

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

May 9, 2005

With a “Truly Agreed” bill on the governor's desk and three more bills positioned for action this week, our Association has the table set for a productive year at the state capitol.

An amendment to restore a MoDOT employee's right to carry up to 240 overtime hours was attached Tuesday (May 3) to SB367 by Rep. Bill Deeken of Jefferson City. The bill, sponsored originally by Sen. John Cauthorn, is intended to correct some state employee issues that passed in the '04 legislative session. That bill, HB1548, was intended for state workers who are required to provide staffing on a “24-7” basis. It sought to require the state to systematically “pay down” accumulated overtime hours while allowing an employee to keep no more than 80 overtime hours.

After SB367 was returned to the senate with Rep. Deeken's amendments, Sen. Cauthorn took up the bill and asked that it be passed “as amended.” It passed the senate 34-0. Gov. Blunt has until July 14 to sign or veto the bill. It is suggested that Association members show their support for the “Truly Agreed” version of SB367 by writing or calling the governor's office and ask him to sign the bill.

Another one of our bills, SB317, is No.20 on the House Calendar, “Senate Consent Bills for Third Reading.” This is the bill that would allow MoDOT employees to purchase at a reduced rate as much as four years retirement credit for prior, non-federal public employment. While not much time is left, chances are good that this bill, too, will be on the governor's desk by the end of session, 6 p.m. Friday.

Also of importance to Association members are the “work zone safety” bills. HB518 is on the Senate Informal Calendar, “House Bills for Third Reading” and a similar, but not identical version, SB221, is in the House on the “Senate Bills for Third Reading” Calendar. Both bills would create tougher penalties for speeding in a work zone and endangering a highway worker. Either bill or possibly both are expected to be taken up for debate before legislators go home on Friday. We expect some long days (and nights) at the capitol this week.

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