



Tab 8

## Legislative Session Preview

Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
December 7, 2022

### BACKGROUND

The First Regular Session of the 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly will begin on January 4, 2023. Legislation pre-filing began on December 1. The Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development's primary focuses are promoting its FY 2024 budget priorities and apprenticeship expansion.

### CURRENT STATUS

Board book materials were prepared before pre-filing began on December 1. Department staff will provide a more current update, including whether legislation has been filed on any of the following, at the board meeting.

- **Workforce Development in Elementary and Secondary Education.** If filed, this legislation would require high school students to develop individual career and academic plans and encourage Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion. Last legislative session, a portion of a larger workforce development in elementary and secondary education package was implemented through [SB 718](#), Sen. Barbara Washington (D-Kansas City). The provision requires DHEWD to equip all 57 area career centers with the means and capability to allow students to complete an application for aid under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- **Higher Education Funding Formula.** During the 2022 legislative session, Rep. Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre) and Sen. Karla Eslinger (R-Wasola) introduced bills that would have established procedures for determining funding allocations for institutions of higher education based on "workforce readiness of students." The Senate Education Committee voted the Senate bill "do-pass" last session. (2022 Legislation: [HB 2602](#) & [SB 1077](#))
- **Critical Race Theory.** Most discussion on critical race theory (CRT) in Missouri to date has focused on the elementary and secondary level. However, legislators in more than 15 states introduced or passed legislation seeking to limit or ban the teaching of critical race theory at public higher education institutions last year. There remains interest in CRT legislation in Missouri, with several legislators expressing an intent to introduce legislation this upcoming session.
- **Female Sports.** Last session, bills were introduced that would impact participation in higher education institutions' athletic competitions. Each iteration would prohibit public higher education institutions from allowing an individual of the male gender (as stated on a birth certificate at birth or another government record) to participate in a sport designated for the female gender. (2022 Legislation: [HB 2734](#), [HB 2197](#), & [SB 781](#))
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements at Higher Education Campuses.** While the focus on COVID-19 vaccination requirements as considerably dissipated in the past months, there are legislators who feel more protections surrounding an individual's vaccination status is necessary.
- **State Student Financial Aid Program Modifications.** Each session, legislators introduce bills that would modify Missouri's state student financial aid programs.
- **Concealed Carry on Campus.** Each session, legislators introduce at least one bill that allows for concealed carry on campuses.

- **Workforce specific legislation:** As the workforce continues to recover from the pandemic's ripple effects, there is interest in addressing critical position shortages in areas like childcare, teaching, and social work. Legislation or budget recommendations may be introduced to address these and other workforce shortages.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This is an information item only.

## **NO ATTACHMENTS**