



Legislative Report

Legislature fails to nail down budget plan in first go-around

LAWMAKERS FAILED to come to agreement on a budget plan that would allow them to adjourn the spring session by its scheduled May 7 deadline. Although Democrats control both chambers with enough votes to preclude any need for Republican assistance, enough House Democrats balked at a plan that had earlier passed the Senate. House and Senate leaders then elected to return home until the votes could be put together and then return later to the Capitol.

Regardless of the final plan, it will need a heavy makeover following the November election. The plan being debated essentially sends a lump sum to the Governor to be spent at his discretion. Much of the controversy with the plan was the suspension of any pension contributions until after next January.

On the township front, TOI has been busy fighting a bill (House Bill 2332) that would move the date a township assessor takes office from January to the previous May. The legislation is a response to an assessor in Will County last year who was defeated at the polls and then did several irresponsible acts prior to vacating the office. Nevertheless, the current schedule is by design so that a new, incoming assessor doesn't take over in the middle of the tax cycle. As of press time, this bill still needs to be concurred with by the House of Representatives.

Here's a rundown of other legislation TOI has tracked this spring:

TOI supports:

Senate Bill 3462 (*Link – Winters*) changes the distribution formula of motor fuel taxes for townships by allowing those that levy a property tax rate of less than .08 cents to receive a proportional share of the proceeds. *Passed both houses.*

Senate Bill 3430 (*Althoff – Tryon*) clarifies that road commissioners in counties with township form of government have certain powers and duties. *Passed both houses.*

Senate Bill 3010 (*Crotty – Brady*) authorizes a township to buy or lease a township hall or senior center, without referendum, with funds that are not the proceeds of specified bonds. *Passed both houses.*

TOI opposes:

HB 2332 (*Kosel – Crotty*) Amends the Township Code. Provides that, beginning with elections in 2013, the township collectors elected at the township election shall enter upon their duties on the third Monday in May (instead of January 1) following their election and qualification. Provides that, beginning with elections in 2013, the township and multi-township assessors shall enter upon their duties on the third Monday of May (instead of January 1) following their election. Effective immediately. *House concurrence calendar.*

HB 6112 (*Flider – Haine*) Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Provides that for a laborer, worker, or mechanic engaged in the transportation of aggregate or excavated materials or the operation of equipment to haul aggregate or excavated materials to or from the site of the building or construction job, the Department of Labor shall take into consideration the applicable prevailing wage rate and the Illinois Department of Transportation's current method of establishing equipment rates for trucks on public works projects. *Held in Senate Labor Committee.*

SB3282 (*Risinger – Lyons*) Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. In a provision authorizing local authorities to enact an ordinance or resolution prohibiting the use of or restricting the maximum weight of vehicles upon any highway under their jurisdiction, for a total period of not to exceed 90 days in any one calendar year, whenever any the highway by reason of deterioration, rain, snow, or other climate conditions will be seriously damaged or destroyed, provides for an exception for cargo tank vehicles with two or three permanent axles when delivering propane for heating, if the cargo tank is loaded at no more than 50

percent capacity, and the gross vehicle weight of the vehicle does not exceed 32,000 pounds. Provides that the cargo tank vehicle must have an operating gauge on the cargo tank which indicates the amount of propane as a percent of capacity of the cargo tank and must have the capacity displayed on the cargo tank or documentation of the capacity of the cargo tank in the vehicle. Provides that the exception for cargo tank vehicles in the introduced bill applies to counties and townships but does not apply to municipalities. Provides that the provisions of the introduced bill do not permit cargo tank vehicles to cross bridges with posted weight restrictions if the vehicle exceeds the posted weight limit. Limits such access only in emergency situations and requires notice to the township before a delivery is made. *Amended by Rep. Lyons for TOI; passed both houses.*

On Our Cover ... Clockwise from top left: Bloom Township (Cook Co.) Highway Commissioner and Township Officials of Cook County President Joe Stanfa with State Rep. Al Riley (38th Dist.-Olympia Fields); Pecatonica Township (Winnebago Co.) Trustee Scott Hamilton, Clerk Meredith Owens and Supervisor Joe Musso visit with State Rep. Jim Sacia (89th Dist.-Pecatonica); TOI 1st Vice President and Rockford Township Supervisor Mickey Goral, TOI Associate Director Jerry B. Crabtree, Jeff Crabtree from the Governor's staff and State Sen. Gary Forby (59th Dist.-Benton); and Rockford Township Assessor Ken Crowley with State Rep. David Winters (68th Dist.-Shirland)

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