

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF LAWS

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All laws having emergency clauses (and appropriation bills) become effective upon signature by the governor. Bills having a specific effective date contained in the text of the act become effective on that date. This date is shown immediately following the section. All other laws become effective in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Missouri.

Section 29, Article III of the Constitution provides:

“No law passed by the general assembly, except an appropriation act, shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session in either odd-numbered or even-numbered years at which it was enacted. However, in case of an emergency which must be expressed in the preamble or in the body of the act, the general assembly by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to each house, taken by yeas and nays may otherwise direct; and further except that, if the general assembly recesses for thirty days or more it may prescribe by joint resolution that laws previously passed and not effective shall take effect ninety days from the beginning of the recess.”

Pursuant to Section 20(a), Article III, Constitution of Missouri, as amended in 1988, the regular sessions of the general assembly end on May 30th and laws passed at that session become effective August 28th of that year.

Section 21.250, which provides for the effective date of bills reconsidered after the governor's veto, was amended by the General Assembly in 2003 to add the following language:

“Unless the bill provides otherwise, it shall become effective thirty days after approval by constitutional majorities in both houses of the general assembly.”