

# The **Association** report

## from the **Capitol**

March 9, 2006

Association issues were not without considerable activity and controversy in the recent days leading up to the annual legislative spring break. A much-discussed proposal to force consolidation of the MoDOT retirement system with MOSERS was narrowly voted out of committee and a highway worker safety bill breezed through the senate.

On Tuesday, (Mar. 7) members of the House Retirement Committee voted 5 for, 4 against and one “present” to pass a committee substitute for HB1628 which, on July 1, 2007, would place control of the MoDOT retirement system under the MOSERS system. In recent months, our Association has questioned the prudence of giving up a part of our heritage that has been reliable and served well.

It is apparent that some legislators agree. Rep. Otto Bean, a member of the committee from Southeast Missouri, said “they (MoDOT retirement system) have to paddle their own canoe, but I don't think we should take their retirement system away from them.”

In the state senate last week, final approval was given to a committee substitute for SB872, the worker safety bill. The controversial amendments that killed a similar bill last year were kept off this session. SB872 and a similar bill in the house, HB1379, have had strong Association support as well as that of MoDOT and the highway contractors. The senate version is expected to be taken up by the house after spring break.

A Sugar Creek legislator, Rep. Ray Salva, has introduced a bill endorsed by the Association that is known as the “Hazardous Duty Compensation Act.” The bill, HB1543, would require workers who work in areas of “extreme danger beyond the normal performance of the workforce” would be paid at one and one-half times the regular pay rate. It was assigned to the House Transportation Committee on Feb.16.

At the request of the Association, Sen. Harry Kennedy of St. Louis has filed SB958, the “Public Service Accountability Act.” This bill would require certain services which are proposed to be privatized must first be analyzed for cost-effectiveness before these services could be outsourced. More specific information will be provided on this bill in a later report. The legislature will be on spring break from Mar.16 to Mar 27.

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