



Legislative Report

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WELL, WE'VE HIT THE DEADLINE for introduction of bills in both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly. And it appears, as usual, TOI will have its hands full with a number of anti-township bills that are in the hopper in both the House and Senate. The deadline for these bills to pass out of committee is March 17 in the Senate and March 31 in the House.

Here is a rundown of bills that we are tracking. No new bills can be introduced; however, existing bills can be amended with new proposals at any time between now and adjournment. So we are never out of the woods when it comes to being under attack in the General Assembly.

Government information posting

House Bill 290 (Rep. David Olsen, R-Downers Grove), **House Bill 442, 3323 and 3326** (Rep. Jeannie Ives, R-Wheaton), **House Bill 2944** (Rep. Allen Skillicorn, R-Crystal Lake) and **Senate Bill 1263** (Sen. Mike Connelley, R-Lisle) require local governments to expand the number of reports that must be made to the public, the means in which they are communicated, and in some cases, requires the operation of a website; others make changes to the Open Meetings Act. *TOI opposes all.*

These bills ease the burden and cost for local governments to report information to the public and eliminate duplicative requirements: **House Bill 782** (Rep. Joe Sosnowski, R-Rockford) and **House Bill 3006** (Rep. Al Riley, D-Olympia Fields). *TOI supports both.*

Property tax freezes/caps

Includes legislation that freezes property taxes for two years, or permanently, or freezes the assessments: **House Bills 336, 337, 358, and 1768** (Rep. David McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills), **House Bill 359** (Rep. Mark Batinick, R-Plainfield), **House Bill 382** (Rep. Sam Yingling, D-Round Lake), **House Bill 824 and 2429** (Skillicorn), **Senate Bill 13** (Sen. Christine Radogno, R-Lemont), **Senate 686** (Sen. Julie Morrison, D-Deerfield) and **Senate Bill 935** (Connelley). *TOI opposes all.*

Township Consolidation

All of these bills make it easier to force townships to be abolished, consolidated, or merged; others deal with

specific township offices and make it easier for them to be abolished.

House Bill 496 (Rep. Tom Demmer, R-Dixon), **House Bill 347** (McSweeney), **House Bills 3133, 3761 and House Bill 3845** (Yingling), **House Bill 3521** (Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield), **HB 3525** (Rep. Grant Wehrli, R-Naperville), **House Bill 3842** (Rep. Fred Crespo, D-Hoffman Estates), **Senate Bill 909** (Sen. Melinda Bush, D-Grayslake) and **Senate Bill 2061** (Sen. Jim Oberweis, R-Sugar Grove).

Senate Bill 3 (Radogno) makes a number of changes enabling consolidation of townships, but in all cases, must be initiated by township board action. TOI does not object to the consolidation aspects of this bill. TOI does, however, oppose a provision which allows for—by referendum—abolition of township highway commissions with less than 15 miles of roads (TOI's formal position is neutral if 10 miles or less). This bill is part of the "grand compromise" being developed by both parties in the Illinois Senate and is one of the few parts of it that has actually passed the Senate.

Highways

House Bill 683 (Rep. Dan Beiser, D-Alton); **Sen. Tim Bivens** (R-Dixon) allows for 65-foot trucks, rather than the current 55 feet, on all non-state highways. **Senate Bill 1680** (Sen. Martin Sandoval, D-Chicago) limits in certain circumstances township access to IDOT funds for bridge construction *TOI opposes all.* **Senate Bill 1449** (Sen. Emil Jones III, D-Chicago) limits reporting requirements for township highway districts to state agencies. *TOI supports.*

Local Government Inspector General

Senate Bill 85 (Sen. Michael Connelley, R-Lisle) creates the Local Government Inspector General Act and empowers such to investigate complaints of malfeasance, incompetence, neglect of duty, etc., for any Illinois local government official. Creates a Local Government Ethics Commission. *TOI opposes.*

