



Legislative Report

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A different kind of Veto Session

VETO SESSIONS USUALLY APPEAR in one of two varieties; either dull, humdrum affairs with little work to be done and even fewer surprises or a chaotic flurry of activity which attempts to stuff months of normal work into only two weeks. In an odd twist this veto session somehow managed to do both.

Before the start of veto, there was an expectation that with only seven gubernatorial vetoes legislators would turn their attention to non-vetoed legislation. As such a small number of vetoes could conceivably be handled in a few days, there would be more than enough time for legislators to make use of the potential idleness by filing a slew of bills and amendments. A number of big ticket clean up bills were also being worked on and a long list of trailer bills was being discussed and prepped for veto session.

However the first week of veto session was almost anything but busy. The continued fallout from the wide federal investigation, cast a grim aura over the first week of veto session and very little substantive work was done or action taken upon the floor of either chamber. Nearly all of the attention of the Capitol was focused upon the developing news stories and for a time there was concern that nothing at all would be done over the veto session. But those concerns proved to be completely unfounded as the second week of veto session was a study in contrasts. Legislative leaders and rank and file members scurried around trying to put the finishing touches on a wide swath of legislative measures and secure the needed votes to pass bills.

Over thirty bills were passed in the final three days of veto session and the work legislators had to complete in such a short time frame was truly impressive. Many of the trailer bills that had been discussed for months leading up to veto session came together in the final week. Much of that work was spent trying to reach accord on the several technical fixes needed for the various landmark legislation that passed in the spring. For some issues it was a matter of fixing the low hanging fruit with plans to continue work in the spring of 2020. While other issues proved to have more moving pieces than a veto session allowed to be worked out and thus will need to be revisited as well (particularly the supplemental capitol bill important to townships and counties).

Below are some of the highlights from veto session:

SB 119 (*Sen. Steans/Rep. Zaleski*) is a budget implementation bill making various changes relate to the implementation of the state's FY 20 budget. The bill makes technical changes to a variety of revenues, notably MFT and taxes associated with future online sales tax.

SB 222 (*Sen. Munoz/Rep. Rita*) provisions to rectify problems with previously enacted gaming legislation. Addressing the problems would ensure that the gambling expansion rollout will not be delayed. There was much discussion, particularly from the Mayor of Chicago, over the last several days about making changes to the law with respect to casinos and revenue distributions, but these changes were not added to the bill ultimately voted on by legislators.

SB 667 (*Sen. Manar/Rep. Guzzardi*) would provide that insurers offering prescription insulin drugs must limit the total cost to \$100 per 30-day supply of insulin regardless of the type and amount of insulin needed by the insured.

SB 730 (*Sen. Bush/Rep. Williams*) makes several changes to the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. Of interest for local governments is a provision building upon changes made in Public Act 101-221. It would require a local governments chief administrative officer to certify to the county clerk, on or before February 1 of each year, the list of names and addresses of person that are required to file a statement of economic interest. The bill clarifies that the list of names should be furnished on a specific date.

SB 1557 (*Sen. Steans/Rep. Villanueva*) makes changes to the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act. Significant to municipalities and counties is the change in the Retailers' Occupation Tax. As spelled out in the bill, if a tax is imposed before April 1, 2020, the Illinois Department of Revenue will administer and enforce the tax on July 1, 2020.

SB 1784 (*Sen. Harmon/Rep. Hoffman*) requires a public employer to furnish a complete list of public

employees in a bargaining unit at least once a month to the exclusive bargaining representative. The bill further requires that an employer provide “reasonable access” to employees in the bargaining unit.

SB 1863 – Was not called for a vote. It is primarily an election bill but tucked in the bottom of the bill was a change to how two positions in Capitol Township would be elected.

Note:

SB 640 (*Public Act 101-0309*) was a bill TOI tracked as it was being amended in the spring of 2019. It was not included in an early article as not every bill can be. It is being included due to questions regarding it at the education conference. It Amends the Other Social Services Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that in a county under township organization, a township may provide, from moneys received and collected for public aid to all persons eligible for General Assistance under the Code, funds and administer programs for providing in-kind aid in meeting basic maintenance requirements, including, but not limited to, food, paper goods, toiletries, and clothing, to persons who are poor, indigent, homeless, or in need of immediate assistance, in addition to financial aid provided under the Code.

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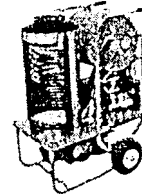


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