

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



MPUA OPPOSES UNFUNDED MANDATE ON WATER UTILITIES

Last week, the House Utilities Committee met for the first time this year. Chairman Fitzwater asked the members to introduce themselves and speak about utility issues. There are several new members on the committee. Rep. Fitzwater then allowed various utility groups to introduce themselves and speak about their organizations. MPAU spoke about the importance of local control and the benefits that municipal utilities provide to the communities they serve.

The Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing this week on [SB 66](#). This bill 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. The bill also requires all systems to have an asset

management plan. MPAU spoke in opposition. We believe the bill is an unfunded mandate and usurps local control. Several water and sewer district representatives also spoke in opposition. Additionally, MPAU testified in support of Senator Emery's [bill](#) that establishes a review of the state energy plan.

The House and Senate jointly heard last week from the Supreme Court last week on the [State of the Judiciary](#). Chief Justice Fischer spoke in support of the state's non-partisan court plan, technological investment in the court system, pretrial detention, and special court services for veterans and treatment courts.

MPUA staff continues to meet 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 super-

majority 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 [MO Public Water Council](#) and the [Municipal Gas Commission of MO](#), 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 introduced soon.

This week, MPAU will be monitoring hearings on the following bills:

[SB 126](#) - guaranteed energy cost savings contracts; and [SB 122](#) - a bill to limit government services when private offerings are available.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

- [Missouri American chooses east site for reservoir](#) - Joplin Globe, Feb. 1
- [Water regulation could tighten, improve drinking water quality with new bill](#) - Columbia Missourian, Jan. 31
- [Power grid operators, utilities respond to polar vortex](#) - APPA - Public Power Daily, Jan. 31
- [City council receives grant funds at meeting \(Fredericktown, MoPEP grant\)](#) - Daily Journal Online, Jan. 30
- [Rural businesses need better internet access to expand, solutions not easy](#) - St. Louis Public Radio, Jan. 30

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Sen. Wayne Wallingford

R - District 27

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Elected to Senate:
2012



Committees: Chair: Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy & Environment; Vice-Chair: Education; Member: Appropriations; Small Business & Industry; Veterans & Military Affairs; Ways & Means

Lives in: Cape Girardeau

MPUA Cities: Fredericktown, Jackson, Perryville, Sikeston

Tidbit: In addition to legislative duties, Sen. Wallingford is the Chief People Officer at McDonald's of Southeast Missouri. He is a retired Lt. Colonel with the U.S. Air Force, with 25 years active service.

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

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

[HB 482](#) [Kidd, Bill\(R\)](#)
Modifies provisions for disclosure of public records by the PSC

[HB 589](#) [Kidd, Bill\(R\)](#)
Modifies provisions for penalties relating to pipeline safety.

[SB 66](#) [White, Bill\(R\)](#)
Establishes provisions relating to water safety and security

[SB 122](#) [Burlison, Eric\(R\)](#)
Establishes the Stop Socialism Act, which creates a cause of action against a public body that offers a competitive service that to the economic detriment of a person offering the same competitive service

[SB 126](#) [Hough, Lincoln\(R\)](#)
Modifies requirements for guaranteed energy cost savings contracts

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LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

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

Feb. 20 | 10:00 am
Work in Water Training,
Columbia, Mo.

Spring Tech 2019
March 13 - Waynesville
March 14 - Hannibal



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