



**LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

Published bi-weekly during the Missouri Legislative Session by the

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI**

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**Volume XXXVI Issue 3**

**February 24, 2006**

**You need to take action:**

23-06 Revised Legislative Report on Energy from Win Colwill

**ACTION ALERT: STRENGTHEN WEAK RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL**

SCS SB 915 (Koster) could come up for Senate debate next Monday, Feb. 27.

This bill calls for investor-owned electric utilities to make a “good faith effort” to utilize renewable energy sources for part of their power supplies. The voluntary goals increase from 3% by 2012 to 10% by 2020. Beginning in 2009 utilities would report biannually on their progress to the Public Service Commission; the PSC could then make recommendations, if needed, to the legislature.

The LWVMO and others who support Renewable Energy Standard legislation agree that without mandatory standards renewable energy development will continue to lag behind other states. Mandatory standards reduce risk by assuring developers/producers there will be a market for the energy they produce.

**CALL YOUR SENATOR THIS WEEKEND!**

The Message:

\* Please support Senator Graham’s amendment to make the renewable energy targets in SB 915 mandatory.

\* Mandatory standards for electric utilities are the key to early development of Missouri’s wind, solar and biomass resources. 21 other

states are already realizing the economic boost from adopting mandatory renewable electricity standards.

\* Missouri should seize this opportunity to enact an effective bill that will stimulate new industries, increase energy security, and strengthen our rural communities.

\* Please help strengthen SB 915 by voting for Senator Graham’s amendment to make the renewable targets mandatory.

[Note: Thank Senators Graham, Dougherty, Bray, and Green for their support.]

SB 843 (Graham) Renewable Energy Standard bill supported by LWVMO is not expected to receive a hearing.

HB 1384 (Lowe) Same as SB 843. In Comm. Special Energy & Environment No hearing scheduled yet.

**PLEASE REPORT TO WIN COLWILL**

[jmcwsc2@direcway.com](mailto:jmcwsc2@direcway.com) what you found out.

## **Legislative Day March 7 from 9 -2 at the Capitol in Jeff City in House Hearing Room 2**

Here's the agenda for the day:

**9 AM** - Sen. Shields, Chr. Medicaid Reform Commission, will discuss the Commission's Report- Timeline for Reform-- Top Ten Executables and Short Term Implementation (less than 2 years) You will have a summary in your Leg. Day packet.

Also Sen Shields will discuss his current bills to augment Medicaid shortfalls from SB539.

**9:15**- Sen. Rita Days will discuss SB894 to permit advance voting. She has been asked to explain efforts to assure the security of the voted advance or absentee ballots. (A real concern of the Audrain County Clerk.)

**9:30**- Sen Griesheimer will fill us in on SB832, the TIF bill which seems to be making the most progress.

**9:45**- Rep Brian Baker will explain HB1275 creating the virtual school or MVP which passed out of committee 8-0 and is now in the Rules Committee. These will also be a special Leg. Bulletin March 3 with information on each of these in order for you to have background information before you get to Leg. Day.

Sessions begin at 10:00 a.m., and we will have time to organize and plan. (There will be coffee and goodies available, and you are encouraged to invite your representatives and senators down anytime in from 9 to 10 to visit, if/when they are not in committee meetings).

If you find at the last minute you are able to attend, you can "pay at the door" and get your packet.

## **DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

### **Mental Health and Health- Lael Von Holt, Director**

SB617(Koster) and SB621(Green) both require cost benefit analysis study prior to closing or downsizing mental health facilities and were both heard 2/22 in the Aging, Families, Mental & Public Health Committee. League supports

these bills and the rationale was given in Leg. Bulletin 2.

SB648 (Champion) replaces term "lunatic asylum" with "mental health facility". S Consent Calendar 2/23. League support in LB2.

SB1049(Shields) protects benefits for disabled employees. Referred to S Pensions, Veteran's Affairs and General Laws Committee 2-21-06. This bill is very similar to HB 1068 (Portwood) (discussed in LB2) which has not been assigned to committee as yet. League supports both these bills.

### **Children – Laura Pitts, Director**

I was able to spend the day at the Capitol this week for another organization, and as we share some of the same priorities was able to share some of League's goals as well with several legislators. Discussed were the safety of our children, affordable health care including those who need Medicaid, and full funding for our public schools. The legislators, both Senators and Representatives, were very receptive and invited us into their offices, listened to our agendas and asked our opinions on a variety of other topics. It was a very positive experience; and I would recommend that you visit, especially your local officials, if you have not done so in the past. Let them know what issues are important to you.

SB588(Bartle) Bill to modify laws regarding sexual offences is scheduled for Perfection on the Senate Informal Calendar 2/27/06. This bill includes SCSSB588,557,563,869,764,753, 783 and 890. Penalties are increased for those convicted of first degree offenses. The minimum sentence is increased to 25 years if the child is under the age of 12. Suspended sentences are eliminated. Child kidnapping is added to the dangerous felony list. Use of the internet to lure victims is added.

Life-time supervision and electronic monitoring required after sentence is served with more power given to supervise offenders activities. Expanded the sexual misconduct with a student

crime to include any school employee or volunteer, person under contract with the school, on school property or property (buses) used by the public school district. Adds sexual contact with a resident of a nursing home to the penalties. Adds expedition of subpoenas of foreign corporations in tracking offenders. We support this bill.

Scott's bill SB687 which provides for vision examinations for kindergarten or first grade students had a committee hearing 2/08/06. No action since. We supported similar bills in the past.

Champion's bill SB690, prohibits closing an abuse investigation if the child dies before the investigation is completed, is scheduled for perfection 2/27/06.

Koster's bill SB916 requiring children to be restrained by a child passenger restraint system, booster seat, or safety belt depending on the child's age, weight or height, is scheduled for Perfection 2/27/06. This act is substantially similar to HB1165(2006),SS/SCS/HB518 (2005),SS/SB 221 et al (2005) plus 2001,2002, 2003 and 2004 bills. We supported these in the past.

### **Taxes: Elaine Blodgett, Director**

TABOR, Tax Payers Bill of Rights. HJR48, the appropriations limit bill, has been filed but no hearings are scheduled as of yet. HOWEVER, be warned and get active.

A TABOR Petition has been filed with the Secretary of State's Office. It is called *Constitutional Amendment to Add a New Article XIV – Pertaining to Finance and Spending*. Now, more than ever, we need to generate opposition to this movement.

The group filing the petition calls itself "Missourians in Charge". This petition at first

glance looks like HJR48. Missourians in Charge are also responsible for filing an Eminent Domain petition. It's likely that they will attempt to collect signatures for both petitions simultaneously. People may be easily swayed by the eminent domain and not understand that they are signing another petition that would create the TABOR limit in MO.

Be aware of the petition and refer to the legislative bulletin for Feb 10 for speaking points.

TIF SB 832. Modifies Missouri's tax increment financing law. Sponsor: Griesheimer. The bill contains a fiscal note. Committee: Economic Development, Tourism & Local Government. Last Action: 2/22/2006 - Senate Informal Calendar, S Bills for Perfection. This particular bill seems to be moving through the process, others do not seem to be at this moment. It also deals with the reform of TIF and clearly defining and delineating the term 'blight' when used in connection with Tax Increment Financing. Our goal is to use TIF for its original purpose: to help rebuild devastated or blighted business districts in cities and towns in Missouri.

### **Elections/Ethics Legislation: Nancy Copenhaver, Director**

What's Moving and What's Not: Hopefully you have access to Issue 2 of the Legislative Bulletin which refers to these bills in more detail. The House is still moving very slowly, with many bills just being assigned to committee and little committee action yet, but the Senate is moving forward.

#### The Not So Good

SB 730 (Crowell) has been combined with SB 730 and SB 1014 into **SCS/SB 1014 & 730** and is probably the most worrisome piece of legislation which is moving. Even LWV national president has spoken out against this legislation due to its tendencies to restrict

accessibility to voting. I testified in committee for LWVMO but it was voted out and is on the Senate Informal Calendar for Perfection as of 2/27/06. **Now would be the time to contact your state senator with your concerns (see Issue #2).**

#### The Good

SB 689 (Scott) is on the Senate Calendar for Perfection

SB 726 (Bray) has been heard in committee  
**SB 859** (Days) has been heard in committee. It is the advanced voting bill, LWVMO testified in support in committee, but it is probably not going anywhere as it is supported by the Secretary of State and has not received the support of the Governor.

SJR 33 (Graham) has been heard in committee  
HB 1194 (Cunningham) heard in committee

**HB 1355** (Johnson) heard in committee. This is the House version of advanced voting which LWVMO supports but was unable to attend the hearing to testify. See above.

**Contacts supporting these two advanced voting bills would be appropriate now.**

#### Watching

SB 887 (Green) heard in committee

SJR 27 (Crowell) do pass in committee

#### **Legislative Day March 7 House Hearing Room 2 9-am-2pm.**

Do you have your reservation in?

Very interesting and informative.

Call the LWVMO office at 314-961-6869 or email [lwvmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmo@yahoo.com) for your reservation. Cost is \$10 to cover the Legislative Day packet. If you decide to attend and have not made a reservation, please meet at the House Hearing Room 2 that day and payment may be made at that time.

Comments to: Laura Worstell, Editor,  
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[www.moga.mo.gov](http://www.moga.mo.gov) will get you access to the Missouri Legislature. Click on bills filed.

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