



Legislative Report

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Another month with no budget

I KNOW I AM GETTING redundant in this column every issue, but folks it's November and we are still without a state budget. In fact, we are likely a long way off from a state budget. Lawmakers have scaled back their Springfield session schedule to a couple of days a month. And those days usually result in nothing being accomplished. Negotiating sessions between the Governor and the legislative leaders have been sparse. And thus, no progress yet on **Governor Bruce Rauner's** economic agenda and—seemingly—no progress on a state spending plan.

Court orders and limited legislative approval are allowing the state to limp along and keep the doors of government open ... barely. But the negative consequences are starting to stack up. As has been reported, township highway departments are now entering the fifth month without Motor Fuel Tax distribution from the state, which has no authority to parcel out the funds without specific statutory authorization. And, as a result, townships are putting off maintenance projects, holding off hiring additional staff, or being unable to purchase winter snow removal supplies. And hundreds of other entities reliant on state government assistance are going without.

It used to be a running joke around the third floor railing in the Capitol building, just outside the House and Senate chambers, that the session could carry on through the Fourth of July. Well, we've passed that ... passed Labor Day ... and are fast approaching Thanksgiving, with Christmas in the offing. In the meantime, the bills keep piling up without a way to pay them.

Governor Rauner has been acting on legislation that was sent to him by the General Assembly this spring, including some of interest to townships. Those bills that were signed into law are underlined below among many of the legislation that TOI was closely following this year:

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. TOI opposes.

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; Sullivan, D-Rushville*) place restrictions on township road commissioners from posting weight limits on township roads. HB 1524 held in House Transportation Committee. HB 2580 amended to address township concerns; passed both Houses; signed by the Governor. PA 99-0237.

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; signed by the Governor. TOI opposed. **PA 99-0474**.

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 (*McConaughay, 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 (*McConaughay*) 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 abolition of township assessors by county-wide referendum. Defeated by Senate Local Government Committee. TOI opposes.

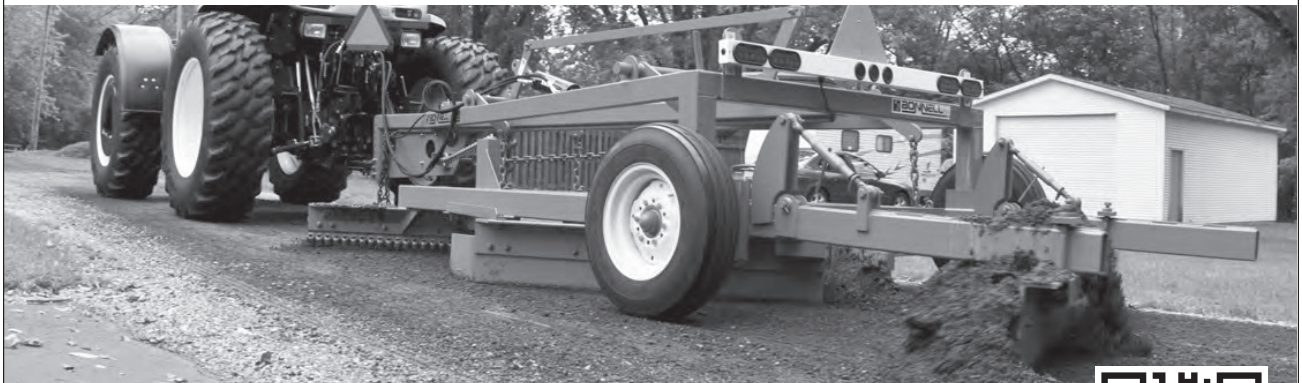
SB 1704 (*Sullivan, D-Rushville; Hammond, R-Macomb and Beiser, D-Alton*) clarifies that the 90-day posting law for township roads does not have to be executed consecutively. TOI supports. Passed both Houses; signed by the Governor. **PA 99-0168**.

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. **HB 372** (*Hoffman, D-Belleville; Cunningham, D-Chicago*) requires a study before a township can impose or raise sewer hook-up fees. TOI opposed; passed both Houses; signed by the Governor. **PA 99-0481**. 

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