

HCS SS SB 66 (0356H.04C)
Protection of children, vulnerable persons, and animals.

| Section # | When Added (Version of Bill or Amendment) | Original Bill & Sponsor for Added Language | Status as of 4/16/2025 | Description |
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| 451.040, 451.080, and 451.090, RSMo. | SS SB 66 (P) Underlying Bill | McCreery | Reported Do Pass with HCS (H) - Children and Families 4/16/25 | <p>Currently, no marriage license shall be issued in Missouri for individuals under 16 years of age or issued when one party to the marriage is under 18 years of age and the other party over 21 years of age. Additionally, no marriage license shall be issued if any party to the marriage is under 18 years of age without parental consent.</p> <p>This bill repeals those provisions and no marriage license shall be issued in Missouri for individuals under 18 years of age.</p> |
| 210.950 | HCS | HB 121 (P) (Murphy) | SCS voted Do Pass (S) - Families, Seniors, and Health on 4/16/25 | <p>Currently, newborn safety incubators are authorized to be installed in certain locations for a relinquishing parent to leave a newborn child, up to 45 days of age, without fear of prosecution. This bill modifies the age limit of a newborn infant that may be brought to a newborn safety incubator from 45 days old to 90 days old.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill creates the "Safe Place for Newborns Fund" and provides that the State of Missouri will match moneys from the General Revenue Fund, in the amount of up to \$10,000 per installation of newborn safety incubators.</p> |
| 452.305, and 452.310. | HCS | HB 243 (P) (Williams) | Voted Do Pass (S) - Families, Seniors, and Health on 4/16/25 | This bill prohibits pregnancy status from preventing the court from entering a judgment of dissolution of marriage or legal separation. |

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| 273.361. | HCS | HB 902 (P) (Jones (88)) | Second read 1/16/25 | <p>The bill specifies that the sole method for inducing the death of a dog or cat in an animal control agency, animal shelter, or pound is the injection of sodium phenobarbital or its derivative. The use of any other method is an offense as specified under the Animal Care Facilities Act. However, any substance that is clinically proven to be as humane as sodium phenobarbital and has been officially recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association can be used in lieu of sodium phenobarbital if the Director of the Department of Agriculture has determined there is a shortage of sodium phenobarbital.</p> |
| 192.2405, 192.2510, 210.115, 210.191, 273.410, and 273.415. | HCS | HB 1298 (P) (Jones (88)) | Reported to Senate and first read 4/14/25 | <p>This bill requires animal control officers and animal humane investigators to be mandated reporters in cases of abuse and neglect of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable persons.</p> <p>The bill requires animal control officers and animal humane investigators to receive one hour of training within the first 60 days of employment to recognize the signs of abuse or neglect in children, the elderly, and vulnerable persons, while certain professionals who offer support or advocacy services for children in foster care, Children's Division personnel, and protective services employees with direct contact with children, the elderly, and vulnerable persons will be required to receive one hour of training within the first 60 days of employment to recognize the signs of abuse or neglect in animals.</p> <p>This bill creates a mandated reporting requirement for certain mental health, educational, protective services, and law enforcement personnel to report cases of animal abuse or neglect to a hotline established by the Missouri Animal Control Association (MACA). MACA must provide the report of abuse or neglect to any duly-authorized law enforcement official, county or municipal animal</p> |

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| | | | | control officer, or animal cruelty investigator. If the mandated reporter is an employee of an agency or political subdivision of the State and fails to make a report as required under this provision, the employer must send a written notice to the employee noting the failure and providing a reminder of the requirements of reporting animal abuse or neglect. Additionally, a mandated reporter who fails to make a report will be subject to discipline by his or her professional licensing board, as well as a fine, as described in the bill. |
| 43.656, 67.2540, 168.071, 210.1080, 210.1505, 324.012, 329.050, 339.100, 455.010, 455.035, 455.513, 491.075, 491.641, 492.304, 537.046, 537.047, 537.054, 542.301, 556.039, 566.010, 566.147, 566.148, 566.149, 566.150, 566.151, 566.155, 566.201, 566.210, | HCS | HB 1464 (P) (Lewis) | Public Hearing held (S) - Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence on 4/9/25 | <p>This bill replaces the term "child pornography" with "child sexual abuse material" throughout statute, but child pornography as it will have existed prior to the effective date of this legislation will still be subject to the provisions of the relevant statutes.</p> <p>The bill also establishes the "Statewide Council Against Adult Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" to replace the "Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children", which expired on December 31, 2023. The new council must be created within 30 days of August 28, 2025, is required to meet at least quarterly, and is within the Office of the Attorney General. The members of the council are specified and include two members of the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives. The Council is required to have an executive director, who must be appointed by the Attorney General and whose compensation will be set by the Attorney General.</p> <p>The bill creates the "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Education and Awareness Fund", of which the State Treasurer will be the custodian and of which the Treasurer is required to approve disbursements as required by the Attorney General. Money in the Fund will be used to pay for the position of the executive director and administrative</p> |

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| <p>566.211, 566.218, 567.030, 573.010, 573.023, 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, 573.038, 573.050, 573.052, 573.215, 589.042, 589.400, 589.414, 610.021, 610.131, 650.120, and 662.520.</p> | | | | <p>support for the statewide council, education and awareness regarding human trafficking, and anti-trafficking efforts throughout the State.</p> <p>Currently, under certain circumstances, a statement made by a child under the age of 14 or a vulnerable person, or the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of the child or vulnerable person, is admissible in evidence in criminal proceedings as substantive evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted. This bill increases the age to a child under the age of 18 and amends the definition of "vulnerable person" to include a person whose developmental level does not exceed that of an ordinary child of 17 years of age, increased from 14 years of age.</p> <p>Currently, any law enforcement agency can provide for the security of witnesses and others in criminal proceedings or investigations. This bill allows any prosecuting attorney's office to provide such security as well. The Department of Public Safety can authorize funds to be disbursed to prosecuting attorneys' offices for such offices to be able to provide security.</p> <p>This bill provides that a nondisclosure agreement by any party to any child sexual abuse claim is not judicially enforceable in a dispute involving any child sexual abuse claim, and must be null and void; this section will apply to any action commenced on or after August 28, 2025.</p> <p>Currently, a person can file a cause of action to recover damages from injury or illness caused by sexual exploitation of a minor, the promotion of child sexual abuse material within the first or second degree, or the possession of child sexual abuse material, within 10 years of the plaintiff</p> |
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turning 21 years old or within three years of discovering the cause of the injury or illness. This bill changes that time frame to 20 years of the plaintiff turning 21 years of age.

The bill authorizes a person to file a cause of action to recover damages from injury or illness caused by child sex trafficking within 20 years of the plaintiff turning 21 years of age or within three years of the date the plaintiff discovers or reasonably should have discovered that the injury or illness was caused by child sex trafficking.

The bill creates a 20-year statute of limitation for prosecution of certain sex and labor trafficking offenses, as described in the bill.

Currently, a person 21 years of age or older commits the offense of enticement of a child if he or she satisfies the elements of the offense and the child is under 15 years of age. This bill increases the age of the child to under 17 years old. This bill allows a prosecuting or circuit attorney to request assistance from the Attorney General to assist in prosecution of child sex trafficking cases.

The bill changes the age of a person upon whom a person commits the offense of sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree from under the age of 12 to under the age of 14. The term of imprisonment for this offense in the first degree remains life imprisonment, but the bill changes the offender's eligibility for probation or parole to 30 years served from the current 25.

The bill specifies that the term of imprisonment for the offense of sexual trafficking of a child in the second degree when it is committed by a parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control

of a child is "life imprisonment", which, in this instance, means for the duration of the person's natural life. Notwithstanding the above qualification, the term of imprisonment for this offense in the second degree is changed from at least 10 years to at least 15 years. The bill changes the offender's eligibility for probation or parole to 30 years served rather than the current 25 years served if this offense was effected by force, abduction, or coercion.

Any real or personal property that was used, attempted to be used, or intended to be used to commit a certain unlawful sexual offense can be seized and remaining proceeds from the sale of the seized property owned by the defendant will be first allocated to pay an order of restitution to a victim of human trafficking and any remaining funds will be deposited into the Anti-Trafficking Fund.

Currently, the offense of patronizing prostitution is a class D felony if the individual the person patronizes is 14 years of age or younger, and a class B misdemeanor unless the individual the person patronizes is under 18 years of age but older than 14 years of age. This bill increases the penalty to a class B felony if the individual the person patronizes is 15 years of age or younger and modifies the age range for the misdemeanor to be under 18 years of age but older than 15 years of age.

The term "child sexual abuse material" now includes any anatomically correct doll, mannequin, or robot meant to resemble a minor under 18 years of age and intended to be used for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any person or for the purpose of terrorizing or causing emotional distress to any person.

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| | | | | <p>This bill authorizes a public governmental body to close records that contain individually identifiable information of a minor 17 years and under held by a city, town, village, or park board, except when the records are requested by the Division of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for the purpose of enforcing Chapter 294 RSMo, regarding child labor.</p> <p>Currently, a person who was convicted of the offense of prostitution who was under the age of 18 at the time of the offense can apply to the appropriate court to have his or her record expunged. This bill repeals the requirement that the person be under the age of 18 at the time of the offense.</p> |
| 135.621 | HCS | Similar to HB 1522 (I) (Laubinger) | Public Hearing held (H) - Special Committee on Tax Reform on 4/1/25 | The bill adds the definition of a "national diaper bank" to determine which entities may be eligible for the Diaper Bank Tax Credit. |