Henderson](#) – Creates, repeals, and modifies provisions relating to elementary and secondary education
- [SB 71](#) – [Gregory \(15\)](#) – Creates and modifies provisions relating to public safety
- [SB 79](#) – [Gregory \(21\)](#) – Modifies provisions relating to health care
- [SB 81](#) – [Gregory \(21\)](#) – Modifies provisions relating to public safety
- [SB 82](#) – [Burger](#) – Creates provisions relating to water preservation in the state
- [SB 98](#) – [Crawford](#) – Modifies various provisions relating to financial institutions
- [SB 105](#) – [Bernskoetter](#) – Modifies provisions relating to invasive plants
- [SB 133](#) – [Fitzwater](#) – Modifies and creates new provisions relating to underground facilities
- [SB 145](#) – [Coleman](#) – Modifies provisions relating to the taxation of certain businesses

- [SB 150](#) – [Carter](#) – Creates, repeals, and modifies provisions relating to workforce development initiatives
- [SB 152](#) – [Brown \(26\)](#) – Creates new provisions relating to foreign spending in state ballot measure elections
- [SB 160](#) – [Hudson](#) – Establishes provisions relating to educational institutions
- [SB 218](#) – [Black](#) – Modifies provisions relating to court operations
- [SB 221](#) – [Schroer](#) – Modifies the standard of review for agency interpretation of statutes, rules, regulations, and subregulatory documents
- [SB 271](#) – [Black](#) – Modifies provisions relating to emergency services
- [SB 348](#) – [Fitzwater](#) – Modifies provisions relating to tourism
- [SB 396](#) – [Brown \(26\)](#) – Authorizes the board of trustees of a consolidated public library district to change the dates of the fiscal year

Legislative Resources

- [TAFP Bills \(Truly Agreed & Finally Passed, Sent to the Governor\)](#)
- [Bills Signed by the Governor](#)
- [MDA 2025 LIVE Bill Tracking List](#)

Important Dates:

- September 10 – Veto Session

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