



# Legislative Report

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## *House fails to take up consolidation measures*

SO FAR, WITH JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS remaining in the scheduled spring legislative session, the Illinois House has not touched two plans sent from the Senate that address township consolidation, **Senate Bill 388** (*Bush, D-Grayslake*) and **Senate Bill 389** (*Morrison, D-Deerfield*). Both bills passed the Senate on April 21, but have remained in the House Rules Committee ever since.

SB 388 lays out the process for consolidating townships, including two or three townships into one, a single township into two adjoining townships, and/or a “coterminous” township into a municipality. Any of these changes can only be initiated by the township board and must be approved by a majority of voters in an election. It further removes the current statutory requirement that a county must convert to a commission form of government if it eliminates townships county-wide. TOI’s board voted to be neutral on this legislation since it must have both township board say-so and voter approval. It passed 53-0.

SB 389 is opposed by TOI. It allows any township to abolish a road district of that township if the roads of the district are less than 15 miles in length (as determined by the county engineer) by resolution of a majority of the township board AND by voters in a referendum. The TOI board voted to oppose any proposals that used a trigger of greater than 10 miles of highways (as recommended by TOI’s highway commissioners’ division). Additionally, SB 389 includes only those roads within the township and not those outside of the township that are maintained by the highway commissioner. It further contains a provision eliminating the current statutory limit on the size of any existing or new (consolidated) township to 126 square miles. It passed 36-9-3.

None of the other nearly two dozen anti-township bills introduced earlier this year have advanced past committee stage. The Senate has also failed to take up **House Bill 747** (*Lang, D-Skokie; J.Cullerton, D-Chicago*), a TOI-opposed measure that removes a requirement for Cook County township assessors to achieve certification, although discussions continue to move forward with the bill’s sponsors.

Here is a rundown of TOI’s complete legislative

agenda for the spring session, along with the status of each bill:

**House Bill 4668** (*Currie, D-Chicago*) – makes a correction to the date when townships must file caucus nominees to the proper election authorities. **SUPPORT** *Passed the House; passage stage in Senate.*

**House Bill 4967** (*McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills*); **Senate Bill 2464** (*Righter, R-Mattoon*) – allows for referendum to be put on the ballot by petition to abolish any unit of local government. **OPPOSE** *4967 held in House Rules Committee; 2464 heard in testimony-only hearing 4/13 and held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

**House Bill 4968** (*Demmer, R-Dixon*); **Senate Bill 2462** (*Oberweis, R-Sugar Grove*); **Senate Bill 2412** (*Althoff, R-Crystal Lake*) – provides that all townships within a coterminous municipality may be consolidated by referendum. **OPPOSE** *4968 held in subcommittee; 2462 and 2412 heard in testimony-only hearing 4/13 and held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

**House Bill 4975** (*Yingling, D-Round Lake*) – makes it easier to abolish all townships within a county by citizens petition or county board vote. **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

**House Bill 4980** (*Franks, D-Woodstock*); **Senate Bill 2470** (*Oberweis*); **Senate Bill 2288** (*Althoff*) – removes current statutory provisions that serve as disincentives to consolidating townships within a county. **OPPOSE** *4980 held in House Rules Committee; 2470 and 2288 heard in testimony-only hearing 4/13 and held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

**House Bill 5041** (*Stewart, R-Freeport*) – Exempts projects under \$20,000 from the Prevailing Wage Act. **SUPPORT** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

**HB 5522** (*Ives, R-Wheaton; Sandoval, D-Chicago*) – Requires units of local government with \$1 million budget or more to sponsor a website and post and keep current 14 different types of public information despite

the fact that most of the information is already available elsewhere. **OPPOSE** *Passed House; Senate Assignments Committee.*

**House Bill 5528** (*Phelps, D-Norris City*) – Makes MFT distribution to local governments a continuing appropriation and, therefore, not subject to being held up during a budget impasse. **SUPPORT** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

**HB 5688** (*Beiser, D-Alton*) – Expands allowable length of semitrailers to 65 feet from 55 feet on township and other non-State highways. **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

**House Bill 5759** (*Hoffman, D-Belleville*) – Requires bidders on prevailing wage projects to qualify as “responsible bidders.” **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

**House Bill 5885** (*Kifowit*) – Removes the restriction limiting townships to no larger than 126 square miles. **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

**House Bill 5996** (*Sullivan, R-Mundelein*) – Grants additional authority over township highway budgets to the township board. **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

**Senate Bill 388** (*Bush-Conroy*) – Provides process for consolidation of various types of townships with one another or with a coterminous municipality if authorized by all of the township boards and approved by voters. **NEUTRAL** *Passed the Senate; House Rules Committee.*

**Senate Bill 389** (*Morrison-Sente*) – Allows a township board to put a question to voters on the ballot to abolish a township highway commission if the township has less than 15 miles of highways. **OPPOSE** *Passed the Senate; House Rules Committee.*

**Senate Bill 2287** (*Althoff*) – Allows for citizen petition for a binding referendum to abolish a single township and further enumerates transfer of responsibilities to the county. **OPPOSE** *Heard at testimony-only hearing 4/13 and held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

**Senate Bill 2289** (*Althoff*) – Eliminates requirement that townships be no larger than 126 square miles, possess less than \$10 million in EAV, and allows for the county board to establish new township tax rates if consolidation occurs. **OPPOSE** *Heard at testimony-only hearing 4/13 and held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

**Senate Bill 2525** (*Morrison*) – Eliminates stipends for county and township assessors. **OPPOSE** *Re-referred to Senate Assignments Committee.*

**Senate Bill 3181** (*Oberweis*); **House Bill 6098** (*Demmer*) – Allows, among other things, for a unit of local government to publish electronically certain information that now must appear as paid advertising in the local newspaper. **SUPPORT** *SB 3183 Senate floor; HB 6098 House Rules Committee.*



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Township**  
... congratulates TOI and  
Township Perspective on 75 years  
communicating the township  
message!

**Cincinnati Township  
– Tazewell County**

- ☞ Larry Mayberry, Supervisor
- ☞ Renna Hardsall, Township Clerk
- ☞ Ronald Hawkins, Highway Commissioner
- ☞ Ann Bacon, Trustee
- ☞ Joseph Weghorst, Trustee
- ☞ Robert Lutz, Trustee
- ☞ Jay Hall, Trustee
- ☞ Robert Burress, Assessor