



Legislative Report

By Timothy S. Bramlet

TOI Legislative Consultant

General Assembly returns to Capitol this month

THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY returns to Springfield on October 25 to take up action on vetoes imposed by Governor Pat Quinn over the summer months. In addition, they may well take up additional consideration of changes to the state's budget and various other substantive issues that have arisen since adjournment in June. TOI will be attempting to amend and advance legislation that prohibits shoveling or plowing snow from a residential drive onto a public highway in a manner that imposes a traffic hazard.

The legislature plans to wrap up their six-day veto session on November 10.

Governor takes action on township bills

Governor Pat Quinn has wrapped up review of legislation that was sent to him by the 2011 Illinois General Assembly and taken action on the following bills of interest to township government:

Senate Bill 1686 (Rep. Frank Mautino, D-Spring Valley; Sen. David Koehler, D-Peoria) mandates that newspapers can only charge the rates they charge their best customers on the commercial side for public notices; eliminates the requirement that the entire annual statement of financial accounts be published if an audit of the unit of government was performed and the audit report is otherwise available. Signed into law; PA 97-1046.

House Bill 268 (Rep. Jack Franks, D-Woodstock; Sen. Kwame Raoul, D-Chicago) creates a task force to study and make recommendations to the General Assembly for the future structure of local governments. It is strictly advisory in nature. Signed into law; PA 97-0316.

House Bill 3152 (Rep. Randy Ramey, R-Carol Stream – Sen. William Haine, D-Alton) allows a township road commissioner or a township board to dispose of surplus property without having to wait for approval at the annual town meeting. Signed into law; PA 97-0337.

Senate Bill 41 (Sen. Susan Garrett, D-Lake Forest -- Rep. Karen May, D-Highland Park) authorizes a highway commissioner to dispose of brush and leaves without referendum approval. Signed into law; PA 97-0417.

House Bill 242 (Rep. David Leitch, R-Peoria -- Sen. Koehler) allows a township board to file suit in regard to a nuisance if a county board does not respond to a complaint in a specific time frame. Signed into law; PA 97-0549.

House Bill 2259 (Rep. Ramey – Sen. Maggie Crotty, D-Oak Forest) clarifies that an appeal of denial of general assistance at the township level is exempt from the Illinois Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts. Signed into law; PA 97-0452.

Senate Bill 1586 (Sen. Don Harmon, D-Oak Park – Rep. Michael Zalewski, D-Chicago) changes the date of the caucus for nominations by a political party for township offices from the second Tuesday in January to the first Tuesday in December; changes the date of the caucus for nomination of township assessor in multi-township districts from the second Wednesday in January to the first Wednesday in December. Signed into law; PA 97-0081.

Senate Bill 1907 (Rep. Michael Madigan, D-Chicago; Sen. Martin Sandoval, D-Chicago) empowers township boards in Cook County to place a question on the ballot relating to eliminating township road districts and having duties and responsibilities, as well as taxing authority, revert to the township board, if approved by the voters. Signed into law; PA 97-0611.



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**2400 Georgetown Rd.,
Danville, IL 61832**

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