

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

May 4, 2007

Things are starting to come together over at the capitol as we head down the home stretch toward the May 18th finish line. Two separate senate bills with our “prior service purchase” language cleared the house this week.

Wednesday afternoon (May 2) the house took up a committee substitute for SB127 and passed it by a vote of 149 to 5. It was returned to the senate to consider a change made in the House Retirement Committee. Yesterday (May 3), the senate adopted the change, voted the bill “truly agreed” and sent it to the governor. The governor has until July 14 to sign the bill. Provisions of the bill would become effective on Aug. 28.

A return of the bill to the senate was necessary because an amendment was added in the house committee placing another member on the Missouri Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol Employees’ Retirement (MPERS) board. That change was requested by Sen. John Griesheimer who is a member of the MPERS board. Because the change was considered a “friendly” amendment, a return to the senate for approval was not expected to be a threat to the bill’s passage.

Earlier in the week, the house took up SB406 (also containing our “prior service language”) and added several floor amendments before passing it and returning it to the senate. Some observers said one or more amendments added in the house could be harmful to both the MPERS and MOSERS retirement systems. For that reason, SB406 was sent to a house/senate conference committee in an attempt to resolve the differences.

HB90, the primary seat belt bill, could be held up again this session. The bill’s sponsor, Neal St. Onge, said he probably would not bring the bill up for debate again because of resistance by certain house members. It has been suggested, however, that Rep. St. Onge would attempt to amend the seat belt language to a transportation-related senate bill moving through the house.

Time is running out for many legislative projects as there are only ten working days left in this session. By constitutional requirement, the legislature must adjourn at 6 p.m. on the 18th.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
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