

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

January 28, 2016

While the state legislature has not yet completed its first full month of work, significant progress has been made on issues important to our Association.

Last week (1-20-16) the Senate Transportation Committee voted to advance a bill that would raise fuel taxes beginning on October 1, 2016. SB623 would raise the gas tax 1 and 1/2 cents a gallon and the diesel tax by 3 and 1/2 cents. Sen. Doug Libla is sponsoring the fuel tax bill which could see senate floor debate before too long.

In his annual state message, Gov. Nixon announced that state workers should get a 2% pay raise. Legislative leaders have also indicated a pay raise is in order however a projected amount has not been specified.

In other matters of interest; HB2228 by Rep. Jay Barnes of Jefferson City, specifies that state employees shall receive 10 consecutive days of paid leave upon the birth or adoption of a child. It was heard Monday (1-20-16) in the House Government Oversight Committee.

HB1422, by Rep. Nate Walker of Kirksville, says that a state worker who works 10-hour days and 40 hours a week cannot be required to take two hours of vacation leave for paid holidays. The bill was scheduled for hearing this week but was postponed pending a language revision.

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