

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



Volume 8, Issue 9
March 25, 2019

LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

March 29-30
APPA Rodeo
Colorado Springs, CO

March 31-Apr. 3
APPA E&O Conference
Colorado Springs, CO

Apr. 2-3
Advancing
Renewables in the
Midwest Conference
Columbia, MO

Apr. 9 | 10am
MAMU Legislative
Committee Mtg
Gov. Office Bldg 316
Jefferson City, MO

TRAINING

Apr. 2 & 3
Missouri Natural Gas
Operators Training
Columbia, MO

Apr. 5 | 10am
Work in Water training
Columbia, MO



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Columbia, MO 65203
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MUNICIPAL UTILITY HEARINGS DOMINATE UPCOMING WEEK

This is a busy week for municipal utility issues. We will see hearings on three municipal utility inspired bills. If you are available to attend any of the following hearings, please let Ewell ([email link](#)) or Lacey ([email link](#)) know that you plan to attend. All take place in the State Capitol Building in Jefferson City.

Utility Sale Transparency – [SB 383](#) will be heard in the Senate Commerce committee on Wednesday, March 27, at noon. This bill encourages public transparency when a municipal water, wastewater, or natural gas utility is put up for sale by the Board of Aldermen in 4th class cities. It authorizes a fair and open appraisal of the system, allows a full impact analysis on city funds and revenue, city services, and annexation, and requires that the outcome of this due diligence is

made available to the public before the public vote to sell. This bill was requested by MAMU in response to last year's passage of legislation easing public voting requirements to sell from a supermajority to a simple majority.

Tree Trimming – [HB 1025](#) will be heard in the House Utilities committee on Tuesday, March 26, at 5pm. This bill allows municipal electric utilities to use the same tree trimming standards on facilities and lines as rural electric cooperatives, when facilities and lines are outside corporate boundaries of the city. Several MAMU communities would benefit from this change.

Protecting Customer Records – [SB 453](#) will be heard in the Senate Commerce committee on Wednesday, March 27, at noon. This bill closes use and billing records of customers served by municipal

utilities. A customer may request the information or may allow the information to remain public. This bill was requested by MAMU members and benefits all.

Legislators return from Spring Break this week. The first half of the 2019 session is complete, but many of the year's most important issues remain undecided. The House has passed over 70 bills now awaiting Senate action. Speaker Haahr said workforce development, transportation, economic development and abortion are the majority caucus priorities. The Senate has passed almost 40 bills. Low income housing, changing joiner and venue laws, and 911 improvements are among the highlights. The session really begins to move when the legislature reconvenes today. Seven weeks is all that remains, with adjournment on May 17.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

OPINION: Grain Belt Express approval by PSC benefits all Missourians - [Missouri Times, March 20](#)
PSC decision opens door for more affordable, clean power - [MPUA news release, March 20](#)
After years of rejection, Missouri regulators give nod to Grain Belt transmission line - [Post-Dispatch, March 20](#)
EPA Says Missouri's Plan To Regulate Coal Ash Ponds And Landfills Is Too Weak - [St. Louis Public Radio, March 22](#)
Association honors public power utilities for high levels of reliability - [Public Power Daily, March 12](#)

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Rep. John Black

R - District 137

Elected to House: 2018

Committees:

Budget; Higher
Education; Utilities;

Lives In: Marshfield

MPUA Cities: Rogersville, Springfield
([portion](#))

Tidbit: Prior to joining the legislature, Rep. Black worked as an attorney and chemical engineer. He served as General Counsel for City Utilities in Springfield for more than a decade. Black also was the first in-house General Counsel for Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State).



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

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

[HB 1025](#)

[Black, John\(R\)](#)

Modifies definition of "electric supplier" as it relates trespass rules for trimming, removing, and controlling trees

NOTE: House hearing Tuesday (5pm or on adjournment)

[SB 383](#)

[Emery, Ed\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions relating to sale of utilities in fourth class cities

NOTE: Senate hearing Wednesday at noon.

[SB 453](#)

[Hough, Lincoln\(R\)](#)

States that certain records of municipally owned utilities may be closed under the Sunshine Law

NOTE: Senate hearing Wednesday at noon.

[SJR 25](#)

[Libla, Doug\(R\)](#)

Requires the General Assembly to pass legislation to establish an open, competitive retail electric energy market

[SB 167](#)

[Crawford, Sandy\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions relating to bonding requirements on public works