

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

April 19, 2007

This year's 19-week legislative session seems to have gone by in a flash. Only four weeks remain before the May 18th shut-down deadline. And there's a lot of ground to cover before the final gavel falls to signal the end of the regular session.

The senate's debate schedule is backlogged with bills that have been reported from committee but are yet to be taken up by the full senate. This is especially true for the "Senate Bills for Perfection - Informal Calendar." A bill of interest to our Association is included in this list of bills. SB492 is a retirement bill that contains the "prior service purchase" language found in SB127 and HB631.

SB127, however, is in good position to move on its own. It is on the "House Consent Calendar" where it must sit for five legislative days before it can be brought up for a vote. Under those parameters, SB127 could be voted on by the house early next week. The "prior service" language also is in a committee substitute for SB406 which is No.9 for debate on the "Senate Bills for Third Reading Calendar" in the house. This bill also is in favorable position to get floor attention well before the end of session.

Another time-consuming exercise left undone is the '08 budget which would go into effect on July 1. The senate is expected to spend a couple of days of floor time next week completing its version of the appropriations bills. A 3% pay raise for state employees remains in both the house and senate versions of the budget proposal. By law, the budget must be completed by the legislature on May 11, one week before the end of the regular session.

Still unresolved is the matter of the "primary seatbelt" proposal, HB90. The house debated the issue several weeks ago but laid the bill over when some legislators objected to giving law enforcement expanded authority to stop motorists. It is not known if the house will return to the subject.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
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