

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1ST REGULAR LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR 2009 SESSION JANUARY 14, 2009

FIRE SERVICE ALLIANCE

At our 1st meeting each year we review all of our potential bills as well as other bills that may impact us. In addition, we “take care” of Alliance business.

The Alliance has selected its new chairman for 2009. It is Chief Larry Boyle of the Fenton Fire Protection District. Larry represents the St Louis Alliance and has for a number of years.

We have also set our budget for 2009. The Alliance will bill the same amount to all of the organizations as last year. For the MAFC that will be \$6500.00.

FSA BILLS FOR 2009

#1-SB 119

Senator John Griesheimer (R) has introduced this bill. It is a 9-1-1 bill. This bill is not what we want for our legislation. We will be working with Senator Griesheimer to make changes. **It has had its 1st reading in the senate.**

Some issues that we have with the bill:

- It has a maximum of \$.25 for a monthly charge
- It limits the number of PSAPs’ allowed in each county, even those that are already in existence
- It requires a vote of the people in the state

We believe Representative Mark Bruns will file a companion bill in the House.

This will be a top priority bill for FSA, working in conjunction with other players.

#2-FIRE SAFE CIGARETTE

This is HB 205. It has been filed by Representatives Bruns and Mike Parsons (R). This is the same bill filed last year. To date 35 states have this legislation.

It has been read for the 2nd time in the house. It should be assigned to a committee next week. Since Rep Parsons is the chair of the rules committee, and does the assignments, it should be assigned to the Public Safety Committee which is headed by Representative Bruns.

#3-EMERGENCY DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

No movement

FSA will be looking to begin a state fund that will assist in defraying the cost of emergency responders that respond to disasters under MOSCOPE guidelines.

#4-SB 711 FIX

SB 174 has been filed by Senator Greisheimer (R). This bill is supposed to help in changing the issues that the fire service feels adversely impacts property taxes. We are reviewing this bill to see if it does that.

This bill has been read for the 1st time.

#5-FUEL TAX SAVINGS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATIONS

No movement

We are still reviewing this potential bill. Currently the word we are getting is that the fiscal note will be exorbitant and no one will touch it. We are looking at ways of paring it down and make it more palatable. We may start with providing it to the fire association vehicles and equipment only as a 1st step.

We are looking at HB 204 as a vehicle for this bill. See below for this bill.

OTHER BILLS WE WILL ASSIST IN

MUTUAL AID CHANGES

HB 103 is our vehicle for the changes in the Mutual Aid Law. Representative Ed Wildberger (D) is the sponsor.

A bill that will provide for changes in state law, mainly in the area of liability will be introduced. **This bill has been read for the 2nd time.**

INCREASE STATUTE OF LIMITATION ON ARSON

No movement

This is cleanup language for previous legislation. It had passed previously but legislative research left the correct language out of another bill and the language was then lost due to this error. Representative Flook is interested in sponsoring.

NURSING HOME AND DETECTORS/SPRINKLERS

No movement

With the recent ruling by the Joint Committee on Administrative Regulations allowing the nursing home industry to not place smoke detectors in residential rooms that have a sprinkler system, we are backing legislation to have the codes read the same as the ICC-NFPA codes on Nursing Homes

BURN BAN

No movement

This is the same bill as last year. Representative Bruns is looking to sponsor.

INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINING

HB204-Marilyn Ruestmann (R)

Authorizes certain tax credits for volunteers that attain certain training requirements. We will be looking at attaching our fuel exemption to this bill.

It has been read for the 2nd time.

CONSORTIUM BILL

FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT ALLOCATION

No movement

This is the legislation for transfer ambulance reimbursement previously discussed. We will not be the lead agency on this, but will act as a partner.

OTHER POTENTIAL LEGISLATION AND ISSUES

SPILLER PAY LAWSUIT

Before the hearing the Attorney General's Office has severed the state from the lawsuit. The reason for this is that the Plaintiffs have dropped their contention that the Spiller Pay law and its accompanying requirements (permitting etc) was unconstitutional. This means that the outcome of this lawsuit will not affect any operations for or on hazardous Material Responses or LEPCs'.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS AND DEFINED BENEFITS

SB161 has been filed by Senator Jason Crowell (R). We are unsure of how this will affect the pension systems. **It has been read for the 1st time.**

Last year a law passed that required Fire Protection Districts that do not belong to LAGERS and have their own retirement program have an oversight board. The law was vague and the rules look to require oversight of both defined benefit programs as well as defined contribution programs. This fix will be to remove defined contribution (401K type) from the oversight requirements. We will assist in clean up language.

LICENSE PLATE EMBLEM FOR FIRE MUSEUM

No movement

A bill was passed several years ago that will have proceeds from the license plates to go to the Fire Museum in Kingdom City. We are working on exactly what needs to be done to make this move forward. Looks like a special emblem just for the museum needs to be filed.

FIRE TRAINING FUND

We were informed that the governor has put a freeze on significant parts of the state budget for this year. It will affect the Division of Fire Safety.

Randy reported that the DFS training fund will be increased by \$160,000.00 from the insurance tax issue filed over 15 years ago. It seems that the Insurance Office misread the rules. Thus there are monies to come from this source. I would like to try to explain it but I can't. Thanks to Chief Larry Pratt for bringing this problem forward last year. It worked.

OTHER BILLS

The following is a list of bills that may affect the fire service in some way. There are several that we will be actively opposing.

HB108-Walt Bivins(R)

This bill requires that audio recordings of all closed meetings of governmental bodies be made and kept for 18 months. **This bill has been read for the 2nd time. We are opposing this bill.**

HB202-Therese Sander(R)

Requires all Counties with enhanced 9-1-1 capabilities establish and maintain 9-1-1 addressing. **This bill has been read for the 2nd time.**

SB7-John Greisheimer (R)

Require communities to file one copy of any technical code adopted with the clerk's office instead of the current 3 copies that are required. **This has been read for the 1st time.**

SB99-Jane Cunningham (R)&SJR4

This bill & constitutional amendment would require the freezing of all property tax evaluations at the same level as they were in 2006. No reevaluation will occur until the property is sold. It will also allow only increases up to a maximum of 2 % per year in property tax for cost of living increases. **This bill has been read for the 1st time. We are opposing this bill.**

SB102-Tim Green (D)

This bill would require certain bidding procedures be met if they are not already covered by federal or state law by all governmental bodies in Missouri. **It has been read for the 1st time.**

SB122-John Greisheimer (R)

This bill would allow for the recall of ambulance district board members. **It has been read for the 1st time.**

FIREFIGHTER DAY AT THE CAPITOL

This year firefighter day will occur on April 8. We will be honoring the deaths of 6 firefighters in the line of duty for 2008 in Missouri. This is also a time for you to visit your legislators to help push our issues.

Our next meeting is February 27th.