

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol



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POLE ATTACHMENT BILL LIMPS OUT OF COMMITTEE

Last week, the [House Utilities](#) Committee struggled to vote [HB 656](#) out of committee. The measure passed 7-6, with legislators tracking down a committee member to get the passing vote. This pole attachment and right-of-way bill eliminates local control in rates, zoning, and maintenance efforts regarding so-called “small cell” wireless antennas and accessory equipment. Ten pages of a committee substitute were distributed on the day of the vote. The majority of changes appeased the cable industry, but one major concession was afforded municipal utilities in that a contract was required to be on municipal utility poles. Committee discussion centered on fees, and whether the bill provided the appropriate mechanism for pricing. After the meeting, the sponsor indicated there was much work to do to reach compromise before he would bring it to the floor for debate. No action is expected this week on [SB 354](#) in the [Senate Commerce and Energy](#) Committee.

This week appears to be a slow week for utility issues in the statehouse. No hearings are scheduled by the [House Utilities](#) Committee and the [Senate](#)

[Commerce and Energy](#) Committee is hearing only one bill of interest relating to a comprehensive state energy plan ([HB 661](#)). This bill has passed the House and this Senate hearing will take public testimony on the measure. The bill requires a review of the plan by 2019 with biannual reviews thereafter. This is a noncontroversial bill.

The Senate focus this week will be debate on public employee paycheck protection ([SB 21](#) – [Brown](#)). This bill would require public employees’ annual permission before union dues could be taken from their paychecks. The House will be working on consent bills this week.

The Missouri Energy Council, a group of electric and gas lobbyists, will be meeting this week with DNR Director Carol Comer, an environmental lawyer that was the former environmental agency director in Indiana under VP Mike Pence. MPUA’s discussion point will be on maintaining flexibility on excess emissions during startups, shutdowns and malfunctions without penalty.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

- [Ohio city seeks right-of-way controls in light of 'small cell' tower rollout](#) - News-Herald
- [Bills limiting broadband move forward in MO. and Tenn. legislatures](#) - Daily Yonder
- [Prevailing wage a hot topic](#) - Daily Dunklin Democrat
- [New community college network seeks to build skilled workforce](#) - The Missouri Times

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Senator Gary Romine
R - District 3



Elected to Senate:
2012

Committees:
Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment; Local Government and Elections; Vice-Chair Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety

Lives In: Farmington

MPUA Cities: Farmington

Tidbit:
Senator Romine is the CEO and President of a rent-to-own business.

BILL BYTES: A quick look at bills being tracked by MPUA

[HB 656](#)

[Rhoads](#)

Changes the law regarding the uniform wireless communication infrastructure deployment act.

[HB 925](#)

[McCaherty, John\(R\)](#)

Establishes the Manufactured Home and Mobile Home Residency Law.

[HB 247](#)

[Alferman, Justin\(R\)](#)

Establishes procedures to the sale of municipally-owned water or sewer systems.

[SB 186](#)

[Emery, Ed\(R\)](#)

Modifies authority of local govts to offer communication services.

[SB 542](#)

[Schatz, Dave\(R\)](#)

Modifies the civil penalty for violating certain underground facility safety standards.

LINKS

[Find Your Legislator](#)
[House Session Dates](#)
[Senate Session Dates](#)
[MPUA Website](#)

MPUA CALENDAR

April 11 | 10 am
MAMU Legislative Committee Mtg
Gov. Office Bldg 316

May 9 | 10 am
MAMU Legislative Committee Mtg
Gov. Office Bldg 315

TRAINING

Spring Tech 2017
March 15– Rolla
March 16 - Fulton
[MORE INFO](#)

Supervisory Leadership Certification Program
April 20-21
West Plains, MO
[MORE INFO](#)



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