



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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In hard times, governments can be quick to harm, rather than help, their citizens. Raising our taxes and fees may seem like an easy way to plug budget holes, but only replaces a common-sense spend what you have approach with the tax-and-spend liberalism that ruins economies. Providing welfare to those temporarily out-of-work, or single mothers, can be necessary and helpful, but can also lead to folks paying for drugs for those who simply don't want to work.

It's time we sent a message that Missouri needs to be more focused on creating jobs by getting rid of some of the business taxes and fees that hurt entrepreneurs. It's time that we demanded that those individuals who receive state welfare jump through the same hoops that all of us have to when we apply for a job – drug testing.

Fortunately, Speaker Tilley and I – and the rest of the Missouri House Republicans – have a plan. The Speaker opened Session by stressing how important it is that we move quickly to come to the aid of Missouri's economy.

House Bill 45, Sponsored by Rep. Hoskins, was passed out of committee. This bill will extend the prohibition on new taxes and fees on small businesses for five years. Often, small start-up companies operate on a razor's edge, a few dollars here or there determines whether people get paid at the end of the month. Anything we can do to help these individuals get off the ground helps Missouri.

Additionally, for every new job these small businesses create, this bill would allow them to receive tax incentives. A small business may not employ someone because the various taxes and fees associated with employment are overwhelming. This tax incentive should relieve some of the pressure, and reward businesses who take the chance on hiring new people.

According to the US Census Bureau, there are around 100,000 small businesses in Missouri that employ less than twenty people. If this bill could get even a small fraction of these businesses to hire one or more employees, there is a great potential for job growth state-wide.

House Bill 73, Sponsored by Rep. Brandom, also passed out of committee. This bill seeks to safeguard Missouri tax dollars by preventing individuals who abuse illegal drugs from receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, welfare checks.

In the data we have from 2010, there averaged around 85,000 individuals on TANF every month. None of these individuals were tested for illegal drugs as a condition of receiving their money. Why is it that most people can't get a job today without taking an intrusive drug test, yet those who would live off of the work of others are not made to take this same test?

[US Census Bureau Statistics of All Missouri Industries](#)
[US Health and Human Services Caseload Reports Data](#)

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