

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

8TH REGULAR LEGISLATIVE REPORT
FOR 2009 SESSION
MARCH 28, 2009

[Senate Bills](#)
[List of Senators](#)

[House Bills](#)
[List of State Reps](#)

BUDGET

Committees continue work on bills filed in their own chamber but will soon begin hearing bills of the opposite chamber. This leaves 7 weeks remaining in session.

The House completed the budget this week and will now turn their focus of introducing their proposal on how to spend the Federal Budget Stabilization money and the Federal Stimulus money sent to the States. These funds have been rumored to be used for very different purposes in the House than in the Senate. It may mean a special session to decide how to use the Stimulus funds as the feds have not yet told the states all the parameters they must follow when spending this pot of dollars. The Stabilization funds are eligible to be spent now and few strings are attached. We are going to attempt to place \$100,000 into fire training from the federal stimulus money. As we stand today, the fire training program was cut by \$100,000 and reduced the program from \$550,000 to \$450,000.

FSA BILLS FOR 2009

#1-9-1-1

SB 119

Griesheimer

Bill History:

No movement

This bill was heard this week before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Energy and the Environment – The committee as you can imagine did not receive this bill without a plan to spend the funds more efficiently primarily by consolidating the 911 centers.

This bill was supposed to be heard this week before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Energy and the Environment – however the committee ran short on time and it has been rescheduled for this week. I do not expect this bill to move too far without a substantive consolidation plan.

This issue appears to be an uphill climb. Senators Greisheimer, Mayer and Crowell along with Representative Bruns held a meeting on the issue with the PSAP providers and other emergency agencies. Senator Crowell was clear that any bill without dramatic consolidation of agencies would not pass the legislature. The agencies have been assigned the task of developing a plan to consolidate and present that to the House and Senate before further movement on the bill occurs.

It has been assigned to the Commerce Committee.

This issue appears to be an uphill climb. The appetite for any tax increase without the vote of the people is nearly zero. Senator Griesheimer has filed a bill, but it also requires a vote of the people and is a 25 cent increase.

Some issues that we have with the bill:

- It has a maximum of \$.25 for a monthly charge
- It limits the number of PSAPs' allowed in each county, even those that are already in existence
- It requires a vote of the people in the state

We believe Representative Mark Bruns will file a companion bill in the House. This will be a top priority bill for FSA, working in conjunction with other players.

#2-FIRE SAFE CIGARETTE

HB 205

Parson

Bill History:

No movement

The opponents to the legislation are still not quite satisfied and our opposition is beginning to mount again.

This bill was voted out of committee last week with a new committee substitute which addresses many of the concerns the opposition voiced in committee. None of the changes change the fact that a new type of paper will have to be used for cigarettes. Cigarette bill received a due pass out of committee.

This bill was heard Tuesday and I testified on behalf of FSA and in support. Greg Carroll from the Fire Marshalls office testified with information on the history of cigarettes impact on fires. The opposition was dampened this year dramatically and the committee is predominantly supportive. We believe this bill will be voted out and get through the Rules Committee, since our sponsor is chairman of Rules, in a timely fashion. It will then be eligible for debate on the House Floor. Chiefs Brown and Boyle were also in attendance.

There is a committee hearing this coming Tuesday (2-3) afternoon. I will be testifying in favor of the bill.

To date 35 states have this legislation.

#3-EMERGENCY DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

No movement

FSA will be looking to begin a state fund that will assist in defraying the cost of emergency responders that respond to disasters under MOSCOPE guidelines.

#4-SB 711 FIX (SB174)

SB 174 Griesheimer Modifies provisions of law relating to property taxation.

Bill History: The final draft is still being developed. There is an amendment that appears to require any increase due to inflation of your tax base (exclusive of new construction) to be rolled back to a base year amount unless another vote of the people occurs. This provision will need to be removed.

This bill is on the Senate debate calendar and will be debated once the sponsor finishes drafting the final revisions.

No movement

The bill was voted out of committee with a due pass. Haven't seen any of the revisions yet.

01-26-09 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Ways and Means
No movement

Referred to Ways and Means Committee

Due to the SB711 property tax reform there are a few districts adversely affected if this law is not changed. Senator Griesheimer has filed a bill to correct the problem. The new law has a special provision that (1) for tax year 2009, political subdivisions are authorized to levy a property tax rate sufficient to generate as much revenue as was realized in the 2007 tax year excluding new construction and improvements as long as such rate does not exceed the greater of the rate in effect for the 1984 tax year or the most recent voter approved rate (this is a special provision to keep the affect of sb711 from permanently affecting those districts, or (2) choose to operate under current law. The bill is below, but I have also copied and pasted the pertinent section of the bill. The **bold** language is proposed new law, and the [bracketed] language is proposed deletion from current law. I have highlighted the operative word "may" (meaning not shall) in red below.

43 2. Whenever changes in assessed valuation are entered in the assessor's
44 books for any personal property, in the aggregate, or for any subclass of real
45 property as such subclasses are established in section 4(b) of article X of the
46 Missouri Constitution and defined in section 137.016, the county clerk in all
47 counties and the assessor of St. Louis City shall notify each political
subdivision
48 wholly or partially within the county or St. Louis City of the change in
valuation
49 of each subclass of real property, individually, and personal property, in the

50 aggregate, exclusive of new construction and improvements. All political
51 subdivisions shall immediately revise the applicable rates of levy for each
purpose
52 for each subclass of real property, individually, and personal property, in the
53 aggregate, for which taxes are levied to the extent necessary to produce from
all
54 taxable property, exclusive of new construction and improvements,
substantially
55 the same amount of tax revenue as was produced in the previous year for
each
56 subclass of real property, individually, and personal property, in the
aggregate,
57 except that the rate may not exceed the greater of the rate in effect in the
58 1984 tax year or the most recent voter-approved rate. For the 2009 tax year,
59 any political subdivision may levy a rate sufficient to generate tax
60 revenue in an amount equal to revenue collections realized in the 2007
61 tax year from all taxable property, exclusive of any new construction
62 or improvements attributable to tax years 2008 and 2009, except that
63 such rate shall not exceed the greater of the rate in effect for the 1984
64 tax year or the most recent voter approved tax rate. Any school district
65 may levy the operating levy for school purposes required for the
66 current year pursuant to subsection 2 of section 163.021, RSMo, less all
67 adjustments required pursuant to article X, section 22 of the Missouri
68 constitution and under subdivision 4 of subsection 5 of this section, if
69 such tax rate does not exceed the highest tax rate in effect subsequent
70 to the 1980 tax year.

#5-FUEL TAX SAVINGS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATIONS

HB 204 Ruestman Authorizes an income tax credit for volunteer firefighters who complete certain training programs.

Bill History: NO MOVEMENT

This bill was voted out of the House Committee on House-Public Safety last week. We will push the chair to move this bill, although the Senate is killing all tax credit bills this year.

No movement

Assigned to Public Safety

We are attempting to provide relief on two fronts. First a tax credit for training expenses for volunteer firefighters. This bill has a high fiscal note and will be tough to

pass this year, especially since all existing tax credits are being reviewed and several bills to place a 2 year moratorium on credits has been introduced in the House and Senate. The second type of relief will be for volunteer associations to receive a tax credit for the gas they use in their fire fighting apparatus.

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 was voted out of the House, and has been assigned to the Senate Seniors, Families and mental health committee.

This bill was voted out of the House, and is now waiting Senate Committee assignment.

Is now on the debate calendar in the house.

CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO PUSH THIS BILL.

This bill was voted out of the House Health Care Transformation Committee, turned into the speaker and will be heard in House Rules Committee this week.

01-29-09 H Read second time

SB 307

Dempsey

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

Bill History:

This bill is on the Senate Calendar

No movement

This bill was heard in the Senate Committee on Health/Mental Health/Seniors & Families on Feb 25 at 8:15 a.m.

Hearing scheduled in the Senate Committee on Health/Mental Health/Seniors & Families on Feb 25 at 8:15 a.m.

Senator Tom Dempsey has filed a similar, bill as Schaafs HB459 above. Both bills need technical corrections but nothing problematic.

This is the legislation for transfer ambulance reimbursement previously discussed. We will not be the lead agency on this, but will act as a partner.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL LEGISLATION

WE ARE OPPOSING THIS BILL.

[SB 462](#) - [Crowell](#) - **This bill was scheduled for a hearing on the 25th of March when they return from break, but the hearing has been cancelled which hopefully will be the end of this bill.**

This bill has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee. Jorgen has talked to the Chairman and he does not anticipate having a hearing soon.

Modifies provisions pertaining to hazardous substance spills and emergencies. Under current law, when more than 50 gallons of petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquefied 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.

Under current law, if a political subdivision or volunteer fire protection district provides services in response to a hazardous substance emergency, the person who controls the hazardous substance is liable for reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the political subdivision or fire protection district. This act limits the person's liability to 25% of the reasonable and necessary costs.

This would change the face of hazardous material response in Missouri.

[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 provisions for fire districts in St. Louis County has been amended into the omnibus local government bill, however there are a few amendments to remove it from the bill. This section authorizes any fire protection district, located within St. Louis County, which has property located within its jurisdiction for which taxes have been abated or redistributed to seek voter approval to impose a sales tax. The sales tax cannot exceed one percent and must result in a reduction to the district's property tax levy which will decrease property tax revenues by an amount equal to fifty percent of the district's sales tax revenues received from the fire protection district sales tax fund in the previous year. This amendment will include St. Louis County and will pool**

10% of the sales tax revenue fire districts receive to be distributed to “distressed” fire districts.

This provision will be difficult to hold in the bill, and applies only to the remaining counties that can not do this now except for St. Charles county. If you live in Clay, Greene, St. Louis or Jefferson counties, then contact your senator to express your support for this provision to remain in SB7 – the local government bill. (We are in favor of this one)

Representatives of FSA, homebuilders and sprinkler occupations have met and are working through some issues in hopes to resolve the disagreement. Several Fire Districts have submitted letters in support of the measure and many are now opposing as are chiefs from around the state.

This measure will cripple local authorities’ ability to provide the codes they want and/or need. Those fire district board members that are in support of this measure seem to be also members of HBA. (We are opposed to this one due to the inability of local authorities’ inability to pass codes that they wish to have)

Passed out of committee and will be debated on the floor.

Assigned to Local Government

Require communities to file one copy of any technical code adopted with the clerk’s office instead of the current 3 copies that are required.

This bill now rolls any number of local government issues into one. This has been good and bad for us. Some years our items are attached and make it through. Other years (like last year) our items were a part of a similar bill, but since there was a controversial issue attached to it (one that did not matter to us) the bill never passed. As you can see below there are a couple of rather controversial issues that are currently a part of, one we do like one we do not.

Sales Tax for Fire Districts

The sales tax provisions for fire districts in St. Louis County has been amended into the omnibus local government bill, however there are a few amendments to remove it from the bill. This section authorizes any fire protection district, located within St. Louis County, which has property located within its jurisdiction for which taxes have been abated or redistributed to seek voter approval to impose a sales tax. The sales

tax cannot exceed one percent and must result in a reduction to the district's property tax levy which will decrease property tax revenues by an amount equal to fifty percent of the district's sales tax revenues received from the fire protection district sales tax fund in the previous year. This amendment will include St. Louis County and will pool 10% of the sales tax revenue fire districts receive to be distributed to "distressed" fire districts.

State Preemption of Local codes

The local government bill, SB7, contains a provision which disallows local political subdivisions from enacting a new code requiring sprinklers in new residential single family structures. The bill states that the homeowner shall have the option, which of course they do now since there is no law prohibiting the homeowner from installing sprinklers. Representatives of FSA, homebuilders and sprinkler occupations are meeting this week to discuss the language.

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

Has been assigned to the Senate Jobs Committee which is chaired by Senator Greisheimer. He, as you know has been one of our biggest supporters.

Passed the House and is awaiting Senate Committee assignment

ACTION ALERT CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO PUSH THIS BILL.

Passed out of rules and is on the House Calendar for debate.

This bill was passed out of the House Public Safety committee last week, reported into the speakers office and will be heard in Rules Committee this week. After clearing that hurdle, it is eligible to be placed on the calendar for debate. The bill allows for a \$15,000 death benefit, and the act will sunset after 6 years pending reauthorization of the General Assembly.

This bill was heard before the House Public Safety committee last week. The hearing was met with strong support. There are several ideas that surfaced during the hearing. One is to take the money the state would appropriate and buy an insurance policy that would pay a \$10,000 benefit. Another was to raise the benefit to \$15,000 to cover funeral costs. I believe this bill will move out of committee next week.

I testified in support, and the Randy Cole attended to answer questions as he can not officially take a position.

SB 332 **Dempsey** Provides additional workers' compensation benefits for public safety workers killed in the line of duty. This is the companion to HB580

Bill History: **No movement**

03-05-09 S Voted do pass as substitute from committee on Senate-Jobs, Eco. Devo. and Local Government

This bill was heard on Wednesday 2-25-09 before the Senate Committee on Jobs, Eco. Devo. and Local Government. Jorgen testified in support.
Will be heard tomorrow, Wednesday at 1 PM

02-11-09 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Jobs, Eco. Devo. and Local Government-This is a companion to HB580

OTHER BILLS WE ARE ASSISTING IN

HB 103 –MUTUAL AID

Wildberger

Bill History:

03-25-09 H Set on the House Calendar – We will attempt to amend this onto a House bill that is in the Senate regarding the Jt. Committee on Bioterrorism. (HB124)

This bill was heard last week and I represented the Fire Alliance the Fire Alliance. This bill should move this week.

This bill is scheduled for a hearing at noon on Tuesday. I will testify on behalf of FSA.
No movement

Allows the executive officer of any public safety agency to enter into a mutual-aid agreement for reciprocal emergency aid and specifies that the Department of Public Safety will administer the state system.

HB 549 –MUTUAL AID

Bruns

Bill History:

No movement

Same as HB103

Allows the executive officer of any public safety agency to enter into a mutual-aid agreement for reciprocal emergency aid and specifies that the Department of Public Safety will administer the state system.

INCREASE STATUTE OF LIMITATION ON ARSON

We will attempt to amend this onto the Senate Crime bill.

No movement

We changed the statute of limitations on Arson in 2003, from 3 years to 5 years, but since that time the law was accidentally changed back to the old law. We are attempting to change the law to a 10 year statute of limitation which would mirror the federal law. Senator Bartle will help us on the Senate and State Representative Lipke will assist us in the House.

NURSING HOME AND DETECTORS/SPRINKLERS

No movement

With the recent ruling by the Joint Committee on Administrative Regulations allowing the nursing home industry to not place smoke detectors in residential rooms that have a sprinkler system, we are backing legislation to have the codes read the same as the ICC-NFPA codes on Nursing Homes

BURN BAN

No movement

This is the same bill as last year. Representative Bruns is looking to sponsor.

OTHER POTENTIAL LEGISLATION AND ISSUES

SPILLER PAY LAWSUIT

No movement

Before the hearing the Attorney General's Office has severed the state from the lawsuit. The reason for this is that the Plaintiffs have dropped their contention that the Spiller Pay law and its accompanying requirements (permitting etc) was unconstitutional. This means that the outcome of this lawsuit will not affect any operations for or on hazardous Material Responses or LEPCs'.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS AND DEFINED BENEFITS

SB161

No movement

This has been filed by Senator Jason Crowell (R). We are unsure of how this will affect the pension systems.

Referred to Pension Committee

Last year a law passed that required Fire Protection Districts that do not belong to LAGERS and have their own retirement program have an oversight board. The law was vague and the rules look to require oversight of both defined benefit programs as well as defined contribution programs. This fix will be to remove defined contribution (401K type) from the oversight requirements. We will assist in clean up language.

LICENSE PLATE EMBLEM FOR FIRE MUSEUM

No movement

A bill was passed several years ago that will have proceeds from the license plates to go to the Fire Museum in Kingdom City. We are working on exactly what needs to be done to make this move forward. Looks like a special emblem just for the museum needs to be filed.

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.

HB108-Walt Bivins (R)

We are opposing this bill.

No movement

This bill requires that audio recordings of all closed meetings of governmental bodies be made and kept for 18 months. This bill has been read for the 2nd time.

HB 202

Sander

Requires all counties, excluding the City of St. Louis, to establish and maintain 911 addressing where enhanced 911 service has been approved.

Bill History: No movement

This bill was heard before the House Committee on House-Public Safety and it did not receive the warmest reception.

Referred to Public Safety

Requires all Counties with enhanced 9-1-1 capabilities establish and maintain 9-1-1 addressing. This bill has been read for the 2nd time.

SB99-Jane Cunningham (R) & SJR4

We are opposing this bill.

No movement

03-04-09 S Hearing conducted

No movement

Assigned to Ways & Means

This bill & constitutional amendment would require the freezing of all property tax evaluations at the same level as they were in 2006. No reevaluation will occur until the property is sold. It will also allow only increases up to a maximum of 2 % per year in property tax for cost of living increases

[HB 888 Nieves, Brian D.](#) Establishes the Predictable Property Tax Act.

This is similar to the SB99 version that has not made progress.

SB102-Tim Green (D)

No movement

Assigned to Eco development and Local Government – Hearing was set, but was rescheduled.

Assigned to Local Government Committee

This bill would require certain bidding procedures be met if they are not already covered by federal or state law by all governmental bodies in Missouri.

[SB 122](#) [Griesheimer](#) Allows members of an ambulance district board of directors to be subject to recall from office.

Bill History: No movement

Scheduled for hearing on 2 -18 -09 Assigned to Eco development and Local Government – Hearing was set, but was rescheduled.

No movement

Assigned to Eco development and Local Government –

This bill would allow for the recall of ambulance district board members.

Election Laws

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

We are opposed to this bill.

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.

No movement

Jorgen testified in opposition to this bill as did many other political subdivisions, however the Missouri State Teachers Association, The Missouri Press Association supported the bill as did the League of Women Voters. Jorgen believes a few calls into the *House Elections Committee* members speaking about the costs this bill would impose on districts is a good idea.

[Deeken, Bill](#), Chair – Jefferson City

[Diehl, John](#), Vice Chair – Central St. Louis County

[Brown, Michael R.](#) - KC

[Colona, Mike](#) – St. Louis City

[Cox, Stanley](#) – Sedalia – sponsor of the bill

[Davis, Cynthia](#) – St. Charles County

[Dugger, Tony](#) – Douglass, Wright, Texas

[Frame, Michael](#) – Jefferson County

[Kelly, Chris](#) – Boone County

[Low, Beth](#) - KC

[Viebrock, Jim](#) - Springfield

[Wells, Don](#) – Shannon, Texas, Phelps, Pulaski County

Establishes the Andrew Jackson Vote Restoration Act which requires certain elections to be held even if the number of candidates filing for a position is equal to the number of positions available. This essentially requires an election to be held in the event that the candidate is uncontested for each slot up for election. This would cost local governments money to hold an election.

HB 316

Jones-89

Changes the laws regarding the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law.

Bill History: No movement

We are opposed to this bill.

It is in the House Rules Committee waiting for a hearing.

This bill passed out of the General Laws Committee, which the sponsor chairs. It is now scheduled to go to the House Rules Committee for a hearing.

This bill was heard before the General Laws Committee, which the sponsor chairs. This bill makes several modifications to the open records laws, most of which I think we won't support. Jorgen did attend the hearing and talked to Representative Jones afterwards. He will make changes to the bill, but not certain he change many of the provisions we find objectionable. If the bill is voted out of committee in the current form, I do not see it having much success in the Senate as we have fought the battle on these provisions in the past and the result was the language in the current law.

02-10-09 H Meeting set for 12:00 PM, HR 4 House-SC on General Laws – this bill makes several modifications to the open records laws, most of which I think we won't support, but I will monitor the hearing and report his intentions. We did not support this bill last year, but the bill did not make much progress.

Open Meeting Law Summary – HB316

This bill changes the laws regarding the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires all meetings of the commission to be open except those in which the commission discusses a pending complaint;

(2) Specifies that a "quasi-public governmental body" will include any association that receives public funding through dues paid by a public governmental body or its members;

(3) Revises the definition of "public meeting" to include any gathering of newly elected members who haven't taken office, with or without current members, discussing public business which would be considered a quorum;

(4) Specifies that only members of a public governmental body, their attorneys and staff assistants, and any necessary witnesses will be permitted in any closed meeting of the governmental body;

(5) Requires a court to order the reimbursement of reasonable costs and attorney fees to the party successfully seeking disclosure of information contained in an investigative report compiled by a law enforcement agency that would otherwise be closed to inspection. Currently, reimbursement is at the court's discretion; and

(7) Requires any public meeting of a public governmental body addressing issues regarding a fee or tax increase, eminent domain, zoning, transportation development districts, or tax increment financing to give at least five days' notice prior to the meeting, exclusive of weekends and holidays when the facility is closed. The meetings must allow time for public comment. If proper notice is not given, discussion on the issue will be postponed and no vote will be taken for at least 30 days.

[SB 247](#) [Schaefer](#) Allows counties of the first classification to control the minimum standards of occupancy for residential units rented or leased and to develop a licensing and inspecting program. This is a Fire Building Code bill. This will certainly invite much discussion.

Bill History: **No movement**

01-29-09 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Jobs, Eco. Devo. and Local Government

[HB 447 -](#) [Roorda, Jeff](#) Allows counties of the first classification to control the minimum standards of occupancy for residential units rented or leased and to develop a licensing and inspecting program. This is a Fire Building Code bill. This will certainly invite much discussion.

Bill History: **No movement**

This is the House companion to SB247. This bill was heard before the House Public Safety Committee. The labor groups support the bill and the homebuilders want "residential dwellings" eliminated from the requirements of the bill.

[SB 122](#) [Griesheimer](#) Allows members of an ambulance district board of directors to be subject to recall from office.

Bill History: **03-05-09 S Set on the Senate Calendar**

No movement

Bill was heard last week.

[HB 329](#) [Kraus](#) Exempts real property owned by individuals 65 years of age or older with certain levels of income from increases in assessed valuation that are not from new construction or improvements.

Bill History: **No movement**

Read second time

[HB 324](#) [Silvey](#) Requires revenue from a tax increase within a tax increment financing district to be used only for the specified purposes. This bill prohibits TIFs from capturing other types of special taxes.

Bill History: **No movement**

Read second time

[HB 655 – Tax Credit for Reserve Officers - Fischer,](#)

This bill was heard this week, but it is in the same boat as HB204 above.

No movement.

A taxpayer shall be allowed a tax credit for hours worked in reserve status, including reserve firefighters. The tax credit amount shall be equal to ten dollars per hour the taxpayer worked in reserve status, but shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars per month nor three thousand dollars per taxable year per taxpayer claiming the credit. This bill was just filed.

Bill Activity: This bill was heard before the House Committee on House-Public Safety and it did not receive the warmest reception.

[SB 494](#) - [Griesheimer](#) - No movement

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

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

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

HB 625 **Parkinson** Exempts personal and residential property owned by certain taxpayers 65 years of age or older from increases in assessed valuation and limits increases in their personal and property tax.

Bill History: **No movement**

02-19-09 H Referred to House Committee on House-Ways and Means

HB 718 -- Volunteer Fire Protection Association Fees

No movement

Sponsor: Dugger

This bill changes the laws regarding the assessment and collection of volunteer fire protection association fees. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Authorizes a county, after a request by voter petition and upon voter approval by the residents within a volunteer fire protection association's boundaries, to collect association fees by adding the fees to the personal property tax lists. The county will disburse the collected fees to the association;
- (2) Requires the annual assessment of association fees against all owners of property within the association's boundaries. An owner will be assessed once for all unoccupied property and once for all occupied property; and
- (3) Authorizes, upon association member voter approval, an increase of up to 0.5% in association fees. A proposal to

increase fees cannot be submitted for voter approval unless it has been more than two years from the last increase in fees.

HB 894 Roorda, Jeff

No movement

Changes the laws regarding certain city sales taxes – allows all cities in Jefferson county to impose a general sales tax for several purposes, one of which is for fire facilities.

HB 124 Komo Requires the Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism, and Homeland Security to include the feasibility of compiling information relevant to immigration enforcement issues in their studies.

Bill History: 03-26-09 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-General Laws. . This is the bill will be attaching our Mutual Fixes on to.

NEW BILL

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

Bill History: 03-12-09 H Voted do pass as substitute from committee on House-Ways and Means

FIREFIGHTER DAY AT THE CAPITOL

This year firefighter day will occur on April 8. We will be honoring the deaths of 7 firefighters in the line of duty for 2008 in Missouri. This is also a time for you to visit your legislators to help push our issues. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 1000.

We will gather in the rotunda for some pointers for talking to your legislator concerning our issues at 0900.