

Dear friends and neighbors,

This legislative report highlights important bills my colleagues and I worked on during the 2021 legislative session, including several key issues we passed and an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 state operating budget. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe we were able to pass numerous measures designed to improve the lives of all Missourians.

This past year and a half has been extremely challenging for everyone, and I hope this legislative update finds you well. During this difficult time, our community stepped up to lend a hand to those in need and support each other, and I am proud to live in the 19th Senatorial District.

I am thankful for your support and humbled by your trust in me to serve you in the Missouri Senate. I am committed to continuously working to move our state forward, ensuring we leave Missouri a better place for the next generation.

I welcome your questions, concerns or comments about state government. Please do not hesitate to contact my Capitol office at 573-751-3931.

Senator Caleb Rowden

# NOTABLE BILLS FROM THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Below are several bills that were passed this year and signed into law by the governor. Please visit [senate.mo.gov/legislation](https://senate.mo.gov/legislation) for a full list of legislation passed this session and to see which bills were signed into law.

**Senate Bill 45** - Allows three or more political subdivisions to create and contribute to a Voluntary Firefighter Cancer Benefits Pool, which would provide benefits to certain firefighters who were exposed to cancer-causing agents in the performance of their duty. Private donations may also be accepted.

**Senate Bill 51** - Provides health care workers, first responders, churches, schools, manufacturers and small businesses protection from civil liability lawsuits related to COVID-19 exposure.

**Senate Bills 53 and 60:** - Prohibits law enforcement from using respiratory chokeholds unless deadly force is authorized; increases the penalty to a class E felony for officers and correctional staff who engage in sexual conduct with a person in their custody; establishes the Critical Incident Stress Management Program to provide mental health services for officers coping with stress and psychological trauma; and helps to make sure that children are not put in adult prisons by clarifying that a juvenile who has been certified to stand trial as an adult shall remain in juvenile detention pending the outcome of their case.

**Senate Bill 63** - Creates the Joint Oversight Task Force of Prescription Drug Monitoring to establish a prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) in Missouri. The information contained in the database cannot be used to deny an individual from owning or obtaining a firearm or as a basis for probable cause to obtain an arrest or search warrant as part of a criminal investigation.

**Senate Bill 262** - Raises the motor fuel tax by 2.5 cents per gallon in October 2021 and increases it by 2.5 cents each year until it reaches an additional 12.5 cents per gallon on July 1, 2025. You may request a refund of the additional taxes paid through the Missouri Department of Revenue by providing written verification stating the amount of tax paid for each vehicle included in the refund request.

**House Bill 85** - Creates the Second Amendment Preservation Act and declares federal laws that restrict or prohibit the manufacture, ownership or use of firearms or firearms accessories as invalid and not recognized or enforced in the state.

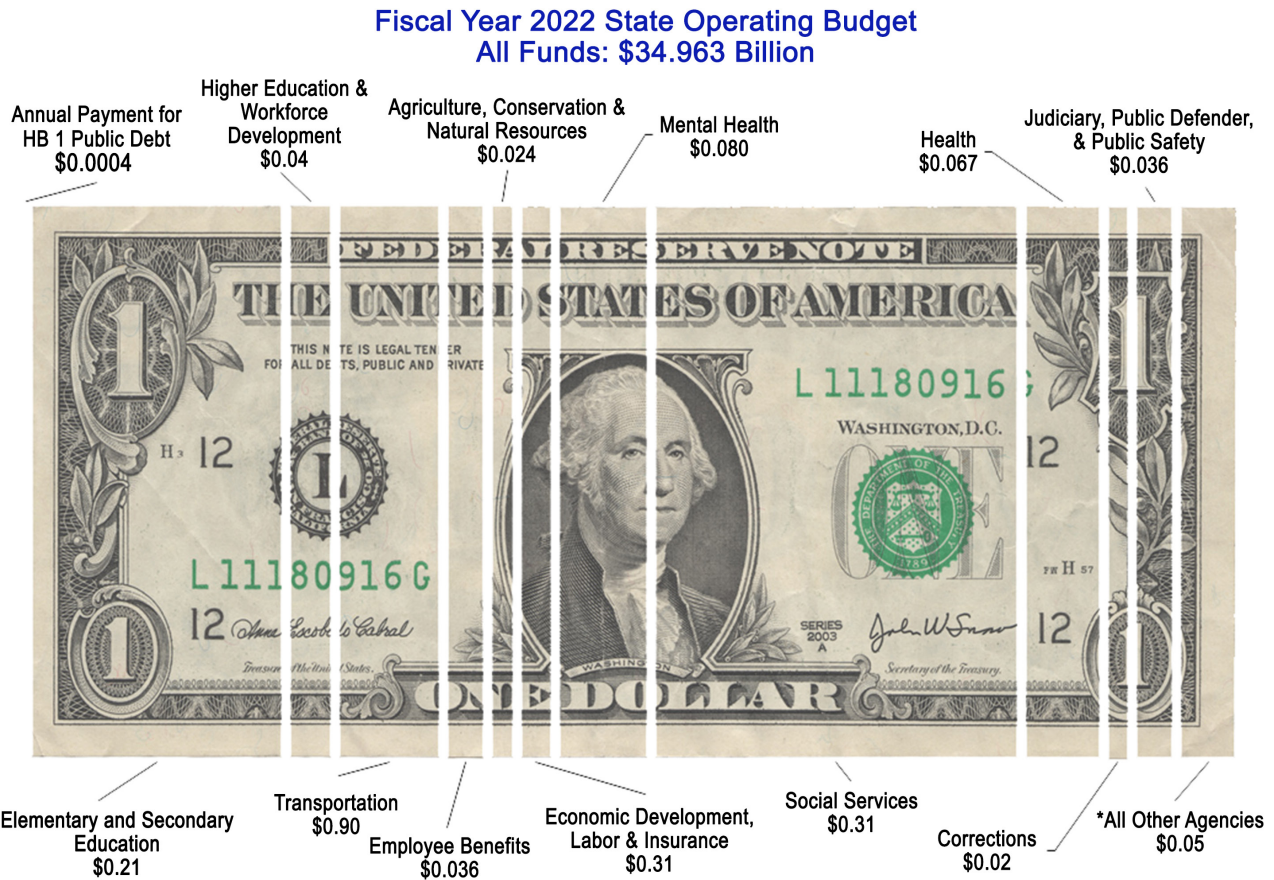
**House Bill 349** - Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program to provide students with additional educational opportunities.

**House Bill 429** - Clarifies what constitutes an abandoned child and removes barriers for consent adoptions where parental rights have been terminated or a child has been abandoned, specifically by allowing the Children's Division or a juvenile officer to seek termination of parental rights when a child less than two years old has been abandoned for 60 days, or a child over two years old has been abandoned for six months.

**House Bill 430** - Extends tax credits for those who donate to domestic violence shelters and maternity homes and expands an existing adoption tax credit to include the adoption of any child.

# THE STATE OF MISSOURI'S FISCAL YEAR 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

Each year, the General Assembly must create and approve a balanced state budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This dollar bill graphic reflects state spending after the governor signed the budget bills into law.



## K-12 FOUNDATION FORMULA

Once again, the General Assembly has fully funded the Foundation Formula for K-12 schools. Teachers, students and staff have had an incredibly difficult year navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and facing the challenges it presented. I am proud we were able to continue our promise to fully fund our state's public schools, and I am looking forward to returning to a sense of normalcy for this upcoming school year.

## HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

MU School of Law Veterans Clinic - \$325,000  
 New Veterinary Laboratory for MU - \$1,500,000  
 Moberly Community College - \$6,736,857

## STATE PARK FUNDING

Finger Lakes State Park - \$254,382  
 Katy Trail State Park - \$690,676  
 Rock Bridge Memorial State Park - \$224,014

# VISITORS FROM THE 19TH DISTRICT

*Senator Rowden with constituents at their gubernatorial appointments*



*Brian D. Neuner at his hearing for the Mental Health Commission on March 24.*

*Steven Parshall at his hearing for the Missouri Housing Development Commission on Jan. 13.*

*Dale Hardy Roberts at his hearing for the Missouri Public Service Commission on Jan. 27.*



*Senator Rowden presents a resolution to the state champion Southern Boone High School boys soccer team.*



*State champion Boonville High School girls basketball team with Sen. Rowden.*