

# ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPUA Publication



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## LINKS

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

## MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

**April 10 | 10 am**  
MAMU Legislative  
Committee Mtg  
Gov. Office Bldg 315

**April 25 | 10 am**  
Gas Commission  
Mtg (MGCM)  
MPUA Offices

## SESSION MIDPOINT: UTILITY SALE BILL & WIRELESS ATTACHMENT BILLS HEARD THIS WEEK

Legislators finished the midpoint of their 2018 legislative session and have just returned from “spring break.” We have seen more significant activity between chambers than has been seen in years.

While only one bill has been signed by the Governor so far (an effort to stem sex trafficking), the Senate has sent more than 60 bills to the House at this point. Of these, only two significantly impact municipal utilities. [SB 659](#) increases DNR’s grants-in-aid authority from \$1,400 per connection to \$3,000 for municipal sewers. [HB 704](#), a local government omnibus bill, was amended to include utility sale language from [HB 1947](#) (including natural gas utilities). Also, while not directly impacting municipal utilities, of interest is [SB 564](#) which makes numerous changes to PSC ratemaking. Additionally, [SB 598](#) widens MoDOT’s utility corridor to 12 feet.

The House had passed 162 measures to the Senate at midpoint, including bills with direct impact to municipal utilities, such as prevailing wage ([HB 1729](#)); election requirements in 4th class cities to sell a natural gas, water, or wastewater utility ([HB 1947](#)); wireless facility attachments ([HB 1991](#)); and the rural broadband development fund ([HB 1872](#)). Other bills of interest are the House’s version of the IOU omnibus PSC rate-making bill ([HB 2265](#)) and the rural cooperatives bill on fiber infrastructure ([HB 1880](#)).

This week House members are primarily focused on passing the budget. [HB 2006](#) is the appropriations bill with DNR’s budget, and it includes \$1,250,000 for the Multipurpose Water Resources Program (MWRP) Fund and a direct appropriation of \$180,000 for a Stockton Lake water reallocation study. The Stockton

Lake monies are to benefit the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission, and much of the MWRP Fund is expected to benefit the North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission.

Further, lawmakers have second chamber hearings on the following bills this week:

[HB 1947](#) (Alferman – Hermann) - 4th Class Utility Sale Vote – Was heard in the House Local Government and Elections committee on Tuesday. In addition to water and wastewater systems, the bill has been expanded to include natural gas utilities.

[HB 1991](#) - Wireless communication attachments: - To be heard in the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and Environment committee on Wednesday.

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

[Missouri lawmakers set to begin hammering out a budget plan](#) - Missouri.net  
[Finding an oasis for data deserts](#) - Hannibal Courier-Post  
[Clean Water Law amendment to hit House floor](#) - JC News-Tribune  
[Missouri Legislature resumes work amid investigations](#) - Associated Press  
[WEF and Other Leaders Write Congress on USDA Program](#) - Water Environment Federation

## MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

**Senator Gary**

**Romine,**  
R - District 3

**Elected to Senate:** 2012

**Committees:** Chair—  
Education; Vice-Chair—  
Transportation,  
Infrastructure & Public Safety;  
Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
Energy & the Environment; Local  
Government and Elections; Senior,  
Family & Children

**Lives In:** Farmington

**MPUA Cities:** Farmington

**Tidbit:** Sen. Romine is CEO of Show-Me-Rent-To-Own, a business he founded more than 25 years ago.



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

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

[HB 1442](#) [Alferman, Justin\(R\)](#)

Changes the laws regarding the filling of commissioner offices. *[NOTE: Amended to repeal local authority to prohibit wells in city limits]*

[HB 1947](#) [Alferman, Justin\(R\)](#)

Changes the law regarding sale of water or wastewater systems in fourth class cities.

*[NOTE: Hearing was held 3/27]*

[HB 2453](#) [Austin, Kevin\(R\)](#)

Changes the laws regarding surety bonds for public work contracts.

[SB 564](#) [Emery, Ed\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions relating to public utilities

[SCR 27](#) [Emery, Ed\(R\)](#)

Establishes the Task Force on Retail Electric Competition



1808 I-70 Dr. SW  
Columbia, MO 65203  
573-445-3279  
[www.mpua.org](http://www.mpua.org)