

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

April 29, 2011

On occasion our Association members are asked to contact legislators with recommendations on specific issues being considered by the General Assembly. That was the case recently in regard to HB466 and SB202 which threaten the well-being of the Association.

Both bills deal with payroll deduction for state employee associations as well as public and private labor organizations. SB202 proposed to completely eliminate payroll deduction for associations such as ours. A number of observers familiar with these issues insist that such a change would have the ultimate affect of weakening and eventually destroying employee organizations. Negotiations on the subject continued last week and were not especially promising when a favorable amendment to modify HB466 was not allowed to be offered during debate on the bill.

However your phone calls and emails apparently had the desired effect. On Tuesday (April 26) a house committee substitute for SB202 emerged that contains a provision which exempts public employee associations from the bill. This provision contains the language we attempted unsuccessfully to amend to HB466. We have since been told that HB466 is "flawed" and will move no further. We will continue to monitor the progress of the committee substitute for SB202 which has been referred to the House Rules Committee.

In other areas of interest, HB305, the retirement incentive bill, remains on the "House Bills for 3rd Reading" calendar. An unfinished emergency clause has resulted in it being delayed from moving to the senate. This regular session of the legislature is scheduled to adjourn for the year at 6 p.m. on May 13th. Quite a bit of unfinished business remains including the budget for the coming fiscal year.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
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