



Police Jury Association

NEWS LETTER

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2009 REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT #4

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

Registration at 8am

Legislative Update from 9-10am

State Capitol Visit from 10-11:30am Lunch from 11:30-1pm

IT IS NOT TO LATE TO REGISTER

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 604** Aubert This bill will allow for parishes to dispose of surplus property by exchange with private persons.
The bill passed without objection out of the House Municipal & Parochial Affairs Committee and has been placed on the House Consent calendar, which is reserved for noncontroversial matters.
- HB 657** Danahay This bill will clarify what funds are governed by the Parish Transportation Fund rules.
The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Transportation Committee on Tuesday, May 26th.
- 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 passed the Civil Law Committee and is awaiting action on the House Floor. It will require a 2/3 vote, so you need to contact you legislator on this matter.
- 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 passed out of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee this week. It did pick up an amendment to

address an issue involving an ethics issue on the LA Technical Colleges Board. The Governor has approved of the amendment but we will watch the matter closely. If the amendment puts the bill in any jeopardy we will remove it and move our original measure forward.

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 passed the House floor with the needed 2/3 vote. An amendment to increase the proposed fee from 60¢ to 85¢ failed.

HB 823 Danahay

Exempts special service districts created by a parish with a police jury form of government from the requirements relating to the receipt of bids via high speed Internet access.

This bill, as filed, does not address the issue the author intended. It is anticipated that it will be amended to narrowly address the issue of the exemption for entities that do not have internet "available" to them. It is schedule to be heard in the House Transportation Committee on Tuesday

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

HB 745 - PEARSON CONTRACT AUDITORS

The bill failed in the House Ways & Means Committee

HB 745 by Rep. Pearson was intended to clarify the language of current law to affirm two existing Attorney General's Opinions regarding contract auditor contracts. The bill failed under heavy opposition by LABI. **The effect of the defeat, however, is that the contracts are still LEGAL, by virtue of the AGO #'s 99-298 and 09-0035B.**

RED LIGHT CAMERA BILLS BOTH FAIL IN COMMITTEE

HB 254 – LAMBERT & HB 480 – RICHMOND

HB 480 by Rep. Richmond from Orleans proposed to ban local governments from using red light cameras. HB 254 by Rep. Lambert from Ascension proposed to put the State in charge of permitting local red light cameras and directing 50% of the revenue from red light cameras on State highways to DOTD. Both bills were defeated in the House Transportation Committee this past week.

SALES TAX COLLECTION PROCEDURES

SB 268 - Donahue

SB 268 by Sen. Donahue proposes changes in certain sales tax collections procedures to improve the mechanism for taxpayers who contest an audit finding to put up security or a bond in stead of paying under protest. We are working with the Senator to ensure that the new rules adequately protect collectors. The bill was moved out of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee and will be amended on the Senate Floor once a final agreement is reached on the language for the new law.

HB 305 – REP. STIAES

HB 305 by Rep. Stiaes from Orleans proposed to require all changes or variances to a municipal or parish master plan be submitted to the voters. This would have made operating under a master plan or any form of zoning overly burdensome. In the face of heavy opposition from the PJAL, LMA and Realtors the bill was defeated in Committee.

UNIFORM BID FORM

SB 134 by Sen. Murray agreed to significant amendments to the proposal that were approved by the contractors and the PJAL. The amendments significantly rewrite the bill to merely reiterate what is current practice under the new uniform bid form. With those amendments the bill moved out of the Senate Committee, unopposed.

ANTI- METH BILL

HB 177 by Rep. Mills makes proposals to help in the fight against the methamphetamine problem. The bill furthers a NACo supported initiative. The bill passed the House Floor with strong PJAL support.

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FURTHER UPDATES – COMMITTEE SCHEDULES – BILL TRACKING LISTS**