

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



PANDEMIC SLOWS LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO JUST BUDGET

A month has passed since any regular action has taken place in the Missouri Capitol. Since the COVID-19 crisis, the following outlines the last few weeks.

The week of March 9th hearings were held on [HB 2467](#) & [SB 817](#), bills that would shift the delicate balance of territorial and boundary agreements towards rural electric cooperatives. No further action has been taken on these bills since.

The week of March 16th was the final week before Spring Break, but the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted normal operations, closing most of the Capitol other than final House work on their part of the budget. That week also saw the Supreme Court deny an appeal request effectively ending Farm Bureau and landowner requests to stop the PSC from allowing the Grain Belt project to

administratively proceed. No further legislative action has transpired to stop the project.

March 23 legislators stayed home as it was their already prescheduled Spring Break. They stayed home the week of March 30 too.

On April 1, the Governor announced FY2020 expenditure restrictions. The Water Resources Multipurpose Fund has been impacted by the state of emergency. A complete list of expenditure restrictions are found [here](#).

The Week of April 6th, legislators returned for two days to pass three bills and send them to the Governor. Of the three, the most significant was a massive supplemental budget, with billions in expected or potential federal aid to help combat the pandemic. By

the time the final supplemental passed, spending grew to more than \$6.2B, including over \$5.6B in federal funding —expected by the end of the month, and some included in a future federal aid bill.

The supplemental budget includes federal funding of more than \$1B for reimbursing local governments' emergency expenses (Office of Administration) and over more \$600M for other pandemic-related needs. At least \$1.8 billion of what Parson asked for the authority to spend has not been promised by Congress yet. There are still a lot of unknowns, including what exactly federal guidance for how to spend funds will be and when and how the Legislature may return to pass a budget for the next fiscal year.

Today, the legislature announced it would return to "regular" session April 27.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

APPA recognizes member utilities for reliability efforts, [Public Power Daily, April 13](#)
Missouri Lineworkers Now, More Than Ever, Deserve Our Thanks, [Rolla Daily News, April 12](#)
Parson signs supplemental budget, creates working group, [Columbia Missourian, April 10](#)
CU dusted off its pandemic crisis plan ahead of disaster, [News-Leader, April 5](#)
Kirkwood's Quest For Greener Energy Gets A Boost, [Webster-Kirkwood Times, April 3](#)

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Senator Cindy O'Laughlin

(R-District 18)

Elected to House: 2019

Committees: Chair-Education; Chair-Seniors, Families & Children; Vice-Chair - Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety; Agriculture, Food Production, & Outdoor Resources; Ways & Means

Lives in: Shelbina

MPUA Cities: Center, Clarence, Hannibal, Kahoka, La Plata, Macon, Marceline, Memphis, Moberly, Palmyra, Perry, Salisbury, Shelbina.

Tidbit: Prior to legislative duties, Sen. O'Laughlin served on a school board and the state board of Associated Builders & Contractors. The senator and her husband own a trucking company & ready mix concrete business.



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

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

HB 2182

Miller, Rocky

Repeals the sunset clause on the Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act.

HB 2014

Smith, Cody

FY2020 Supplemental Appropriations Bill

HB 2120

Kidd, Bill

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

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 CALLS ONLY

April 14 | 10am
MAMU Legislative
Committee mtg

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

April 24 | 1:30pm
SW Mo COVID Utility
Roundtable (*call*)

May 1 | 1:30pm
S-Central Mo COVID
Utility Roundtable (*call*)

CANCELLED:

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

APPA Lineworker Rodeo
& E&O Conference
(WAS: April 17 & 18)



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