



# Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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**T**HE THING ABOUT the month of May under the dome, is that each one is as different as they are similar. They are a bit like snowflakes in that regard, uniquely individual but at the same time still snow. For the vast majority of them, (at least since the General Assembly changed their adjournment to the month) May marks the end of spring session and with that end comes the frantic scramble to put the finishing touches on legislative measures. Last minute meetings to hammer out negotiated amendments, frantic number-crunching and sometimes invented math-making to put the budget together, and late nights to ensure bills have the necessary votes to pass each chamber. May has a certain cadence and rhythm. At least most of the time.

However, Governor Pritzker might have a unique perspective on the month of May. During his first one, he was able to past a historical number of big-ticket pieces of legislation. His second May saw a condensed convening of the General Assembly during a global pandemic where he was sent a mere fourteen bills for the entire year. And this May? Well, there was not much doubt that a budget would be sent to him, at this time discussion are well under way and all but seem like a done deal. Negotiations on the large energy package also seem to be coming together at this point. It would not be much of a surprise that by the time you read this that an omnibus energy bill may have passed. But May 2021 is unique in the fact that it is the May during a remap year. Once every ten years the State must undergo the redistricting process, which is the redrawing of our political boundaries to reflect population changes after the completion of the decennial federal census.

There is no process more fraught with tension and very few things can raise the blood pressure of a legislator more than redistricting. The Illinois Constitution gives lawmakers until June 30th to approve a map and be signed by the Governor. If they fail to meet that deadline the map making process is taken out of the General Assembly process and new procedures are established. Something that would be an embarrassment for the supermajority and gubernatorial-controlling democrats. It appears unlikely that democratic leadership would allow that to happen but whether a map will be completed before the end of May is a big

question mark and if it lasts into the month of June how close will it cut it to the constitutional deadline? As you can imagine, this May has been incredibly tense as legislators struggle, fight, and make deals all while the remap process looms large in the background.

Although this May does have some unique qualities, for TOI it represented a May like many in our past. Working with legislative allies and members of the General Assembly we were able to defeat the many anti-township pieces of legislation introduced and resolved a number of concerns we had with various other pieces of legislation. Below is a brief list of some of the issues we worked on. As always much of our success comes from the help and outreach provided by township officials. Thank you to those who were able to reach out to legislators and file witness slips.

**HB 162** (*Rep. Jeff Keicher-R 70th / Sen. Julie Morrison-D 29th*)

## **House Floor Amendment No. 1**

Provides that the two residents appointed to the commission shall be appointed by the board of the governmental unit (rather than appointed by the county board chairperson or the president of the board of county commissioners in the county in which the governmental unit lies). Removes a government studies representative from a community college or State university from the committee and, instead, provides that the committee may seek assistance from community colleges or universities with research and the development and review of reports of the committee. Provides that, at the conclusion of each meeting, the committee shall conduct a survey of residents who attended asking for input on what was discussed at the meeting (rather than allowing public input though at least one public survey sent to at least 10% of residents within the governmental unit). Allows the committee meetings to take place at the same time as the governmental unit's regularly scheduled meetings under specified circumstances. Removes a requirement of an oral presentation of the committee's report. Requires that the committee submit its report no later than 18 months (rather than 6 months) after the formation of the committee.

*TOI worked with Sponsor to address concerns.*

**HB 268** (Rep. Sam Yingling-D 62nd / Sen. Thomas Cullerton-D 23rd)

**House Floor Amendment No. 1**

Provides that a township board of trustees or township official may not enter into or authorize an employment, equipment, or service contract during the 14 days before a consolidated election through the third Monday in May following the consolidated election. Provides that a township board or township official may enter into a contract that does not extend more than 60 days after the third Monday of May following the consolidated election to address an emergency. Provides that an employment, equipment, or service contract entered into or authorized in violation of the Section is voidable. *TOI worked with Sponsor to address concerns.*

**HB 1861** (Rep. Jonathan Carroll-D 57th)

Amends the Dissolution of Townships in McHenry County Article of the Township Code. Makes the Article applicable to all counties. Amends the Counties Code and the Motor Fuel Tax Law making conforming changes. Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Changes provisions requiring road districts in townships in Lake County and McHenry County to be abolished if the roads of the road district are less than 15 miles in length to require all townships to abolish such road districts

*Failed to advance out of Committee. TOI Opposes.*

**HB 1916** (Rep. Andrew Chesney-R 89th/Sen. Brian Stewart-R 45th)

Provides that the Department of Transportation shall update its policy for providing notification of construction projects to the public. Provides that the policy shall include a requirement that the Department contact the highway commissioner located in each Department district that will be impacted by a proposed construction project. Provides that the policy shall be completed and published on the Department's website by January 1, 2022. Effective immediately. *TOI Supports.*

**HB 2863** (Rep. Daniel Swanson-R 74th / Sen. Win Stoller-R 37th)

**House Floor Amendment No. 1**

Provides that, in the case of township roads, the county superintendent of highways may either grant consent for construction or deny the application. Provides that the county superintendent of highways shall provide written confirmation, citing the basis of the decision, to both the highway commissioner and the applicant. *TOI worked with Sponsor to address concerns.*

# APPOINTING OFFICIALS TO FILL VACANCIES?

If your township appoints new officials to fill vacancies, make sure to contact the TOI office to update our records! You can call the office at (217) 744-2212 or (866)897-4688, or email [pam@toi.org](mailto:pam@toi.org).



**HB 3599** (Dan Ugaste-R 65th)

Amends the Dissolution of Townships in McHenry County Article of the Township Code. Renames the Article and makes it applicable to all counties under township organization. Amends the Counties Code and the Motor Fuel Tax Law making conforming changes. *Failed to advance out of Committee. TOI Opposes.*

**SB 928** (Sen. Christopher Belt-D 57th / Rep. LaToya Greenwood-D 114th)

On the effective date of the amendatory Act, dissolves Centreville Township in St. Clair County. Provides that all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities of Centreville Township shall by operation of law vest in and be assumed by the City of Cahokia Heights, including the authority to levy property taxes for township purposes in the same manner as the dissolved Township. Provides that Cahokia Heights may enter into an intergovernmental agreement or contract with the county or the State to administer the duties and responsibilities of the township officers for services under its jurisdiction. Provides that the records of Centreville Township shall be deposited in the city clerk's office of Cahokia Heights. Cahokia Heights may close up all unfinished business of the Township and sell and dispose of any of the property belonging to the Township for benefit of the inhabitants of Cahokia Heights. *TOI Opposes.*

**SB 1648** (Sen. Brian Stewart-R 45th)

Amends the Dissolution of Townships in McHenry County Article of the Township Code. Renames the Article and makes it applicable to all counties under township organization. Amends the Counties Code and the Motor Fuel Tax Law making conforming changes. *Failed to advance out of Committee. TOI Opposes.*

**SB 2390** (Sen. Laura Fine-D 9th / Rep. Denyse Wang Stoneback-D 16th)

Provides that, whenever the date for an annual township meeting as required by statute conflicts with the celebration of Ramadan, the township board may postpone the annual township meeting to the first Tuesday following the last day of Ramadan. Effective immediately. *TOI Supports.*

**SB 2553** (Sen. Melinda Bush-D 31st / Rep. Terra Costa Howard-D 48th)

Provides that a unit of local government shall post every elected official vacancy on its website, if it has one, and the county clerk shall also post the vacancy on its website. Provides that the posting shall remain on each website until the vacancy is filled. Limits home rule powers. *TOI worked with Sponsor to address concerns.*



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