

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



MPUA ADVOCATES FOR SALE TRANSPARENCY BILL

This last week, MPAU staff met with legislative leaders to discuss a bill to improve transparency for voters when deciding on the sale of a utility. Last year the law was changed to lower the public vote from a supermajority to a simple majority when privatizing water, wastewater, and natural gas utilities. It applied only to 4th class cities. The bill did not address how to provide voters with appropriate information to make an informed decision. As directed by the Missouri Public Water Council and the Municipal Gas Commission of Missouri, MPAU supports legislation to require an appraisal to determine the fair market value of the asset in question, provide appropriate public notice, and conduct an analysis of the sale impact to city funds and revenues, other city services, and city growth/annexation. We expect legislation to be intro-

duced soon.

The Missouri House is slowly starting their business. With key committee appointments out of the way, hearings started last week. Rep. Cody Smith (R-Carthage) has been tapped to be the Appropriations Chair. The committee was briefed on some stunning economic news. Missouri revenue collections are down a whopping 10 percent. More than \$400 million may be slashed from an already tight budget. Rep. Travis Fitzwater (R-Holts Summit) is the new Utilities Chairman. Committee meetings will be on Tuesday nights.

The Senate is moving at its usual deliberate pace. Committees began meeting this week. Sen. Wayne Wallingford (R-Cape Girardeau) will be the Commerce Chair this year. The Commerce Committee will meet Wednesdays at 12:00.

This Wednesday (1-30) [SB 66](#) will be heard. This act establishes the Missouri Water Safety and Security Act. Within one year of the act's effective date every public water system in the state shall create an asset management plan with components as set forth in the act. The act requires all public water systems, except those systems without internet-connected control systems, to create a plan that establishes policies and procedures for cyber security risk management, prevention, and mitigation. We will oppose this bill as it is an unfunded mandate.

MPAU will also monitor three additional bills this week – [SB 72](#), impacting the local assessment of wind turbines; [HB 246](#), regulating lobbying by local elected officials; and [SB 55](#), creating a low income rate class for IOUs.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

[Missouri House GOP leaders confident \\$500 million budget shortfall will turn around](#) - Missouri.net, Jan. 24
[Department of Revenue blasted for lack of communication on withholding error](#) - Missouri Times, Jan. 23
[Bill would overturn FCC order impacting public power pole attachments](#) - APPA, Public Power Daily, Jan. 22
[High Prairie Wind Farm construction to begin in coming months](#) - KTVO-TV, Jan. 21
[Nixa Utilities allows bill deferment for fed-employees affected by shutdown](#) - Christian Co. Headliner, Jan. 23

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Rep. Elijah Haahr

R - District 134

Speaker of the House

Elected to House:
2012

Committees: Ex-officio member of all House committees

Lives in: Springfield

MPUA Cities: Springfield

Tidbit: In addition to his legislative duties, Elijah is an attorney with Lathrop Gage, and focuses his practice on workers' compensation and civil litigation. He is licensed to practice in Missouri and Oklahoma.



BILL BYTES: A quick look at bills being tracked by MPAU

[Find the complete bill report online here.](#)

[HB 287](#) [Kidd, Bill\(R\)](#)

Modifies the definition of "public utility"

[SB 66](#) [White, Bill\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions for disclosure of public records by the PSC

NOTE: the following all have hearings this week

[SB 55](#) / [HB 160](#)

Senate: [Crawford, Sandy\(R\)](#)

House: [Knight, Jeff\(R\)](#)

SB: Authorizes PSC, during general rate proceedings for water or sewer corporations, to set a separate, lower fixed/customer charge for low-income customers of water & sewer corps.

HB: Allows Public Service Commission to authorize a low income rate for water and sewer service.

[SB 72](#) [O'Laughlin, Cindy\(R\)](#)

Defines wind farms as local property for property tax assessments of electric companies

[SB 131](#) [Emery, Ed\(R\)](#)

Requires that the comprehensive state energy plan be reviewed by the Division of Energy by January 1, 2021, and biennially thereafter, and updated if necessary

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LINKS

[Find Your Legislator](#)
[House Session Dates](#)
[Senate Session Dates](#)
[MPUA Website](#)

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

Jan. 31 | 10:30 am
South-Central Mo.
Utility Roundtable,
St. James, Mo.

Feb. 5 | 10:30 am
MPWC Roundtable,
Macon, Mo.

Feb. 12 | 10am
MAMU Legislative
Committee Mtg
Gov. Office Bldg 316

Feb. 25-27
APPA Legislative Rally
Washington, DC

TRAINING

Spring Tech 2019
March 13– Waynesville
March 14 - Hannibal



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