

# The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

April 10, 2008

A new approach to making highway work zones safer was introduced at the capitol this week while discussions on increasing deferred compensation continued in the legislative appropriations process.

The house-proposed \$10-a-month increase in the state's contribution to deferred comp was not included in the senate appropriations committees' '09 budget recommendation. This essentially means that the deferred comp issue will be decided in a house/senate conference (negotiating) committee. Communications to your legislators indicating your support of the benefit could be helpful in a final decision on the issue. Calls, letters and e-mails to legislators should be brief and courteous.

In other matters of interest, on Tuesday (Apr. 8th), the House Transportation Committee heard HB 1908 which intends to expand law enforcement authority to reduce speeding in work zones. Specifically the bill would allow a van with a combination camera and radar device to photograph and record the speed of drivers in highway construction and work zones. Speeding tickets would be mailed to owners of speeding vehicles.

The sponsor of the bill who also is the chair of the House Transportation Committee, Rep. Neal St. Onge, said highway worker safety has improved. "We've had success in making work zones safer in recent years," Rep, St. Onge said. "The things we're doing are working but we need better enforcement."

Rep. St. Onge said the proposal has an additional safety feature because the speeding ticket would be mailed to the offender rather than a speeder being pulled over in a work zone by a pursuing law enforcement officer. It was also pointed out at the hearing that it likely would be reassuring to the public to know that the proposed speed control systems will be operated only when a Missouri Highway Patrol trooper is present.

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