

# MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT LEGISLATIVE REPORT #4 FOR 2011 SESSION February 7, 2011

[Senate Bill List](#)  
[Senate Committees](#)  
[Senate Members](#)

[House Bill List](#)  
[House Committees](#)  
[House Members](#)

### NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The weather in central Missouri dropped nearly 20 inches of snow preceded by ice last week which shut the Capitol city down on Tuesday at noon for the week. The House and Senate adjourned for the week, so very little happened, hence the very abbreviated report. Most hearings were cancelled for the week, even those scheduled on Monday and Tuesday morning, but a few issues have progressed.

Rather than boring you with those items that did not have anything happen, for this week I have just the items that did have movement.

**I will be highlighting in red any changes each week.**

- **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.

We will attempt to ensure two issues are addressed in the bill; first, restrict the bill to only one and two family structures second, require light weight construction material is covered by sheet rock to enhance its fire rating to compensate for the absence of sprinklers.

**Bill History:** **The House General Laws did meet which heard the residential sprinkler sunset extension bill. Representative John Diehl, sponsor from St. Louis county, held a meeting prior to the meeting to work out differences in the language. Representatives attended on behalf of FSA, and the HBA and architects were also represented. The three issues we had with the bill were resolved. The bill was limited to only those one and two family dwellings and townhomes defined in the IRC, and multi units were deleted from the bill. Also the sunset clause was just extended instead of eliminated and therefore would have been law into perpetuity. Finally, we added language that requires the fire rating of walls are built to 06 IRC standards, instead of the lower fire rating allowed in 09 IRC. Of course it was lowered in 09 from 06 because the code contemplated sprinklers being installed.**

**Second, the Senate hearing on the Senate companion bill was cancelled due to weather but we fully expect the sponsor in the Senate (Sen. Schmitt) will also proceed with the agreed to language.**

Hearing today General Laws Cmte. Let the committee members know your feelings.

1/31/2011-Sprinkler Bills Scheduled for Hearing in House and Senate (HB90, HB46 & SB108)

The House General Laws Committee will hear two bills that extend the residential sprinkler ban indefinitely. We will testify encouraging the committee to add language ensuring that the bill is only limited to one and two family dwellings and that any non-sprinkled building that has light weight construction materials is covered with drywall. We are not certain how the various HBA associations feel about these additions despite their participation in drafting satisfactory language. The bill retains the mandatory offer provision.

The Senate will hear the bill on Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee. Below are the members of the House and Senate committees. Here is the message I believe we should relay to members;

1. this ban on sprinklers was never intended for multi family dwellings such as apartments, which have been required for many years to have sprinkler systems. This bill should be limited to one and two family dwellings;
2. the bill should require drywall to cover light weight construction material. The legislators need to hear why that is important however. Please explain that the 09 code without sprinklers is less stringent of a code than the 08 code, because the 09 code contemplates sprinklers being used and not carved out, therefore a suitable fire retardant substitute needs to be incorporated into the code to make up for the loss of the sprinklers.

SB 108 – Schmitt - Removes the expiration date for provisions of law concerning the installation of fire sprinklers in certain dwelling

HB46 Diehl (087) FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS - Repeals a conflicting statute regarding the installation of fire sprinkler systems and removes the December 31, 2011 expiration date.

### **House General Laws Committee**

Franz, Ward, Chair

Richardson, Todd, Vice Chair

Colona, Mike

Cross, Gary L.

Day, David

Funderburk, Doug

Houghton, Jay

McCaherty, John

McDonald, Tom

McManus, Kevin

Parkinson, Mark

Pollock, Darrell

Scharnhorst, Dwight

Schupp, Jill

Sifton, Scott