



# 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

June 12, 2009

## 2009 REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT #7

### PJAL PACKAGE 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.  
**The bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate & Governmental Affairs Committee in the coming week.**
- 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.  
**Passed by the Senate and awaiting concurrence in the House.**
- 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.  
**Pending final 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.  
**It will be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee in the coming week.**
- 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. (SEE ADDITIONAL INFO ON NEXT PAGE)**
- 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 phone services. This bill was brought to make sure that prepaid wireless users were paying their fair share of the costs of operating 911. The bill was amended to make the charge 2% of the costs.  
**The bill passed the Senate Committee and is pending consideration on the Senate Floor.**
- 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 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee in the upcoming week.**

## ISSUES OF MAJOR INTEREST

### MINERAL SEVERANCE TAX

**SB 21** is the Senate version of **HB 765** to again put the question to the voters for a change in the distribution of mineral severance tax revenue. The amendments to **SB 21** have put a trigger into the proposal such that the extra monies would be distributed to parishes when the General Severance Tax collected exceeds the projected proceeds. This will ensure that the extra revenue to parishes will not impair the State Budget. We are continuing to work with both the Senate and House authors to resolve all differences and get the issue on the ballot.

### RED LIGHT CAMERAS

An attempt was made on the House Floor to amend an unrelated bill to create a prohibition against local governments using red-light cameras. Another amendment proposed to require that local governments hold an election before implementing red-light cameras. **BOTH AMENDMENTS WERE REJECTED!** Similar Legislation was defeated in the House Transportation Committee last month.

### SENATE REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN THE COMING WEEK

#### URGE THE MEMBERS TO STAND WITH THE PJAL:

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

### HB 819 & HB 882

**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 regarding component parts of immovable property, 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.**

We have worked with the parties in interest on **HB 882** and will be able to support that bill. The proponents of **HB 819** continue to insist on a special law for the manufacturing industry.

#### WE OPPOSE HB 819

Both **HB 882** and **HB 819** will be heard in the Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Committee on Monday.

#### PLEASE URGE YOUR SENATOR TO OPPOSE HB 819

### 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.**

**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 902 & 903**, by Rep. Arnold, are similar, to **SB 37**, but the differences are unacceptable to the PJAL. **We will OPPOSE HB's 902 & 903 in Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs!**

**CHECK [WWW.LPGOV.ORG](http://WWW.LPGOV.ORG) FOR  
FURTHER UPDATES – COMMITTEE SCHEDULES – BILL TRACKING LISTS**