

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



SEVERAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY ISSUES STILL IN PLAY

This week marks the final week of the Missouri legislative session. Lawmakers returned April 27 from an extended 5-week leave that started as a planned “spring break” and ended as a “stay-at-home” pandemic response and focused their efforts to meet the constitutional mandate to complete the budget last Friday. A \$35.2 billion budget was passed with \$14.7 billion in expected federal emergency funds for coronavirus relief spending. Of municipal utility interest, \$25M was appropriated into the [DNR Multipurpose Fund](#) for regional water commission projects, half from federal and half from GR monies. [Broadband expansion received \\$12M](#) in federal COVID relief in the Office of Administration budget. Much of this money is for state expenditure, but \$5M may be used for residential areas with high state employee concentrations impacted by the pandemic. Some of our municipal broadband systems

could access these monies for system development.

Several municipal utility issues are still in play this week. These include Grain Belt (SBs [618](#), [622](#), [644](#) and HB [2033](#)); customer data exemptions from the sunshine law (HBs [1854](#), SBs [544](#), [594](#), [618](#)); a 5-year extension of state small cell telecom regulation, including a municipal electric facility exemption (HB [1768](#), SBs [618](#), [664](#)); BPW appointments outside service boundaries (HB [1854](#), SB [725](#)); COVID-19 related utility disconnect state mandate (SB [618](#)); water safety – hydrant, valve inspection, and cyber mandates (HB [2120](#), SBs [618](#), [523](#), [600](#), and [774](#)); a prohibition on local ordinances limiting customer energy sources (SB [664](#)); several broadband measures (HB [1768](#), SBs [544](#), [594](#), [618](#), [632](#), [664](#), and [725](#)); and changes on sewer lateral repair programs (SB [664](#)).

Last week, the Senate spent several long hours debating the Grain Belt project. Senators [Bernskoetter](#) and [Brown](#) offered an amendment to a state land conveyance bill (HB [1330](#)) attempting to kill the project. Several MPAU members made calls to Senators and their actions were evident. In bi-partisan opposition, Senators [Emery](#), [Eigel](#), [Koenig](#), [White](#), [Sifton](#), [Arthur](#), [May](#), [Rizzo](#), [Walsh](#), and [Schupp](#) defended the project. These senators spoke for hours on the bill’s unconstitutionality and its unfair treatment because all the requirements of other electric transmission developments in the state have been met and upheld by the courts. In the end, the bill moved forward without the project-killing language. The term-limited [Speaker of the House, Elijah Haahr](#), continues to make this his top priority, but was dealt a severe blow by the filibuster. Several bills are still in play he will advance this week.

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LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

May 12 | 10am
MAMU Legislative
Committee mtg
(conf –call only)

May 14 | 2 pm
SWMPEP Committee
mtg (conf –call only)

May 17-23
Nat’I Public Works Week

May 25
Memorial Day
MPUA office closed

June 3 | 10 am
Member Services
Committee
MPUA Offices

June 3 | 1 pm
Joint Operating & Exec
Committees mtg
MPUA Offices

June 4 | 8:30 am
MPUA Board Mtg.
Drury Plaza Hotel
Columbia East

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

Last week of Mo. legislative session could be unusually quiet, [St. Louis Public Radio, May 10](#)

Mo. Legislature passes FY21 budget: What to know, [Missouri Times, May 9](#)

Breaking down the omnibus discussions in the Senate, [Missouri Times, May 7](#)

Missouri budget director: Economy ‘turned off like a faucet’, [Associated Press, May 7](#)

Commentary: Bill to stop Grain Belt Express is bad for Missouri’s economy, [Columbia Missourian, May 7](#)

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Representative 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 SW Missouri State University (now Missouri State).



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

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

SB 618 [Wallingford, Wayne](#)

Modifies provisions relating to utilities **NOTE:** includes Grain Belt; customer data Sunshine exemption; small cell exemption – 5 yrs; disconnect mandate; broadband – federal tracking/program extension; water safety – hydrant, valve inspection, cyber mandates

SB 664 [Burlison, Eric](#)

Adds call spoofing to prohibited solicitations under the no-call list; **NOTE:** Ordinance prohibitions on Energy Sources; Broadband federal grant tracking; repair of sewer service lines

HB 1768 [Riggs, Louis](#)

Specifies that Dept of Economic Development shall maintain a record of all funds obtained under the Broadband Internet Grant Program; **NOTE:** includes Small cell exemption – 5 years; Broadband – Neighborhood Improvement Partnerships/federal tracking/program extension

HB 2005 [Smith, Cody](#)

Appropriations Bill;
NOTE: Federal Stimulus included for Broadband grants \$5M of \$12M

HB 2006 [Smith, Cody](#)

Appropriations Bill;
NOTE: Multipurpose Fund for water commissions appropriated \$25M



1808 I-70 Dr. SW
Columbia, MO 65203
573-445-3279
[www.mpu.org](#)