



Legislative Report

Still no votes on local government abolition task force or eliminating township road districts

ANOTHER MONTH has elapsed on the spring legislative calendar and still no final action has been taken on efforts to create a task force with the charge of eliminating or consolidating local governments, and to abolish township road districts under certain mileage limits. **SB 173 (Sen. Terry Link)** is the latest version of legislation of a bill to establish a task force with near binding authority to slate elimination of any of thousands of local governmental bodies. It narrowly passed out of Senate Executive Committee but was not called for a vote on the Senate floor before adjournment prior to the Easter recess. As of press time, all bills not called before the previously designated passage deadline of April 15 were given two more legislative days for further consideration.

Two bills sponsored by **Sen. Michael Noland** would have eliminated township road districts with less than 100 miles (**Senate Bill 1811**) (all but eight townships in the state) or a later version modifying the limit to 32 miles (**Senate Bill 958**). The first bill was reassigned from the Senate Local Government Committee, chaired by **Sen. David Koehler**, and the second was heard in that committee but didn't even receive a motion so that a vote could be held.

Other legislation pushed by TOI is moving along in the legislature:

House Bill 3152 (Rep. Randy Ramey) 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.

House Bill 2259 (Rep. Ramey) clarifies that appeal hearings for denials of township general assistance are exempt from the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts ... passed the House.

House Bill 2820 (Rep. Ramey) Clarifies that referendum submitted at annual town meetings must pertain to township business ... passed the House.

Negotiations continue between TOI and other local government groups and the Illinois Press Association to reduce the cost of **publication of local government reports in the newspaper** (*Originally contained in House Bill 1869 — Rep. Frank Mautino*).



Congratulations to our 2011 Scholarship Winners!

Ashley Young, Douglas County/Newman Township

Meagan Kelly, Will County/Plainfield Township

Drew Barth, LaSalle County/Ophir Township

Sarah Brown, Cook County/Hanover Township

Nicole Bialeschki, McLean County/Empire Township

Laramie Immel, White County/Carmi Township

Heather Finley, Tazewell County/Morton Township