

# The **Association** report

## from the **Capitol**

May 23, '07

The '07 Missouri Legislative Session is in the books as of 6 p.m. Friday (May 18th) and our Association can look back on it with a certain amount of pride and satisfaction. Our legislative agenda ended on a positive note and the damage report shows no casualties.

On the last day of the session the house picked up and “truly agreed” the conference committee report for SB406 which contained our “prior service purchase” language. SB406 started in the senate as a retirement systems clean-up bill but was expanded in the House Retirement Committee to include varied retirement provisions including our prior service language. During the May 1<sup>st</sup> floor debate, SB406 picked up even more amendments including some that were considered damaging to the MPERS and MOSERS retirement systems.

The bill was sent to a house/senate conference committee where it simmered for several days before an agreement was reached to remove the troublesome amendments. In its final version, SB406 contains 35 specific, retirement-related provisions.

The governor has until July 14 to sign bills which would go into effect on Aug. 28. After that date our employees and non-uniformed highway patrol personnel will be able to buy at a reduced rate as much as four years retirement credit for non-federal, prior public employment. This could include work for a Missouri county or city or possibly a water or sewer district. It does not include, however, teaching in the public schools.

SB406 is actually the second instance this session where our prior service language was passed by the general assembly. On May 3, the senate voted to “truly agree” a house-amended version of SB127 that was sponsored by Sen. Rob Mayer of Dexter. That same language was also found in HB631 and a senate substitute for SB492. Neither of those bills passed.

Some might ask why it's necessary to have multiple bills moving about the legislative process containing our prior service language. A review of the last couple of years' near misses should serve as explanation.

Final results for other legislative activities of interest include:

- A 3% pay raise for state employees which is to be effective July 1.
- HB90, the primary seatbelt law, debated by the house on Apr. 4 and laid over with an amendment pending. No further action.
- HB 1201 - Administration of the state's deferred compensation fund moved to MOSERS. The bill had no committee hearing however language from the bill was included in SB406.
- SB139 - Elimination of the annual state-of-transportation address by the MoDOT Director. Passed the senate on Mar. 13 but died in the House Transportation Committee.
- SB628 - A committee substitute would have allowed members of MPERS and MOSERS retirement systems to take a lump-sum benefit at the time of retirement instead of monthly payments as is now the law. This bill was voted “do pass” by the Senate Pensions Committee but was not sent to the senate floor for debate.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist  
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