

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



Volume 9, Issue 4
February 3, 2020

LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

Feb. 7 | 10:30am
Northeast Regional
Utility Roundtable
(Macon)

Feb. 11 | 10am
MAMU Legislative
Committee mtg
Truman. Bldg 490

Feb. 12 | 10am
Mo. Public Water Council
Roundtable & Workshop
(Nixa)

Feb. 24-26
APPA Legislative Rally
(Washington, DC)

TRAINING

Energy Efficiency
Certification for Homes
March 6 - Columbia

Spring Tech 2020
March 18 - Rolla
March 19 - Marshall



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LAWMAKERS HIT HIGH GEAR

Legislative activity kicked into high gear this week with several bills heard in committee and in floor debate.

On Monday, the House passed to Senate its Anti-Grain Belt bill, [HB 2033](#). As anticipated, the measure passed [118-42](#) with all but a few Republicans voting to support the Speaker's position. Most supporting lawmakers believe they are protecting private property but ignore exemptions for every other private transmission owner at higher costs to preserved their use of eminent domain. The bill moves to Senate and awaits committee assignment.

In committee action, Senate Commerce moved [Senator Brown's SB 597](#) Grain Belt bill to the floor. During committee discussion, [Senator White](#) - supported by [Senator Emery](#) - offered a committee amendment to eliminate

its retroactivity. The argument was that Grain Belt developers have followed all rules required of utility projects of this type. The chairman called the voice vote against the amendment. The committee then waited a tense hour for one Senator to finish presenting his bill in another committee to finalize the controversial 6-5 vote.

Any significant action to stop this bill from passing will come in the Senate. Calls are encouraged to Senators to oppose SB 597 & HB 2033 by our MoPEP power pool and the four additional contracted Grain Belt cities - Hannibal, Centralia, Kirkwood, and Columbia. Please [call/contact your respective Senator](#) along with Senate leaders [Dave Schatz](#) and [Caleb Rowden](#). We must stay mobilized and act to protect this important savings opportunity. MPAU has been running the following ads about Grain Belt -

[Missouri benefits](#) and [Job Creation](#).

Senate Transportation Committee heard [Senator Libla's bill SJR 34](#) on electric retail choice. The bill died by a committee vote of 3-4. The video franchise fee bill, [SB 526](#), was heard in Senate Commerce with testimony continuing this Wednesday. MML led strong general municipal opposition.

In other matters, the Senate perfected its first bill on [education funding](#) and experienced its first filibuster as lawmakers debated a proposed [change to Missouri's redistricting](#) laws into the early hours of Jan. 30. The debate stems from the 2018 Clean Missouri ballot initiative voters approved. In addition to the House's Grain Belt debate, they passed three other bills, one on [fentanyl drug trafficking](#) and two others on professional licensing.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

Opinion: Investment in Missouri lowers electricity bills & creates jobs for residents, [Missouri Times, Jan. 28](#)
House votes to block Grain Belt line, [Columbia Daily Tribune, Jan. 28](#)
Inside the Clean Missouri redistricting fight in the legislature, [Missouri Times, Jan. 30](#)
Area internet providers to expand broadband to rural residents (*includes audio*), [KTTN-Trenton, Jan. 29](#)
Missouri Senate backs limits on tax breaks in floodplains, [Associated Press, Jan. 30](#)

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

[Senator Mike Cierpoit](#)

R - District 8

Elected to Senate: 2017

Committees: Chair - Economic Development; Chair -Gubernatorial Appointments; Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy & the Environment; Small Business & Industry; Ways and Means

Lives in: Lees Summit

MPUA Cities: Independence, Lake Lotawana

Tidbit: Prior to his time in the Mo. Senate, Sen. Cierpoit served seven years in the Mo. House, where he served as Majority Floor Leader.



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

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

[HB 1737](#)

[Hicks, Ron](#)

Establishes provisions to improve electricity resilience at critical facilities

[HB 1762](#)

[Knight, Jeff](#)

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

[SB 526](#)

[Emery, Ed](#)

Modifies provisions relating to video service providers.

NOTE: Continued hearing on Wednesday

[SB 597](#)

[Brown, Justin](#)

Modifies provisions relating to the power of eminent domain for utility purposes **NOTE: Grain Belt**

[SB 619](#)

[Wallingford, Wayne](#)

Requires public water systems and public water supply districts that intend to start or stop fluoridation of their water supply on a continuing basis to seek and receive information about the impact of fluoridation from the local health department

NOTE: hearing Wednesday