



Legislative Report

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General Assembly heading for the home stretch

THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY is gearing up for the final weeks of the legislative session, with much work remaining on patching a \$6 billion deficit in the coming fiscal year. While discussion on that and other major issues being floated by Gov. Bruce Rauner remains behind the scenes thus far, work on other initiatives continues to plod along.

TOI's agenda continues to take shape as we enter the final month of session. Most of the major anti-township bills have already been cleared of the docket, but a few still remain alive and kicking during the final weeks of deliberation. One area that is receiving a lot of emphasis this year is expansion of mandatory website posting by local governments, and several bills on the topic still remain alive.

Here is the rundown of TOI's legislative agenda for the spring session:

HB 174 (McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills) allows for abolition of non-home rule units of government by ref-

erendum. House Executive Committee. TOI opposes.

HB 177 (McSweeney) freezes property tax extensions for three years. House Revenue Committee. TOI opposes.

HB 178 (McSweeney) freezes township property tax assessments for one year. House Revenue Committee. TOI opposes.

HB 261 (Sosnowski, R-Rockford); **HB 3090** (Demmer, R-Dixon) eases requirements for publishing various types of information by local governments in newspapers. House Counties and Townships Committee. TOI supports both.

HB 435 (Sullivan, R-Mundelein) requires units of local government of 5,000 or more population to maintain an Internet website. House Counties and Townships Committee. TOI opposes; **HB 1323** (Yingling, D-Round Lake) removes stipulation that a local government has a full-time staff operating a web site before it is required to post meeting notices and minutes. House Counties and Townships Committee. TOI opposes. **HB 2717**

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(Ives, R-Wheaton) requires a unit of local government with a budget of at least \$1 million to have a website and to post a long laundry list of public documents. TOI opposes; passage stage in the House. **SB 26** (Morrison, D-Deerfield; Sente, D-Vernon Hills) requires all public bodies that have a website to post certain records. TOI opposes; passed Senate; House Judiciary Committee.

HB 1434 (Franks, D-Woodstock) prohibits a public official from holding more than one public office. House Judiciary Committee; subcommittee. TOI opposes.

HB 1524 (Steward, R-Freeport); **HB 2580** (Costello, D-Belleville) place restrictions on township road commissioners from posting weight limits on township roads. 1524 in House Rules Committee; 2580 in House Transportation Committee. Agreement is pending on an amendment being added to the bill.

HB 3225 (Mautino, D-Spring Valley) removes requirement that local governments, including townships, file petitions of exemption every year for property owned with the county assessor. House Revenue Committee. TOI supports.

SB 30 (Morrison, D-Deerfield) eliminates stipend for township assessors who meet state-set performance levels. Passed Senate Local Government Committee; Senate floor. TOI opposes.

SB 40 (Althoff, R-Crystal Lake) allows for abolition of townships that are coterminous with cities and have

the same executive or trustees as the city by referendum. Senate Local Government Committee; placed in subcommittee. TOI opposes.

SB 656 (Murphy, R-Palatine) places a two-year freeze on individual property tax bills. Senate Revenue Committee; subcommittee. TOI opposes.

SB 857, 858, 859 (McConnaughay, R-St. Charles) all mandate any unit of local government located in a county of 100,000 or more population maintain a website; the bills differ with each delineating particular items that must be posted on said website. Senate Executive Committee. TOI opposes.

SB 1390 (McConnaughay) increases from 55 to 65 feet the permissible length of a truck on non-state highways. Senate Executive Committee. TOI opposes.

SB 1430, Amendment #1 (Bush) allows for abolition of township assessors by county-wide referendum. Held in Senate Local Government Committee. TOI opposes.

SB 1704 (Sullivan, D-Rushville) clarifies that the 90-day posting law for township roads does not have to be executed consecutively. Senate passage stage. TOI supports.

SB 1815 (McCarter, R-Lebanon); **HB 3309** (Kay, R-Edwardsville) place restrictions on the permissible amount of charges for local sewer hook-up. Senate Executive Committee; HB 3309 tabled by the sponsor. TOI opposes both.



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