



## Police Jury Association

# NEWS LETTER

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### 2009 REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT #6

#### PJAL PACKGE UPDATE

- HB 88** McVea Allows any part-time elected official, such as a police juror, 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.  
**It has passed the House and is pending in the Senate & Governmental Affairs Committee**
- HB 353** Monica Increases the contract limit for public works projects from \$100K to \$150K. This bill was brought because the current contract limit is not adequate to meet the needs of parishes. The increase to \$150K was a compromise with the contractor associations and LABI and the bill has consensus support. **It is pending consideration on the Senate Floor.**
- 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.  
**It was passed by the Senate Local & Municipal Affairs Committee this week and is pending consideration on the Senate Floor.**
- 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.  
**The bill was passed by the House and is pending before the Senate Transportation Committee.**
- 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.  
The bill passed the House Floor without objection and 43 co-authors were added. **It is now pending before the Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Committee.**
- HB 777** Champagne Clarifies that appointments to certain boards and commissions and appointments to fill vacancies in elective offices are not prohibited "other transactions" under the Ethics Code. The Senate Committee did add an amendment to address an Ethics issue pertaining to the LA Community and Technical College Board. **The bill is awaiting action by the Senate Floor.**
- 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.  
**The bill passed the House and is pending before the Senate Commerce Committee.**
- HB 823** Danahay Provides that special service districts that do not have high speed internet service are exempt from the requirements relating to the receipt of bids via high speed internet.  
**The bill has passed the House Floor and is pending in the Senate Commerce Committee.**

## ISSUES OF MAJOR INTEREST

### Millage Roll Forward

The PJAL has come to an agreement with Rep. Greg Cromer on his **HB 380** which will make some modest changes to the notice provisions for roll-forward meetings. Much of what the bill will mandate is already common practice. The bill is pending consideration by the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee.

**HB 83** by Rep. Tim Burns repeats much of the language of **HB 380** was passed by the House Floor this week and is pending consideration in the Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Committee. **HB 83**, however, also includes some objectionable language requiring the parish to post budget information and proposals for future expenditures along with projections as to impact on “median” homes on the internet.

**We need your help to keep our compromise in place on HB 380 and defeat HB 83.**

**CONTACT THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND URGE THEM TO STAND WITH THE PJAL:**

**Chair – Marionneaux; Vice Chair – Adley; Dorsey; Dupre; Erdey; Gray-Evans; Kostelka; Long; Morrish; Riser; Shaw; Gautreaux**

**SB 37** by Sen. Jack Donahue is a proposed constitutional amendment. The author amended the bill in committee to make it only applicable to taxing bodies which are governed by a NON-ELECTED board. Therefore it has no direct affect on parish governments. When the matter was heard on the Senate Floor an amendment was adopted to exempt fire districts. Upon the adoption of this amendment, the author returned the bill to the Senate calendar and it may remain there for the remainder of the session.

**HB's 38 & 375** by Rep. Arnold were reported out of the House Ways & Means Committee this week. They are similar, as amended, to **SB 37**.

### **HB 644 by Talbot Derelict Property**

This bill will allow for fines and fees associated with derelict properties to be tacked-on to the property tax bill of the property, to make it easier to collect those monies from the owners of derelict properties. **The bill passed unanimously off of the House Floor this week.**

### **Sales Tax Issues**

**SB 268** by Donahue is a measure that is intended to clarify the options for a tax payer in the face of an assessment in response to an audit. It also seeks to change the law with regard to when tax payers would be required to pay a portion of the tax collector's attorney's fee when a collection matter went to litigation. Sen. Donahue has been working with us to craft a fair process. There is still some disagreement over the attorney's fee issue.

**Urge your House members to work with the PJAL on this bill.**

**HB's 819 and 882** by Rep. Greene both deal with an attempt to avoid an unintended consequence from the passage of Act 632 of 2008. That Act was meant to clarify long standing issues of law, but there is a fear it could be used to make previously non-taxable transactions subject to tax. **NO COLLECTOR HAS TAKEN SUCH A POSITION.** **HB 882** states the intent fairly and clearly. **HB 819**, being supported by the paper and chemical industries seeks to re-write the law just for manufacturers in a way that many local collectors think will cost local government significant lost sales tax revenue. The PJAL is not opposed to **HB 882**, but is strongly opposed to **HB 819** in its current form. **The bills are headed to Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs for consideration. URGE THE COMMITTEE TO REJECT HB 819.**

### **Bid Law Change – Materials and Supplies**

**SB 84** by Adley will increase the limit before purchases of materials and supplies would be required to be publicly bid from \$20,000 to \$30,000. The bill has compromise support from all sides and is scheduled to be heard in the House Appropriations Committee on Monday. **URGE THE SUPPORT OF SB 84**

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