

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

13TH REGULAR LEGISLATIVE REPORT
FOR 2009 SESSION
MAY 4, 2009

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BUDGET

The budget is nearly finished and several changes have been made. The big question remains of how the House of Representatives will vote on a Medicaid expansion. The over \$1 billion proposal on how to allocate the federal stimulus funding in Missouri was defeated on the floor and the House leadership is now pursuing different ideas on what to do with the money. You may have read about the House proposal to reduce the income tax rate by ½% which takes about \$1 billion. This was passed by the House but Jorgen believes the Senate will concur and most likely kill that proposal. We could have a special session on how to allocate the federal stimulus money.

ACTION ALERT

[HB 580 - LINE OF DUTY COMPENSATION ACT - Bruns, Mark J.-](#)

This bill is on the senate debate calendar, and should be debated next week. Call your Senator and ask that they support HB580, handled by Senator Dempsey. The key piece they will ask about is the cost. Tell them the following; This bill is subject to appropriations, so the legislature has control of the cost.

FSA BILLS FOR 2009

#2-FIRE SAFE CIGARETTE

HB 205

Bill History:

Parson

This bill has passed the Senate and is waiting for the House to concur with the changes. The changes by the senate were agreements we made in the House but did not have the opportunity to incorporate the new language. None of the changes damage the goal of the legislation. We should get this bill passed this year.

#4-SB 711 FIX (SB174)

SB 174

Griesheimer

Modifies provisions of law relating to property taxation.

Bill History:

The Property tax fix as it relates to FPD's was amended onto the latest omnibus local government bill. I believe this bill has a good opportunity to get passed. The fix they placed in the bill was the 1984 hold harmless date. The senate also placed on the bill the requirement to revote your levy every 5 years and roll your levy back except for new construction. We have worked out a deal on this item as well to remove that second provision but will have to post the levy three times a year.

BILLS OF INTEREST TO US (FOR AND AGAINST)

CONSORTIUM BILL

FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT ALLOCATION

HB 459

Schaaf

Creates a federal reimbursement allowance for ground ambulance services. This is the bill that will allow more federal dollars to be used for reimbursements to ambulance emergency services reimbursements.

Bill History:

This bill is in conference and should pass this year.

SB 307 Dempsey Imposes a gross receipts tax on certain ambulance service providers. This is the companion to HB459.

Bill History: This bill is in conference and should pass this year.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL LEGISLATION

WE ARE OPPOSING THIS BILL.

SB 462 - Crowell - No further action.

No further action on this bill occurred this week. The proponents have sent us language attempting to negotiate this item, but it is too broad as it basically disallows any reimbursement be billed if any of the resources are publicly funded.

Modifies provisions pertaining to hazardous substance spills and emergencies. Under current law, when more than 50 gallons of petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquified natural gas, or synthetic gas are spilled or released, it is considered a hazardous substance emergency. This act changes the minimum threshold to 3,000 gallons.

SB 7 Griesheimer Requires communities to file one copy of any technical code adopted with the clerk's office to be available to the public, rather than three copies. **This bill is now the Omnibus Local Government Bill**

Bill History: The sales tax provision was removed from all the local government bills as it had too much opposition to clear the Senate. All appropriate items that should pass have been to our Mutual Aid bill HB103.

OTHER BILLS WE ARE ASSISTING IN

HB 103 –MUTUAL AID

Bill History:

Wildberger

This bill has passed the Senate and is waiting for the House to concur with the changes. First the sprinkler in residential dwellings issue was attached per our agreement with the Homebuilders Association, which disallows local political subdivisions from adopting the portion of the code relating to residential sprinklers prior to Dec 31, 2011.

In exchange the homebuilders agree that they will not seek an extension to the date or any other local restrictions regarding residential sprinkler ordinances other than what they can get each local political subdivision to agree to when adopting the code locally.

The second item included is a provision establishing criteria for elevator inspectors.

The bill also allows broader use of defibrillators. We hope to have the bill finished by mid week.

INCREASE STATUTE OF LIMITATION ON ARSON

This provision will be included in two more bills this week and Jorgen is hopeful that one of the two will be passed if the sponsor can keep other controversial crime amendments off the bill. Jorgen talked to the House Chairman of Criminal Law and he will include it in one of the Omnibus bills.

OTHER BILLS

The following is a list of bills that may affect the fire service in some way. There are several that we will be actively opposing.

SB 122 **Griesheimer** Allows members of an ambulance district board of directors to be subject to recall from office.

Bill History: **This bill has also been incorporated into the new local government bill hb376**

04-08-09 H Voted do pass from committee on House-Local Government – This bill has also been incorporated into the new local government bill hb376

04-08-09 H Voted do pass from committee on House-Local

Election Laws

[HB 173](#) [Cox, Stanley](#)

We are opposed to this bill.

NO MOVEMENT

This bill was voted out but not before it was wounded by amendments. This bill has not been reported in yet, therefore not close to being eligible for floor debate.

We are opposed to this bill.

[HB 316](#) [Jones-89](#) Changes the laws regarding the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law.

Bill History: **This bill will be heard in the Senate General Laws committee where Jorgen does not expect it to move forward, but he did not predict it would make it to the Senate either. With only two weeks remaining and the bill has not yet been heard, it has a difficult road to passage.**

NO MOVEMENT

[SB 494](#) [Griesheimer](#) Allows certain counties to seek voter approval for a sales tax to fund interoperable emergency communications – Introduced. This bill applies to St. Louis County. Under current law, any county which has established an emergency communications system commission may, upon voter approval, levy and collect a property tax to fund the establishment, operation, and maintenance of an emergency communications system. This act would give such counties the option to seek voter approval to impose the property tax or a sales tax not to exceed one-tenth of one percent to fund the establishment, operation, and maintenance of an emergency communications system. The Department of Revenue will collect the sales tax revenues and deposit them into the newly created county emergency communications fund for distribution to the counties from which they were collected

Bill History: **This provision was included in the local government bill, which should clear the Senate this week and move to conference. I am hopeful this provision will be passed this year.**

No movement

03-02-09 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Jobs, Eco. Devo. and Local Government

HB 591 Sutherland Authorizes voters to petition for an election to lower the tax rate ceiling of a political subdivision.

Bill History: No movement

This bill has been passed out of committee and is in the House Rules Committee.
03-12-09 H Voted do pass as substitute from committee on House-Ways and Means

HB1176

WE ARE OPPOSED TO THIS BILL

NO MOVEMENT

House Home Page. House Bill List. HB 1176. Establishes various duties, responsibilities, and powers for fire protection agencies. Sponsor: Nance, Bob (36). Proposed Effective Date: 08/28/2009. CoSponsor: LeVota, Paul (52). etal..

HB 1145 Roorda, Jeff –

NO MOVEMENT

Changes provisions relating to ambulance and fire protection district taxes. The bill states;

99.848. Notwithstanding subsection 1 of section 99.847, any district providing emergency services pursuant to chapter 190 or 321, RSMo, shall be entitled to reimbursement from the special allocation fund in the amount of at least fifty percent nor more than one hundred percent of the district's tax increment, and the ambulance district board or fire protection district board shall set the refund amount rate before the assessment is paid into the special allocation fund. This section shall not apply to tax increment financing projects or districts approved prior to August 28, 2004.