



## House Perfects Bill to Remove Police Residency Requirements

*HB 1604 Was Expanded from St. Louis City to Statewide*

The House advanced legislation to remove residency requirements for police officers throughout the state. HB 1604, sponsored by Representative Ron Hicks (R-Dardenne Prairie), started as a bill to remove the residency requirement for officers in St. Louis City. Currently, officers must live in St. Louis City for seven years. After that, living within a one-hour response time is permissible. HB 1604 specified that the residency requirement would not apply, as long as the officer's primary residence was within a one-hour response time.

In committee, the bill was supported by St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson, Attorney General Eric Schmitt, the St. Louis Police Officers Association, and others. Mayor Krewson supported this legislative effort after the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen rejected Krewson's effort to ask City residents to repeal the residency requirement by amending the City's charter. In committee, the measure was touted as a way to help fill the 138 vacancies in St. Louis's police force.

As brought to the floor, the bill only included St. Louis. However, on the floor an amendment was offered by Representative Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon) to prohibit any local government from instituting residency requirements for law enforcement that are more stringent than a one-hour response time. This amendment was adopted. An amendment to exempt Kansas City was defeated.

HB 1604 now requires a final roll call vote to move to the Senate.

### Dates of Interest

#### *January*

- **8** - First Day of Session
- **15** - State of the State

### Senate Approves Economic Development Bill

After a nearly ten-hour filibuster by the Conservative Caucus, an economic development bill received

Address

- **20** - No Session, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

### **March**

- **20** - Legislative Spring Break Begins
- **30** - Legislature Reconvenes

### **April**

- **13** - No Session, Easter Break

### **May**

- **8** - Budget Bills Must be Passed
- **15** - Last Day of Session

initial approval on the Senate floor. SB 594, sponsored by Senator Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield), creates Targeted Industrial Manufacturing Enhancement (TIME) Zones.

Under this bill, political subdivisions could come together to create a TIME Zone for the purpose of completing infrastructure projects to promote economic development. The board governing the zone would be able to retain 25% of the withholding taxes on new jobs created in the zone. This money would be used to fund infrastructure improvements in the area.

The bill was debated for hours by the Senate's self-described Conservative Caucus, a group of six Republican Senators. The filibuster included discussion on their support for education reform, such as charter schools, as well as their opposition to Medicaid expansion. Amendments were offered on the bill to eliminate the renters' portion of the circuit breaker tax credit, which offsets the cost of property taxes for seniors and individuals with disabilities. This was opposed on the floor by both Democrats and Senator Bill White (R-Joplin), who spoke about how this credit helps individuals afford to stay in their home.

Senator Bob Onder (R-Lake St. Louis) successfully added an amendment to cap the program at \$5 million and sunset it in 2024. Due to this compromise, the bill was perfected near midnight. SB 594 is on the calendar for a final vote in the Senate.

## **News in Brief**

- This week the Governor announced he met with cabinet members, the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, and other stakeholders for a briefing on COVID-19.
- A new Chair and Vice-Chair were instated for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. The Commission is a six-member board that governs the Missouri Department of Transportation. John Briscoe from New London was elected Chair, and Michael Waters from Orrick was elected Vice-Chair.

- The Senate Committee on Professional Registration heard SB 942, sponsored by Senator Jeanie Riddle (R-Mokane), which is meant to address false or misleading use of healthcare titles in advertising. The bill also creates a definition for surgery. The current surgery definition in the bill drew controversy, and the sponsor and supporters both discussed the need for compromise language.
- The House Children and Families Committee heard legislation that would permit individuals who exceed the income limit for Medicaid to pay a premium to buy into the program. HB 2552 is sponsored by Representative Dale Wright (R-Farmington).
- The House Agriculture Policy Committee will hear HB 2108, sponsored by Representative Tommie Pierson Jr. (D-St. Louis), to create the “Missouri Food Security Task Force.” The mission of the Task Force would be to study rural and urban access to nutritional food and develop recommendations for increasing access.
- On March 12, the Task Force on Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention will hold a hearing on prevention for substance use disorders.