

# ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



## HEARINGS HELD ON BILLS FOR UTILITY SALES AND WIRELESS ATTACHMENTS

The Missouri House debated and passed Missouri's 28-billion-dollar operating budget. The budget included increases for education and mental health. The budget process has now moved to the Senate.

A hearing was conducted on [HB 1947](#) in the Senate Local Government Committee. The bill would lower the voting threshold in fourth class cities from two-thirds to a simple majority for the sale of water, wastewater and gas systems. MAMU testified in opposition to the legislation. An amendment was added in the House that would include the sale of a gas utility. We oppose gas being added, and continue to push for an appraisal and public input, so that the people can

make an informed decision before the sale occurs.

[HB 1991](#), a bill on wireless small cell attachments, was heard in committee last week. MAMU, MML, City Utilities and Independence all testified in opposition to the bill. Carriers such as ExteNet, Mobilitie, AT&T, Verizon and Sprint continue to offer up to five hundred dollars per attachment. The bill would cap attachment fees at thirty-five dollars. Several of our members have been negotiating on the legislation directly with providers with little success to date. MAMU continues to ask for improved grandfathering clauses for existing contracts and a reasonable rate of return on ratepayer-owned infrastructure.

The Missouri Senate gave first round approval to a bill that will make sweeping changes to Missouri's tax code. It is estimated that [SB 617](#) will cost the state between five hundred and eight hundred million dollars. The legislation would also increase the gas tax by ten cents over several years. The bill needs one more vote before heading to the House.

[SB 917](#), the CCR bill passed in the Senate last week with a 21-9 vote, advancing to the House. MAMU was active in assisting Senator Crawford by providing her with technical information about coal residuals, which informed her floor debate. We expect the bill to be sent to the House Utilities Committee.

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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

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

[Large Midwest energy project turns to ex-Missouri governor](#) - Associated Press  
[Measure passed by Missouri Senate addresses industrial waste from coal power plants](#) - MissouriNet  
[Missouri lawmakers advance state budget & other bills after spring break](#) - St. Louis Public Radio  
[House bill to alter Clean Water Law advances](#) - JC News-Tribune  
[Blunt says 51 percent of rural Missourians lack access to broadband](#) - MissouriNet

## MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

**Senator Jeanie Riddle**, R - District 10  
Elected to Senate: 2014

**Committees:**  
Chair — Professional Registration; Vice-Chair — Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment; Vice-Chair — Senior, Families and Children; Administration; Fiscal Oversight; Gubernatorial Appointments

**Lives In:** Callaway County

**MPUA Cities:** Fulton, Holts Summit, Madison, Monroe City, Paris,

**Tidbit:** Sen. Riddle taught and coached in the South Callaway School District for 28 years.



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

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

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

Changes the laws regarding the filling of commissioner offices.

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

Changes the law regarding sale of water or wastewater systems in fourth class cities. *[NOTE: Voted out of committee]*

[HB 1991](#) [Rhoads, Shawn\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions relating to wireless facilities and related infrastructure

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

Modifies provisions relating to public utilities

[SB 917](#) [Crawford, Sandy\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions relating to coal ash



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