

# ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



## COVID-19 CLOSES CAPITOL; COOPS PUSH BOUNDARIES

The impact of the coronavirus has impacted the State Capitol as [a representative from Grandview has tested positive](#) with the novel virus. This, along with other developments, led the Governor to announce the closure of the Capitol and state office buildings to the public through April 5.

This week is the regularly scheduled "Spring Break." As you know, COVID-19 has temporarily suspended the 2020 legislative session prompting the Senate to adjourn an extra week early before the scheduled mid-point break and the House to work a very limited schedule to mainly advance the budget before adjourning on March 19. Senate and House leadership did not announce a date certain for when they would reconvene.

Prior to the COVID-19

developments, hearings were held on March 10 and 11. [HB 2467](#) and [SB 817](#) would shift the delicate balance of territorial and boundary agreements towards the rural electric cooperatives. MAMU, MJMEUC and member cities testified in opposition to the bill. We are very grateful for all who made the trip. We are working closely with Senator Crawford and Representative Bromley on this bill. They understand our concerns and discussions are ongoing.

Also on March 11, MAMU testified in support of [SB 874](#) during a Senate Commerce Committee hearing. This act allows municipalities to form a broadband infrastructure improvement district for the delivery of broadband internet service to the residents of participating municipalities.

In other developments, on March

17 the [Missouri Supreme Court denied](#) an appeal request from the Farm Bureau and landowner groups of the earlier Missouri Eastern Court of Appeals decision justifying the PSC to grant a certificate of need and necessity to build the Grain Belt Express (GBX). This effectively ends the plaintiff's legal efforts to keep the PSC from approving the project. Legislatively, actions on [HB 2033](#) and [SB 597](#) have seemingly stalled in the Senate. These bills are designed to kill the project by stripping from GBX the power of eminent domain currently utilized by all the state's utility providers. This legal victory clears the way for the project to proceed and raises an issue of constitutionality for any laws passed that retroactively strip the transmission owner of utility powers. MPAU is closely watching any developments on this matter.

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

(New updates daily): Coronavirus & the Capitol: Concerns/impacts on state govt. [Missouri Times, March 24](#)  
MO Capitol closes to public due to COVID-19; 15K state employees work remotely, [Missourinet, March 23](#)  
ESCC checklist offers utilities guidance on mutual assistance during COVID-19, [Public Power Daily, March 23](#)  
Utilities begin to see load impacts of COVID-19 as economic shutdown widens, [Utility Dive, March 23](#)  
MO Supreme Court upholds decision by court of appeals on Grain Belt Express, [KTTN-Trenton, March 18](#)

## MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

### [Representative Tracy McCreery](#)

D - District 88

Elected to House: 2011

**Committees:** Utilities, Ranking Minority Member; Agriculture Policy, Ranking Minority Member; Conservation and Natural Resources; General Laws

**Lives in:** Olivette

**Tidbit:** Prior to legislative duties, Rep. McCreery was a district aide and volunteer coordinator for state Senator Joan Bray, and served in the administration of Governor Holden. She is a founding member of the St. Louis Rescue & Restore Coalition and Consumers Council of Missouri.



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

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

[HB 2006](#) [Smith, Cody](#)

Appropriations Bill (incl. DNR Budget); **NOTE: The Multipurpose Water Resource Fund was trimmed by \$895,970 in committee.**

[HB 2007](#) [Smith, Cody](#)

Appropriations Bill (incl. DED Budget); **NOTE: Broadband monies are at \$5M, down from \$10M, in committee.**

[HB 2120](#) [Kidd, Bill](#)

Establishes provisions relating to water safety and security (*Water Infrastructure Inspections Mandate*); **NOTE: passed House and in S Commerce Comm**

[HB 2467 / SB 817](#) House: [Bromley, Bob](#)  
Senate: [Crawford, Sandy](#)

Modifies provisions relating to rural electric cooperatives (*Utility Boundaries and 3rd/4th class city ownership*)

[SB 725 / HB 1602](#) Senate: [Brown, Justin](#)  
House: [Mayhew, Don](#)

Modifies appointment qualifications for members of boards & commissions in certain cities (*Utility board qualifications*); **NOTE: SB 725 has passed Senate & is in House Local Govt committee**

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## LINKS

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

## MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

### CONFERENCE

#### CALL ONLY:

April 14 | 10am  
MAMU Legislative  
Committee mtg  
(was: Gov. Office Bldg  
315)

### CONFERENCE

#### CALL ONLY:

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

### CANCELLED:

APPA Lineworker Rodeo  
& E&O Conference  
(WAS: April 17 & 18,  
in Bonner Springs &  
Kansas City)

## TRAINING

### CANCELLED:

Infrastructure Disaster  
Mgmt Certification  
(WAS on April 14 & 15)



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