



Legislative Report

ILLINOIS LAWMAKERS recently wrapped up a grueling schedule of several weeks of consideration of bills with the April 3 deadline for passage in the original house. Most of the more than 6,700 pieces of legislation introduced this year failed to survive the first cut. The good news for townships is that—at the halfway point this spring—all of our legislative priorities are very much alive and have passed one chamber or the other.

Legislators also passed at Gov. Pat Quinn's request, what has come to be known as the "mini Capital bill." That measure would utilize \$300 million in existing revenue to fund over \$1 billion in road and bridge projects ... all at the state level. Attention now turns to a more comprehensive program that could see a 27% increase in Motor Fuel Tax revenue for local governments if we are included in the package. But there is still some uncertainty over whether townships, counties and cities will be included and to what amount. So it is imperative that you let your legislators know that a road and bridge program is direly needed and that local governments must be included.

A look at TOI's 2009 legislative lineup and the current status:

HOUSE BILL 476/SENATE BILL 1491 (*Rep. Dave Winters/Sen. Lou Viverito*) changes the way that Motor Fuel Tax funds are distributed to those townships that don't levy the maximum amount allowed in their road and bridge fund. **HB 476 passed the House 109-0 on March 5; SB 1491 held.**

HOUSE BILL 564 (*Rep. JoAnn Osmond/Sen. Pam Althoff*) provides that the city council of any coterminous city may authorize the township supervisor to preside over portions of city council meetings when the city council is exercising powers that would ordinarily be exercised by the township board. **Passed the House.**

HOUSE BILL 621 (*Rep. Mike Fortner/Sen. Randy Hultgren*) expands the authority of a township board to include cutting tall grass, trimming trees and bushes, and removing nuisance bushes and trees when the owners of real estate neglect to perform these duties. It also allows for recovery of costs associated with performing those tasks. **Passed the House.**

HOUSE BILL 644 (*Rep. Pat Verschoore/Sen. Michael Bond*) allows discontinuing water service, sewerage service, or both, if payments for sewerage service have become delinquent. **Passed the House.**

SENATE BILL 1254 (*Sen. Pam Althoff/Rep. Dan Burke*) exempts outdoor physical fitness establishments operated by municipalities or townships from the requirement to have a defibrillator on hand, as well as personnel trained to use one. **Passed the Senate.**

SENATE BILL 1379 (*Sen. John Sullivan/Rep. Jil Tracy*) increases the threshold for a township highway commissioner to have a pecuniary interest in lease contracts if the aggregate total is less than \$2,000 (now \$1,000). **Passed the Senate.**

TOI Legislative Consultant Tim Bramlet may be reached at 217-522-9522.

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