

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT LEGISLATIVE REPORT #3 2013 SESSION JANUARY 21, 2013

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(NEW INFORMATION WILL BE IN RED)

Opening Day

The session began this week, and committees were named in the house and senate. (See above for a link to the committees). The Speaker of the House, Tim Jones and President of the Senate laid out priorities to their respective chambers. There were several stories covering these speeches, [article 1](#), and [article 2](#), but the quick read is they each remained consistent with their pre-session priority lists of investment in infrastructure (highway construction, education facilities and energy upgrades), improved education, tax revamp and economic development, including tort reform (med mal caps and workers comp/second injury fund reform). Absent from the support list was Medicaid expansion, which will be a marquee in the governor's budget when released on the 28th during his annual State of the State address. Speaker Jones made a clear statement that expansion of entitlements should not erode the funding for education.

Next week a few committees will meet to begin hearing bills, but Inauguration Day is Monday, which will limit the amount of business each chamber conducts next week.

The senate and house are beginning hearings. Tax policy, including income and sales taxes as well as tax credit reform, appears to be the frontrunner with respect to issues being debated first.

The Governor will announce his budget on January 28th during his state of the state address. The major objection the House and Senate republicans will probably cite is the Governor's attempted expansion of Medicaid, allowed, but not required, by the federal health care bill.

More budget information will be received from Jorgen after the Senate reaction to the Governor's proposal is released.

The House Public Safety Appropriations Committee is meeting this week. Jorgen will meet with Rep Marsha Haefner, the new chair of the committee and Rep Dave Hinson, one of its members. This meeting is only to review the budgets; no decisions will be made. Other members of the committee are at the bottom of this document.

The big issue still looming in the capitol is, whether the senate has changed their method of doing business, or will they slip into their gridlock rut in which they have frustratingly found themselves in the past few sessions. Jorgen predicts a new Senate emerges; others are not so optimistic. When the Governor's approvals for his appointees are brought to the floor, it could set the tone for the session.

Next week a nearly full slate of hearings begin, and below are bills and hearings that are of interest.

FSA Priority Issues

Jorgen will be meeting with contacts on FSA issues later this month. Revenue is better than it has been in several fiscal years.

Our priority bills will be filed in the next few weeks.

OTHER ISSUES

Medicaid update

The House and Senate remain less than excited about moving this proposal forward and are looking for the other chamber to make the first move. The issue nonetheless continues to get significant conversation and is not dead by any stretch of the imagination. The expansion would cover many ambulance calls that are now for indigent patients. The expansion would cover people up to 138% of federal poverty. Current coverage is for adults under 19% of federal poverty level.

Reps Jay Barnes, Chris Mollendorp, Keith Fredrick's and Tom Flanigan comprise an unofficial workgroup drafting legislation outlining their own "expansion" proposal. That may include reforms and expansion but not to the federal requirement of 138%. This will be a game of chicken. The senate shows little movement thus far, but sun setting the expansion upon expiration of the 100% fed match does have some promise to get the senate's attention. It would then be for a future general assembly to renew the sun set. Much more to come-

Bills of potential interest

HOUSE BILLS

[HB 28 Lichtenegger](#) Authorizes any county commission, municipality, or fire protection district to adopt an order or ordinance, including a burn ban order, regarding its emergency management functions as they relate to a natural or man-made disaster.

Bill History: 12-03-12 H Filed

[HB 33 Guernsey](#) Extends the expiration date of certain provisions of the Open Meetings and Records Law.

Bill History: 12-03-12 H Filed **This bill will be fast tracked since the previous legislature failed to extend the sunset clause, and currently your disaster preparedness plans are open records.**

[HB 45 Hinson](#) Authorizes the county commission in any county to adopt certain building codes.

Bill History: 12-04-12 H Filed

[HB 66 Burlison](#) Removes the provision that requires fire protection districts located in Greene County to have an audit performed every two years.

Bill History: 12-18-12 H Filed

[HB 115 Davis](#) Prohibits an employer from requesting or requiring an employee or applicant to disclose any user name, password, or other means for accessing a personal account or service through an electronic device.

Bill History: 01-10-13 H Read second time

[HB 118 Shull](#) Changes the laws regarding the Open Meetings and Records Law to allow certain meetings and records regarding policies, security systems, and structural plans regarding any terrorist or public safety or health incident to be closed.

Bill History: 01-10-13 H Read second time **Same as HB 33 above, and will be heard this week.--**

HB 135 Diehl Authorizes any political subdivision to enter into design-build contracts for construction projects exceeding one million dollars.

Bill History: 01-10-13 H Read second time

HB 147 Davis Expands the procedural protections given to taxpayers in charter counties and the City of St. Louis regarding residential property tax assessments to taxpayers in any county.

Bill History: 01-14-13 H Read second time

HB 160 Sommer Prohibits certain election and campaign activities on election day within the property boundaries of a polling place and electioneering at specified voting sites within a 250 foot radius of the entrance to the site.

Bill History: 01-15-13 H Read second time

HB 161 Gatschenberger Specifies that any voluntary annexation must only be notarized and modifies procedures regarding invalidating or challenging a previous annexation.

Bill History: 01-15-13 H Read second time

SENATE BILLS

SB 30 Brown Repeals all of the prevailing wage laws.

Bill History: 12-01-12 S Filed

SB 66 Dixon Repeals a number of expired or obsolete committees.

Bill History: 12-07-12 S Filed

SB 139 Kehoe Extends the expiration date for the closure of certain records, meetings and votes relating to operational guidelines and security systems to December 31, 2017.

Bill History: 01-17-13 S Introduced and read first time Same as HB33 above.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

[SJR 13](#) [Chappelle-Nadal](#) **Makes St. Louis city a part of St. Louis county**

Bill History: 01-17-13 S Introduced and read first time

Public Safety Appropriations Committee

Haefner, Marsha, Chair

Conway, Kathie, Vice Chair

Ellington, Brandon

Fitzwater, Paul

Hinson, Dave

Hubbard, Penny

Muntzel, Dave

Nichols, Mary

Otto, Bill

Rhoads, Shawn

Sommer, Chrissy

Wilson, Kenneth