



## **Weekly Legislative Summary: Prepared by Jacob R. Scott, Governmental Relations**

**Driving the Week:** In Washington D.C., President Obama released his budget. The President's budget proposal includes among other cuts significant reductions in healthcare and military spending. The President focuses his \$3 trillion dollar budget on increasing economic development, increased education spending, and research. In Jefferson City, Governor Nixon is campaigning vigorously to include Medicaid expansion in the State Budget, with a republican alternative; we will look to see if a compromise can be reached.

### **U.S. News**

#### **Obama Budget to Cut Healthcare and Military Spending:**

President Obama's effort to control federal spending would require the largest cuts from the government's biggest programs — health care and the military — while preserving or increasing spending on favored initiatives like early education, manufacturing and research. The president's proposed budget, for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, will be extensively rewritten in Congress, but is designed to reduce the growth of federal health spending by \$401 billion over 10 years. The budget would require \$57 billion in higher payments by Medicare beneficiaries, cut \$306 billion in projected Medicare payments to health care providers and squeeze \$19 billion out of Medicaid, the program for low-income people. For more:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/11/us/politics/obamas-budget-cuts-focus-on-medicare-medicaid-and-military.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/11/us/politics/obamas-budget-cuts-focus-on-medicare-medicaid-and-military.html?_r=0)

#### **Bernanke Recognizes Slow Economic Recovery in Poor Communities:**

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said on Friday that despite improvements in the U.S. economy overall, the country's lower-income communities continue to face hard times. "While employment and housing show signs of improving for the nation as a whole, conditions in lower-income neighborhoods remain difficult by many measures," Bernanke said in prepared remarks that made no direct reference to monetary policy. For more: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/12/us-usa-fed-bernanke-communities-idUSBRE93B0T020130412>

#### **Graves Talks Small Business on Fox and Friends:**

North Missouri Congressman Sam Graves took his argument about delays in small-business health coverage options to a national news program Wednesday morning. Mr. Graves, appearing on "FOX & Friends," called the stalled Small Business Health Options Program "a mess" and said it would result in higher costs for companies with fewer than 100 employees. The Republican lawmaker chairs the House Small Business Committee. Last week, he wrote a letter to the administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services seeking answers about the delay in providing the options as spelled out in the Affordable Care Act. For more:

[http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_5119b5f4-afb3-5ccf-b0a4-7f7af1cbd25e.html](http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/article_5119b5f4-afb3-5ccf-b0a4-7f7af1cbd25e.html)

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**U.S. House:**

Passage of H.R. 1120 - Preventing Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act Y-219 N209

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**U.S. Senate:**

Senate to vote on S.AMDT.715 (Background Checks) Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

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**Missouri News:****Nixon Pushes on with Medicaid Expansion:**

The healthcare debate continued in Missouri on Wednesday with the state's governor again calling for an expansion of Medicaid during a stop in Springfield. It is something he said would boost the economy, but some leading Republicans disagree. "The decision to move forward on Medicaid reform and expansion is the smart thing to do," said Gov. Jay Nixon during a stop in Springfield Wednesday. Nixon said during a speech at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Wednesday that an expanding adult Medicaid eligibility to 138 percent of the poverty level would allow an additional \$300,000 Missourians to qualify for the program. For more: <http://www.ky3.com/news/ky3-gov-pushes-for-medicaid-expansion-in-missouri-20130410,0,626650.story>

**MO Senate Up in Arms over DOR Decision to Send Information to Feds:**

Department of Revenue (DOR) officials underwent more grilling Wednesday from a Missouri Senate committee over the agency's practice of scanning source documents for driver's license applications, conceal-carry weapon endorsements, and other license applications. Revenue officials say they began scanning source documents as a means of combatting fraud, and that they are not breaking a 2009 state law that forbids compliance with the federal Real ID Act. During the hearing, Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer (R, Columbia) asked DOR Director Brian Long to stop copying documents from conceal-carry weapon (CCW) applicants. Long refused. For more: <http://www.news.stlpublicradio.org/post/mo-senate-committee-threatens-delay-part-dor-budget-says-mshp-gave-ccw-list-feds>

**Tax Cut and Bonding Bill Passes the House:**

The Missouri House has given initial approval to a business tax cut and a bonding program inspired by a job competition with Kansas. One bill endorsed Wednesday would phase in a 50 percent deduction for business income reported on individual income taxes and cut the state's corporate income tax rate in half over five years. It's projected to eventually reduce state revenues by up to \$328 million annually. A second bill would authorize cities and counties to issue bonds for development projects that would be paid off through sales tax revenues. Both measures are similar to policies in Kansas, which has been competing with Missouri to lure businesses. The Missouri House bills need a second vote before they can advance to the Senate. For more:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MO\\_XGR\\_MISSOURI\\_TAXES\\_MOOL-?SITE=MOCAP&SECTION=STATE&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MO_XGR_MISSOURI_TAXES_MOOL-?SITE=MOCAP&SECTION=STATE&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

Missouri House:  
[New Bills we are tacking this week]

No new bills filed

[Below are the bills we are tracking which have seen movement this week]

HB 398

Riddle Allows an electrical corporation to file a petition with the Missouri Public Service Commission to recover specified infrastructure replacement costs.

Bill History: 04-04-13 H Reported do pass House-Rules

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HB 343

Guernsey Changes the laws regarding public assistance benefits.

Bill History: 04-15-13 H Meeting set for 1:00 PM, HR 3 House-Fiscal Review

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HB 79

Johnson Creates the Missouri International Business Advertising Fund to be used to attract international businesses to Missouri.

Bill History: 04-04-13 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Jobs, Eco. Devo. and Local Government

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HB 134

Allen Changes the laws regarding bullying in schools and establishes specific components that a district must include in its anti-bullying policy.

Bill History: 04-11-13 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Education

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HJR 14

Jones Proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to issue bonds to fund higher education improvements, constructions, landscaping, land or building purchases, and transportation infrastructure.

Bill History: 04-04-13 H Reported do pass House-Rules

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HB 275

Brattin Requires all employers and business entities to enroll and actively participate in a federal work authorization program and imposes stricter penalties for employing unauthorized aliens.

Bill History: 04-11-13 H Reported do pass House-Rules

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Missouri Senate:  
[New Bills we are tracking this week]

No new bills were filed

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SB 182

Kehoe Eliminates local use taxes on motor vehicle sales and modifies local sales taxes.

Bill History: **04-04-13 Sent to the Governor**

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SJR 16

Kehoe Imposes a temporary one cent sales and use tax for transportation purposes.

Bill History: 04-16-13 H Meeting set for 12:00 PM, HR 7 House-Transportation

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SB 88

Schaaf Modifies provisions relating to fees health care professionals are allowed to charge for medical records.

Bill History: 04-11-13 H Referred to House Committee on House-Rules

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SB 437

Pearce Creates a model for funding the state's public institutions of higher education.

Bill History: 04-10-13 S Voted do pass as substitute from committee on Senate-Education

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