

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

February 26, 2015

A bill that would limit job opportunities for retired state employees was presented this week (2-24) in the Senate General Laws and Pensions Committee. SB238 Would prohibit a retired Missouri worker from receiving a state pension while he or she is working for a political subdivision. (A city, county or water district, for instance – public schools are an exception.)

The sponsor of SB238, Senator Paul LeVota of Independence, said he considers it “double-dipping” of tax payer money to accept state retirement benefits while working for another public entity.

Speaking for the Association, I opposed the bill. I reminded committee members it would be unfair to our workers, many of whom look forward to the day when they can retire from the state, draw their pension and work for a few years in their hometown or county.

Another opponent of Senator LeVota’s bill pointed out that retired military personnel who go to work for a city likely would not be accused of “double-dipping.”

A strong statement came from Gary Findlay, executive director of MOSERS. He said his board had taken no position on SB238 however it is an issue of a contract, “a benefit promised but a benefit removed. I think we would be sued and I believe we would lose.”

The committee took no action on the bill.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
Transportation Employees' Association of Missouri**