

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPUA Publication



MUNICIPAL UTILITY MATTERS PACK TWO WEEK AGENDA

The MAMU Legislative Committee will meet TOMORROW, Tuesday, April 9 at 10am. All MAMU board members are welcome to join by phone, or at 316 Governor Office Bldg in Jefferson City (200 Madison St).

For the last two weeks, municipal utilities have dominated legislative hearings. From utility sale transparency to efforts to kill the Grain Belt Express project, municipal utilities have taken center stage.

Utility Sale Transparency – Senate Commerce heard [SB 383](#) on March 27. House Utilities heard [HB 909](#) on April 2. Several utilities joined MAMU and MML in support, including Albany, Harrisonville, Hermann, Holts Summit, Jackson, and Shelbina. Several others sent letters. These bills encourage transparency when a water, wastewater, or natural gas utility is put up for sale in 4th class cities. It authorizes a fair and open appraisal; a full analysis on city revenue, services, and annexation; and this due

diligence be publicly available before a vote. On April 2, the Senate committee passed the bill, 5-2. The House committee may act this week.

Tree Trimming – House Utilities heard [HB 1025](#) on March 26. Joining MAMU in support were Rolla, Springfield, Kirkwood, Fulton and Waynesville. This bill allows municipal electric utilities to use the same tree trimming standards as cooperatives when outside corporate boundaries. On April 2, the committee passed it 12-0.

Protecting Customer Records – Senate Commerce heard [SB 453](#) on March 27 and House Utilities heard [HB 1098](#) on April 2. This bill closes municipal utility served customer use and billing records. Customers may allow the information to remain public. This bill was requested by MAMU utilities. The Senate committee supported the bill unanimously and House committee action is expected this week.

Retail Choice – [SJR 25](#), a bill to open

electric retail choice, was heard in the Senate Transportation and Infrastructure committee on March 28. MAMU joined the state's IOUs to oppose the bill. The sponsor announced plans to exempt munis and coops from the bill's next version.

Grain Belt Express - [HB 1062](#), a bill to kill the Grain Belt Express project, was heard in House General Laws on April 1. Eight MPUA communities joined MAMU and MJMEUC in opposition, along with the transmission project owner, a landowner supportive of the project, a county commissioner supportive of the economic activity created by the project, and the IBEW supporting the jobs to be created. Thanks to the cities of Hannibal, Higginsville, Kirkwood, Lamar, Marshall, Odessa, Rolla, and Shelbina for testifying against the bill. It passed the committee by a party line 9-4 vote on April 3. It passed the Rules committee the next day and is set for floor debate this week.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

MPUA utilities fight for \$12.8 million in customer savings, [MPUA, April 5](#)
Springfield senator's bill on 'critical infrastructure' riles environmental groups, [Springfield News-Leader, April 4](#)
Missouri bill would bar condemnation for wind energy line, [Associated Press, April 3](#)
Missouri legislators fast-track bill to block Grain Belt Express use of eminent domain, [Missourinet, April 3](#)
Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee schedules four budget hearings this week - [Missourinet, April 8](#)

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Senator Gary Romine,

R - District 3

Elected to Senate:
2012

Committees: Chair– Education; Chair– Joint Committee on Education; Vice-Chair– Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety; Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy & the Environment; Economic Development;

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 1062](#) [Hansen, Jim\(R\)](#)
Modifies provisions for eminent domain for utility purposes.

NOTE: Expect Floor vote by 4.16.19

[HB 801](#) / [SB 66](#)
Both: Establishes provisions relating to water safety and security
NOTE: HB 801 has hearing this week; expect pared-down version – no asst mgmt.

[HB 1138](#) [Miller, Rocky\(R\)](#)
Modifies provisions for relating to electric energy
NOTE: Impacts Dogwood and Laddonia

[HB 909](#) / [SB 383](#) House: [Francis, Rick\(R\)](#)
Senate: [Emery, Ed\(R\)](#)

HB: Modifies provisions for the sale of municipally owned utilities.
NOTE: HB 909 possible House committee exec-session vote
SB: Modifies provisions relating to sale of utilities in 4th class cities.

[SB 330](#) / [HB 831](#) Senate: [Brown, Justin\(R\)](#)
House: [Sharpe, Greg\(R\)](#)
Both: Establish special license plates for Assn of MO Electric Coops
NOTE: Floor votes on 4/8 – Lineworker Appreciation Day

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LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

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

4/24 | 10am
Municipal Gas Commission (MGCM) mtg (Columbia)

May 1 | 10:30
Mo Public Water Council (MPWC) Roundtable (Columbia)

May 5-11
Safe Drinking Water Week

TRAINING

April 29 & 30
Fundamentals of Overhead Rigging training (Hannibal)



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