

The Association report

from the Capitol

April 10, 2019

Legislation that would combine or merge the MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) with the general state employees' retirement systems (MOSERS) was heard in a senate committee on Wednesday (April 10.) The bill is SB499 and is sponsored by Senator Eric Burlison of Springfield.

The Senator's justification for the proposed merger, he said, is to reduce the duplication of operating costs – employees and buildings. Senator Burlison also mentioned that this could be a long-term solution to the problem with funding for roads and bridges in the state.

"We're in a place now where we need to find creative solutions to our state's problems," the senator said.

Not everyone at the committee hearing agreed with Burlison's proposal. Sen. Bill White of Joplin said he thought it would be unfair to the MOSERS system because it would be foisting additional unfunded liability on them. However a spokesman for the Missouri State Troopers Association pointed out that in recent years MPERS has been outperforming MOSERS in regard to rate of return on investments.

Mike Morris, representing the active state employees as well as retired state employees, also opposed the bill. No vote was taken on [SB499](#) at the committee hearing. With this year's regular session scheduled to end on Friday, May 17th, it is thought to be unlikely that this will make it to the governor's desk to become law.

Another bill of interest to the Association, [HB499](#) is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on Friday morning (April 11). This is legislation which would require the license to be revoked for a driver whose car strikes a highway worker.

From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
Transportation Employees' Association of Missouri