



Police Jury Association

NEWS LETTER

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May 27, 2005

TO: Executive Board Members
Parish Presidents/Chairmen
Secretary Treasurers & Council Clerks
Parish Managers/Administrators
Region Presidents

FROM: Roland J. Dartez, Executive Director 

2005 REGULAR SESSION REPORT NO. 4

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TAX ON HOUSE FLOOR WEDNESDAY

HB 688 by Rep. Richmond came out of the House Ways and Means Committee on a vote of 15 yeas 1 nay. Now comes the more difficult task, passing the bill off of the House Floor. The bill provides for a 2% tax on all telecommunications service, both regular phone service and wireless (cellular) telephone service, applied statewide. Currently cities can require that local telephone companies pay franchise fees of 2-5% for use of local rights of way, but parishes do not have that full authority. Under HB 688 the cities will give up their franchise agreements in exchange for this new lower but broader tax. Because the tax will also apply to wireless phone service, it will generate more revenue than the current franchises.

Parishes, which are currently not getting any revenue from telecommunications service, will participate in the revenues, along with municipalities, on a per capita basis.

The estimated total revenue statewide is \$54 Million.

CONTACT YOUR DELEGATION AND URGE THEIR SUPPORT FOR HB 688

BUDGET NOTES: HB 1 - House restores FULL FUNDING for Urban and Rural Development Funds; HB 2 - House adopts Capital Outlay Budget, check for your local projects

COMING UP IN THE WEEK OF MAY 30th – JUNE 3rd

- HB 273 is a Constitutional Amendment by Rep. Arnold that proposes to limit millage roll-forwards to the Consumer Price Index even when property values increase at a higher rate. The bill will be on the House Floor, and, as a Constitutional Amendment, HB 273 will require a 2/3 vote (70 votes). Contact your delegation to urge them to **OPPOSE HB 273**
- SB 353 (the RR Crossing bill) is still being reworked. We are hopeful that the DOTD will agree to remove the Parish Transportation Fund threat from the bill. **URGE YOUR SENATOR TO STAND WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SUPPORT THE PJAL AND LMA PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.**
- HB 415 would repeal the January bond election date. It will be on the House Floor and we need your help to defeat this proposal. **URGE YOUR DELEGATION TO OPPOSE HB 415.**
- HB 210 will be in the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday. This bill will allow every parish to participate in the NACo US Communities Program. **URGE SUPPORT OF HB 210**
- HB 625 will resolve the IRS issues on witness fees and JP's and Constables. It is up for final passage on the Senate Floor. **URGE YOUR SENATOR TO SUPPORT HB 625.**
- SB 98 mandates collective bargaining with public employee unions and is on the Senate Floor. **URGE YOUR SENATOR TO OPPOSE SB 98.**

THE WEEK IN REVIEW – May 23rd – 27th

- **SB's 96 & 108** - These bills both provide changes to the notice requirements for increased assessments (SB 96) and additional notice of meetings to consider millage roll-forward (SB 108). They passed the Senate with amendments to make them less burdensome and costly on local government. Many Assessors were already providing the increased notices on assessments and the new meeting notices will not cost local government.
- **AD VALOREM BILLS** – Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs agreed to convert the remainder of the bills aimed at limiting assessments and millage roll-forwards to a study for the interim.
- **HB 258** - The bill is headed to the Gov. for her signature. **THANKS, TO ALL WHO HELPED PASS THIS BILL!**
- **SB 4** – The bill providing for an exception to allow "Parish" in a non-profit corporate name passed through the Senate. We have informed the author that our Ex. Board has decided to let our members vote, at our 2006 Annual Convention, on whether to change our name.
- **SB 98** – This bill requires recognition of public employee unions. It passed Senate committee on a narrow 3-2 vote, but we can stop it on the Senate Floor with your help.

SECRETARY TREASURERS/COUNCIL CLERKS. PLEASE MAKE AND DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF THIS REPORT TO YOUR JURORS, COUNCILMEN AND OTHER OFFICIALS