



2011 Legislation of Interest to Women

March , 2011

The last election resulted in the largest number of women ever in the Missouri legislature (47), but more Republican women than ever were elected, and there are large Republican majorities in both houses allowing them to do whatever they like. All of the Republican women, and 8 of the Democratic women, are anti-choice.

There are many terrible bills being considered this session, but in two areas that particularly impact women bills are progressing through the legislature. These are

- **new restrictions on abortion and reproductive rights**
- **weakening protections against discrimination in employment and union busting**

Abortion and Reproductive Rights

The following bills are moving. There are several others.

- **HB 213** (Jones (89) Prohibits abortions over 20 weeks, changes reporting standards, and creates criminal penalties. It passed the House 119-38. See appended voting record to find out how your representative voted. If they voted for it, let them know you disapprove.
- **HB 328** (Koenig) Restrictions on abortion-inducing drugs, which may include emergency contraception. Had a hearing in the House Health Care Policy Committee.
- **SB 204** (Dempsey) Reauthorizes tax credits for “crisis pregnancy centers.” If it doesn’t pass they will expire next year. It is on the Senate Informal Calendar, so can be taken up for debate any time. *Contact your state Senator in Jefferson City urging her/him to oppose this bill.*
- **HB 425** (Funderburk) Income tax deduction for a stillborn child. (An attempt to establish fetal rights.) Approved by the House Tax Reform Committee.
- **HB 515** (Wallingford) Embryo transfer act would allow adoption of unused frozen embryos. It had a hearing in the House Children and Families Committee. Several anti-abortion groups opposed it.

Employment

- **Minimum wage. HB 61** (Nolte) prohibits Missouri’s minimum wage from exceeding the federal minimum wage. Passed the House by a vote of 92-60. Has been sent to the Senate Small Business, Insurance, and Industry Committee.
- **Discrimination in employment. HB 205** (Elmer) changes Human Rights laws to make it harder to prove discrimination and exempts governments. Passed the House 95-59. Referred to Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and Environment Committee. The Senate version (**SB 188**—Lager) has passed the Senate and is in the House Workforce Development Committee.
- **“Right-to-Work”. SB 1** (Ridgeway) would significantly weaken labor unions by prohibiting them from requiring all employees of a company to pay dues. In states that have passed this legislation working conditions for all workers, including wages and benefits, have been adversely affected. On Senate Informal Calendar.

- **Caps on damages for employment discrimination. SB 221** (Cunningham) caps damages awarded for employment cases under the Missouri Human Rights Act (MHRA) to back pay and interest on back pay and from \$50,000 to \$300,000 depending on the number of employees in the business. No punitive damages can be awarded against the state of Missouri or political subdivisions. This bill has been approved by the Senate Committee on Commerce and now can go to the full Senate.

The Crazyness . . .

- **SJR 15** (Nieves) An amendment to the Missouri Constitution stating that Missouri will not enforce federal laws that
 - restrict the right to bear arms;
 - legalize or fund abortions;
 - involve sale or trade of carbon credits or tax carbon emissions;
 - involve certain health care issues;
 - mandate recognition of same sex marriage or civil unions;
 - designate a crime as a hate crime;
 - interpret the establishment clause as creating a separation between church and state; or
 - restrict the right of parents or guardians to home school or enroll their children in a private or parochial school or restrict school curriculum.

Requires a vote of the electorate to become part of the Constitution. This bill is number 23 on the Senate Calendar for debate. *Contact your state Senator in Jefferson City urging her/him to oppose this bill.*

- **HCR 9** (Barnes) calls for a convention to write an amendment to the US Constitution allowing the legislatures of two-thirds of the states to veto a federal law. This bill is on the House Calendar for Third Reading and can be voted on any day. *Contact your state Representative in Jefferson City urging her/him to oppose these bills.*
- **HCR 19** (Gatschenberger) also calls for a constitutional convention to write an amendment to the US Constitution that will require a majority of state legislatures to approve an increase in the US debt limit. This bill is on the House Calendar for Third Reading and can be voted on any day. *Contact your state Representative in Jefferson City urging her/him to oppose these bills.*

Other Bills NOW Opposes

- **Drug testing recipients of TANF. HB 73 & 47** (Brandom) has passed the House 116-27 and is in the Senate Health, Mental Health, Seniors, and Families Committee. If they test positive they lose their benefits. This is totally not cost effective. I suggested that, since legislators receive state funding, they too should be willing to submit to drug tests.
- **English only driver's license testing. HB 167** (Nolte) requires Missouri driver's license examinations to be administered only in English. Has passed the House by a vote of 102-56 and is in the Senate General Laws Committee.

- **Photo identification for voting. SB 3** (Stouffer) passed the Senate by a vote of 26-7 and is in the House Elections Committee. If passed it must be approved by voters and the Constitution must also be amended (**SJR 2**).
- **School prayer. HJR 2** (McGhee) has passed the House by a vote of 126-30 and is in the Senate General Laws Committee. It is a constitutional amendment which would have to be approved by the electorate to become part of the Constitution.
- **Limits on damages in lawsuits against confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). HB 209** (Guernsey) limits the amount that can be collected in lawsuits against CAFOs for creating a nuisance. Passed the House 109-43 and is in the Senate Agriculture and Food Products Committee.

Department of Lost Causes

- **Reproductive Rights** Good bills that don't stand a chance of passing this session:
 - **HB 350** (Newman) Would require accurate sex education in schools, establish the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act and the Birth Control Protection Act.
 - **HB 636** (Oxford) The Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act would require hospitals to inform rape victims about emergency contraception and to dispense it. This bill had a hearing in the House Children and Families Committee with passionate testimony from the mother of a rape victim, but most of the committee didn't care. Anti-abortion groups oppose the bill.
- **The Equal Rights Amendment (HCR 40 and SCR 5)** has been filed in both houses, but we expect no action since the Republican Party opposes it.
- **Gender Balance on State Boards and Commissions** Under certain Governors it has been difficult to track the numbers of women and men appointed to state boards and commissions, so Rep. McNeil filed these bills. So far there has been no action on either and we don't expect any.
 - **HB 443** (McNeil) Requires the Governor to maintain and regularly update a listing of appointees to state boards, commissions, committees, and councils including residences, races, genders, and term expiration dates.
 - **HB 444** (McNeil) Requires the Governor when selecting appointees to state boards, commissions, committees, and councils to ensure that the membership reflects racial and gender equity based on population if possible.

Other Bills of Interest

- **Human trafficking HB 214** (Zerr) Strengthens the laws against human trafficking. Has passed the House by a vote of 155-0 and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- **Funeral picketing HB 276** (Franz) Specifies that a person commits the crime of unlawful picketing of a funeral, a class B misdemeanor, if he or she engages in picketing from two hours prior to through two hours after a funeral.
- **Sexual Assault SB 250** (Kehoe) Requires sexual assault offenders to complete rehabilitation programs prior to being eligible for parole or conditional release. Has passed the Senate and gone to the House.

Vote on **HCS HB 213** to put more restrictions on abortion:

AYES: 119				
Allen	Anders	Asbury	Aull	Bahr
Barnes	Bernskoetter	Berry	Black	Brandom
Brattin	Brown 85	Brown 116	Burlison	Casey
Cauthorn	Cierpiot	Conway 14	Conway 27	Cookson
Cox	Crawford	Cross	Curtman	Davis
Day	Denison	Dieckhaus	Diehl	Dugger
Elmer	Entlicher	Faith	Fallert	Fisher
Fitzwater	Flanigan	Fraker	Franklin	Franz
Frederick	Fuhr	Funderburk	Gatschenberger	Gosen
Grisamore	Guernsey	Haefner	Hampton	Harris
Higdon	Hinson	Hodges	Hoskins	Hough
Houghton	Hummel	Johnson	Jones 89	Jones 117
Keeney	Kelley 126	Klippenstein	Koenig	Korman
Kratky	Lair	Lant	Largent	Lasater
Lauer	Leach	Leara	Lichtenegger	Loehner
Long	Marshall	McCaherty	McGhee	McManus
McNary	Molendorp	Nance	Nasheed	Neth
Phillips	Pollock	Redmon	Reiboldt	Richardson
Riddle	Rowland	Ruzicka	Sater	Schad
Schamhorst	Schatz	Schieber	Schieffer	Schneider
Schoeller	Shively	Shumake	Silvey	Smith 150
Solon	Stream	Swinger	Thomson	Torpey
Wallingford	Wells	Weter	White	Wieland
Wright	Wyatt	Zerr	Mr Speaker	
NOES: 038				
Atkins	Brown 50	Carlson	Carter	Colona
Ellinger	Holsman	Hubbard	Hughes	Jones 63
Kander	Kelly 24	Kirkton	Lampe	May
McCann Beatty	McDonald	McGeoghegan	McNeil	Montecillo
Newman	Nichols	Oxford	Pace	Peters-Baker
Pierson	Rizzo	Schupp	Sifton	Smith 71
Spreng	Still	Swearingen	Talboy	Walton Gray
Webb	Webber	Zimmerman		
PRESENT: 000				
ABSENT WITH LEAVE: 005				
Meadows	Nolte	Parkinson	Quinn	Taylor