



Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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Veto Session

THE FALL VETO SESSION, which is scheduled to begin on November 17th through the 19th and conclude its second week from December 1st through the 3rd, has undergone a number of hypothesis regarding its postponement or cancellation. As it stands now, barring some type of catastrophic event, veto session is expected to proceed as scheduled. This will be an unusual veto session in a very unusual year. As the name attests to, veto session, is the chance for the General Assembly to take action on bills that have seen vetoes from the Governor. However, due to the pandemic and the abbreviated session this spring the Governor, as of the writing of this article, has not issued a single veto or amendatory veto this year.

So then what will the General Assembly be taking up this veto session?

This question has gardened a fair amount of attention from various entities, organizations and legislators as November 17th fast approaches. The two main themes at this time continue to be ethics reform and criminal justice reform. The latter as a response to national headlines and events and the former a response to headlines unfortunately generated here in Illinois.

The House has created their second Special Investigating Committee to look into the federal allegations against ComEd and any ties to Speaker Madigan or his allies. Six House members have been appointed to the committee. The democrats are; Rep. Chris Welch (Chair), Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez, and Rep. Natalie Manley. The republicans are; Rep. Tom Demmer (Spokesperson), Rep. Deanne Mazzochi, and Rep. Grant

Wehrli. At this time the committee is seeking input from the US Attorney's office on how best to proceed with their hearings. A Special Investigation Committee has subpoena authority and upon conclusion of its hearings may make recommendations to the full body of the House. These findings could well take shape in legislation introduced during veto session.

And while the topics of ethics and criminal justice reform may be two of the main themes leading up to veto session it is likely that many other issues and ideas will be pursued during a veto session with no gubernatorial vetoes to take action upon.

One issue to keep an eye on is the results of the fair tax amendment. Some experts predicted that Illinois could be facing a deficit in this fiscal year of around a billion dollars should the fair tax amendment not pass. Should that be the case you can expect conversations about how to fill any shortfalls will start in November. Even with passages of the fair tax amendment there could still be talks of revenue shortfalls due to COVID's effect on the economy. Many are waiting for the numbers to be released on how much damage COVID had on revenue projections at both the local and state levels and veto session will likely see some of those projections come to light.

Even without a docket loaded down by vetoes there is a chance veto session could be very busy. Between the ethics reform and criminal justice reform and a plethora of bills introduced this spring but held due to COVID, we could see a very busy six days of veto session without a single action taken on a veto. Many legislators would like an opportunity to move legislation they were unable to advance in the spring and that includes many of the over 80 bills TOI has been tracking that directly impact townships. In such a highly unusual year it's impossible to predict what exactly will happen during veto session but whatever does occur, TOI will be there and will keep you informed.



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