

Police Jury Association

NEWS LETTER

707 NORTH 7TH STREET • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802-5327 • (225) 343-2835 • FAX (225) 343-0050 OR 336-1344
www.lpgov.org • TOLL FREE (888) 551-2835

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2009 REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT #1

PJAL PACKAGE

The PJAL has 7 bills in its Legislative Package for the 2009 Regular Session.

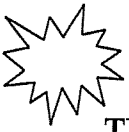
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| HB 88 | McVea | Allows police jurors to be employed in the government of the U.S. This bill was brought to enable police jurors to work with the US Census Bureau in the upcoming census. |
| HB 353 | Monica | Increases the contract limit for public works projects from \$100K to \$250K. This bill was brought because the current contract limit is not adequate to meet the needs of parishes.
<i>SET TO BE HEARD IN HOUSE TRANSPORTATION ON MONDAY, MAY 4th, 9:00AM</i> |
| HB 604 | Aubert | Provides for the exchange of surplus property of a police jury for needed property owned by a private person, if all parties agree. Municipalities can already do such exchanges. |
| HB 657 | Danahay | Clarifies that the special rules set forth in the law for the use of Parish Transportation Fund money only apply to PTF money and not to all parish funds spent on road projects. |
| HB 765 | Gallot | Constitutional amendment decreasing the allocation to the state of revenues from the general severance tax on oil and natural gas production, resulting in more of that money going to the parishes where the oil and natural gas are produced. |
| HB 782 | Ellington | Provides additional service charge on wireless telecommunications services. This bill was brought to make sure that prepaid wireless providers were paying their fair share of the costs of operating 911. |
| HB 823 | Danahay | Exempts special service districts created by a parish with a police jury form of government from the requirements relating to the receipt of bids via high speed Internet access. This bill is anticipated to be amended significantly based upon an agreement between the author and the legislator that authored the current law. |

The PJAL is currently tracking almost 200 bills that may impact parish government, from attempts to repeal or limit millage roll-forward authority to the imposition of sales and use tax exemptions. Stay in touch with our office by reviewing Legislative Alerts and checking www.lpgov.org on a daily basis. Please help us better serve the best interests of parish government by making personal contact with your legislators on the bills in our package and on the bills that we are opposing.

OTHER ISSUES OF MAJOR INTEREST

Millage Roll Forward - OPPOSE

There are a number of bills to repeal or limit the ability of local governments from rolling forward millage rates. In effect these bills assert that the members of the police juries and parish councils around the state need to have their authority in this area limited or stripped away. Keeping this local decision in the hands of the local elected officials will only happen if you get a commitment from your legislator to oppose these bills.



THESE BILLS ARE IN SCHEDULED FOR WAYS & MEANS COMM. ON MONDAY

HB 37	Arnold	Constitutional amendment limiting increases in ad valorem tax millages after reappraisal.
HB 83	Burns, Tim	Provides for additional public notice requirements related to proposed increases in millage rates without voter approval.
HB 226	Richard	Constitutional amendment requiring a lapse of twelve months' time before an ad valorem millage may be rolled forward by a taxing authority after reassessment or a change in the homestead exemption.
HB 260	Henry	Constitutional amendment removing the authority of a taxing authority to roll forward ad valorem tax millage rates after reappraisal.
HB 375	Arnold	Constitutional Amendment to limit a taxing authority's power to "roll forward" millages without voter approval to an annual increase in rate which would increase revenue collections by no more than 2.5%.
HB 377	Arnold	Limits a taxing authority's power to "roll forward" millages without voter approval to an annual increase in rate which would increase revenues by no more than 2.5% over the collections for the year preceding the increase in millage rate.
HB 380	Cromer	Adds requirements for public notice of millage "roll forwards" which are not subject to voter approval.
HB 471	Downs	Constitutional Amendment which requires voter approval of increases in ad valorem tax millages which were adjusted due to reappraisal or a change in the homestead exemption.
HB 472	Downs	Requires voter approval of increases in ad valorem tax millages which were adjusted due to reappraisal or an increase or decrease in the homestead exemption.
HB 493	Henry	Repeals the authority of a taxing authority to roll forward ad valorem tax millages after reappraisal.
SB 37	Donahue	Constitutional amendment which limits a taxing authority's power to "roll forward" millages without voter approval to annual increases in the millage rate which do not increase taxes by an amount which exceeds 2.5% of collections for one year.
SB 46	Alario	Constitutional amendment to delete the authority of taxing authorities to roll forward ad valorem tax millage rates after a reappraisal.
SB 98	Quinn	Constitutional amendment to prohibit the "rolling forward" of property tax millages by taxing authorities without approval of the electorate in an amount which would cause tax collections to exceed the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.

HB 105 by Rep. Abramson and HB 632 by Rep. Tim Burns are also of interest. Each proposes, in slightly different ways, to require that unelected taxing bodies, such as special districts, get the approval of the police jury or other elected body before the unelected taxing body could roll forward millage rates. Please contact the PJAL to let us know your thoughts on this concept.

Would you want the responsibility over the roll forward of special district millage rates?

Limits on Reassessment

There are 4 bills to limit the process of reassessment of property, the effect of which will be to reduce property taxes due on those properties. One Assessor opined that if these proposals become law, Louisiana will no longer need Assessors. **URGE YOUR LEGISLATOR TO OPPOSE THESE BILLS**

HB 79	Ligi	Constitutional Amendment which limits increase in the assessed value of property after reappraisal under certain circumstances.
HB 676	Smith, Gary	Constitutional amendment providing for a limitation on the increase in assessed value of property pursuant to a reappraisal.
SB 17	Alario	Constitutional Amendment to limit the increase in the assessed value of real or immovable property upon reappraisal to the increase in the CPI except in certain circumstances.
SB 36	Amedee	Constitutional amendment to provide that no assessor shall increase the value of any property upon reappraisal more than one hundred percent of the prior assessed valuation.

Sales and Use Tax Exemptions

There are almost 30 bills to grant exemptions to local sales & use taxes. We are urging each author to amend their bill to provide for local approval before an exemption to local taxes takes effect. This will leave the decision to you to decide if the exemption makes fiscal sense for your parish. Urge your legislators to insist on a **LOCAL OPTION** provision in all local sales & use tax exemption bills.

CHECK WWW.LPGOV.ORG FOR FURTHER UPDATES – COMMITTEE SCHEDULES – BILL TRACKING LISTS