

Legislative Bulletin



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END OF SESSION REPORT

The final bell for the 2014 Legislative Session has finally rung and this year there is truly reason to be excited. After years of chasing new money for MoDOT, this session Missouri Trucking Association (MoTA) with assistance from many in the transportation community helped pass a bill that, if enacted by the voters of Missouri, could raise over 5 billion dollars over a 10 year period.

HJR 68 sponsored by Rep. Dave Hinson in the House and carried by Sen. Mike Kehoe in the Senate went through many ups and downs on its way to passage. The last vote on Wednesday, May 15, the House passed a pared down version $\frac{3}{4}$ cent of the original 1 cent sales tax with 105 yes votes out of 163 members. A lot of “inside baseball” stuff occurred to get this measure passed, but as you can see, it was a pretty impressive number. Sen. Kehoe has discussed the “fragile coalition” that has helped shepherd this to the finish line. It was reduced in the Senate to make sure there was no one who would stand up and not allow the bill to get a vote which is how it died last year.

Now the hard part begins, as the “fragile coalition” of supporters now has to find someone with the right expertise to run this very labor-intensive endeavor of a statewide ballot initiative. This will be very important to the success of our campaign. In addition to this selection, the trucking community will have to also support this financially so be ready for a visit or phone call very soon.

MoTA had another very successful session on other issues of concern to the trucking industry. Assisting in passage of the major tax reforms and the defeat of many other issues that you have told us over the years you are not in favor.

Every year MoTA works really hard to provide the best legislative lobbying efforts and again this year we have done so, but this year there will be more to do. MoTA, along with others in the transportation community, will have to provide resources both intellectual and financial to make sure the sales tax increase has a real chance of passing. If you have any questions about this or any of the other legislation, don't hesitate to call and ask Tom Crawford or Ross Nichols. Thanks for your continued support and please be thinking about how you can help pass the sales tax increase.
