

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT LEGISLATIVE REPORT #1 FOR 2011 SESSION January 17, 2011

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BUDGET

The big news of the week was the State Treasurers report that the state has a surplus balance of just under \$500M and the Governor restored some of the cuts to education yesterday signaling their confidence in the state's economy, but the State Budget Director still remained extremely cautious on the outlook for the balance of the fiscal year, and next years growth. We hope this will translate into fewer cuts for FY2012, which begins this July 1st.

Gov. Jay Nixon is still scheduled to deliver his 2011 State of the State address at 7 p.m. on Wednesday Jan. 19 before a joint session of the General Assembly. During the annual speech, which will be Nixon's third, he will submit his proposed state budget for the 2012 fiscal year, which begins July 1, and announce his agenda for the year.

The Senate began this week's business by hearing cost saving ideas from the general public via the Reboot Government committees, seven of them, each charged with different areas of state government; Judiciary and Public Safety, Social Programs, Education, Tax Structure and Economic Development, Retirement and Benefits, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Government Operations.

The Senate appropriations committee, led by its new Chairman Senator Kurt Schaefer from Columbia, will hold public testimony hearings on Tuesday, January 18th, at 10 a.m.

The House is moving two bills through their system.

- a bill stating that if you receive social services assistance and test positive for drug use then you lose your benefits, and
- a bill that requires additional rules on small business must go through a more rigorous process to be approved – the bill also grants a tax deduction for businesses that hire new employees.

FSA PRIORITIES

With the current state of affairs, the FSA will be almost entirely reacting this year. Positively to some bills and negatively to many more. The climate for new expenditures is almost completely shut down.

In addition, a number of bills changing tax structures etc have already been introduced and “it ain’t pretty”.

- **Division of Fire Safety Funding**

Representative Gatschenberger will file a bill which earmarks 20% of a \$15 fee, for taking a driver’s test, to fund the duties of the State Fire Marshall’s office.

[HB 51](#) [Taylor](#) Authorizes a \$2 surcharge to be collected in all criminal cases involving a state traffic law violation to be disbursed equally for law enforcement and fire safety training.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

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- **RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS**

All the following bills being considered or already introduced will ban the enforcement of any residential sprinklers in 1 and 2 family dwellings. The FSA will be fighting these without some compromise in the language

[HB 46](#) [Meadows](#)

Repeals a conflicting statute regarding the installation of fire sprinkler systems and removes the December 31, 2011 expiration date for Section 67.281, RSMo.

Current law requires all builders of new homes to mandatorily offer a residential sprinkler system to all new construction home owners but bans

enforcement of residential sprinkler ordinances requiring them in new 1 and 2 family structures.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

FSA is looking at attempting a compromise to improve the protection of roofs and floors built with truss construction.

[HB 90](#) [Scharnhorst](#)

Prohibits a political subdivision from adopting an ordinance, rule, or code that would require mandatory installation of a sprinkler system in new residential construction.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

This is the outright ban with no mandatory options to be considered.

- **TAXES**

[HB 60](#) [Nolte](#) Limits the increase in assessed valuation of residential property by the percentage of increase in the federal Social Security benefits for the elderly and disabled who own and live in their principal residence.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

[SJR 1](#) [Ridgeway](#) Replaces all taxes on income with a sales and use tax.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

- **OTHERS OF INTEREST**

[HB 50](#) [Taylor](#) Eliminates the tax on a one-time early distribution from certain annuities or retirement plans when the distribution does not exceed 20% of the total balance of the account.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

[HB 60](#) [Nolte](#) Limits the increase in assessed valuation of residential property by the percentage of increase in the federal Social Security benefits for the elderly and disabled who own and live in their principal residence.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

[HB 122](#) [Webber](#) Requires a person conducting a home inspection to be licensed by the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

[HB 145](#) [Schoeller](#) Requires entities receiving state funds to publish the name and compensation of each lobbyist lobbying for the entity.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred

[HB 160](#) [Brandom](#) Restricts co-employee liability in workers' compensation cases.

Bill History: 01-13-11 H Referred to House Committee on House-Workforce Dev. and Workplace Safety

[HB 192](#) [Jones-89](#) Modifies and creates provisions relating to environmental protection.

Bill History: Introduced, not yet referred