



# WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A Publication for all City Officials

**NOTE: Please copy and distribute to all interested city officials or department heads. File each week's copy because updates will contain only those bills introduced during the week.**

## 2008 Legislative Session Begins

### Changes Proposed for Home Rule Pilot Program

Day of Session:	10
Days Remaining:	50
Municipal Bills:	227
Total Bills Introduced:	967

We wish to thank everyone who attended the Legislative Conference. It is very important to have membership input and support, not only in formulating our legislative agenda, but throughout the legislative session.

On Wednesday, **HB 4060** was introduced and taken up that afternoon in House Political Subdivisions. The bill would extend the deadline for submission of the written plan for participation in the pilot program for increased powers for municipal self government. Concerns have been voiced about opening up the program to changes because special interest groups might possibly try to kill it altogether. The deadline for submitting home rule plans to a state panel that will choose which cities get to participate was Jan. 1st. Huntington, Charleston, Wheeling and Bridgeport were the only cities to submit plans. The state panel will review the plans and choose the participants by June 1st. Under the legislation introduced Wednesday in the House, and later amended by the House Political Subdivisions Committee, the deadline for submitting home rule plans would be extended to July 1st, while the state panel would have until Dec. 1st to choose the cities that will participate in the program. The bill is now before House Judiciary Committee.

#### BILLS MOVING

**HB 4001** - provides certain county commissions with authority to regulate the location of businesses selling sexually-oriented materials.

**HB 4028** - authorizes counties and municipalities to enter into contracts for energy savings.

**HB 2711** - provides that fire officers may use adjacent property to prevent fire from spreading.

Each of the bills is before House Judiciary Committee.

There were approximately 600 carry over bills from 2007 introduced on the first day of the session. So if you had any concerns for legislation introduced last year, you may wish to review the attached bill list to see if they are enjoying a second life this session. Some are previewed below.

#### BILLS OF INTEREST

**SB 168** - relates to municipality land annexation without election. The bill is before Senate Judiciary.

**SB 119** - authorizes Public Service Commission to order acquisition of failed water and sewer utilities. The bill is before Senate Transportation and Infrastructure. (*See also HB 3210*)

**SB 73** - requires defendants to pay certain costs of incarceration. The bill is before Senate Judiciary.

**HB 3170** - relates to noncivil service employment protection for chiefs of police. The bill is before House Judiciary.

**HB 3133** - relates to annexation of unincorporated territory. The bill is before House Political Subdivisions.

**HB 2925** - changing the way that the cost of incarcerating inmates in regional jails is collected. The bill is before House Judiciary.

**HB 2889** - provides arresting agency shall pay cost for the initial twenty-four hours of incarceration. The bill is before House Judiciary.

**HB 2811** - provides meeting and conference rights for members of municipal police and fire departments. The bill is before House Political Subdivisions.

**HB 2471** - creates a presumption of compensability for cardiovascular injury or disease or pulmonary disease suffered by a professional firefighter; is before House Judiciary.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Preview of Bills  
List of Municipal Bills  
General Info about the 2008 Session

Page 1  
Pages 2-17  
Mailer Page

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A publication of the West Virginia Municipal League  
2020 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25311

Tel.: 1-800-344-7702      E-Mail: [wvml@wvml.org](mailto:wvml@wvml.org)  
      or 304-342-5564      Web site: [www.wvml.org](http://www.wvml.org)  
Fax: 304-342-5586

***If you are planning to visit at the Capitol, please let us know and we will prepare name badges for you along with copies of information you may need for the day. This will also allow us to plan for parking.***

**Mayor Jesse Corley**, President  
**Lisa Dooley**, Executive Director

The *Weekly Legislative Report* is published during the West Virginia legislative session to update members of the West Virginia Municipal League on legislative activities important to municipalities. The publication goes out to members at the end of each week during the session.

The most important thing local officials need to do during the 2008 West Virginia legislative session is keep well informed. As the session begins, WVML staff focus once again on lobbying efforts. However, our influence is the direct result of your efforts to make your voice heard by your legislators. That's why every city and town needs to plan an active, consistent and continuing role in WVML's legislative effort. Keep us informed by sending us a copy of your letters or e-mails to your legislator. If you receive a response from a legislator, let us know that also. WVML staff incorporate your arguments and circumstances into their testimony. We cite your letters when we talk with legislators. **If you wish to receive any of our Legislative Alerts by e-mail please notify the League office so that we can include your address in our files.**

While we urge you to read the *Weekly Legislative Report*, you can get up to date information on any bill through the League's home page via the Internet. Hearing schedules, bill text, bill status, daily summaries, and a variety of other tidbits are available with a few mouse clicks! Go to the League's website [www.wvml.org](http://www.wvml.org) and click on links of interest and select *WV Legislature*.

West Virginia Municipal League  
2020 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25311

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 1041  
Chas. WV 25311