

# Legislative News



## Gov. Nixon amends budget recommendation

Governor Nixon announced last Tuesday he would be submitting an amendment to his budget recommendations that would restore \$40 million to the core budget appropriations for the state's public colleges and universities.

Earlier on Tuesday Attorney General Chris Koster announced that Missouri is expected to receive more than \$140 million in benefits under a proposed settlement by states' attorneys general with the nation's five largest mortgage banks. The settlement comes as result of flawed and fraudulent foreclosure practices that led to the housing crisis. Governor Nixon's budget amendment directs \$40 million of those funds to Missouri colleges and universities.

The amendment would bring the overall cut to community colleges from the current year's spending level to 7.8% for FY 2013 compared to the originally recommended 12.5% reduction. The additional dollars also bring the reduction for the state's four-year institutions to 7.8% for FY 2013, excluding Missouri Western State University and the University of Missouri. Due to additional expenditure restrictions made by Governor Nixon in the FY 2012 budget for those institutions the budget amendment brings their FY 2013 reduction to 6.6% and 6.7%, respectively, from the current year spending levels.

House Bill 2003, the appropriations bill containing appropriations for higher

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### New Higher Education Legislation

There was no new higher education related legislation filed last week.

education, was introduced last week. The House Appropriations-Education Committee is scheduled to mark-up the bill at its meeting on Wednesday, February 15 at 2:00 P.M. The meeting is scheduled to take place in House Hearing Room 1 of the Capitol Building.

House Appropriations-Education Chairman Mike Lair (R-Chillicothe) has indicated that the governor's amendment will not be addressed in the committee, but rather in the proceedings of the House Budget Committee.



The state flag of Missouri flies at the Capitol.

## Legislation on the move

As the legislative session begins to gain steam, higher education legislation in both chambers is starting to make its way through the legislative process. This week saw several hearings conducted, committee action taken on several bills, and even floor action on higher education-related legislation.

The Senate Committee on Education conducted public hearings for SB 483, SB 562, and SB 563 Wednesday. The committee plans to hold an executive session on each bill on Wednesday, February, 15. Senate Appropriations heard and voted do-pass on SB 655 on Wednesday and the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Emerging Issues, Pensions and Urban Affairs held a hearing on SB 672 on Thursday.

The House Higher Education Committee reported a committee substitute for HB 1042 do-pass on Thursday. The committee substitute removes performance funding language from the reporting provisions of the bill. The House Higher Education Committee also reported HB 1041 do-pass during the week, and HB 1192 was reported do-pass by the House Committee on Financial Institutions.

In the Senate, SB 455 was perfected last week and referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The bill awaits a do-pass vote from the committee before being put to a final vote on the Senate floor.