

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

April 27, 2017

The Missouri Legislative Session is in a count-down mode. It is to end at 6:00 p.m., Friday, May 12. By the time you read this, only two weeks will remain.

Most observers would agree that much was left undone. Ethics reform passed the House in January but was essentially ignored by the Senate. Transportation funding was not seriously considered. State employees got the usual treatment – no pay raise and no serious discussion of a state contribution to the deferred compensation plan.

On the flip side – stalled legislation can have a positive interpretation. A couple of bills which could be detrimental to state employees, [HB251](#) and [SB228](#), have languished for weeks on the Senate’s “informal calendar.” [HB251](#) would result in unnecessary busy work and reporting requirements for public employee associations (such as ours.) The second bill, [SB228](#), proposed to create a new state employee retirement plan that emphasizes a reliance on the stock market.

A bill that is moving, [HB729](#), would return the state retirement plans to a 5-year vesting requirement. This bill passed the House on April 18 and reported to the Senate where it was referred to the Health and Pensions Committee.

Also, [HCR47](#), legislation establishing the 21st Century Missouri Highway System Task Force, has passed the House and was heard Tuesday (April 25) in the Senate Rules Committee.

[HB1218](#) which specifies that state employees who work 10-hour days and four days a week would not be required to take two hours vacation leave for paid holidays – has not been assigned to a house committee.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
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