



# Legislative Report

**T**HE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY returned to Springfield midway through their summer recess and finally approved, at least in part, a spending plan for the fiscal year which began on July 1. The budget contains no new taxes and several billion dollars in cuts. Many of those cuts were left up to the discretion of the Governor, and he will continue to make those difficult decisions as the year goes on. Governor Quinn still is hopeful the General Assembly will adopt an income tax increase before the end of the fiscal year and allow him to restore many of the cuts he is now making.

On July 13, the Governor did sign into law the capital spending plan. Although the bill provides \$500 million to locals over the next five years, that is less than what had been hoped for. Additionally, the measure increases weight limits on county, city and township roads to 80,000 pounds.

Here is an update on the bills of importance to TOI this spring:

- **House Bill 564** (*Rep. Osmond; Sen. Althoff*) remedies a situation where a city and a township are coterminous and a city council is exercising powers that would ordinarily be exercised by the township board and allows the council by a ¾ vote to authorize the township supervisor to preside over portions of the city council meetings when addressing township issues. *Passed both houses; signed by the Governor (P.A. 96-241).*
- **House Bill 621** (*Rep. Fortner; Sen. Hultgren*) adapts language to the Township Code that would authorize township boards to deal with mowing grass, trimming or removing nuisance trees or bushes on neglected property. *Passed both houses; signed by the Governor (P.A. 96-0564).*
- **Senate Bill 1379** (*Sen. Sullivan; Rep. Tracy*) increases the threshold for a township highway commissioner to have a pecuniary interest in lease contracts if the aggregate total of the contracts is less than \$2,000 (was \$1,000) with the approval of the town board of trustees or the highway board of auditors. *Passed both houses; signed by the Governor (P.A. 96-0422).*
- **House Bill 476** (*Rep. Winters; Sen. Viverito*) provides for a proportional allotment of motor fuel tax receipts to **all** townships, rather than to just those that levy at .08%. *Passed the House; defeated in Senate committee.*
- **House Bill 644** (*Rep. Verschoore; Sen. Haine*) adds township sewer service systems as entities that may, along with municipalities and sanitary districts that now can, discontinue water service for non-payment of sewer bills. *Passed the House; held in Senate committee and pending for fall.*

In addition to TOI's specific agenda, there were several measures that received the support of townships, including:

- **Senate Bill 78** (*Sen. Clayborne; Rep. Black*) would more precisely define what constitutes a "mobile home" for purposes of tax assessment and inspections. *Passed the Senate; held in House committee and pending for fall.*
- **Senate Bill 1254** (*Sen. Althoff; Rep. Burke*) would have exempted outdoor "physical fitness" facilities owned or operated by a municipality or township from the Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act. *Passed the Senate; substance of the bill amended out in House committee.*
- **House Bill 641** (*Rep. Mautino; Sen. Wilhelmi*) extends the time period for expenditure of monies apportioned by IDOT to counties for the use of road districts for bridge construction. *Passed both Houses; signed by the Governor (P.A. 96-0366).*
- **Senate Bill 49** (*Sen. Althoff; Rep. Ryg*) increased state reimbursement to local road districts for the purchase of road salt during the 2008-2009 sea-

son. *Passed the Senate; held in House committee.*

And other measures that we opposed:

- **Senate Bill 1268; House Amendment #2** (*Rep. Franks*) would have provided full access to heavy trucks on local roads and bridges with no limits for up to five miles. *Defeated in House committee.*
- **Senate Bill 43** (*Sen. Clayborne; Rep. Fritchey*) expands the definition of public works for the purposes of prevailing wage laws to include projects funded by public grants or those in TIF districts and enterprise zones. *Passed the Senate; held in the House with deadline for passage extended to November 30, 2009.*
- **Senate Bill 189** (*Sen. Raoul; Rep. Madigan*) expands the scope of the Freedom of Information Act by broadening definitions of what must be provided by governments, requires designation of an employee, officer or member as an FOI officer, requires computer training of that person, and creates an FOI mitigation section within the Illinois Attorney General's office, as well as other provisions. *Passed both houses and awaiting action of the Governor.*

# Township Perspective

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## **Township Perspective**

408 S. Fifth St.  
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## Amendment to TOI By-Laws Proposed

**T**HE TOI BY-LAWS COMMITTEE met Jan. 22, 2009 and considered the proposed amendment. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the by-law amendment to the TOI Board of Directors.

The TOI Board met on March 27, 2009, heard the recommendation of the TOI By-Laws Committee and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the voting delegates at the November Annual Conference. The proposed amendment reads as follows:

### **AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII.2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARTICLE VII.2**

“In the event an officer identified in Article IV also holds the position as President of a Division, such Division shall appoint and designate another member of such Division to serve on the Board of Directors.”

The TOI Board recommends approving the proposed amendment to the By-Laws to the voting members at the Closing Business Session of TOI's Annual Educational Conference on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. Conference delegates' registration packets will include a copy of the proposed by-law amendment with a recommendation from the TOI Board for approval.

Anyone having questions about the proposed amendment to the By-Laws should feel free to contact R.C. Smith, chair of the TOI By-Laws Committee, or Bryan E. Smith, TOI's Executive Director.