

# The **Association** report

## from the **Capitol**

March 1, 2007

As the Missouri General Assembly nears the half-way point, it's a good time to evaluate our progress in the capitol. For the most part, work in the senate would appear to be well ahead of that in the house.

One of our priority proposals, "prior service purchase" legislation for retirement credit, SB127, passed the senate and was sent to the house on Feb. 22. While in the house, a companion bill, HB631, has not been assigned to committee.

There is progress in the house to report, however, on MoDOT-related legislation. The "primary" seatbelt bill, HB90, was okayed by the House Rules Committee on Feb. 21 and awaits action by the full house. This bill is a top priority of MoDOT and the House Transportation Committee.

Over in the other side of the capitol, the Senate Transportation Committee is looking to find a long-term solution to increased truck traffic on I-70 and I-44. SB310 would add a 1-cent sales tax for ten years to cover the cost of adding additional lanes to these interstates exclusively for truck traffic. This bill, sponsored by Sen. Bill Stouffer, is not expected to pass this year but was rather introduced for discussion to keep the subject of expanded highway funding before the legislature and the public.

Priorities for the Senate Transportation committee this year include SB102, promoting "idle reduction technology" for trucks, and SB199, which would exempt contractors from paying sales tax on materials used in MoDOT construction.

SB 102, which is intended to reduce fuel consumption and air pollution, is on the Senate Consent Calendar. SB199 awaits action by the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist  
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