

# ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



## HEARING ALERT! - PLUS BILL AND BUDGET PROGRESS

**ALERT!** Two hearings are set on Tuesday & Wednesday to discuss a bill that weakens the municipal position among electric utility providers when considering annexation, new customers, territorial boundaries, and utility ownership itself. HB 2028 will be heard in the House Utilities Committee on Tuesday, 3/10 in H Hearing Rm 7. Its companion bill will be heard in Senate Local Government Committee on Wednesday, March 11 in S Committee Rm 1. We must have municipal electric utility leaders in attendance at these to voice opposition to both bills, or show an opposition presence by packing the rooms. Please let us know if you, or someone from your staff or city leadership, is available to attend.

### Last week in Jefferson City

The clock is ticking as there are only two weeks until Legislative

Spring Break, a welcome sight for Capitol denizens.

Electric industry lobbyists recently discussed the coop-advanced bills. Ameren suggested several changes which do not help the municipals. They propose an RFP process through the PSC for any sale of a 3rd or 4th class city's municipal utility of less than 5,000 in population. Coops say they only want to have the right to buy a community system in communities of 1500 or more, allow customer choice for existing structure replacement, and to allow service expansion on land tracts. Our arguments are that the law allows for many of these scenarios already, so there's no need for change.

In other matters, the House passed HB 2120, a bill to mandate cyber plans and inspections of hydrants and valves on small water systems

in communities 30,000 or less. This bill was previously much more onerous, but MPAU whittled it down to this. It passed 140-5 and heads to the Senate.

The House continues their budget work and plans to announce their budget proposals this week, then start debate to finalize them to send to the Senate before Spring Break. We will be watching HB 2006 (DNR Budget) closely to make sure that the Water Multipurpose Fund allocation remains. Also, a close eye will be kept on the broadband program funding in HB 2007 (DED budget).

The Senate perfected legislation modifying provisions relating to an infrastructure system replacement surcharge for gas corporations (SB 618). The chamber, in an 8-hour debate marathon, passed an economic development bill (SB 594).

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

Senate advances 'fix' to gas companies' infrastructure replacement processes, [Missouri Times, March 4](#)  
Hough's economic development bill survives nearly 10-hour filibuster, [Missouri Times, March 5](#)  
More broadband research needed for Missouri's rural areas, says Missouri S&T expert, [Missouri S&T News](#)  
APPA applauds inclusion of storage, grid security in Senate legislation, [APPA Public Power Daily, March 3](#)  
Group offers tips on protection from utility scams, [Daily Energy Insider, March 2](#)

### MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

#### Senator Justin Brown

R - District 16

Elected to Senate: 2018

Committees: Vice-Chair - Veterans & Military Affairs; Agriculture, Food

Production & Outdoor Resources; Appropriations; Government Reform; Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety

Lives in: Phelps County, near Rolla

MPUA Cities: Camdenton, Crocker, Cuba, Newburg, Richland, Rolla, St. James, St. Robert, Salem, Steelville, Sullivan, Waynesville

Tidbit: Sen. Brown farms more than 2,200 acres, primarily raising corn and soybeans, and also maintains a cow-calf operation on his family farm.



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

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

#### HB 2028 / SB 817

House: [Morse, Herman](#);  
Senate: [Crawford, Sandy](#)

House: Allows a property owner to choose utility service for new structures built on the property

Senate: Modifies provisions relating to rural electric cooperatives

**NOTE: Hearing Tuesday and Wednesday. Coop service in 3rd/4th class cities, annexation, territorial boundaries**

#### HB 2620

[Hansen, Jim](#)

Authorizes public service commission to review electric rates of municipalities under certain circumstances

#### HB 2033 / SB 597

House: [Hansen, Jim](#)  
Senate: [Brown, Justin](#)

Modifies provisions for eminent domain for utility purposes.

#### HB 2120

[Kidd, Bill](#)

Establishes provisions relating to water safety and security

**NOTE: State mandate for hydrant and valve inspections on water systems; mandates cyber planning**

#### HB 1953 / SB 828

House: [Trent, Curtis](#)  
Senate: [Hough, Lincoln](#)

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

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### LINKS

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

### MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

March 10 | 10am  
MAMU Legislative  
Committee mtg  
Truman Bldg 750

April 14 | 10am  
MAMU Legislative  
Committee mtg  
Gov. Office Bldg 315

April 19-23  
APPA E&O Conference  
Kansas City, MO

April 15 | 10am  
Municipal Gas  
Commission of Missouri  
(MGCM) mtg  
Columbia

### TRAINING

Spring Tech 2020  
March 18 - Rolla  
March 19 - Marshall

Infrastructure Disaster  
Mgmt Certification  
April 14-15  
Drury Plaza Hotel  
Columbia East



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