

THIS WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD  
Township Officials of Illinois  
March 4, 2016

By Tim Bramlet, TOI Legislative Consultant

The deadline for introduction of bills has passed for both the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate. And, as expected, TOI is facing a full agenda this spring. The House adjourned yesterday and will not be returning to Springfield until the first week in April. The Senate, however, is will be convening next week and is scheduled to meet the following week before a two week Easter recess.

So far, here are the more significant bills that have found their way onto the township agenda:

**House Bill 4668 (Currie, D-Chicago)** – makes a correction to the date when townships must file notice of primary election winners to the State Board of Elections. **SUPPORT**

**House Bill 4967 (McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills); Senate Bill 2464 (Connelly, R-Lisle)** – allows for referendum to be put on the ballot by petition to abolish any unit of local government. **OPPOSE**

**House Bill 4968 (Demmer, R-Dixon); Senate Bill 2462 (Duffy, R-Lake Barrington); Senate Bill 2412 (Althoff, R-Crystal Lake)** – provides that all townships within a coterminous municipality may be consolidated by referendum. **OPPOSE**

**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**

**House Bill 4980 (Franks, D-Woodstock); Senate Bill 2470 (Duffy); Senate Bill 2288 (Althoff)** – removes current statutory provisions that serve as disincentives to consolidating townships within a county. **OPPOSE**

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

**HB 5522 (Ives, R-Wheaton)** – 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**

**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**

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

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

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

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

**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**

**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**

**Senate Bill 2525 (Morrison, D-Deerfield)** – Eliminates stipends for county and township assessors. **OPPOSE**

**Senate Bill 3181 (Duffy, R-Barrington)** – 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**

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