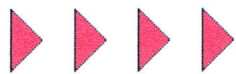


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Breaking News

(Updated 12:37 PM Thursday, September 5, 2013)

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We have had many inquiries asking why our M/C Pay Commission Act bill (A.246) has not been sent to the Governor yet. This is not unusual, as ours is just one of over 200 bills remaining to be sent. There's been a fair amount of conjecture, too, as to what the Governor will do once he receives the bill, but that's all it is, conjecture! Some have noted the Assembly rule requiring that bills passed after June 1, as ours was, must be sent to the Governor within 45 days. The rule states:

§ 9. Transmittal of bills to the Governor. All Assembly bills passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate for action shall, upon passage and return by the Senate to the Assembly, be transmitted by the Index Clerk to the Governor within ten legislative days after receipt from the Senate, except that any bill returned for transmittal to the Assembly after the first of May and before the first of June shall be transmitted to the Governor within thirty days of such receipt, and any bill returned for transmittal to the Assembly on or after the first of June shall be transmitted to the Governor within forty-five days of such receipt [Emphasis added].

While this all looks pretty straightforward, there is a wrinkle here – the Assembly rule's "forty-five days" are session days!

To explain: On every third day following the end of the Legislature's regular visits to Albany (that is, after June 21st), the Legislature is "gaveled" into session; **these are the session days that are counted** . . . not calendar days. This practice gives the Legislature the opportunity to return and hold sessions beyond its scheduled session days, without the need for a proclamation of an extraordinary session from the governor. So far (as of Sept 4, 2013), there have been 17 such session days since our bill was passed. Projecting the remaining 28 such session days forward, this means **they have until January 2, 2014 to comply with the rule**, which date is concurrent with the start of the 2nd half of the session.

* * * * *

We met with the Governor's Counsel's staff on Monday, August 19th and provided extensive background information and rationale for approval of our M/C Pay Commission bill (A.246). We also delivered your letters in support of the bill.

We still do not have a date for when the Assembly will send the bill to the Governor's Office.

In the meantime, keep emailing us your letters. Use the edit feature to personalize