

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

January 15, 2015

House and Senate members, new and old, have gathered again in Jefferson City for the annual legislative session. (There are six new senators and 30 new house members).

With the arrival of the 98th General Assembly came the welcome news that the governor would release funds for a 1-percent state employee pay raise scheduled to begin January 1, 2015.

A disappointment, however, is the absence of state funding for the deferred compensation program. The state matching funds of \$25 a month was scheduled to begin July 1, 2014 but was delayed due to an apparent shortage of revenue.

The deferred comp program, which has long been a project of our Association, was eliminated a few years ago because of a sluggish state revenue stream. But as the economy recovered, we renewed our efforts to restore and strengthen deferred comp.

When it was discontinued in 2011, the maximum monthly match offered was \$35. (The statutory ceiling is \$75 per month.) We supported a bill last session introduced by Jefferson City Representative Mike Bernskoetter which would have raised the state's maximum contribution to \$100 monthly.

We intend to continue our efforts to restore and expand the deferred comp program as well as follow state employee and transportation related issues as the session progresses.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
Transportation Employees' Association of Missouri**