The identical bills are the companion bills to HB 2033. MPUA was represented at both hearings with a full force of member communities from Shelbyville, Waynesville, Macon, Rolla, Lebanon, and Columbia. We appreciate everyone that took the time to travel to the Capitol and testify in opposition to the proposed legislation.

MPUA’s first legislative affairs committee meeting was held last Tuesday, January 14th. We spent time discussing SB 817, Senator Crawford’s bill on territorial issues between coops and municipal boundaries. We are watching this bill closely as we are concerned about potential impacts the legislation could have on our utilities. The proposed legislation will allow coops to serve in communities of 1500 population or greater if the municipal system is sold to the cooperative, establishes a restraint of trade under Missouri Antitrust Law for a municipality to require a condition of annexation or provision municipal services in the area to be annexed, that the owner must obtain electric service from the electric provider currently providing electric in the municipal boundaries.

The annual State of the State address was held on January 15th last week. The Governor’s speech focused on his two core priorities, workforce development and infrastructure, while proposing a $30.57 billion state operating budget for the 2021 fiscal year. MPUA is pleased with the Governor’s announcement of a long-term investment in high-speed broadband starting with $5 million of the budget dedicated for broadband expansion. Additionally, the budget also includes $22 million toward a new scholarship program called Fast Track, which will allow Missourians to receive training in high demand areas largely taught at our community colleges and technical schools. The Governor’s FY 2020 Budget Summary can be found here:  

**IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK...**

State of State: Parson pushes workforce development, education opportunities,  

*Missouri Times, Jan. 15*

After misfire last year, Missouri lawmakers again trying to stop Grain Belt Express,  

*Post-Dispatch, Jan. 13*

CMU customers to see savings due to multi-state project,  

*Chillicothe Constitution Tribune, Jan. 14*

MO Farm Bureau wants state’s newly-created broadband program to be permanent,  

*Missourinet, Jan. 13*

Bottleneck stymies projects, Midwest groups call for transmission reforms,  

*Energy News Network, Jan. 10*

**MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR**

**Senator Bill White**  
R - District 32  
Elected to Senate: 2018  
Committees:  
- Veterans & Military Affairs; Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy & the Environment; General Laws; Health & Pensions; Judiciary & Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence  
Lives in: Joplin  
MPUA Cities: Carl Junction, Carthage, Greenfield, Lockwood  
Tidbit: Prior to legislative duties, Sen. White practiced law, focusing on children, seniors & business law. He was also the attorney for the Jasper Co. juvenile office.

**BILL BYTES: A quick look at bills being tracked by MPUA**

**Find the complete bill report online here**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 1953</td>
<td>Trent, Curtis</td>
<td>Modifies provisions of the sunshine law by adding utility customer information to closed records</td>
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| HB 2033     | Hansen, Jim | Modifies provisions for eminent domain for utility purposes.  
*NOTE: Grain Belt legislation* |
| HB 2120     | Kidd, Bill | Establishes provisions relating to water safety and security  
*NOTE: Similar to last year’s bill mandating federal risk and resiliency rules pertaining to cybersecurity, valve and hydrant inspections, and state reporting of such. Hearing Tuesday* |
| SB 817      | Crawford, Sandy | Modifies provisions relating to rural electric cooperatives.  
*NOTE: Similar to last year’s bill mandating federal risk and resiliency rules pertaining to cybersecurity, valve and hydrant inspections, and state reporting of such. Hearing Tuesday* |
| SJR 34      | Libla, Doug | Requires the General Assembly to pass legislation to establish an open, competitive retail electric energy market  
*NOTE: Similar to last year’s bill mandating federal risk and resiliency rules pertaining to cybersecurity, valve and hydrant inspections, and state reporting of such. Hearing Tuesday* |