

The Association Report

From the Capitol

Jan 17, 2003

The 92nd Missouri General Assembly concluded it's second week in the capitol with the house announcing its new committee chairs, vice-chairs and committee members while the senate, with fewer organizational matters, started committee hearings earlier in the week.

All committee chairs and vice-chairs in the house are new this session due to the historic change in the majority party. For the first time in a half century, the Republicans in November elections won control of the Missouri house. Part of this was a result of the state's term limits law which brought about 90 new house members. When there are no vacancies, the house has 163 members. Republicans in the senate took the majority two years ago.

Our Association is working on legislation dealing with employee salaries and retirement as well as a more favorable use and conversion of unused sick leave and annual leave.

Rep Dan Ward of Bonne terre is sponsoring HB 86 which would require MoDOT to have a comprehensive job study at least every five years for all salaried employees, establish a maximum of three pay brackets for each pay grade and annually raise MoDOT salaried employees pay based on the C.P. I. No committee hearing has been scheduled.

Two senate bills which could affect some of our members are to be heard Tuesday (Jan21) in the Senate Pensions and General Laws Committee. SB 100 and SB 188 would lower to 48 years the minimum age for retiring under the low of "80 and out." SB 100 is sponsored by Sen. Harold Caskey of Butler and SB 118 is sponsored by Sen. Charlie Shields of St. Joseph. Sen. Shields served 12 years in the Missouri House before being elected to the senate in November. The chairman of the Senate Pensions and General Laws Committee, Sen. Delbert Scott, also came from the house to the senate in the November election.

From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
Missouri Highway and Transportation Employees' Association