



Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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THE 2020 SPRING SESSION got off to a slow start this year. With only two days of session in January and a week off in early February, bills were introduced slowly. As March gets underway, we anticipate the General Assembly to settle in and become very busy. To that point, many of the bills introduced were shell bills (bills that contain no original language but are introduced in order to have amendments added later). Many of the shell bills could be used to continue the assault on townships and TOI will continue to monitor bills and the various amendments.

Below are a few of the bills TOI is tracking and advocating upon on the behalf of townships. Particularly on bills like HB 4496 (which seeks to eliminate townships by making HB 348 apply statewide) continue to target townships in the name of property tax relief instead of actually seeking to reduce property taxes by reducing unfunded mandates or the reliance of school districts on the property tax system. We need your help to in defeated misguided bills like these and hope that as leg-

islative alerts are sent out that you will take action. It is only when we all work together that we can successfully defend townships and the people they serve.

HB 4121 (Rep. Tom Demmer) Provides that all townships within a coterminous, or substantially coterminous, municipality may be discontinued (currently, municipalities in which the city council exercises the powers and duties of the township board, or in which one or more municipal officials serve as an officer or trustee of the township; that are located within a county with a population of 3 million or more; and which contain a territory of 7 square miles or more). Effective immediately. **TOI Opposes**

HB 4319 (Rep. Tony McCombie-Michael Halpin) Provides that the governing body of a county, township, or municipality may waive any fees or costs associated with a permit, inspection, or certification of occupancy required by law for construction, reconstruction, or

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demolition of a manufactured home, building, dwelling, or structure, either commercial or residential, damaged as a result of a disaster, emergency, weather event, or for any reason deemed warranted in the interests of public safety, welfare, and recovery of the community by the governing body of the county, township, or municipality. Effective immediately. **TOI Supports**

HB 4496 (Rep. Dan Ugaste) Amends the Dissolution of Townships in McHenry County Article of the Township Code. Changes the Article to apply to all counties under township organizations. Amends 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 less than 15 miles of roads to require all townships to abolish such road districts. Repeals a Section allowing abolition of road districts of less than 15 miles of roads. Effective immediately. **TOI Opposes**

HB 4538 (Rep. Amy Grant) Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code. Provides that a taxing district shall reduce its aggregate extension base for the purpose of lowering its limiting rate for future years upon referendum approval initiated by the submission of a petition by the voters of the district. Effective immediately. **TOI Opposes**

HB 4757 (Rep. Terri Bryant) Amends the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Provides that the requirements established under the Act do not apply to State shared revenues distributed by formula to units of local government from the Local Government Distributive Fund, the Personal Property Tax Replacement Fund, the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, or the Transportation Renewal Fund. Effective immediately. **TOI Support**

HB 4762 (Rep. Dan Ugaste) Provides that no taxing district may hold more than 150% of the previous levy year's property tax collections in cash or cash-equivalent assets. Provides that excess amounts shall be refunded to taxpayers. Effective immediately. **TOI Oppose**

HB 4767 (Rep. Patrick Windhorst-Tom Demmer) Provides that a person may operate a non-highway vehicle on a roadway with a speed limit of 55 miles per hour or less (rather than 35 miles per hour or less) if the roadway is not a State highway, federal highway, or within the boundaries of an incorporated area. Effective immediately. **TOI Oppose**

SB 2322 (Sen. Jason Plummer) Synopsis as Introduced: Provides that a unit of local government may not use public funds to pay a lobbyist or lobbying entity. Limits home rule powers. **TOI Oppose**



Thoughts on Topics Day

Chuck Layer

Supervisor, Blackhawk Township, Rock Island County & TOI Director



Why do you think Topics Day is important?

To meet with Legislators to let them know what needs and legislation is important to Townships.

How has attending Topics Day helped your township?

It has given our Township Officials an insight into what is needed to introduce and get bills passed in the General Assembly.

What has been your favorite part of attending Topics Day?

Socializing with other Township Officials throughout the State. Meeting with other Legislators outside of my districts.

Why do you think more Township Officials should be involved with Topics Day?

Strength in numbers! Township services and functions are not very familiar with the general public (voters), let alone the Legislators. The more we inform, the stronger we stand together as the unit of government closest to the people.

What has been your biggest take away from Topics Day?

The things that can be accomplished, sometimes just by simple conversation.

