



Legislative Report

Legislature defers action on road districts, local government abolition task force

THE ILLINOIS SENATE Local Government Committee has deferred taking action on two pieces of legislation opposed by the Township Officials of Illinois. **Senate Bill 1811**, sponsored by Sen. Michael Noland (D-Elgin), would have eliminated township road districts with less than 100 miles of highways. That would have wiped out all but eight township road districts in the state. That bill was not called for a vote by committee chairman **Sen. David Koehler (D-Peoria)**. Likewise, chairman Koehler sent another bill creating a task force charged with abolishing certain local governments to the Senate Executive Committee. **Senate Bill 1926 (Sen. Terry Link, D-Lincolnshire)** creates a task force of eight members who can slate the abolition or consolidation of any unit or category of local government with an “all or nothing” acquiescence of the General Assembly. At press time, the measure was still pending in the Senate Executive Committee.

A couple of pieces of legislation pushed by TOI have already been considered in early stages of action by the legislature:

HOUSE BILL 3189 (Rep. Thaddeus Jones) Snow plowing regulations – Prohibits shoveling snow from a residential driveway onto a public highway ... passed the House Transportation Committee, pending on House floor.

HOUSE BILL 3152 (Rep. Randy Ramey) Township equipment sales – Authorizes a township or road district to sell surplus property upon request of the highway commissioner or vote of the township road rather than just once a year by declaration at the annual town meeting ... passed the House Counties and Townships Committee, pending on House floor.

HOUSE BILL 3378 (Rep. Randy Ramey) Public aid appeal committee FOIA and Open Meetings exemption – Exempts from both the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act correspondence and deliberation surrounding the appeal of a township general assistance application denial ... fell one vote short

of passage in the House State Government Committee.

TOI hopes to work out concerns with HB 3378 and continues to work on other legislative proposals with the hope of arriving at a consensus and passage of bills this spring. They include:

Licensing of animals – Expressly authorizes townships to take action in situations of abuse of pet animals in unincorporated areas located within counties who have opted not to do so (**Rep. Ed Sullivan**).

Publication of local government reports in the newspaper – Allows local governments to publish reports now required to be printed in a newspaper on a website (*Originally contained in House Bill 1869* – **Rep. Frank Mautino**).

Highway weight limit violation fines – Clarifies that graduated fines can be applied to weight limit violations if they occur on posted roads less than 80,000 pounds (*Originally contained in House Bill 3113* – **Rep. Jil Tracy**).

Motor fuel tax distribution – Authorizes the Department of Transportation to distribute money directly to township road districts that employ both a professional engineer and a certified public accountant (*Originally contained in Senate Bill 1951* – **Sen. Christine Radogno**).



THE JERSEY COUNTY TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS met March 17 at the Jersey Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Kevin Hall, President. After a brief business meeting, the guest speaker for the evening was Bryan E. Smith, TOI Executive Director, who updated those present on the legislative activities in Springfield and encouraged those present to be involved in the legislative process.