



May 6, 2004

The GA Capitol Report

Governmental Affairs 573/522-1924

LEGISLATURE PASSES KEY PARTS OF STATE BUDGET; DEADLINE IS FRIDAY:

The General Assembly passed several key components of the state budget May 4, three days before Missouri's budget deadline. If all budget bills are not approved by May 7, lawmakers will have to meet in special session to complete the budget.

MoDOT's budget was included in the bills approved on May 4. The budget bills now go to the governor for his signature.

Details of MoDOT's budget will be included in the next GA Capitol Report.

SENATE HEARS MOTORCYCLE HELMET BILL: The Senate Transportation Committee heard testimony May 4 on a bill that would repeal Missouri's motorcycle helmet law for adults. House Bill 1109, sponsored by Rep. Larry Crawford, R-Centertown, would require only motorcycle drivers and passengers under the age of 21 to wear a helmet when riding on state highways.

Testifying in favor of the bill were:

- Wayne Tipton, former chairman of the Freedom of the Road Riders
- Tony Sheperd, a member of the Freedom of the Road Riders and a representative of the American Motorcyclist Association.

Testifying against the legislation were:

- Dale Findley, Missouri Safety Council
- Vicky Williams, MoDOT's Highway Safety Division
- Tom Holloway, Missouri State Medical Association.

No further action was taken on the bill.

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES OUTDOOR ADVERTISING RESOLUTION:

A proposal that encourages Congress to change federal outdoor advertising laws was approved May 5 by the House Small Business Committee. House Concurrent Resolution 39 is sponsored by Rep. Sherman Parker, R-St. Charles.

The resolution requests that Congress amend federal laws to allow businesses in political subdivisions to erect and maintain directional and on-premises signs on property adjacent to the state highway system. The document states that current outdoor advertising laws penalize businesses located near state highways in third and fourth class counties because in some cases they are not allowed to erect signs.

MoDOT is required to enforce federal outdoor advertising laws or risk losing 10 percent of its federal highway funds annually.

Testifying in favor of the bill was Joyce Musick, representing MoDOT Outdoor Advertising.

The resolution instructs the chief clerk of the House to send a copy of the resolution to Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation and to each member of Missouri's congressional delegation.

The resolution now goes to the full House for consideration.

LEGISLATURE APPROVES DRIVEAWAY OPERATIONS BILL: A bill given final approval May 5 by the General Assembly will change state law addressing driveaway operations. Senate Bill 757, sponsored by Sen. Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, will modify the definition of a driveaway operation to include people who are in the business of transporting or delivering vehicles that are not their own from the manufacturer or distributor or from the owner of the vehicle to a dealer or sales agent to a designated shipper or consignor.

An amendment added to the bill will classify MoDOT vehicles as emergency vehicles.

The bill now goes to the governor for his signature.

SENATE PASSES HIGHWAY NAMING BILLS: The Senate passed a number of highway naming bills May 5.

- House Bill 826, sponsored by Rep. Van Kelly, R-Norwood, will name:
 - A section of Highway A in Wright County the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Highway;
 - A section of Interstate 70 in Saline, Cooper and Boone counties the U.S. Submarine Veterans' Memorial Highway. The 54-mile stretch represents the 54 submarines lost during wartime and the Cold War;
 - A bridge located on Highway 30 in Franklin County the Brown-Stinson Memorial Bridge.

- House Bill 1029, sponsored by Rep. Wayne Henke, D-Troy, will name:
 - A section of Highway J in Lincoln County the Veterans Highway;
 - A section of Highway 67 in St. Francois County the Deputy Steven R. Zeigler Memorial Highway;
 - A section of Highway 67 in St. Francois County the Trooper Jesse R. Jenkins Memorial Highway;
 - A portion of I-70 in Saline, Cooper and Boone counties the U.S. Submarine Veterans' Memorial Highway.

- House Bill 960, sponsored by Rep. Brad Roark, R-Springfield, will name
 - A section of Highway 60 in Greene County the Trooper Russell Harper Memorial Highway;
 - A section of Highway 54 in Cole County the Trooper Dennis H. Marriott Memorial Highway;
 - A bridge on Highway 7 that crosses over Highway B in Cass county the Trooper Wayne W. Allman Memorial Bridge;
 - A bridge on Highway 30 in Franklin County the Brown-Stinson Memorial Bridge.

The bills now go to the governor for his signature.

HOUSE GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO HIGHWAY NAMING BILL: The House of Representatives gave final approval May 5 to a highway naming bill. Senate Bill 767, sponsored by Sen. Dan Clemens, R-Marshfield, will name a portion of I-44 in Webster County the Edwin P. Hubble Memorial Highway.

The bill now goes to the governor for his signature.

SESSION ENDS NEXT WEEK: The 2004 legislative session ends at 6 p.m. Friday, May 14. An end of session wrap-up will be distributed Monday, May 17. There will be no GA Capitol Report Friday, May 14.

UPCOMING HEARINGS: The latest legislative hearing notices can be found at www.house.mo.gov; go to Hearings and choose either House Hearing Schedule or Senate Hearing Schedule.