



Police Jury Association

NEWS LETTER

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May 15, 2009

2009 REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT #3

POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DAY THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009

Schedule

Registration at 8am Legislative Update from 9-10am
State Capitol Visit from 10-11:30am Lunch from 11:30-1pm

Legislative Day Registration Fee \$60 Spouse Fee \$35
Includes breakfast, shuttle to Capitol, and lunch
Contact Jane Lambert: jane@lpgov.org or call the PJAL

PJAL PACKAGE UPDATE

- HB 88** McVea Allows part-time elected officials, including police jurors, to be employed in the government of the U.S, including the US Census Bureau in the upcoming census.
The bill was overwhelmingly passed by the House on Tuesday, May 12th.
- HB 353** Monica Increases the contract limit for public works projects from \$100K to \$150K. This bill was brought because the current contract limit is not adequate to meet the needs of parishes.
The bill, as amended to \$150K was overwhelmingly passed by the House on Monday, May 11th
- HB 765** Gallot Constitutional amendment decreasing the allocation to the state of revenues from the general severance tax on oil and natural gas production, resulting in more of that money going to the parishes where the oil and natural gas are produced.
The bill is pending review by the Civil Law Committee on ballot language only.
- HB 777** Champagne Clarifies that appointments to certain boards and commissions and appointments to fill vacancies in elective offices are not included in the prohibition against "other transactions" under the ethics code.
The bill was unanimously passed by the House on Tuesday, May 12th.
- HB 782** Ellington Provides additional service charge on wireless telecommunications services. This bill was brought to make sure that prepaid wireless providers were paying their fair share of the costs of operating 911.
The bill was amended to set the fee at \$0.60 and passed by the House Commerce Committee and is awaiting action by the full House, likely on Monday.

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

HB 1 (BUDGET) AND HB 2 (CAPITAL OUTLAY) PASSED BY THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY

Both bills were the subject a numerous amendments attempts which generally failed. Now both bills head to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

HB 745 - PEARSON CONTRACT AUDITORS

The bill will be heard in House Ways & Means on WEDNESDAY

HB 745 by Rep. Pearson is a bill to clarify the language of current law to affirm two existing Attorney General's Opinions that hold that local sales and use tax collectors ARE ALLOWED to enter into contracts with contract auditors that bill on an hourly rate but include a cap on the maximum fee payable based on whether the audit leads to the collection of unpaid taxes. These contracts have been in use by over 30 parishes around the State for over 10 years. The bill will resolve the confusion on this issue once and for all. The LA Assn of Business and Industry opposes the bill, so we need your help. House Ways & Means Committee Members: Greene, Chairman / Smith, Jane, Vice Chairman / Baldone / Barras / Burrell / Carter, S. / Danahay / Guillory, M. / Henry / Hoffmann / Honey / Jackson, G. / Nowlin / Perry / Richard / Richmond / Ritchie / Robideaux / Templet

HB 840 – WHITE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HB 840 by Rep. White proposes to mandate that each parish have a Parish Emergency Management Advisory Committee. The bill was amended then reported by the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday. The amendments clarified some issues with regard to the annual report the Advisory Committee must file and specifically allow for parishes that already had a similar committee in place to continue to use their current system. Finally the amendments reiterated the fact that the Parish President is in charge during an emergency and is not bound by the committee's recommendations. We have received very little opposition thus far to the measure from PJAL members.

It awaits action by the full House, likely on Monday.

Contact the PJAL and let us know your thoughts on the amended version of the bill.

HB 480 RICHMOND PROHIBIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE OF RED LIGHT CAMERAS TO BE HEARD IN HOUSE TRANSPORTATION ON MONDAY

HB 480 by Rep. Richmond from Orleans proposes to ban local governments from using red light cameras as have been put in place in a number of cities and parishes. The PJAL is opposing the bill on the grounds that this is a decision that needs to be made at the local level. To retain the authority to make this decision locally we need you to contact your legislative delegation. Transportation Comm. Members: Hutter, Chairman / Downs, Vice Chairman / Armes / Aubert / Billiot / Burns, H. / Dixon / Doerge / Franklin / Gisclair / Guinn / Hill / Howard / Jones, S. / Little / Montoucet / Norton / Pope / St. Germain

ROLL FORWARD

**THE ROLL FORWARD BILLS WERE REVIEWED GENERALLY IN SENATE REVENUE
AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ON MONDAY BUT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

HB 380 by Rep. Cromer proposes some changes in the notice provisions for Roll Forward Meetings. At the urging of the PJAL Rep. Cromer agreed to committee amendments to make the changes palatable and thus we did not oppose those changes.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The LA Assessors Assn came out in favor of annual increases in the Homestead Exemption in the amount of the Consumer Price Index.

UNIFORM BID FORM

Sen. Murray has agreed not to pursue SB 134 which would have made changes to the Uniform Bid Form that was put into place last year and which is awaiting final approval by the Div. of Administration. A number of parishes responded to our Legislative Blast and confirmed their opposition to any changes in the current law. **GREAT RESPONSE BY OUR MEMBERSHIP!**

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FURTHER UPDATES – COMMITTEE SCHEDULES – BILL TRACKING LISTS***