

## Legislative Report April 2, 2011

### Quick Read Summary

- The “fix six” made moderate gains this week. The House version of the Minimum wage fix was heard in the Senate committee last week. I suspect it will come out of committee this week.
- The Workers Comp fix should begin to move again this week. The Senate bill is still awaiting house action.
- Our tourism stack tax bill, which disallows a city and a county from simultaneously imposing a room tax on local hotels, was voted out of committee this week. I am looking for other tourism related bills on which we can amend our proposal.
- The House passed the Budget last week and will now go to the Senate for their consideration. The tourism budget did not suffer additional cuts.
- Last week was economic development week in the Senate. At the center of the debate were three major proposals. First, a proposal to rein in the number of tax credit issued each year was debated extensively, but did not come to a vote. Many senators stood to block its progress. At the opposite end of the spectrum, two bills expanding the allowable tax credits were debated but also subsequently laid over, meaning no vote was taken. The first was to allow a tax credit to assist St. Louis in attracting major sporting events. The second was the proposal to secure St. Louis as the site for the new China Hub. This would make St. Louis the distribution point for goods coming from China for delivery to the US, or US goods being exported to China. The Chinese government has not yet made a decision.
- SB281, which requires the cumulative state and local tax rate to be printed on sales receipts, would be require you to reprogram all your computers. We oppose this bill. It was heard in committee this week, but doubtful it will progress.
- HB 208, sponsored by Representative Meadows prohibits an owner, employee, shareholder, or independent contractor over whom the Regional Taxicab Commission has oversight or any person who stands to benefit economically or politically from being appointed to the commission and removes the requirement that four of the eight members must be chosen from the taxicab industry. No member of the commission can be related to a representative of the transportation industry within the third degree. An advisory committee must be established consisting of 10 transportation industry representatives from the full range of transportation modes to advise the commission from time to time. This bill will be heard this week.

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