

Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

Anderson Legislative Consulting, Ltd.



SINCE THE RELEASE of the 2022 spring session calendar, there have been questions regarding if the General Assembly would be able to meet their ambitious adjournment date of April 8th. Reducing session by more than a month, would the legislature have enough time to pass a balanced budget and send it to the Governor's desk?

So, it was a bit of a surprise when the General Assembly managed to do exactly that. Providing you give some allowance that 6:00 a.m., the morning of Saturday April 9th, is near enough to April 8th to count; and to be perfectly honest most objections would have been too drowned out by the sounds of yawning, after a 20 plus hour marathon of a day, to matter.

The last week of spring session was a flurry of activity as legislative leaders and budget negotiators worked on crafting the budget behind the scenes, while the rest of the General Assembly focused on moving various pieces of legislation through the chambers in hopes of passing critical bills before adjournment.

Bills aimed at curbing organized retail theft, regulating "ghost guns," codifying that victims of carjackings are not responsible for traffic violations after theft, and a bill to reduce wage theft that was heavily supported by unions are just a few of the bills that were worked on late into Friday night.

The final budget package passed for FY23, consisted of three bills totaling \$45.6 billion. Included \$1.8 billion in tax holidays and temporary cuts intended to provide relief in response to the inflation costs on necessities, like food, school supplies and fuel. HB 900, the appropriation bill, HB 4700, the Budget Implementation Bill, and SB 157, which contained the tax relief items, weren't released in their final forms until around 10pm Friday night. However, earlier in the week saw Democrats in both the House and Sen-



TOI'S LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS: Anderson Legislative Consulting, LLC. Taylor Anderson, Allison Richards, and Letitia Dewith-Anderson.

ate release separate budget proposals via press conferences. The final budget was essentially a mixture of the proposed budget by the Governor and the various options outlined by House and Senate Democrats, with the two budget bills being passed largely along party lines and the tax relief bill passing out of the House 110-0 and the Senate on a vote of 55-1.

The tax relief bill contains the following provisions:

- A six-month suspension of the state's scheduled 2-3 cent Motor Fuel Tax increase (July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022). **Local tax collections will not be negatively impacted due to a fund transfer from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank fund.**
- A one-year suspension of a 1% sales tax on groceries (pharmaceuticals are exempted). This will not negatively impact local tax collections as the package establishes a new Grocery Tax Replacement Fund which reimburses local units of government.

- A one-time property tax rebate (up to \$300 for specified taxpayers) and a one-time income tax rebate of \$50 for single filers, \$100 for joint filers, with an added \$100 for each dependent (up to three) for select taxpayers based on their adjusted gross income. **Local levies are not expected to be impacted.**
- A “back-to-school” sales tax holiday on school supplies (August 5, 2022, through August 14, 2022). **Local tax collections will not be negatively impacted.**

All in all, this spring session ended with a mad dash of a last week, capped by one of the longest session days in recent memory. Townships did very well by all accounts this year, with the majority of bills with a negative impact on townships failing to pass both

chambers (though *HB 5538—prevailing wage applied to intergovernmental agreements*—is still alive and could be moved during veto session). While, HB 4251, a bill that raises the bid threshold from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for townships passed both chambers and will now be headed to the Governor’s desk (Thank you to Rep. Tony McCombie and Sen. Neil Anderson for working with TOI on this legislation).

For those of you able to join us in Springfield for the Township Officials of Illinois Annual Lobby Day, I want to personally say thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come to the Capitol and participate in the advocacy for Illinois townships. I always enjoy the opportunity to talk to township officials from across this great State of ours and it is truly and honor and a privilege for our firm to represent you before the General Assembly.

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