

# **TransThe Association report**

## **from the Capitol**

March 31, 2016

After an 11-day spring break, the state legislature has returned to the capitol with a number of issues to deal with before the end of the session on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The 2017 fiscal year budget remains high on the priority list. At this juncture, however, it appears the house and senate have agreed on a 2% pay raise for state employees.

Just before the annual break began, the house passed a bill designed to bring about more equity for state workers with regard to paid holidays. HB1422, By Rep. Nate Walker of Kirksville, says simply; "Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, any state employee who works 10-hour days and 40 hours per week shall not be required to take two hours of vacation leave for paid holidays."

This bill was given final approval by the house and sent to the senate on March 14. It passed by a 156 to 0. It has not yet been assigned to a senate committee.

While our Association has pressed for a reinstatement of a state contribution to the deferred compensation plan, it appears at this point that all available resources this year will be put into the state worker salary increase. The deferred comp issue, however, has not been abandoned. Rep. Mike Bernskoetter, a Jefferson City legislator, has introduced HB2592 which would raise the state's maximum contribution from \$75 to \$100 a month. This bill has not yet had a committee hearing.

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