



Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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THE COUNTDOWN TO MAY 31ST and the end of spring session has begun in earnest. As the number of bills legislators must focus their attention on dwindles the pressure in the Capitol building increases. And for the first time in nearly two years, most of that work has moved back under the dome, in large part, for legislators and staff. Restrictions on lobbyist have also eased somewhat, though testing is required multiple times a week, as the world cautiously inches its way back to pre-pandemic times.

The budget remains the largest concern for legislators and the Governor, even as the state is set to receive a reported \$7 billion dollars in money from the federal government. Budget negotiators have been working to craft a spending plan that recognizes the financial harm inflicted by the pandemic and prepares for a future that continues to shift in uncertain ways.

The beginning of the year saw TOI tracking over 200 bills that impacted townships. Due to committee deadlines and by working with legislators and staff that list has been greatly reduced. However, many bills that impact townships are still alive and active. Below is a sample of some of the most pressing issues TOI is continuing to work on.

HB 162 (*Rep. Jeff Keicher*) Creates the Decennial Committees on Local Government Consolidation and Efficiency Act. Provides that at least once every 10 years each unit of local government (except municipalities and counties) must form a committee to: study local efficiencies, including an analysis of whether to consolidate with another governmental unit, municipality, or county; and create a report with recommendations regarding efficiencies, increased accountability, and consolidation. Provides that the committee shall collect data, research, analysis, and public input. Dissolves the committee after completion of its report and oral presentation of the report. Contains provisions about committee membership, meetings, and report requirements. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately. **TOI is working with Sponsor to address concerns.**

HB 268 (*Rep. Sam Yingling*) Provides that a township board may not enter into or authorize an employment,

equipment, or service contract, with the exception of a contract negotiated with a labor union, that would extend 90 days past the next township election. Provides that employment, equipment, or service contracts entered into or authorized in violation of the provisions are voidable. **TOI is working with Sponsor to address concerns.**

HB 1916 (*Rep. Andrew Chesney*) 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*) Provides that an owner or occupant seeking consent from a highway authority to construct ditches, drains, track, rails, or other equipment along any highway or road may appeal the authority's decision to deny consent to the county superintendent of highways by filing an appeal in the office of the district clerk within 10 days after receiving the written explanation of the decision. **TOI is working with Sponsor to address concerns.**

HB 3410 (*Rep. Thomas Morrison*) Requires local governments with a budget of \$1 million or more to maintain a website and expands information which must be reported. Provides that all local records required to be posted shall remain posted on the entity's website, or subsequent websites, for 10 years. **TOI Opposes.**

SB 150 (*Sen Scott Bennett*) Changes the definition of "all-terrain vehicle by: (1) changing the size limitation to 55 (rather than 50) inches measured from the outside of the tire rim to the outside of the tire rim; and (2) removing specific design requirements. Changes the definition of "recreational off-highway vehicle" by changing the size limitation to 80 (rather than 64) inches or less in width measured from the outside of the tire rim to the outside of the tire rim. Effective immediately. **TOI Opposes.**

SB 1648 (Sen. Brian Stewart)

Amends the Dissolution of Townships in McHenry County Article of the Township Code. Makes it applicable to all counties under township organization. Repeals provisions making abolition permissive for townships with road districts that have roads of less than 15 miles in length. Effective immediately. **TOI Opposes.**

SB 2390 (Sen. Laura Fine)

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)

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 is working with Sponsor to address concerns.**



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