



Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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DESPITE MEETING MANY TIMES over the summer, the General Assembly is set to return to Springfield to take up the business of the State for the fall veto session this month. As of now, veto session is scheduled for October 19-21 and October 26-28. However, it remains to be seen if the General Assembly will convene for the entirety of the scheduled days. This is due to the fact, that as it stands currently, of the seven bills the Governor has taken some form of veto action on the General Assembly has either already accepted or overridden the Governor's action on four of those measures during the various summer days they held session. Normally the lack of veto measures to act upon would free legislators to move other legislative issues during a "slow" veto session. Yet, due to the above-mentioned work legislators undertook over the summer, the multiple returns to craft and pass an energy package, the remap issues etc., it appears legislative leader may instead cut veto session short and send everyone home rather than add more days onto the already lengthy legislative calendar. At this point this is mostly just speculation but could well prove to be true unless other pressing needs arise. One non-veto issue that will have to be taken up during veto session will be the drawing and passage of the Congressional maps. Other than that, it appears that most of the hot button issues will have already been resolved prior to veto session beginning and thus why a condensed veto session is currently being discussed.

Recent Bills signed into Law by the Governor:

P.A. 102-0393 (HB 1916)

Rep. Andrew Chesney (R-89th)/Sen. Brain Stewart (R-54th)

Provides that the Department of Transportation shall update its policy for providing notification of construction projects to the public. Provides that the policy shall include a requirement that the Department contact the highway commissioner located in each Department district that will be impacted by a proposed construction project. Provides that the policy shall be completed and published on the Department's website by January 1, 2022. Effective immediately.

P.A. 102-0449 (HB 2863)

Rep. Daniel Swanson (R-74th)/Sen. Win Stroller (R-37th)

Provides that, in the case of township roads, the county superintendent of highways may either grant consent for construction or deny the application. Provides that the county superintendent of highways shall provide written confirmation, citing the basis of the decision, to both the highway commissioner and the applicant.

P.A. 102-0653 (SB 2356)

Sen. John Curran (R-41st)/Rep. Deanne Mazzochi (R-47th)

Provides that each public body shall periodically meet to review minutes of all closed meetings. Provides that meetings to review minutes shall occur every 6 months, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the public body. Provides that committees which are ad hoc in nature shall review closed session minutes at the later of (1) 6 months from the date of the last review of closed session minutes or (2) at the next scheduled meeting of the ad hoc committee. Provides that when a public body is dissolved, disbanded, eliminated, or consolidated by executive action, legislative action, or referendum, and its functions and responsibilities are assumed by a unit of local government, the unit of local government which assumes the functions of the prior public body shall review the closed session minutes of that public body.

P.A. 102-0554 (SB 2390)

Sen. Laura Fine (D-9th)/Rep. Denyse Stoneback (D-16th)

Provides that, whenever the date for an annual township meeting as required by statute conflicts with the celebration of Ramadan, the township board may postpone the annual township meeting to the first Tuesday following the last day of Ramadan. Effective immediately.

