

# The **Association** report

## from the **Capitol**

February 12, 2009

Legislation designed to encourage participation in the state's deferred compensation program has been introduced in the Missouri House. Under provisions proposed in HB597, any state employee hired after Sept. 1, 2009 would be automatically enrolled in the deferred comp plan.

The Association's top priority last year was to convince legislators to raise the state's contribution closer to the statutory maximum of \$75 a month. We were successful in getting the state match to move from \$25 to \$35 a month. During those considerable negotiations, the deferred comp program received more attention than it had in several years. One aspect noted in the discussions was that employee participation is disappointingly low in some departments.

Officials were looking for methods to get the participation numbers up. At that time, some legislators speculated that perhaps a significant number of employees are just not aware of the deferred comp plan and its benefits. While HB597 would help familiarize new employees with the plan by automatic enrollment, the bill also allows them to "opt out" at any time.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Mark Bruns of Jefferson City. It has not yet been assigned to a committee.

Proposals which would eliminate the use of overtime pay when calculating a retirement annuity for state employees are still pending. SB150, sponsored by Sen. John Griesheimer, was referred Jan. 22nd to the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs and Pensions. No hearing has been scheduled. HB347 has not been referred to a house committee.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist  
Missouri Highway and Transportation Employees' Association**