

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 552.36

Legislator Papers

Karen McCarthy, 1976-1994

Abstract: Records from Missouri Representative Karen McCarthy from 1979 to 1983. The materials are arranged into four series: Bill Files, 1978-1983; Committee Materials, 1979-1982; Interns/Field Study, 1979-1981; and Printed Materials, Radioactive Waste Management, 1980-1983.

Extent: 2.2 cubic ft., (6 Hollinger boxes, 1 half Hollinger box, 1 oversize box).

Record Description: Paper.

Alternative Formats: None.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder] OR [Volume and Page]; [Series]; Karen McCarthy 1976-1994, Record Group 552; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Agency transfer. Accession Number 2024-0060. Original accession number not found – reaccessioned.

Processing Information: Processing completed by unknown archivist in 2008. Updates completed by Amy Dinkins on 4/9/2024.

Historical and Biographical Notes

Born March 18, 1947 in Massachusetts, Karen McCarthy earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and English at the University of Kansas and a Master of Arts in English Education at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. In 1969, she married civil rights attorney Arthur A. Benson II but they later divorced. McCarthy returned to her maiden name after the divorce. Records from this collection refer to her as either Benson or McCarthy Benson.

During her legislative career, McCarthy was first elected to the Missouri House of Representatives from District 27 in 1976 and was re-elected every year through 1980. In 1982, she was elected to the House from District 40 and again was re-elected continuously through 1992. Her final term, 1993-1994, was as a representative of the 38th District. She was then elected to the United States House of Representatives for the 5th District, which she served from 1995 to 2005.

McCarthy served on various committees, including: Ways and Means (Chair 1985-1994), Energy and Atomic Energy/Energy and Environment (Vice Chair 1979-1980, 1983-1986), Consumer Protection (Vice Chair 1981-1982), and Revenue and Economics (Chair 1983-1984). Other committees on which she served were Ethics, Governmental Review, Commerce, Budget, Appropriations – Natural & Economic Resources, and Critical Decisions.

Karen McCarthy passed on October 5, 2010 after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Timeline

Year	Event
March 18, 1947	Birth
1976-1980	Served in Missouri House of Representatives for District 27
1982-1992	Served in Missouri House of Representatives for District 40
1993-1994	Served in Missouri House of Representatives for District 38
1995-2005	Served in United States House of Representatives for District 5
October 5, 2010	Death

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

Ahrens, Steven N. ed. *Official Manual of the State of Missouri 1993-1994*. Jefferson City: Missouri Secretary of State Office, 1994.

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/bluebook/id/57840/rec/1>

Official Manual of the State of Missouri 1985-1986. Jefferson City: Missouri Secretary of State Office, 1986.

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/bluebook/id/52073/rec/1>

Johnson, Kenneth M. ed. *Official Manual of the State of Missouri 1977-1978*. Jefferson City: Missouri Secretary of State Office, 1978.

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/bluebook/id/46091/rec/1>

Ziegler, Laura. "Former Kansas City Congresswoman Karen McCarthy Dies At 63."

KCUR, October 6, 2010. <https://www.kcur.org/community/2010-10-06/former-kansas-city-congresswoman-karen-mccarthy-dies-at-63>

Related Material

Karen McCarthy (1947-2010) Papers (K0773); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City. <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/kansas-city/K0773.pdf>

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Bill Files, 1978-1983

Committee Materials, 1979-1981

Interns/Field Study, 1979-1981

Printed Materials, Radioactive Waste Management, 1980-1983

Bill Files, 1978-1983

Extent: 1.4 cubic ft. (3 Hollinger boxes and 1 partial)

Arrangement: Chronological then by bill number

Scope and Content

This series contains materials relating to bills sponsored or cosponsored by Karen McCarthy from 1978 to 1983. Contents of bill files vary but may contain copies of bill versions, fiscal notes, legislative intent, roll call votes, out-state statutes, news clippings, testimony from hearings and correspondence concerning the bills.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	1	HB 1176 – Land Tax Collection	1978
1	2-3	HB 1277 – Minimum Student Standards	1978
1	4	HB 261 – Claiming of Exemptions Under Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978	1979
1	5	HB 262 – Minimum Student Standards	1979
1	6-10	HB 263 – Controlled Substances Therapeutic Research Act	1979
1	11	HB 265 – Neighborhood Development Corporation	1979
1	12	HB 324 – Sales Tax Exemption for Private Not-for-Profit Schools	1979
1	13	HB 691 – Reapportionment (Common Cause)	1979
2	1	HB 692 – Exemptions from Attachment and Execution	1979
2	2	HB 742 – Landlord-Tenant Relationships	1979
2	3	HB 804 – Period of Delinquency in Land Tax Collection (Jackson County)	1979

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
2	4	HB 1138, 1279, 1461, 1534, 1537, 1592, & 1634 – Sexual Assault (McCarthy Benson co-sponsor of 1537)	1980
2	5	HB 1164 – Minimum Student Standards	1980
2	6	HB 1166 – Legal Separation for Income Tax Purposes	1980
2	7	HB 1168 – Legal Sale of Controlled Substances	1980
2	8	HB 1265 – Bottle Bill	1980
2	9	HB 1364 – Obligations of Co-Signers as Primary Guarantors	1980
2	10-11	HB 1802 – Reapportionment	1980
2	12	HB 239 – Bottle Bill	1981
3	1-4	HB 319 – Crime Victims' Compensation	1981
3	5	HB 382 – Reapportionment	1981
3	6	HB 383 – Child's Rights	1981
3	7-8	HB 384 – State Debt Set-Off	1981
3	9	HB 520 – Corneal Transplants (Coroner's Law)	1981
3	10	HB 929 – Child's Rights	1982
4	1	HB 930 – Corneal Transplants	1982
4	2-3	HB 946 – State Debt Set-Off	1982
4	4	HB 1217 – Animal Welfare	1982
4	5	HB 107 – Removal of Eye Tissue	1983
4	6	HB 232 – Child's Rights	1983
4	7	HB 335 – Legal Sale of Controlled Substance	1983
4	8	HB 641 – Animal Welfare	1983

Committee Materials, 1979-1981

Extent: 0.2 cubic ft. (1 partial Hollinger box and 1 flat oversize box)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This series includes materials from committees chaired by Karen McCarthy: Committee on Consumer Protection/Subcommittee on Finance, House Energy & Atomic Energy Committee (acting chair) and the House Consumer Protection Committee/Subcommittee on Prepaid Funeral Plans. Also included are materials from the House Energy & Atomic Energy Committee created immediately prior to McCarthy's appointment as acting chair. Materials may include meeting minutes, bill copies, correspondence, testimony and legislative content.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
5	1	Committee on Consumer Protection/Subcommittee on Finance	1979-1980
5	2-3	House Energy & Atomic Energy Committee	1980
5	4-5	House Appropriations Committee Re: Amtrak services	1980-1981
OB 1	1-3	House Appropriations Committee Re: Amtrak services	1980-1981
5	6	Committee on Consumer Protection/Subcommittee on Prepaid Funeral Plans	No date

Interns/Field Study, 1979-1981

Extent: 0.2 cubic feet (Half Hollinger box)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This series contains daily and weekly reports submitted by field study student, Pam Fleischer, describing her duties and personal observations during her field study with Rep. McCarthy. Fleischer's observations include work on legislation regarding medical marijuana/cannabis and spousal rape. Also included are an intern survey and miscellaneous information about the legislative intern program.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
7	1	Pam Fleischer, field study	1979-1981
7	2	Miscellaneous information	1980-1981
7	3	Terri Johnson, intern	No date

Printed Material, Radioactive Waste Management, 1980-1983

Extent: 0.4 cubic feet (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This series includes printed materials concerning Radioactive Waste Management from such entities as the National Low-Level Waste Management Program, the League of Women Voters Education Fund, the State Planning Council on Radioactive Waste Management, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Hazardous Waste Management Task Force to the Missouri General Assembly, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
6	1	The National Low-Level Waste Management Program: Managing Low-Level Radioactive Wastes	August, 1980
6	2	League of Women Voters Education Fund: A Nuclear Waste Primer	1980
6	3	Low-Level Waste Management Program: Low Level Waste Management Perspectives	1980
6	4	State Planning Council on Radioactive Waste Management: Interim Report to the President	February, 1981
6	5	National Conference of State Legislatures: A Legislator's Guide to Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management	May, 1981
6	6	Southern States Energy Board, State Planning Council on Radioactive Waste Management: Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Regional Compact	May, 1981
6	7	National Conference of State Legislatures: Summary Report: Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Workshops	May-June, 1981

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
6	8	The National Low-Level Waste Management Program: Managing Low-Level Radioactive Wastes	June, 1981
6	9	Sixth Meeting: State Planning Council on Radioactive Waste Management Docket Book	June, 1981
6	10	National Conference of State Legislatures: A Survey and Analysis of State Policy Options to Encourage Alternatives to Land Disposal of Hazardous Waste	July, 1981
6	11	The Hazardous Waste Management Task Force: Report to the Missouri General Assembly on Hazardous Waste Management in Missouri	September, 1981
6	12	Kansas City Times: Editorial Cartoon	November, 1981
6	13	Rickano Corporation: Presentation to Governor's Task Force on Low-Level Radioactive Waste on Lyons, Kansas Salt Mine Repository	November, 1981
6	14	<u>The Progressive</u> : The Trash That Glows	December, 1981
6	15	Missouri Waste Control Coalition: Tenth Annual Missouri Waste Management Conference	July, 1982
6	16	Reports forwarded by Union Electric Company, 1983: Nuclear Power in American Thought, The Impact of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy on State and Local Government, Workshops on Legal Problems of Atomic Energy	January, 1983
6	17	U.S. Department of Energy: Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act Report; Response to Public Law 96-573	No date
6	18	Out-State Legislation	No date