



Legislative Report

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Legislature goes home ... for now

ILLINOIS LAWMAKERS ADJOURNED on the evening of May 31 with no budget and no action on pro-business reforms sought by Governor Bruce Rauner. They may not get too far, however, as working groups tasked with finding compromise on all of these issues continue to hash away in the Capitol. If they are successful, look for the General Assembly to be called back to Springfield to finish the work left undone from the spring.

Since adjournment, Gov. Rauner has called for passage of a six-month, stop-gap spending plan that would keep schools open in the fall and provide bare-boned funding for other state services, including transportation projects, through the end of this year—and beyond the November election. Although Democrat reaction thus far has been somewhat cool, it could well be the only viable plan to avoid a near State shutdown later in the year. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, TOI was facing one of its most daunting agendas in many years, as many legislators and a task force led by Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti took aim at township government. Nearly two dozen bills that would make it easier to consolidate or eliminate township government were introduced early in the session. In the end, however, not one single measure opposed by TOI passed the General Assembly.

Two major consolidation measures passed earlier in the Senate (**Senate Bills 388 and 389**) remained bottled up in the House Rules Committee. TOI is neutral on SB 388, but opposes SB 389. Likewise, **House Bill 747**, a measure opposed by TOI that removes accreditation requirements for Cook County township assessors, was held by its sponsors due to township concerns.

Here's the rundown of all the bills on TOI's radar screen and their final status as of June 1:

House Bill 747 (*Lang, D-Skokie; J. Cullerton, D-Chicago*) removes requirement for appraisal certification and continuing education for township assessors in Cook County. **OPPOSE** *Passed the House; held in Senate Executive Committee.*

House Bill 4968 (*Demmer, R-Dixon*); **Senate Bill 2462** (*Oberweis, R-Sugar Grove*); **Senate Bill 2412** (*Al-*

thoff, R-Crystal Lake) – provides that all townships within a coterminous municipality may be consolidated by referendum. **OPPOSE** *4968 held in subcommittee; 2462 and 2412 held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

House Bill 4975 (*Yingling, D-Round Lake*) – makes it easier to abolish all townships within a county by citizens petition or county board vote. **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

House Bill 4980 (*Franks, D-Woodstock*); **Senate Bill 2470** (*Oberweis*); **Senate Bill 2288** (*Althoff*) – removes current statutory provisions that serve as disincentives to consolidating townships within a county. **OPPOSE** *4980 held in House Rules Committee; 2470 and 2288 held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

House Bill 5041 (*Stewart, R-Freeport*) – Exempts projects under \$20,000 from the Prevailing Wage Act. **SUPPORT** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

HB 5522 (*Ives, R-Wheaton; Sandoval, D-Chicago*) – Requires units of local government with \$1 million budget or more to sponsor a website and post and keep current 14 different types of public information despite the fact that most of the information is already available elsewhere. **OPPOSE** *Passed House; Held in Senate Assignments Committee.*

House Bill 5528 (*Phelps, D-Norris City*) – Makes MFT distribution to local governments a continuing appropriation and, therefore, not subject to being held up during a budget impasse. **SUPPORT** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

HB 5688 (*Beiser, D-Alton*) – Expands allowable length of semitrailers to 65 feet from 55 feet on township and other highways. **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

House Bill 5759 (*Hoffman, D-Belleville*) – Requires bidders on prevailing wage projects to qualify as “responsible bidders.” **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

House Bill 5885 (*Kifowit*) – Removes the restriction limiting townships to no larger than 126 square miles. **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

House Bill 5996 (*Sullivan, R-Mundelein*) – Grants additional authority over township highway budgets to the township board. **OPPOSE** *Held in House Rules Committee.*

Senate Bill 388 (*Bush-Conroy*) – Provides process for consolidation of various types of townships with one another or with a coterminous municipality if authorized by all of the township boards and approved by voters. **NEUTRAL** *Passed the Senate; House Rules Committee.*

Senate Bill 389 (*Morrison-Sente*) – Allows a township board to put a question to voters on the ballot to abolish a township highway commission if the township has less than 15 miles of highways. **OPPOSE** *Passed the Senate; House Rules Committee.*

Senate Bill 1529 (*Link, D-Waukegan; Currie, D-Chicago*) – Brings conformity between the Township Code and the Election Code as it relates to deadlines for notifying election authorities of township caucus primary

results. **SUPPORT** *Passed both houses.*

Senate Bill 2287 (*Althoff*) – Allows for citizen petition for a binding referendum to abolish a single township and further enumerates transfer of responsibilities to the county. **OPPOSE** *Held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

Senate Bill 2289 (*Althoff*) – Eliminates requirement that townships be no larger than 126 square miles, possess less than \$10 million in EAV, and allows for the county board to establish new township tax rates if consolidation occurs. **OPPOSE** *Held in Senate Local Government Committee.*

Senate Bill 2525 (*Morrison, D-Deerfield*) – Eliminates stipends for county and township assessors. **OPPOSE** *Re-referred to Senate Assignments Committee.*

Senate Bill 3181 (*Oberweis, R-Sugar Grove*) – Allows, among other things, for a unit of local government to publish electronically certain information that now must appear as paid advertising in the local newspaper. **SUPPORT** *Passed Senate Local Government Committee; held on Senate floor.*



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