

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPUA Publication



Volume 9, Issue 6
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LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

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

March 10-11
Supervisory Leadership
Certification Course
Drury Plaza Hotel
Columbia East

Spring Tech 2020
March 18 - Rolla
March 19 - Marshall

LAWMAKERS HEAR AND DEBATE NUMEROUS BILLS

This week a full schedule of committee hearings was held, with a number of bills debated in the House and Senate chambers. This was the fifth full week of the 2020 legislative session.

In Senate action, the Commerce committee heard [SB 632](#), which extends the sunset of the broadband internet grant program for unserved and underserved areas from 2021 to 2027. MAMU supported the bill.

During Senate floor debate, a massive bill that “fundamentally changes” how tort punitive damages are assessed stalled after a nearly [four-hour debate](#). Also, GOP-backed legislation [changing Clean Missouri](#) passed Monday evening, despite a lone Republican voting against the resolution.

In House action, the Local Government committee heard [HB 1602](#), which allows 4th class cities to

appoint boards and commissions with appointees from outside the city limits if they own real property or a business in the city. MAMU did not testify for or against the bill but “for informational purposes only.” We expressed that we were sympathetic to the sponsor’s concern for small communities filling board vacancies, but we were equally concerned with allowing appointments of people outside utility boundaries, non-customers, or persons with a pecuniary interest in another utility or conflict of interest. The sponsor agreed to work with MAMU on language.

The House Utilities committee heard MAMU-backed [HB 1953](#) which exempts individually identifiable customer data from the Sunshine Law. There was no opposition. Further, the committee voted [HB 1992](#), dealing with infrastructure system replacement surcharges for gas corporations, out of committee.

Unsurprisingly, the legislation was amended to include the anti-Grain Belt Express language. The Speaker wants this language placed on all major utility bills coming out the House. Our fight will continue to take place in the Senate.

In floor action, the House finally perfected [HB 1693](#), the “Narcotics Control Act” after several hours of debate. Other floor action included the House’s third read and passing of four bills sending them to the Senate for consideration. These bills pertained to a transient guest tax, closing a state trust fund, state property conveyance, and a coroner’s bill.

Finally, several bills have been filed by the rural electric cooperatives pertaining to territorial boundaries. The coops are fingering municipal utilities as problematic to their load growth. Please review the following bills – [SB 817](#), [HB 2028](#), [HB 2425](#), and [HB 2467](#).

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

APPA Legislative Rally offers myriad of benefits to public power participants, [Public Power Daily, Feb. 13](#)
FCC approves \$175M for rural broadband expansion in Missouri, [Missouri Times, Feb. 13](#)
Utilities say they are prepared to meet cyber threats. Are they?, [Utility Dive, Feb. 14](#)
Forecasters warn: brace for another year of Mo. River flooding, [KCUR/Harvest Public Media, Feb. 13](#)
Senators follow party lines — with one exception — in Clean Missouri vote, [Columbia Missourian, Feb. 10](#)

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Senator Brian Williams

D- District 14
Elected to Senate: 2018

Committees:

Appropriations; Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy & Environment; Government Reform; gubernatorial Appointments; Progress & Development; Small Business & Industry; Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety

Lives in: University City

Tidbit: Sen. Williams is a former congressional staffer for U.S. Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay. As a Congressional ACA Coordinator he oversaw rollout of the Affordable Care Act Marketplace in Missouri.



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

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

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

Modifies provisions relating to taxation of certain energy-producing property. **NOTE: hearing Wednesday**

[HB 2182](#) [Miller, Rocky](#)

Repeals the sunset clause on the Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act. **NOTE: hearing Tuesday**

[SB 725](#) [Brown, Justin](#)

Modifies the appointment qualifications for members of boards of public works in certain cities. **NOTE: hearing Wednesday**

[SB 825](#) [Libla, Doug](#)

Prohibits customers of electric utilities from subsidizing electric vehicle charging stations. **NOTE: hearing Wednesday**

[SB 817](#), and [HB 2028](#), [HB 2425](#), & [HB 2467](#) Senate: [Crawford, Sandy](#)
House: [Morse, Herman](#); [Rone, Don](#); [Bromley, Bob](#)

Coop-sponsored territorial bills



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