

## MSFCA Legislative Update - April 7, 2009

### Clubhouse Turn

Theoretically we have turned the corner and are heading down the stretch as the legislature adjourns tonight for the Easter Break. They return next Tuesday and will have five weeks to "balance" the almost \$5 billion shortfall. The good news is they will adjourn on May 18th as the constitution requires it. The bad news is - don't plan too much for the rest of May!

Overall the fire service agenda is in pretty good shape; Office of the State Auditor Pension Issues, Volunteer State Plan, Licensure, and a couple of smaller issues have all made deadline and are in good shape. Those we opposed; International Residential Code Council, fireworks, reduction of (school) fire drills, and a couple of others which are not moving, nor likely to go anywhere.

The only initiative that looks doubtful is the donated equipment bill (limiting liability) which, for some reason, the Trial Lawyers are opposing with fervor and thus, it does not look good.

The focus will now turn in earnest to the budget. The Governors budget holds the Fire Safety Account harmless (no reductions) the house released its budget which includes a modest reduction of \$604,000 to fund the CAT (Chemical Assessment Team) teams, the senate budget will not be released until after the break so we will wait and see.

We are working on a state-wide mailing to go out next Tuesday/Wednesday that will have information on all the bills we are watching and an update on the budget in the Senate.

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