

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

April 5, 2018

A pay raise for state employees took a major step forward late last week when the Missouri House wrapped up its version of the budget. Under the house plan, employees who make less than \$70,000 annually would get a \$700 raise (per year.) Those workers making more than \$70 thousand would get a 1% raise. The senate is expected to make its recommendations in coming weeks.

Despite no previous hint of an interest in transportation funding, both the house and senate took significant strides last week in that direction. On Wednesday the senate "perfected" [SB 617](#) which, beginning July 1, 2019, would gradually raise the fuel tax by 6-cents a gallon by July 1, 2021. Another provision of this bill authorizes the fuel tax to be increased an additional 4-cents a gallon if certain sales tax changes are made. Sponsored by Sen. Bill Eigel of St. Charles County, the bill requires another vote by the full senate before being sent to the house.

Also on Wednesday of last week, the House Transportation Committee voted to advance three bills which propose to raise the motor fuel tax. One of those bills sponsored by the committee chairman, Rep. Bill Reiboldt, [HB 2092](#), would increase by 10-cents a gallon the tax on gasoline and 12 cents a gallon for diesel fuel beginning Jan. 1, 2019. While this bill requires a state-wide public vote, two other tax bills coming out of that committee do not require a vote.

[HB 2091](#), also by Mr. Reiboldt, [HB 2148](#), by Rep. Bart Korman, each would raise the fuel tax by 10-cents a gallon without a public vote. I'll keep you posted as to the progress of these bills.

From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
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