

# MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT LEGISLATIVE REPORT # 1 2013 SESSION

[Senate Bill List](#)      [House Bill List](#)  
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### 2013 MISSOURI BUDGET OUTLOOK

It is reported that the current state budget is meeting expectations. The Governor has not requested any cuts in various budget requests for the 2013 budget as of yet. This means that currently the \$200,000.00 in general revenue funds for the Division of Fire Safety is part of the current and future budget.

The leadership in the House is looking at the possibility of making up to a 45% cut in state workers costs, which would mean a 5-8% cut in the budget. The possibility is significant cuts in the Division of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Revenue.

### CURRENT THOUGHTS ON POTENTIAL LEGISLATION

- Infrastructure improvements, especially I-70
- Nuclear Power Plant Issue
- Keep Education at its current level
- Look at a bond issue for infrastructure improvements for Higher Education (700 million to 2 Billion). The state has just paid off a significant bond thus freeing up money.
- Economic Development push utilizing:
  - Reduced Taxes
  - Main St Fairness
  - E-Fairness
- Right to Work will be up but doubtful if it will pass.
- Prevailing wage will be up and there is a good chance that significant changes will pass.

### 2013 Legislation for Fire Service Alliance

Significant discussion occurred on the following potential legislative action by the Alliance:

- 9-1-1 legislation
- Immunity
- Increase Training Funds for Division of Fire Safety

- Increase filing fees for 1st class county fire district board members
- Provide legislation for a State Emergency Fund for Disasters
- Legislation on current Blue Light Laws
- Move over Law to also include Emergency Responders

After much discussion the following list is the FSA priority legislation for 2013:

- 9-1-1  
The FSA will take a significantly greater role in pushing for a service charge on cell phones in Missouri. It is the consensus of the members that a fee of \$.50 or less is what should be pushed. Also, if necessary, look at allowing for local option voting.

It is understood that their needs to be a concerted effort to reduce the number of PSAPs' if this is going to have any chance of passage. Lehmann will be getting with a group to assist in winnowing down the current bill so as to make it more palatable to the legislature.

- Improved Immunity  
This is for Fire Service organizations and individuals during emergency responses. Lehmann will provide a contact for Jorgen to begin to craft talking points etc.
- Increased funding for DFS Training from the general fund  
The current \$250,000 is still below what that fund had over 10 years ago. We will be pushing for a total of \$350,000/yr. from the general fund. This means we will be requesting an additional \$150,000.00.

The basic discussion points will be to show the need for mutual aid response during disasters. All fire personnel should be trained to at least the FF I level. There is also a significant need for training programs and their deliveries in areas such as Incident Command and specialized training such as Technical Rescue that are sorely needed during disaster response.

- State Emergency Fund  
Continue to push for a separate fund that would help pay for State Declared disaster response. Look at modeling it after Illinois. Amount in the fund should be ??????. That would be up for discussion.
- Change in Move Over Law  
It is believed that the Move Over Law as to fines for striking a DOT employee does not also apply to emergency workers. If that is the case, we will attempt to make it apply to emergency responders as well.

Discussion of the Blue Light Law showed that more discussion was necessary before we would approach it. The Filing fee increase will be worked on separate from the five above and see what may come of it for strictly 1<sup>st</sup> class counties.