



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A Publication for all City Officials

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Day of Session: | 37 |
| Days Remaining: | 23 |
| Municipal Bills: | 480 |
| Total Bills Introduced: | 1,879 |

February 18th Last Day to Introduce Bills

SB 571 was before Senate Judiciary this week. The purpose of this bill is to create a rebuttable presumption for workers comp of compensability for cardiovascular injury or disease of professional firefighters employed by municipal fire departments. Questions concerning the bill resulted in it being layed over for a later committee meeting. Brickstreet indicates no increase in workers comp premiums would result from this bill. The Insurance Commissioner has been asked to investigate.

SB 616 is before Senate Government Organization Committee on Monday, February 18 and will certainly move out to Senate Finance unless you voice your opposition to the bill and askd for amendments quickly. The bill relates to the establishment of accredited convention and visitor bureaus; local government funding prohibitions and standards for mandatory accreditation. The League has joined with the County Association in opposition to SB 616 and quick action is needed.

While the League does not oppose accreditation, as the bill is written, it actually preempts current local government funding discretion and may allow CVB's to bypass local government and our current authority.

Municipalities or counties who do not have full time staff for CVBs will not be allowed to fund these CVBs if this bill passes. There are no criteria or parameters as to how the accreditation will be awarded. and a non-elected board decides who receives the accreditation. There are no parameters established as to how the accreditation will be awarded. The League and city officials took the heat to get the hotel/motel tax increase, Councils take the heat for increasing the tax, and now the CVB association wants to limit your discretion in funding.

In Committee, the League tried to offer an amendment to allow the accreditation process, but to leave your current funding authority in place. The CVB Association opposed the amendment. Contact these members and ask them to support the League amendment.

This is the link to the bill in its entirety, http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Text_HTML/2008_SESSIONS/RS/BILLS/sb616%20intr.htm

Senate Government Organization Committee Members are:

Senator Bowman - Chair
 Senator Bailey - Vice-Chair
 Senator Yoder
 Senator Foster
 Senator Jenkins
 Senator Plymale
 Senator Kessler

Senator Stollings
 Senator McCabe
 Senator White
 Senator Minard
 Senator Barnes
 Senator Boley
 Senator Sypolt

SB 535 was before Senate Judiciary this week and would make the interlock program available to first time offenders while also increasing incentives for participation in the program. The bill would allow magistrates to allow the jail time in prison to count as penalty; remove the mandatory 24 hours for 1st offense; penalties would be from .08 to .15 license suspension 15 days, 120 days interlock; for .15 or greater, license suspension 45 days and interlock 270 days. The bill now moves to Senate Finance.

SB 579 would authorize the appointment of additional members of Bluefield's sanitary board who are nonresidents, as the sanitary sewer system serving the community borders another state and sanitary sewer system serving that community is located in the other state. The bill passed Senate Government Organization this week and now moves to Senate Finance.

SB 667 was introduced Thursday and relates to policemen's and firemen's pensions and relief funds. The bill is referenced to Senate Pensions and Finance and is expected to be taken up in the next few days. While the League worked on the committee, we are depending on members to assist in reviewing the legislation.

HB 4526 was introduced Thursday and requires municipalities that impose user fees to impose the fee on all users who reside within the municipality and allows for exemptions and prohibits municipalities from imposing user fees on certain persons who reside outside the municipality. The bill is before House Judiciary. We are opposing the legislation and asking for its defeat.

HB 4333 requires insurance companies to withhold an specified amount from proceeds to covers costs of fire cleaup of a structure within a municipality. The bill is before the House Banking and Insurance Committee.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Preview of Bills
 List of Municipal Bills for the week of 2/11 and Priority Bill Listing
 General Info about the 2008 Session

Page 1
 Pages 2-11
 Mailer Page