

Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

Anderson Legislative Consulting, Ltd.



THE 2022 SPRING SESSION got off to a rough start, with two of the first three days and the entire second week cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic, making the packed calendar for this year already light on days. In its first day back the House was forced to extend the date of the House rule that allows members of the chamber to participate remotely until to June 1, 2022, (the Senate has a similar rule in effect already). It is a prudent move that gives the House needed flexibility in these uncertain times but perhaps even more prudent is the fact that the rule does not expire when Spring Session is supposed to adjourn on April 8, but instead allows the House leeway until the end of the current fiscal year. For months some have been skeptical that the General Assembly will be able to conclude its business before the end of this truncated session and the adopted rule's date would give them the ability to meet remotely even if they go beyond the day scheduled for adjournment.

Between the early start date of session and the cancellations, bill introductions have been slow in forthcoming. At this time only a few hundred of bills have been introduced in both chambers, though we expect that number to reach thousands before the bill introduction deadline is over. Below is a sample of new bill introductions in 2022, so far, that TOI is tracking. We have already reached out and met with many of the sponsors of these bills to discuss and will have our positions on them available soon. As always, our first hope is to work with sponsors to address any concerns that there may be with a piece of legislation, and we are excited that several of the legislators below have been open to working with us. TOI is also excited that many legislators have decided to introduce pro-township legislation this year and we look forward to showing strong support to these bills that will enhance the work that townships provide to their communities.

HB 4220 – Rep. Daniel Didech (D-59th)

Requires a corporation associated with a township food pantry to adopt, within 120 days after the effective date of the amendatory act, bylaws that provide the following: (1) that the board of directors shall consist of 5 directors who shall be the township supervisor and the township trustees; (2) that the township supervisor or a

township trustee shall be automatically removed from the board of directors when he or she leaves his or her office; (3) that an individual who becomes the township supervisor or a township trustee shall automatically become a member of the board of directors; (4) that the directors shall receive no compensation for services to the corporation as directors, officers, or otherwise; and (5) that the township supervisor shall be the president and treasurer of the corporation. Sets forth criteria for determining when a corporation is associated with a township food pantry. Amends the Open Meetings Act. Expands the definition of “public body” to include domestic not-for-profit corporations that are associated with a township food pantry. Effective immediately.

HB 4251 – Rep. Tony McCombie (R-71st)

Provides that any purchase by a township for services, materials, equipment, or supplies in excess of \$30,000 (currently \$20,000) shall be contracted in specified ways. Provides that contracts for construction work whose estimated cost will exceed \$30,000 (rather than \$20,000) for township waterworks and sewerage systems shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder. Effective immediately.

HB 4348 – Rep. Maurice A. West, II (D-67th)

Amends the Law Enforcement Camera Grant Act. Defines “law enforcement officer” or “officer” as any person employed by a unit of local government (rather than a county, municipality, or township) or an Illinois public university as a policeman, peace officer or in some like position involving the enforcement of the law and protection of the public interest at the risk of that person's life. Provides that “unit of local government” has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 1 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution. Effective immediately.

HB 4393 – Rep. Daniel Didech (D-59th)

Provides that specified contracts may be let to the lowest responsible bidder or the “best value bidder” (rather than to the lowest responsible bidder). Provides that “best value” means the result determined by a procurement method that considers price and other criteria reflecting an objective and quantifiable analysis. Includes examples of such analysis.

HB 4395 – Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr. (D-86th)

Provides that a nongovernmental entity with which a county, township, municipality, or fire protection district contracts to furnish fire protection services that displays a logo of the unit of local government on the entity's vehicles or uniform shall conspicuously display on all vehicles and uniforms a disclosure with specified information. Defines "vehicle". Provides that a violation is a business offense with a \$1,000 fine per occurrence. Limits home rule powers. Effective immediately.

HB 4411 – Rep. Lamont J. Robinson, Jr. (D-5th)

Provides that the Property Tax Appeal Board shall establish and maintain a statewide database containing information related to homestead exemptions granted for property in the State. The database shall be publicly accessible and searchable by county, property address, property index number, taxpayer name, and type of homestead exemption applied to the property. Requires the chief county assessment officer to check the statewide database to verify that the homeowner is not receiving an additional homestead exemption that would disqualify him or her from receiving an exemption for the subject property.

HB 4417 – Rep. Chris Miller (R-110th)

Provides that, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, no taxing district shall extend or levy

a tax against any property in any amount greater than \$2 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. Effective immediately.

SB 3055 – Sen. Darren Bailey (R-55th)

Provides that the requirements for appointing a highway commissioner who is a non-resident or who has not resided in the district for one year also apply to the appointment of a district clerk. Removes the requirement that a township have a population of less than 500 residents for a board of trustees to appoint a non-resident or a person who has not resided in the district for one year.

SB 1802 – Sen. Darren Bailey (R-55th)

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that the Secretary of State may issue registration plates for all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles. Prescribes placement of registration plates on the rear of all-terrain and recreational off-highway vehicles. Provides registration fees and surcharges. Provides that all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles may be operated on rural roads. Limits home rule powers with respect to the discretion of a municipality, township, county, or other unit of local government to regulate the usage of all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles on roads under their jurisdiction. Effective immediately.

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