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Representative Tila Hubrecht's Capitol Report

JANUARY 23RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Representative Tila Hubrecht's Capitol Report

Hello to everyone in the 151st District!! Things started off this session at an incredible speed compared to my two prior sessions here.

Committee assignments have already been made and meetings have begun! I am very excited about this as it will give us more time to meet in committee and to hear more testimony on the bills coming before us. I feel our work in committee meetings may be the most important work we do in the Capitol because that is where we can truly research and discuss the pros and cons of the issues coming before the General Assembly.

A little about my committee assignments this session...I will continue to serve on the Joint Committee of Child Abuse and Neglect. We have been able to provide assistance to the Juvenile Department and the Foster Care Program during the past. I will also continue to serve in the Energy area but this committee has been restructured to now include all utilities and is appropriately titled Utilities. I will also be serving on the Budget committee. With the challenges facing our state with the unexpected revenue short fall this will be a committee which will need a lot of time and attention. I will also be serving on the Appropriations committee for General Administration. My final committee is the Special Committee on Employment Securities. I will be serving as the Vice Chair of this committee. I am excited to working with Chair Wanda Brown and to learn from her as we lead this committee.

With all the many issues facing our state and the incredible opportunities before us, please

do not hesitate to call my office to share your thoughts and opinions on how we can best serve this wonderful state! I look forward to hearing from you!

Right-to-Work Legislation Gains House Approval

The House also acted this week to advance legislation meant to spur job creation and economic development in the state. Commonly referred to as Right-to-Work, the bill would simply ensure employees are able to decide whether to join a labor union instead of being forced to join as a condition of employment.

Supporters of Right-to-Work cite Bureau of Labor statistics that show states that have adopted similar legislation have seen employment increase by 13.4 percent between 2002 and 2012. In comparison, employment in states without Right-to-Work grew by only 0.6 percent. Additionally, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Real Personal Income grew by 9.6 percent between 2008 and 2014 in the six Right-to-Work states that border Missouri. In Missouri and its two neighboring non-Right-to-Work states, Real Personal Income grew by just 3.5 percent. Supporters also note that one of the neighboring non-Right-to-Work states, Kentucky, just enacted a Right-to-Work law.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration where it is expected to receive approval. Governor Greitens has already made Right-to-Work one of his top priorities and again emphasized the need to pass the bill during his State of the State Address Tuesday evening.

House Set to Reject Proposed Pay Increase

House members are on track to reject a pay increase proposed by the Citizens' Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials. A resolution that would prevent the pay raises from going into effect cleared the committee process this week and is set for a vote on the House floor next week.

The proposed pay increases are a result of a recommendation by the commission, which meets every two years according to the state constitution to set the compensation for state officials. Once the commission makes its recommendation, it automatically goes into effect unless the legislature rejects the proposal by February 1. It takes a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate to keep the increases from going into effect.

With its latest recommendation, the commission called for 8 percent raises in both fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for the governor and other statewide elected officials. The panel also recommended raises of roughly 5 percent for lawmakers over the next two fiscal years. The proposed increases would have taken representatives up to an annual salary of \$37,733. Legislators currently make \$35,915 per year. The raises would cost the state about \$470,000 over both fiscal years.

The rejection of the proposed increases received strong bipartisan support during the committee process, and is expected to receive similar support on the House floor.

Members have traditionally rejected pay increases when they have been recommended, and a difficult budget situation makes it even more likely that the legislature will act quickly to prevent taxpayer dollars from being utilized for higher pay for elected officials. As the sponsor of the legislation said, “It’s a proposal our state cannot afford and that does not align with the priorities we have as public servants. Let’s take a stand in defense of all taxpayers by approving HCR 4 so that we can ensure their tax dollars are used to fund the priorities we all share as Missourians.”

Missouri House to Consider Resolution Calling for the Confirmation of Scott Pruitt as the Head of the EPA

Members of the Missouri House of Representatives are advancing a resolution calling on United States Senators to confirm Scott Pruitt as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

According to his supporters, Pruitt, who currently serves as the Attorney General of Oklahoma, has been a leading opponent of the EPA’s activist agenda and President Obama’s environmental and climate regulations. Members who support his confirmation have said Pruitt will bring the kind of leadership that will put an end to the EPA’s misguided policies of the last eight years that have threatened the livelihood and the very way of life of Missourians and the American people.

The resolution has already drawn the support of many House members, including House Speaker Todd Richardson.

“For years, we have witnessed federal agencies overstepping their lawful authority and making life more and more difficult for employers and employees alike,” said Speaker Richardson. “A decade of this overreach is a big part of the reason that Missourians overwhelmingly supported Donald Trump for president and it’s also why Missourians should be heartened by the president-elect’s choice to run the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – current Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt.”

The resolution is expected to quickly move through the process and receive House approval.

Missouri House Hosts Governor Greitens for Annual State of the State Address

Members of the General Assembly gathered in the House Chamber Tuesday evening to listen to new Governor Eric Greitens share his vision for the direction Missouri should take under his leadership. Greitens delivered the annual State of the State Address with an emphasis on priorities that are largely shared by the members of the Missouri House.

Similar to the Opening Day Address given by the House Speaker, Greitens’ speech focused on the need to make Missouri a Right-to-Work state in order to promote job creation and economic growth. Greitens also echoed the Speaker’s words as he called for a ban on lobbyist gifts to legislators; tort reform to make Missouri’s court system fair for

all litigants; a reduction in the regulatory burden that too often stifles job creation and economic growth; and education reform that includes education savings accounts for children with special needs.

Some of the other areas Greitens highlighted in his speech include a review of the state's tax credit system. The governor promised a comprehensive audit of the tax credit system with a goal of creating a tax code that is fair to all. Greitens also called for the state to do more to support and protect law enforcement officers. The governor said it's time to update standards and training for peace officers, and to ensure officers have the training, resources, and support they need both to protect themselves and to build strong relationships in their communities. Additionally, the governor talked about reforming Missouri's welfare system so that it lifts people out poverty and into the middle class, and so that it is based on hard work and personal responsibility.

The governor did not include any budget recommendations in his address. He is expected to unveil his budget plan during the first week of February.

Governor Greitens Announces Budget Restrictions

Governor Eric Greitens recently announced his decision to restrict spending from the current state operating budget. The new governor was forced to withhold \$146.4 million in spending in order to balance Missouri's budget. The move was necessary because revenues have fallen short of the projections that were used to craft the \$27 billion budget. Among his withholds, Greitens restricted nearly \$68 million in core funding for public universities and community colleges. The funding restrictions also include nearly \$9 million in transportation funding for K-12 education. However, as the governor noted, the restrictions included no cuts to the Foundation Formula that funds K-12 classroom education. As Greitens added, "There were no cuts to programs essential to public safety, and all of the state's pension and health care obligations will also be honored. The restrictions were targeted, to the extent possible, at rolling back earmarks, new spending items, programs with no established track record of success, and services that are duplicated elsewhere in government."

Greitens' restrictions are in addition to the approximately \$200 million in withholdings made by Governor Nixon before leaving office. The House Budget Chairman said he is hopeful that with the restrictions made by Greitens the state will now be positioned to keep the budget balanced and end the fiscal year with enough money to begin the next fiscal year.

Capitol Implements New Security Measures

As a note to Missourians who wish to visit the State Capitol, there are new security measures in place meant to enhance the level of safety and protection for visitors, school children, and those who work in the building. The outgoing and incoming governors

worked with legislative leaders to put these new security measures in place that include additional officers and security personnel and x-ray machines and walk-through magnetometers at some entrances.

The executive branch has said the enhanced security is an effort to ensure firearms and other items that could be used as a dangerous weapon are not entering the building. Searches will be required of all visitors, including lobbyists, contract employees, guests, and members of the media. The only people who will not be searched under the new security measures will be children without backpacks or bags. State employees and people with regular business with credentials will be allowed to enter using their key cards, which are issued by the state department after the person has passed a background check.

It's also important to note that under the current security measures conceal and carry is not allowed in the State Capitol, and anyone with a firearm will be asked to return it to a secure location before entering the building. Knives with a 4-inch blade or longer will not be permitted, along with explosives, signs fixed on poles or standards, and balloons. Anything found that violates the standards can be seized and used as evidence for prosecution under the state's laws.

It's important to understand the security measures have been put in place to protect those who work in and visit the Capitol. Each day hundreds of school children enter the building on class field trips, and visitors from all over the state and the country travel to Jefferson City to experience the beauty of the State Capitol. For years the Capitol has had minimal security that has allowed unfettered access through numerous points of entry. The move to enhance security is not in any way meant to limit public access to the building, but instead meant to ensure all those in the building have a safe environment. By putting the new measures in place the Missouri State Capitol joins more than 40 other state capitol buildings that already have similar security protocols.

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Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report

JANUARY 23RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report

The Sanctity of Life **January 20, 2018**

January 22nd marks the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court Ruling that has left over 59 million and counting dead - Roe v. Wade. On January 27th, thousands of people around the country will participate in the March for Life to serve as a voice for those who weren't given a choice to live. This year's theme, The Power of One, is centered around the idea that one person can make a difference in the world, whether in the life of one or the life of many. I admire the conviction of all of the advocates who have journeyed far and wide to our nation's Capital to stand up for the belief that I share that life begins at conception.

We are in a critical moment in our nation's history where we have the opportunity to promote pro-life initiatives that are supported by millions of Americans. One of the reasons I supported President Trump during his run for the White House, and one of the reasons millions were overcome with emotion during his swearing in, was his commitment to lead in the fight for life and advancing policies that make America a place where unborn children and their mothers are treated with compassion and justice.

During my time in Congress I have never wavered from my firm belief that life is precious and must be supported. I share this belief with President Trump and look forward to working along-side him to advance some of the pro-life goals he has outlined.

One of our new President's early acts will be nominating a justice to replace the conservative stalwart, the late Justice Antonin Scalia. I support President Trump's

commitment to nominating pro-life justices to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Having pro-life justices that recognize the danger of abortion to both women and their babies is critical. President Trump must use his power of nomination to put forth the name of a conservative justice who will honor the legacy and balance to the court that Justice Scalia brought so that we can fight to make the court a place where the life of the unborn is fully protected. I share in President Trump's commitment to ending heinous late-term abortions nationwide through enactment of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This will ensure that no innocent child has to suffer the excruciating pain from dismemberment abortion. I share President Trump's commitment to ending taxpayer funding of the abortion industry. Taxpayers should not be footing the bill for places that kill over 320,000 babies every year. In addition, I have supported measures which ban abortions based on gender as well as supporting an American's right to object to healthcare coverage that also covers abortion services.

Working with our new President, we can accomplish our goals to protect the sanctity of life that thousands of people around the country will be marching for on Friday. Although we cannot bring back the nearly 59 million innocent lives that have been tragically taken over the past 44 years, we can fight to ensure that all children have a chance at life. Every child is a miracle from God and I am hopeful that with the advancement of the pro-life movement each and every one of these miracles will have a chance to live the life God has planned for them.

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Legislation Filed by Representative Tila Hubrecht

JANUARY 23RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Legislation Filed by Representative Tila Hubrecht

Legislation Filed by Tila

HB165- Changes provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses. This bill will work to address the current challenges Missourians face in accessing Healthcare. Currently in Missouri statute there is no definition of the scope of practice of Nurse Practitioners and no licensure process. There also remains in statute some archaic requirements. This bill will address the lacking definition and licensure process as well as bring requirements up to date with current technology and best practices.

HB174- Provides protections for alternatives-to-abortion agencies. This bill, when passed, will fully protect the rights of an alternatives-to-abortion agency and its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers to freely assemble and freely engage in religious practices and speech without government interference. This is very important as individual liberties and rights are protected in both our State and National Constitutions.

HB226- Changes the laws regarding the powers and duties of Regional EMS Medical Directors. This bill will allow for the administration of emergency medications for those with rare disorders. Currently there is some ambiguity about this issue in statute and what the liability and allowability is in the administration of these medications in emergency situations. The development of this bill has had great involvement with those who work in the EMS field as well as in the Emergency Rooms of our state.

HB227- Establishes the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact. This bill will put into place a framework a compact between the states that also have this in place, in which psychologist can work in the states involved in the compact. This will be a help in addressing the shortage of psychologists in Missouri, many in our state will benefit from more mental health providers.

HB404- Changes the laws regarding abortion. This bill is also known as Heartbeat

Informed Consent

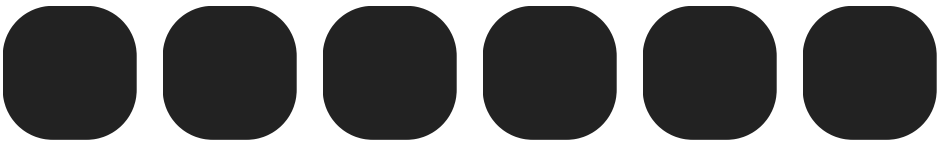
HB405- Specifies that the county coroner or medical examiner need not be notified and no investigation is necessary for a death that occurs under hospice care. This bill clarifies another area current statute is currently a little unclear. This will make certain that as long as the treating physician signs the death certificate for patients which pass outside a healthcare facility, no death investigation is required

HB537- Establishes the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act. This bill will ban the abortive procedure during which an unborn child’s body is torn apart.

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Ameren Missouri Asking for Electric Rate Increase

JANUARY 17TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Ameren Missouri Asking for Another Electric Rate Increase; PSC Hosting Public Hearings to Hear Input

Jefferson City, Missouri - State Sen. Doug Libla, R-Poplar Bluff, is urging citizens to attend one of two open hearings of the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC), regarding an electric rate case filed by Ameren Missouri. The local public hearing schedule:

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 – Cape Girardeau - Osage Centre – Room 4AB, 1625 North Kingshighway - NOON

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 – Charleston - Charleston High School, Clara Drinkwater Newman Auditorium, 606 S. Thorn St. – 6PM

Each hearing will begin with a public information/question and answer session conducted by the PSC Staff, followed by the Commission receiving testimony from the public.

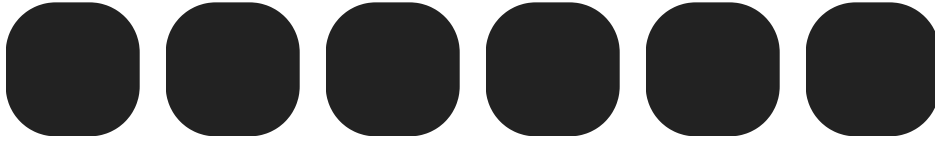
On July 1, 2016, Ameren Missouri filed an electric rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking to increase annual electric revenues by approximately \$206.4 million. According to the filing, residential customers would pay approximately \$99 more per year if the rate request is approved. Citizens will be given the opportunity to speak on the proposed rate increase.

“We have seen evidence in recent years that Ameren continues to earn more than it’s authorized as a monopoly utility. Yet, it still seeks to charge Missouri customers more, who have no other avenues to purchase utilities,” said Sen. Libla. “These increases jeopardize the ability of local businesses to operate, fall most heavily on the backs of struggling families, and frequently seem unnecessary. It’s important these cases are properly vetted, and that includes gathering sufficient public testimony. This rate increase would affect all of us. I strongly encourage all citizens in my district to attend this important meeting. Make your voices heard.”

If you are unable to attend a local public hearing and wish to make written comments or secure additional information, you may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone (866) 922-2959 email opcservice@ded.mo.gov or the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 1-800-392-4211, email pscinfo@psc.mo.gov.

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Representative Tila Hubrecht's Capitol Report - Friday, January 13, 2017

JANUARY 16TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Representative Tila Hubrecht's Capitol Report - Friday, January 13, 2017

Missouri Welcomes New State Leaders

Thousands of Missourians from across the state made their way to Jefferson City this week to join in the festivities as the state welcomed its new statewide officials. During the November elections Missourians elected Republicans to fill the statewide positions on the ballot. On Monday, Missourians saw Eric Greitens sworn in as the 56th governor of Missouri. Joining him as statewide office holders are Mike Parson, who was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor; Jay Ashcroft, who takes over as Secretary of State; Josh Hawley, who is Missouri's new Attorney General; and Eric Schmitt, who will now serve as the State Treasurer. They join Nicole Galloway, who currently serves as State Auditor.

Galloway is the only Democrat currently holding one of the six statewide posts in the executive branch, and was appointed to the position following the passing of Tom Schweich.

House members participated in events throughout the day including an interfaith prayer service and a ceremony to recognize Missouri's heroes. Those in attendance for the salute to heroes heard from the mother of a Navy SEAL who was killed in Afghanistan. She talked about the heroism of veterans and the importance of patriotism. Greitens talked to the crowd about the importance of recognizing the efforts of the best representatives of the Missouri people.

After being sworn into office, Greitens delivered a short address where he talked about the need to work together to move Missouri forward. As he told a crowd of thousands, "For decades, Missourians have talked about change. Now it's time to fight for that change." He added, "Our state's world famous motto, 'Show me', reminds us that Missourians don't much value big talk. Our state's great history reminds us that Missourians have always understood that big achievements demand hard work. 'Show me' doesn't mean 'Give me.' It means 'prove it can be done, and we will do it.'"

Greitens followed his speech by issuing an executive order banning lobbyist gifts for executive branch officials. The order also prohibits employees in the governor's office from leaving their jobs to become lobbyists.

That evening, members joined the governor for the Inaugural Ball in the Capitol rotunda. Legislators and their families descended the staircase outside the governor's office as they were formally introduced as members of the Missouri General Assembly. Governor Greitens and his wife then kicked off the ball by dancing to the Missouri Waltz. The festivities continued with a performance by country music recording artist, and Missouri native, Sara Evans.

Right-to-Work Legislation Begins to Move through the House

House Speaker Todd Richardson made it clear in his Opening Day address that the Missouri House would move quickly to pass a Right-to-Work bill. In just the second week of the 2017 legislative session, the House Economic Development Committee met to discuss five similar legislative proposals, which supporters believe are vital to efforts to spur job creation and economic growth in Missouri.

The committee met Tuesday afternoon to take testimony on the bills that would prohibit employers from:

requiring employees to join or refrain from joining a labor organization;
requiring employees to pay any money to a labor organization; or
requiring employees to pay any charity or third party the equivalent of money required to be paid by members of a labor organization.

All five sponsors testified before the committee to detail the benefits of the proposals. They highlighted the importance of giving workers the freedom to decide whether to join a union, and the increased level of accountability that union members would see from their unions as a result. As one sponsor said, “The change is simple. The union will now have to provide a service worth paying for to their members. They are no longer guaranteed members regardless of service or value, so they will have to work for them just as the union member works for their paycheck.”

Supporters also focused on the economic benefits that other states have seen after implementing Right-to-Work. They echoed the comments of House Speaker Richardson, who said in his Opening Day Address that, “Since becoming a Right-to-Work State in 2012, Michigan has added 58,000 manufacturing jobs. While over the last two years Missouri has lost about 1,200 manufacturing jobs. And what’s more, Michigan’s average weekly wage isn’t declining; it is growing at almost twice the rate of Missouri’s.”

State Treasurer Eric Schmitt also spoke in support of the measures along with the state’s top business groups. Schmitt noted that Missouri is in fierce competition with other states for jobs and that the Show-Me State needs to use every tool in the arsenal to attract new businesses. He said he has met with site selectors and being a Right-to-Work state is at the top of the list of the things they consider when looking for a new location for their companies.

Those who oppose the idea of making Missouri a Right-to-Work state also showed up to make their voices heard. Opponents referred to the proposal as an overreach of government and an impediment to the rights of employers and employees. They said companies and their employees should be able to negotiate without government interference. Opponents also disputed the economic benefits generated by Right-to-Work. Furthermore, they said voters should be allowed to decide whether Missouri should become the nation’s 28th Right-to-Work state.

The House Economic Development Committee combined the five bills into a single measure and then approved the legislation by a vote of 8-4. The bill then received the approval of the House Rules – Legislative Oversight Committee Thursday afternoon. House members are set to discuss the proposal on the House floor next week.

House Gives Initial Approval to Gift Ban

A state House proposal aimed at banning gifts from lobbyists to elected officials received first round approval from the Missouri House of Representatives Thursday. HB 60 is nearly identical to a gift ban proposal filed in 2016, which was passed out of the House with 147 votes in favor.

House Bill 60 is meant to help restore the public's trust in elected officials by limiting the influence of lobbyists. As the sponsor said about the bill, "We are trying to eliminate the undue influence of lobbyists on legislators in the building. That is the individually, personally consumable gifts from lobbyists to legislators. These are the one-on-one dinners; these are the press boxes at sporting events in the state. That's what we're trying to limit."

In addition to the prohibitions on expenditures by lobbyists for elected officials, the bill would remove reporting requirements that would not be necessary with a ban in place. It would exempt from those prohibitions flowers and plants given as expressions of condolence or congratulations. It would also exempt items such as plaques given to lawmakers when they are recognized by an organization.

The bill would allow lobbyists to provide meals that are offered to all members of the House and Senate, as well as all statewide elected officials. The bill includes a requirement that an invitation to those elected officials be made in writing at least 72 hours before the event.

House Speaker Todd Richardson has said he wants the gift ban bill to be the first thing the House sends the Missouri Senate this session. As the Speaker told his colleagues during his Opening Day address, "Missourians want a government they can trust and believe in. Last year we passed the first meaningful ethics reform in modern Missouri history, and we must continue the job we started."

The bill now requires one more successful vote in the House before moving to the Senate.

House Committees to Look at Missouri's Regulatory Framework

Two state House committees are preparing to dive into the state's framework of regulations and licensing requirements in an effort to make it easier to own and operate a business in Missouri.

House Speaker Todd Richardson announced in his Opening Day address that he has instructed the House Committee on Government Efficiency and the House Committee on

Professional Registration & Licensing to review those requirements. Richardson said Missouri regulations have slowed the success in Missouri of ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft and lodging companies such as HomeAway and AirBnB. As he said in his Opening Day speech, “It is past time that Missouri had statewide frameworks for disruptive technologies and allowed private enterprise to function in a free market.”

The chairman of the House Committee on Professional Registration & Licensing said tempering business regulations is a balancing act. As he said, “We have a responsibility to protect the individuals across the State of Missouri, but yet when the scale moves too far the other direction – when regulations become burdensome to business, that aren’t really effectively serving that purpose of protecting the public; it’s our responsibility to step in and pare those back to where we effectively meet the needs of protecting the public while, however, not being overly burdensome to businesses across the state.”

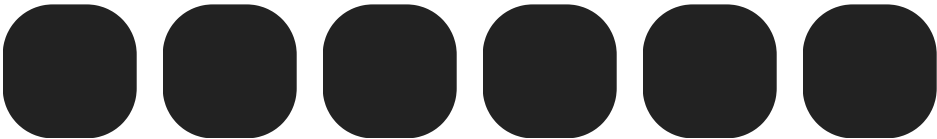
The chairman of the House Committee on Government Efficiency said it could be a multi-year process to vet all the regulations and requirements that are in place. He said, “Having these committees working hand-in-hand is going to be an asset for every person that’s either trying to get a job or to create a business that creates jobs in the state.”

Also this week, Governor Eric Greitens signed an executive order to put a freeze on new government regulations that could hurt businesses and families. The executive order bans state agencies from creating new regulations through the end of February. Any new proposed regulation would need to get the approval of the governor before taking effect. Additionally, the governor’s executive order calls for a review of all current regulations.

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