

# The **Association** report

## from the **Capitol**

April 5, 2007

Work at the Capitol has resumed after spring break when legislators returned March 26 from their homes across the state. It hasn't been all work and drudgery for those in the state house, however, as there were free soft drinks, popcorn and ice cream treats in the rotunda, compliments of our Association.

Our annual lobby day at the Capitol was April 2. A steady stream of legislators, staff and an occasional visiting school student stopped by our table for a mid-afternoon treat and a chat about issues of the day. Mark O'Dowd, Association president, noted that 33 gallons of ice cream was served on Monday afternoon.

And on the business end of things, legislators continue to treat our issues in a favorable manner. This morning (April 5) the House Retirement Committee voted to pass a committee substitute for SB406. This bill included our language from SB127, the "prior service purchase" option, as well as a number of other retirement issues. SB127 was voted "do-pass, consent" on March 29 in that same retirement committee. The "prior service" language also is included in a senate substitute for SB492 which is on the senate debate calendar.

The house worked late last night (April 4) attempting to perfect HB90, the "primary" seatbelt bill. After a couple hours of debate, HB90 was laid over with an amendment pending. It is not known when work will resume on the seatbelt proposal.

In somewhat of a surprising move, the Senate Pensions Committee passed a bill that would allow members of MOSERS and MPERS retirement systems to take a lump-sum benefit at the time of retirement instead of monthly payments as is now the law. That bill, a committee substitute for SB628, is given little chance of becoming law. A bill that would eliminate the annual "State of Transportation" address to the legislature by the MoDOT director, passed the senate on March 13. SB139, by Senator Joan Bray of St. Louis, was assigned to the House Transportation Committee on March 15. No hearing for it has been scheduled.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist  
Missouri Highway and Transportation Employees' Association**