Case study of a Bill
The other writing component of this course is a 10 to 12 page analysis of a bill the progress of which you will monitor during the legislative session. This case study analyzes interest group and legislative activity as the bill moves through the legislative process. Set out below is general information about the case study, suggestions for selecting and monitoring the bill, and a model outline.

General Information
There are three key steps involved in the preparation of the case study. The first is the selection of a bill suitable for use as a case study. The second is the presentation and discussion of your case study in class. The last step is the submission of your final draft of the case study. The relevant deadlines for these steps are as follows:
February – Selection of Bill(s)
April – Class presentation of Case Study
May – Final draft due with work notebook

If you have questions or concerns or would like to discuss aspects of your case study with me during the semester, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Selecting a Bill
The bill you select should provide the basis for observations about the legislative process, including the events that shape the bill’s passage (or not) through the Missouri General Assembly and the behavior of interest groups, legislators and lobbyists. Although it is not necessary to the case study that the bill eventually be enacted, the bill should be one that is likely to gain some attention from legislators, lobbyists, and others involved in the process, and generate sufficient legislative action to be analyzed. I can provide some suggestions if you wish.

Monitoring the Bill
As the session progresses, you should be able to gather information and make observations concerning the issues identified in the outline. Among other information, you should ascertain and, where possible, gather documents on:
- The origins of the bill (e.g., Governor’s proposal, lobbyist’s suggestion, agency request, legislator interest)
- Who introduced/sponsored the bill in each chamber?
- Assignment of the bill to committee—which committee and why
- Committee deliberations on the bill, if any, including hearings and mark-up
- Action on the floor in relation to the bill, including debates and votes
- Conference Committee action on the bill, if any.
- The Governor’s action on the bill and any legislative response (except for bills with emergency clauses, this may not occur during the session)

Outline
A. Background
   1. Briefly describe what the bill does (would do) and how it changes (would change) existing law.
2. Identify the public purposes advanced in favor of the bill. What problems does it respond to? What advantages are sought for the state?
3. Describe the impact of the bill on private interests. Who are (would be) winners and losers as a result of the bill’s adoption?

B. History of the Bill’s Deliberation
1. The bill’s origins
2. Its introduction in the General Assembly
3. Its assignment to, consideration by, and fate in committee
4. Debate and vote on the floor of either or both houses (if any)
5. Gubernatorial action (if any)

C. Interest Group Behavior
1. Do the benefits of the bill come primarily to concentrated or diffuse interests?
2. Do the costs of the bill fall primarily on concentrated or diffuse interests?
3. What interest groups, if any, were active in support of or opposition to the bill? What kinds of activities did these groups undertake to support or oppose the bill?
4. What interests affected by the bill did not become involved or engaged in the deliberation process?
5. To what extent was interest group activity “balanced” in relation to your bill?
6. Does your bill tend to support or undermine the idea that concentrated interests have organizational advantages?

D. Legislative Incentives: To what extent did the following factors play a role in the success or failure of the bill?
1. Desire for reelection or higher office
2. Ideology
3. Party Affiliation
4. Legislative leadership
5. Governor
6. Geography or constituents
7. State or national interest groups
8. Campaign finance/donors
9. Personal views or beliefs
10. Institutional and personal loyalties

E. Legislative Activity
1. The extent to which legislators used their activities in relation to the bill for advertising, credit claiming and position taking.
2. Which legislators were active at early stages in the process so as to promote or block passage of the bill or to change its content, and the extent to which this activity can be explained by responsiveness to interest group support.

F. Other Factors
1. Legislative Resources – What kinds of resources did proponents and opponents of the bill have at their disposal? Did a comparative resource advantage affect the outcome of the bill?
2. Legislative Inputs – How did lobbyists and others try to influence the legislative process? In particular, what role did access and information play in efforts to influence legislative outcomes?
G. Conclusions: Evaluate your experience in the legislature and the fate of your bill in particular and consider the implications for the legislative process as a whole.
1. What were the main factors that caused the result? What factors did you believe might play a role that ultimately did not? Explain.
2. Did the process result in good public policy? Why or why not?
3. What did you learn about the legislative process of your bill that could apply to the legislative process generally?