

Legislative Report

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THE ABBREVIATED 2022 SPRING SESSION has been as tumultuous as expected, with multiple cancelled session days due to the pandemic and winter storms. However, those cancelled days have not impacted the General Assembly deadlines or adjournment date and both chambers have moved full steam ahead with the scheduled plan to adjourn by April 8th.

The Governor's budget and State of the State address, another causality of cancelled days, was held in the Old State Capitol and livestreamed instead of the traditional location of the House chamber before the entire General Assembly. In the address the Governor outlined his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) and highlighted strong revenues this fiscal year. In fact, the tax revenue for the state is so strong, that according to the Governor's office, that state will have a nearly \$1.7 billion budget surplus by the end of Fiscal Year 2022.

The proposed FY23 budget sets \$45.5 billion in general fund spending. FY23 capital spending will see an increase in spending thanks to the federal dollars from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Estimates place \$15.8 billion for multi-modal projects at IDOT, another \$1.2 billion for drinking and waste-water improvement programs, and above \$550 million for lead service line replacement.

The breakdown for the proposed \$45.4 FY23 budget would see 21 percent of the funds go towards education, 20 percent towards state pensions, 18 percent towards human services and 17 percent towards health care.

For part of the FY22 budget surplus, mentioned above, the governor proposed to split into payments towards the states 'rainy day' fund with \$600 million being placed in FY22 and allocating \$279 million in FY23. With the remaining surplus the Governor announced the creation of the "Illinois Family Relief Plan" which would place a one-year suspension on the state's 1 percent tax on groceries, suspended the increase in Motor Fuel Tax, and provide a 5 percent property tax rebate. At this time, it is unknown what the loss to township road districts would be with the suspension of the MFT increase.

The Governor also has plans to increase the

amount of money the State spends to pay down the state's pension liabilities and by the end of FY23, the proposed plan, would pay back \$4 billion in borrowing debt, including all the COVID-19 related borrowing.

Overall, the proposed budget is incredibly ambitious and with the shortened time frame for session looming, it remains to be seen how many of the proposals will find traction with members of the General Assembly.

The first legislative report for 2022 is now available on the TOI website www.toi.org under the legislation tab. Updates to this report will be provided through the current legislative session. If you have any questions about a legislative proposal, the status of a bill, or the process, please contact the TOI Office and talk to Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.

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