



# Legislative Report

By Timothy S. Bramlet

TOI Legislative Consultant

## General Assembly carries on through June

**M**AY 31—the predetermined deadline for adjournment of the Illinois General Assembly—came and went without final action on a state budget or any of Governor Bruce Rauner’s economic development planks. Instead lawmakers now return to Springfield one day a week, but leaders have had to be creative to provide work for the rank and file members. All the while, talks have seemingly gone nowhere between the Governor and the Democrats who control the General Assembly. It appears running past the real deadline—June 30—when current spending authority ceases to exist, is a real possibility.

Although the legislature remains in session over the summer, most of its regular substantive agenda has been put to rest. Other than the still-looming threat of a property tax freeze for all local governments, townships fared pretty well this past session. We were able to hold back a number of anti-township measures and even managed to secure approval of a couple of positive bills.

The following list carries most of the agenda items faced by our team this past session. And most of the actions listed for each bill are now final action.

**HB 174** (*McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills*) allows for abolition of non-home rule units of government by referendum. Held in House Executive Committee. TOI opposes.

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

**HB 178** (*McSweeney*) freezes township property tax assessments for one year. Passed the House; held in Senate Executive Committee.

**HB 261** (*Sosnowski, R-Rockford*); **HB 3090** (*Demmer, R-Dixon*) eases requirements for publishing various types of information by local governments in newspapers. Held in 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 website before it is required to post meeting notices and minutes. House Counties and Townships Committee. TOI opposes. **HB 2717** (*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; passed the House; held by Senate Executive Committee. **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; held by sponsor in House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 695** (*Franks D-Woodstock*) freeze property tax extensions PERMANENTLY for ALL local governments located in tax-capped counties. House passage stage; TOI opposes.

**HB 1434** (*Franks, D-Woodstock*) prohibits a public official from holding more than one public office. Held in 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. HB 2580 amended to address township concerns. HB2580 passed both Houses.

**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. Held in House Revenue Committee. TOI supports.

**HB 3693** (*Hoffman, D-Belleville; Clayborne, D-Belleville*) allows for dissolution of Belleville Township only if the Township Board and Belleville city council both agree. Passed both Houses. TOI opposed.

**SB 30** (*Morrison, D-Deerfield*) eliminates stipend for township assessors who meet state-set performance levels. Passed Senate Local Government Committee; held by sponsor on 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; held in subcommittee. TOI opposes.

**SB 656** (*Murphy, R-Palatine*) places a two-year freeze on individual property tax bills. Held in 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. Held in Senate Executive Committee. TOI opposes.

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

**SB 1430, Amendment #1** (*Bush*) allows for aboli-

tion of township assessors by county-wide referendum. Defeated by 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. Passed both Houses. TOI supports.

**SB 1815 and HB 264** (*McCarter, R-Lebanon*); **HB 3309** (*Kay, R-Edwardsville*) place restrictions on the permissible amount of charges for local sewer hook-up. SB 1815 and HB 264 held in Senate Executive Committee; HB 3309 tabled by the sponsor. TOI opposes both.



## 2015 Professional Development Bonus Course Using *QuickBooks*™ for Townships: Organize, track, and streamline township finances

The **TOI Education Program** is pleased to announce an addition to the Professional Development Courses of 2015 for township officials and staff. The program is **Friday, August 7, 2015 at the TOI Office in Springfield**. Registration deadline is Friday, July 31, and is limited to 20 attendees. Cost is \$75 and includes lunch. **All attendees must bring a laptop with QuickBooks™ installed prior to the session along with a copy of your township budget.** The seminar is scheduled from 10am – 2pm to accommodate travel time. Five hours of education credit will be given for workshop completion.

This session is presented by Jeanette Cowden, the founder and owner of Springfield based business, the Pampered Pet Center. While owning her doggy daycare business, Jeanette continues to provide computer training and application development. In addition, Jeanette is also the business manager for the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, which is a consortium of Illinois communities and sites that share the legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

QuickBooks™ is an accounting software program by Intuit. This financial management system is used to manage bookkeeping transactions in one place. Participants in this course will learn how to use QuickBooks™ to organize, track and streamline many of the township's financial responsibilities such as income sources, expenditures, receipts, invoices, payroll, budgets, and financial reporting.

**Deadline to register is Friday, July 31, 2015**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Township Position: \_\_\_\_\_

County/Township: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method: Check or Credit Card (Visa / MasterCard only)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax to the TOI office at 217.744.7419 or Mail to TOI, 3217 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702**