



# Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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**T**HIS YEAR HAS BEEN ONE full of ambiguous legislative goals even before the members of the 101st General Assembly were sworn in during the middle of January. If you recall, in February we discussed the difficulty legislators and the Governor might face trying to pass some of the big ticket items. Now, as the spring session nears its completion not much has changed and many of the issues that will require the most attention have not yet reached resolution. Heavy lifts like recreational marijuana, sports gambling, progressive income tax, and the capital bill have been discussed and worked on but have not yet reached the finish line. Add in the all the work that will be needed to craft a budget and every ounce of the five weeks of session in May will be necessary.


There is uncertainty if all of the items above will be able to pass the General Assembly this spring, but all signs do point to the budget being completed before May 31st, the last day of session. The complications will arise as some of the big ticket items, and the revenue associated with them, will be needed to plug budget holes and without them the budget negotiations will become much more complicated. As the end of session nears the hard issues usually become harder to pass. This year will be no different and with all that's at stake we will find out soon which bills were too heavy a lift and which issues manage to squeak by.

As for township issues, of the eighty (80) plus bills being tracked by the Township Officials of Illinois, twenty six (26) have made it to the second chamber. TOI will continue to advocate on behalf of townships and continue to keep township officials in the State informed of legislation as the spring session winds down. So please pay attention as action alerts are sent out regarding specific bills.

As a reminder, HB 348 passed the House and is now in the Senate. We will need all of your help if we are to protect townships and the taxpayers they serve.

HB 348 Rep. David McSweeney/Sen. Terry Link allows township electors in McHenry County to petition for a referendum to dissolve a township. Abolishes road districts of 15 miles or less in McHenry and Lake County. Limits extensions of specified property tax levies to 90% of the original property tax levy and within the boundaries of the dissolved township.

Finally, for those of you that were able to come down for Topics Day, thank you. Having a robust turnout on Topics Day helps with our advocacy efforts and allows for the legislature to see how engaged the people in their districts are with the legislative process and the bills they are voting upon. The feedback from many of the legislators you spoke to was very positive and we must make every effort to build upon those positive interactions, fostering support and good relationships. 



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