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## ***The GA Capitol Report***

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**MORE TRANSPORTATION BILLS FILED:** Missouri lawmakers have filed more legislation for the 2004 session including several transportation-related bills. The pre-filing of bills began Dec. 1. So far, Senators have filed 262 bills and 16 joint resolutions. House members have filed 149 bills and 11 joint resolutions. The legislative session begins Jan. 7, 2004.

More toll road legislation has been filed. Rep. Lanie Black, R-Charleston, has filed House Bill 857 that would authorize the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to construct and maintain toll road facilities and House Joint Resolution 34 that would place the toll road proposal on the November 2004 ballot for voter approval. Sen. Delbert Scott, R-Lowry City, also has filed toll road legislation, Senate Bill 958 and Senate Joint Resolution 38. Sen. John Loudon, R-Ballwin, and Representative Jeff Harris, D-Columbia, filed toll road legislation earlier this month.

Missouri lawmakers have to pass legislation and adopt a joint resolution – which also must be approved by Missouri voters – to give the state authority to build and operate toll roads.

Other transportation-related bills filed recently include:

- House Joint Resolution 36, sponsored by Representative Gary Dusenberg, R-Blue Springs, which would replace the MHTC with a director of transportation;
- House Bill 907, sponsored by Representative Paul LaVota, D-Independence, which would prohibit sexually explicit billboards within one mile of any state highway;
- House Bill 892, sponsored by Representative Craig Bland, D-Kansas City, which would require MoDOT to conduct a study of congestion problems around Highway 71 and develop a plan to alleviate the problems;
- Senate Bill 955, sponsored by Scott, which clarifies that members of the MHTC will elect the two most senior members of the commission for the chairman and vice chairman positions. After a one year period, the two members will switch leadership positions and serve in the new positions for one year; and
- Senate Joint Resolution 37, sponsored by Scott, which would eliminate state agencies other than the Department of Transportation and the State Highway Patrol from receiving highway revenue. The change would be made over a five-year period.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS:** The Governmental Affairs staff wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.