

# The **Association** report

## from the **Capitol**

January 27, 2006

Although less than a month into the new legislative session, bills of Association interest have already had committee hearings. In one case, a priority piece of legislation has been voted out of committee.

SB791, the “prior-service purchase bill,” was voted “do pass-consent” on Tuesday (Jan. 24) by the Senate Pensions, Veterans’ Affairs and General Laws Committee. This is the bill that would allow the remaining members of the MoDOT and Highway Patrol retirement system to buy at a reduced rate for retirement credit as much a four years non-federal, public service time. A companion bill in the house HB1495, was introduced on Wednesday (Jan.25).

An early committee hearing was held also this week for the “highway worker safety bill,” SB754. Sen. Delbert Scott is sponsoring this bill which creates the crime of “endangerment of a highway worker.” It substantially increases penalties for speeding and other dangerous driving behavior which could injure or kill highway workers.

SB754 was heard Tuesday in the Senate Transportation Committee where a representative of our Association testified for the bill. A bill similar to SB754 has been filed in the house by Rep. Neal St. Onge who is chairman of the House Transportation Committee. This bill is HB1379. A committee hearing has not yet been scheduled for HB1379.

Other bills initiated by the Association were filed late this week. They include HB1543, the “Hazardous Duty Compensation Act,” and SB958, the “Public Service Accountability Act.” The latter relates to privatization contracts including MoDOT proposals. I’ll have more information on these and other activities at the capitol in a later news letter.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist  
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