



Legislative Report

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Legislators still facing large workload

AS WE GO TO PRESS with this month's legislative report, the Illinois General Assembly still faces monumental obstacles in wrapping up its business by the May 31 deadline. With just days remaining, there is no agreement yet on closing a nearly \$6 billion budget deficit in order to craft a spending plan for the new fiscal year. The Governor's "turnaround agenda" has yet to hit any chords in the Illinois House. And the major issues of the spring remain unaddressed late in the session.

TOI has been successful in gunning down most of the anti-township measures that were considered throughout the spring. But there are still some major threats pending.

A property tax freeze—a PERMANENT one—was added to **House Bill 695** (Franks, D-Woodstock) and is poised for consideration by the House of Representatives. It would apply the current tax caps to all local governments where they are in effect, but include home rule units, and change the CPI growth adjustment to 0 percent. And there are still lawmakers who hope to revive misguided measures that allow for abolition of local governments through referenda without much thought given to the consequences of doing so. These measures will keep us vigilant up until the very last gavel of the spring.

Here is the latest on TOI's legislative agenda for the spring session:

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 web site 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. Passed the House; passage stage in the Senate.

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 the House; passage stage in the Senate. 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 subcom-

mittee. 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 abolition 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 Senate; House passage stage. 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 Course III Let Your Lawyer Be Your Guide:

A Review of New Laws and Cases Impacting Township Government in 2015

The **TOI Education Program** is pleased to announce the third Professional Development Course of 2015 for township officials and staff. The program is **Friday, July 24, 2015** at the **TOI Office in Springfield**. Registration deadline is Friday, July 17 and is limited to 25 attendees. Cost is \$75 and includes lunch. The seminar is scheduled from 10am – 3pm to accommodate travel time. Six hours of education credit will be given for workshop completion.

This session is presented by John Redlingshafer of Heyl Royster law firm in Peoria and is presented by the Illinois Township Attorneys Division. This program will provide an overview of recent cases and changes in Illinois law impacting township government.

Deadline to register is Friday, July 17, 2015

Name: _____

Township Position: _____

County/Township: _____

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