



Legislative Report

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And the stalemate continues; MFT funds being held

AS WE HEAD INTO OCTOBER, the legislative stalemate continues, now more than three months into the new fiscal year without a State budget.

First and foremost for townships is the absence of the release of Motor Fuel Tax funds for highway commissioners. TOI is working in conjunction with our fellow local government groups as part of a statewide transportation coalition to secure the release of those dollars. But state law prohibits the expenditures without a state budget in place, even though the dollars are currently being collected through the state's motor fuel tax.

TOI conducted a survey of our highway commissioners asking for information on the negative consequences of not receiving MFT money. The compiled results are being disseminated to legislators and the Governor's office. The results varied, but some townships are experiencing severe repercussions, including the delay or cancellation of road construction and repair projects. Many townships are worried that they won't be able to purchase enough road salt for the upcoming winter season.

But, like every other victim of the state's budget hold-out, townships must wait for a budget to be approved, or for a separate bill that would exclusively address the MFT issue. Democrats in the House majority attempted to do so recently, but the attachment of child care funding to the MFT authorization drew the opposition of the Governor and Republicans in the House.

So, the stalemate drags on.

In the meantime, here is the latest tracking information on bills we have been following in 2015:

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

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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

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 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

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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

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 and sent to the Governor.

