

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

May 17, 2017

The 2017 Legislative Session shut down Friday (May 12) with chaos in the senate and a good number of issues left unresolved. One measure left hanging was a senate sub for [HB251](#). This was a bill which we felt could be damaging to our Association due to its burdensome and over-reaching nature. (Already there are rumors bouncing around the capital city that the governor intends to call a special legislative session in early summer to address a few specific topics including the [HB251](#) issue.)

And, surprisingly enough, the possibility of a 1-step pay raise for MoDOT employees was kept alive by the house until the final weeks of the session. Ultimately, it was rejected on an “equal treatment” rationale because the state couldn’t afford a pay increase for all its employees.

Also as the close of the session, the senate passed a measure focusing on the future of MoDOT. [HCR47](#) establishes a specific committee of legislators and other stake-holders to study the current conditions and future needs of MoDOT.

Another bill given final approval and sent to the governor was [SB62](#) which returns the state retirement systems to a 5-year vesting requirement. Current law demands 10-year vesting which, some legislators believe, discourages many prospective employees from joining the state’s work force.

The following are some bills of interest which did not pass;

[SB228](#) (Koenig) Would have created a new “hybrid” retirement plan emphasizing a defined contribution competent. It was debated by the full senate on March 7, placed on the “informal” calendar and not taken up again.

[HB517](#) (Ellington) Would give state employees a 1-month exemption from the state’s withholding taxes. It did not get a committee hearing.

[HB1218](#) (Gray) Specifies that state employees who work 10-hour days and 40 hours a week cannot be required to take two hours vacation leave for paid holidays. It did not receive a committee hearing.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
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