

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPOA Publication



Volume 9, Issue 5
February 7, 2020

LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

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

March 4 | 10am
Member Services
Committee mtg
Columbia, MO

March 4 | 1pm
Joint Operating & Exec
Committees mtg
Columbia, MO

March 5 | 9am
MPUA Board Meetings
Drury Plaza Hotel
Columbia East

TRAINING

Energy Efficiency
Certification for Homes
March 6 - Columbia

Spring Tech 2020
March 18 - Rolla
March 19 - Marshall

LAWMAKERS WORK SHORT WEEK

This week was a very short week in Jefferson City. Because of the victory parade for the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl win and a pressing snowstorm, the House did not work Wednesday or Thursday. The Senate followed suit and did little Wednesday before adjourning until Monday. Several committee meetings were cancelled because of the weather and parade.

The Senate was able to give first round approval for legislation dubbed "[Cleaner Missouri](#)". The bill would eliminate lobbyist gifts (first version limited to 5 dollars) and get rid of the state demographer created in the original Clean Missouri. [SJR 38](#) will head to the House next week. The resolution will need voter approval to be enacted.

Invenergy, the developer of the Grain Belt Express project, [announced plans this week to include broadband capability](#) as part of the project route at no additional cost to Missouri communities or taxpayers. Discussions are underway with Missouri internet service providers who could use the infrastructure to provide internet for nearly 1 million underserved Missourians. Estimates show that more than a quarter million rural Missouri households, as well as schools and hospitals located within 50 miles of the Grain Belt Express route, do not have broadband access and would benefit from this new infrastructure. [SB 597](#) (Sen. Brown) passed out of the Commerce committee, but it has not been turned in to be processed for floor debate.

[HB 2033](#) (Hansen) has passed from the House to the Senate, but it has not been referred to a Senate committee yet. MPOA is urging member cities benefiting from the Grain Belt project (35 MoPEP cities along with Centralia, Columbia, Hannibal, and Kirkwood) to call their Senators and voice opposition to the project killing bills.

Please plan on attending the MAMU Legislative Committee meeting next Tuesday at 10am in room 490 of the [Truman State Office Building](#) - 301 W High Street, Jefferson City. We will discuss current legislative activity and identify legislators for participants to visit. If you are unable to attend in person, watch for a meeting notice in member's email inbox for call-in and GoToMeeting instructions.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

Grain Belt line will include 'first of its kind' broadband infrastructure, impacting 1M rural Missourians, [Missouri Times, Feb. 6](#)

County, cities review potential regional sewer, [Moberly Monitor-Index, Feb. 7](#)

Grain Belt Express fight moves to Missouri Senate, [Hannibal Courier-Post, Feb. 5](#)

Missouri Senate gives first approval to Clean Missouri do-over plan, [Springfield News-Leader, Feb. 4](#)

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Representative

[Tommie Pierson Jr.](#)

D- District 066

Assistant Minority Floor
Leader

Elected to House: 2016

Committees: Ex-officio member of all committees of the House ; Ranking Minority Member—Subcommittee on Appropriations - Agriculture, Conservation, Natural Resources, and Economic Development

Lives in: St. Louis

Tidbit: In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Pierson, Jr. is a math teacher in North St. Louis County , and the pastor of inStep Church.



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

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

[HB 1914](#) [Porter, Jeff](#)

Modifies provisions relating to taxation of certain energy-producing property

[HB 1953](#) / [SB 828](#) House: [Trent, Curtis](#)
Senate: [Hough, Lincoln](#)

Modifies provisions of the sunshine law by adding utility customer information to closed records

[HB 2033](#) / [SB 597](#) House: [Hansen, Jim](#)
Senate: [Brown, Justin](#)

Modifies provisions for eminent domain for utility purposes.

[SB 632](#) [Hegeman, Dan](#)

Extends the expiration date of the broadband internet grant program for unserved and underserved areas of the state from Aug. 28, 2021 to Aug. 28, 2027. **NOTE: hearing Wednesday**

[SCR 39](#) [Emery, Ed](#)

Establishes the Task Force on Retail Electric Competition
NOTE: hearing Wednesday



1808 I-70 Dr. SW
Columbia, MO 65203
573-445-3279
[www.mpoa.org](#)