

Item: 13:
Village Clerk Schultheis
Legislative Updates

David Lothspeich

From: IML Legislation [IMLLegislation@iml.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 11:22 AM
Subject: Illinois Municipal League Statehouse Briefing - March 5, 2013

IML Statehouse Briefing



On the ground news and insider information!

March 5, 2013

Governor Quinn will give his Budget Address on Wednesday, March 6. We will be watching for any proposals that impact local government revenue.

The IML has identified several bills for which **we need our membership to take action this week**. There are other bills that we oppose, but in some cases we are working to amend those bills to lessen or eliminate their impact. The bills included in this *Statehouse Briefing* are the issues for which we need active and immediate reinforcement from our membership.

We have included the contact information for sponsors to make it easier to facilitate phone calls and e-mails. E-mails are good, but **phone calls are the preferred way of contacting legislators**. We have also provided links to the committees where legislation is scheduled to be considered. Please view each committee list and see if your legislators serve on the committees. If so, let them know your position on the bills that will come before them!

IML Statehouse Preview for the Week of March 4

Watch [this short video](#) that summarizes some of the legislative issues that we will be working on this week.

Sales Tax Borrowing

The following bills are on Third Reading in the House:

[HB 193](#) (Speaker Madigan) and [SB 622](#) (Speaker Madigan)

Both of these bills propose to borrow \$6.6 million from the Local Government Tax Fund (sales tax revenue) in order to fund a medical regulatory unit within the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. The money would be repaid in three installments of \$2.2 million. Please **contact your state representatives** and urge that they oppose these bills on the House Floor. **IML OPPOSES HB 193 and SB 622.**

Local Revenue Restrictions

The following bills are assigned to the [House Revenue and Finance Committee](#):

[HB 89](#) (Rep. Franks, D-Woodstock) would prevent tax-capped local governments from collecting sufficient property taxes to keep up with inflationary increases. The limitation provided for in the bill would apply to those jurisdictions that experience a decline in assessed property value over that of

the prior year. Please **contact Representative Franks at (217)782-1717** or jack@jackfranks.org and urge that he not call the bill for a vote. **IML OPPOSES HB 89.**

[HB 1310](#) (Rep. Franks, D-Woodstock) provides that, for tax years 2013 and 2014, the extension limitation is zero or the amount approved by referendum if the current year EAV is less than the previous year EAV. Please **contact Representative Franks at (217)782-1717** or jack@jackfranks.org and urge that he not call the bill for a vote. **IML OPPOSES HB 1310.**

[HB 95](#) (Rep. McSweeney, R-Cary) provides, for tax years 2013-2015, that the extension limitation is zero or the rate of increase approved by a referendum (note that this applies regardless of whether EAV has dropped.) Please **contact Representative McSweeney at (217)782-1517** or ilhouse52@gmail.com and urge that he not call the bill for a vote. **IML OPPOSES HB 95.**

[HB 1499](#) (Rep. Kay, R-Edwardsville) provides that, beginning in taxable year 2013 and concluding in taxable year 2017, the county clerk shall reduce the property taxes levied by each taxing district to a level that is not greater than that taxing district's levy in the previous taxable year. Please **contact Representative Kay at (217)782-8018** or dwrightkay112@gmail.com and urge that he not call the bill for a vote. **IML OPPOSES HB 1499.**

[HB 3041](#) (Rep. Kifowit, D-Aurora) would prevent tax-capped local governments from collecting sufficient property taxes to keep up with inflationary increases. The limitation provided for in the bill would apply to those jurisdictions that experience a decline in assessed property value over that of the prior year. This bill is a new introduction and is presently in the House Rules Committee, but will likely be assigned to the House Revenue and Finance Committee. Please **contact Representative Kifowit at (217)782-8028** or stephanie.kifowit@att.net and urge that she not advance the bill. **IML OPPOSES HB 3041.**

The following bill is scheduled for a hearing in the [Senate Revenue Committee](#):

[SB 1308](#) (Sen. Murphy, R-Palatine) provides that, beginning in taxable year 2013 and through taxable year 2015, the total amount due on each property tax bill in each taxable year may not exceed the total amount due for that property in taxable year 2012. Please **contact Senator Murphy at (217)782-4471** or senatormattmurphy@gmail.com and urge that he not call the bill for a vote. **IML OPPOSES SB 1308.**

Firefighter Benefit Increases/Expansions

The following bill is scheduled for a hearing in the [House Personnel and Pensions Committee](#):

[HB 1377](#) (Rep. Burke, D-Chicago) expands eligibility for 65% of salary duty disability pension benefits by defining "act of duty" to include participation in training activities designed to enhance the skills and abilities of the firefighter, whether within or away from the municipality he or she serves as a firefighter, if the assignment is related to the fire protection service of the municipality. The bill provides that such activity shall continue to be considered an "act of duty" even if performed without compensation. Please **contact Representative Burke at (217)782-1117** or burkedj2@ilga.gov and urge that he not call the bill for a vote. We have a [fact sheet](#) that can be used in discussing the bill with your legislators. **IML OPPOSES HB 1377.**

The following bill is scheduled for a hearing in the [House Cities and Villages Committee](#):

[HB 2237](#) (Rep. Lang, D-Skokie) would allow firefighters that voluntarily waive their health insurance continuation rights to force their way back into the municipal health insurance pool years into retirement. The bill would create "adverse selection" and increase municipal health insurance costs. We encourage the use of this [fact sheet](#) when discussing this issue with your legislators. **IML OPPOSES HB 2237.**

Litigation Exposure

The following bill is scheduled for a hearing in the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#):

[SB 1210](#) (Sen. Silverstein, D-Chicago) would create the "Bill of Rights for the Homeless Act." The bill sets forth certain rights of homeless persons and provides that in any civil action alleging a violation of the Act, the court may award appropriate injunctive and declaratory relief, actual damages, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff. This legislation could make it difficult, if not impossible, for municipal governments to effectively enforce public loitering ordinances. Please **contact Senator Silverstein at (217)782-5500** or isilverstein@senatedem.ilga.gov and urge that he not call the bill for a vote. **IML OPPOSES SB 1210.**

Municipal Hearing Requirement

The following bill is scheduled for a hearing in the [Senate Labor and Commerce Committee](#):

[SB 1222](#) (Sen. Murphy, R-Palatine) amends the Open Meetings Act, the Counties Code, the Township Code, and the Illinois Municipal Code to require that, before any county board, township board, or the corporate authorities of any municipality vote on an officer's or employee's increase in earnings that exceeds his or her earnings for the previous calendar year by more than 6 percent, there must be a public hearing addressing the proposed increase in earnings. The bill appears to require a separate hearing for each affected employee. Please **contact Senator Murphy at (217)782-4471** or senatormattmurphy@gmail.com and urge that he not call the bill for a vote. **IML OPPOSES SB 1222.**

If you do not wish to receive information from the Illinois Municipal League via e-mail, please reply to this email include the words "Please remove from list" along with your name, municipality and email address included in the message.



Illinois General Assembly

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Bills & Resolutions **Bill Status of HB0193** *98th General Assembly*

[Compiled Statutes](#)

[Full Text](#) [Votes](#) [View All Actions](#) [Printer-Friendly Version](#)

[Public Acts](#)

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Short Description: MEDICAL DISCIPLINARY FUND-TECH

[IL Constitution](#)

House Sponsors

[Legislative Guide](#)

Rep. [Michael J. Madigan](#) - [Barbara Flynn Currie](#) - [Mary E. Flowers](#)

[Legislative Glossary](#)

Last Action

Search By Number
(example: HB0001)

Date	Chamber	Action
2/27/2013	House	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate

Go [Search Tips](#)

Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance

[225 ILCS 60/21](#)

from Ch. 111, par. 4400-21

Search By Keyword

Go

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Medical Practice Act of 1987. Makes a technical change in a provision concerning license renewal.

Alternate Search

[House Committee Amendment No. 1](#)

Adds reference to:

[30 ILCS 105/6z-18](#)

from Ch. 127, par. 142z-18

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Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the State Finance Act. Provides that, as soon as possible after the effective date of this amendatory Act, the State Comptroller shall order and the State Treasurer shall transfer \$6,600,000 from the Local Government Tax Fund to the Illinois State Medical Disciplinary Fund. Amends the Medical Practice Act of 1987. Provides that the State Comptroller shall order and the State Treasurer shall transfer an amount equal to \$2,200,000 from the Illinois State Medical Disciplinary Fund to the Local Government Tax Fund on each of the following dates: July 1, 2014, November 1, 2014, and March 1, 2015. Makes changes to fees for license renewal. Effective immediately.



Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
1/18/2013	House	Filed with the Clerk by Rep. Michael J. Madigan
1/23/2013	House	First Reading
1/23/2013	House	Referred to Rules Committee
1/29/2013	House	Assigned to Executive Committee
2/1/2013	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Filed with Clerk by Rep. Michael J. Madigan
2/1/2013	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Referred to Rules Committee
2/4/2013	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Rules Refers to Executive Committee
2/4/2013	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Adopted in Executive Committee ; by Voice Vote

2/4/2013	House	Do Pass as Amended / Short Debate Executive Committee ; 007-004-000
2/4/2013	House	Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Short Debate
2/4/2013	House	Second Reading - Short Debate
2/4/2013	House	Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading - Short Debate
2/7/2013	House	Added Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie
2/7/2013	House	Added Chief Co-Sponsor Rep. Mary E. Flowers
2/27/2013	House	Second Reading - Short Debate
2/27/2013	House	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate

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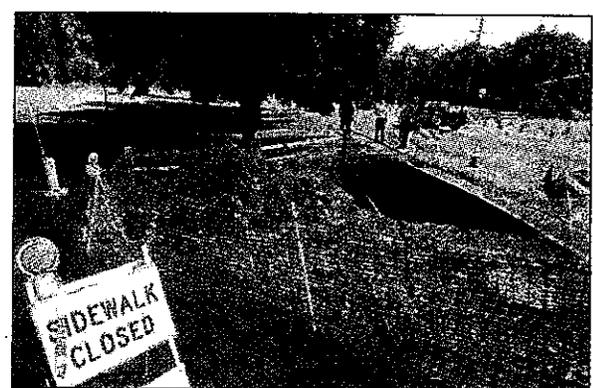
help
ion,"
Brian
up and much better than they
See **THIRSTY** on **PAGE 6**

LAURA STOECKER/lstoecker@dailyherald.com
The shoreline of the Fox River along the Batavia Riverwalk
receded several feet last summer because of the drought.

Larus vs. Garner
• Zion-Benton vs. St. Viator



ABC 7



BOB CHWEDYK/bchwedyk@dailyherald.com

Palatine

A sinkhole at the northwest corner of Dundee and Hicks roads in Palatine in July 2011 was caused by a collapsed sewer during a heavy summer rainfall.

ed the pavement from underneath
er and his squad car in 2009

The suburbs'
WINKHOLES



CHRISTOPHER HANKINS/chankins@dailyherald.com

couple of cars with it when it broke open in the parking lot of the Manor Restaurant in East

ing like Florida, but
here can collapse

The hole truth

• A sinkhole is an area of ground that has no natural external surface drainage.

THE STATE BUDGET CRISIS

**Suburbs
brace for
a fight**

*Local governments fear state
will take from their coffers*

By **MIKE RIOPELL**
STATE GOVERNMENT WRITER
mriopell@dailyherald.com

SPRINGFIELD — Over the past several years, budget troubles at the Illinois Capitol have meant worry for mayors and school board members back home.

Harsh financial troubles for the state occasionally spawn proposals that could take money from local government to help patch up the holes.

Gov. Pat Quinn is set to deliver his budget plans to lawmakers Wednesday, and local officials will be listening.

"Local governments are very concerned about becoming the collateral damage," said Barrington Mayor Karen Darch.

Quinn budget spokesman Abdon Pallasch wouldn't reveal if any of Quinn's proposals Wednesday will cut into funding for local governments. Once Quinn has made his proposals, lawmakers have until May 31 to decide whether they will follow them.

So far, mayors like Darch have successfully avoided some of the bigger potential bites that could affect their budgets, including a high-profile proposal that would have taken away communities' 6 percent share of Illinois income taxes.

And last year, House Speaker Michael Madigan proposed taking business taxes away from townships, schools, cities and others to pay for

See **FIGHT** on **PAGE 5**

Island Lake

1 • 1 • 1

By MIKE RIOPELL
STATE GOVERNMENT WRITER
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SPRINGFIELD — Gov. Pat Quinn on Monday vetoed nearly 2-year-old legislation that would have allowed a casino in Lake County and 1,200 slot machines at Arlington Park.

The move was widely expected, as Quinn had already vetoed a proposal that didn't go as far in expanding gambling.

But a parliamentary abnormality early this year sent the

legislation that lawmakers approved back in 2011 to the governor's desk.

Gambling is likely to come up again this year, as state Sen. Terry Link, a Waukegan Democrat, has said he wants to work to find a compromise with Quinn.

The governor has said publicly he wants lawmakers to deal with the state's rising retirement costs before they tackle new casinos.

"We cannot gamble our way out of our pension challenge," Quinn wrote in his veto message. "Any gaming revenue

is a drop in the bucket compared to the \$96 billion unfunded pension liability that Illinois faces."

Quinn wants stronger ethics safeguards in any new gambling package and has appeared to back off a previous aversion to slots at racetracks like Arlington Park.

In the meantime, hundreds of video gambling machines continue to go online in bars across the state. Their profits are intended to pay for a massive construction plan Quinn brokered in 2009.

mriopell@dailyherald.com

SPRINGFIELD — In the year since Gov. Pat Quinn declared it was time for a "rendezvous with reality" on issues like the state's rising pension costs, suburban lawmakers have offered some of the leading plans to tackle the problem.

Suburban faces of both parties are behind almost every major proposal, and the plans vary widely, from cutting benefits deeply to extending the 2011 temporary income tax increase, from taking away pensions for future workers altogether to one proposal endorsed by union leaders.

On one hand, the varied ideas provide lawmakers with a lot to think about, a complex buffet of options with which to approach the state's nearly \$100 billion pension debt.

On the other, as each new plan is hatched, consensus could be harder to find. Cutting pension benefits for teachers and state workers is a tough vote for lawmakers — one many don't want to have to take more than once.

So until there's strength in numbers behind one plan, the debate could remain muddled.

As Quinn is set to give lawmakers his budget proposal Wednesday, he's already backed one plan.

But when certain pension-cutting ideas were rejected handily in test votes last week, it could be a sign that compromise is not on the horizon.

It can be tough to keep track of who has proposed what, especially because minds change all the time. But here's a snapshot of major proposals for pension reform.

Rep. Elaine Nekritz, Northbrook Democrat; Rep. Tom Cross, House Republican leader of Oswego; Sen. Daniel Biss, Evanston Democrat; Rep. Darlene Senger, Naperville Democrat

Fight: Some officials avoid cuts because of ties to statehouse

Continued from Page 1

teachers' pensions. That plan also didn't take off.

Gov. Pat Quinn's refusal in recent years to pay for regional offices of education with state money led to a deal where small amounts of taxes are withheld from other local governments to pay for the schools chiefs.

"It's an ongoing struggle," said Buffalo Grove Mayor Jeff Braiman.

But some state leaders argue that when times are tough, everyone has to sacrifice. Still lingering is a controversial plan to have suburban school districts pay for future teachers' pension costs.

The idea has been debated for more than a year. The specifics are often changing depending on who proposes it, and it isn't likely to go away soon.

At the same time suburban mayors have also led a charge in Springfield to ask state lawmakers to cut pension benefits for police officers and firefighters, saying rising costs are driving up their yearly payments.

The state sets rules for those local pensions, so local governments can't stem their rising bills themselves. No such changes appear imminent at the Capitol.

But suburban officials have been able to avoid some cuts at least in part because many lawmakers have such close ties to local government.

The Illinois General Assembly is full of former mayors, county board members, school board members and people who otherwise have strong relationships with their elected colleagues back home.

State Sen. Pam Althoff of McHenry and state Reps. Ron

Sandack of Downers Grove and Marty Moylan of Des Plaines are all former mayors, for example. State Sen. Tom Cullerton of Villa Park still serves as mayor there until his term is up.

"I still want to protect the cities and villages," Moylan said.

Rep. Mike Tryon of Crystal Lake is the former McHenry County Board chairman, and Sen. Karen McConaughay of St. Charles left the Kane County Board chairmanship for her seat in the legislature. State Rep. Ed Sullivan of Mundelein still serves as a township assessor in Lake County.

Their argument often is that even if budget cuts save the cash-strapped state money, local taxpayers could be asked to pick up the slack.

"Somebody's got to pay that and it's obviously the citizens," Braiman said.

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Article updated: 3/4/2013 9:23 AM

Budget: State's unpaid bills could more than double in the next 5 years, watchdog group says

SPRINGFIELD — Almost 10 years ago, Mike Baker and his family moved from Carpentersville to Schaumburg because he thought services offered at the local schools would benefit his son Bryan, who has autism.

Baker says he's glad he and his wife made the decision. Bryan, now 14, likes his school and teachers and is doing well.

"It had to be my son first," Baker said.

Switching suburbs, though, didn't get Baker out of Illinois, where the state's financial issues could haunt his family for years as funding is cut for vocational services for students like Bryan.

As Gov. Pat Quinn is set to deliver his budget plan to lawmakers Wednesday, the Bakers' story is one that repeats throughout the suburbs for families and the institutions trying to care for them.

It's a tough spot for the governor as he faces a re-election campaign that will heat up later this year. The state debt is among the most troublesome in the country, putting immense pressure on Quinn to get it under control.

But getting it under control — especially as lawmakers continue to butt heads over long-term fixes — could mean more unpopular cuts in the short term.

The consequences of Illinois' money troubles are widespread in Chicago's suburbs, though it's not always obvious as headlines focus on closing prisons and mental health facilities downstate.

With funding cut or payments months late, some suburban school districts have restricted which students get bused or lengthened the walk to a bus stop, raising safety concerns. Public university tuition has climbed, costing suburban parents more and leaving students with a lot more debt.

Slot machines have arrived at suburban bars to pay for new roads and bridges, and the promise of income from new casinos someday could lead to more of them in the suburbs and Chicago.

No one is getting paid on time, from people who care for the elderly, disabled and abused, to funeral homes waiting to get reimbursed for burying the poor.

The state's budget troubles aren't new. And despite Democrats' rule as the state's problems have worsened, voters elected more members of the party to office just months ago.

It's unclear what exactly Quinn will propose Wednesday. Illinois isn't likely to dig itself out of a budget pinch this big in one year. After all, it hasn't yet.

"We just have to make do with what we have," said Quinn budget spokesman Abdon Pallasch.

With rising debt and health care costs — as well as \$9.7 billion in unpaid bills the state can barely afford to chip

away at — lawmakers largely are stuck trying to stop the bleeding.

"The first side of the equation is to make sure it doesn't grow," state Rep. Fred Crespo, a Hoffman Estates Democrat and chairman of a budget committee, said of the state's deficit.

That's little consolation to Baker, whose son is on a waiting list to get additional services such as vocational training — skills that could help Bryan live on his own later in life.

Baker in the meantime is working with other local parents in the Schaumburg Autism Society to raise money to help developmentally disabled students attend a Harper College vocational educational program.

But questionable state support makes things harder.

"He's going to get older, and the problems are only going to get worse," Baker said.

Last week, budget watchdog the Civic Federation predicted the state's unpaid bills tally could more than double in the next five years.

That might be the state's most urgent of many problems, but lately, lawmakers' budget focus has been on the state's rising pension costs.

The retirements of teachers, university workers and state employees is likely to cost the state \$1 billion more than last year — a harsh expense when lawmakers are already strapped for cash.

Not only that, but lawmakers' attempts to cut health care services for the poor last year haven't saved as much as expected, offering another hurdle they'll have to clear this year.

It's a big issue in the suburbs, where use of the Medicaid program has risen faster than it has statewide.

Cutting services means less access to doctors for the state's poor. And when the state is late in paying doctors because it's so broke, the doctors won't see Medicaid patients.

"The point is this is a whole cycle," said state Rep. Patti Bellock, a Hinsdale Republican and point person on the issue.

The question of how to get out of that cycle will dog lawmakers until their May 31 budget deadline and beyond. After Quinn gives his address, the budget-making process will pick up speed. In both the House and Senate, it's already started.

That process is guided by a program championed by two suburban Democrats, state Sen. Dan Kotowski of Park Ridge and state Rep. Carol Sente of Vernon Hills. It requires the state, among other things, to pay its debts first and only spend the pot of money left over.

The method could help keep the state's woes from growing. But in the short-term especially, more cuts could be unpopular.

Suburban people who depend on the state for money can do little but wait and watch in the meantime.

The Community Crisis Center in Elgin is owed about \$180,000 in state payments, said Executive Director Gretchen Vapnar.

The domestic abuse shelter gets by in the short term with the generous help of donors, she said. But long-term, donors might get tapped out and the facility depends on government funding to pay for more than half of its budget

"We're asking too much of the local community," Vapnar said. "They've already paid their taxes."

Plus, she said, the center honors its contract to provide services every year. But in the meantime, the state can't hold up its end of the bargain by paying its bills on time.

"We have never, ever failed to fulfill that," she said. "It's a game with two sides that are not equal."

Still, Vapnar said, it's been worse. Before lawmakers and Quinn raised income taxes in early 2011, the state was looking at a projected deficit of \$15 billion.

In reality, the state has been facing financial problems for at least a decade, and voters might lose a sense of how the degree of the problem changes over the years.

For example, when former Gov. Rod Blagojevich faced his first budget in 2003, the state had about \$1.4 billion in unpaid bills.

Even then, Blagojevich — who many in Springfield blame for a lot of the problems because of his grand health care plans, skipped pension payments and questionable financial management — called it a "crisis."

"This budget crisis is the fault of the political leadership in Illinois, not the people of our state," Blagojevich said.

Ten years later, the unpaid bills total has grown more than fivefold and Blagojevich is in prison, guilty of corruption. The state's pension payment in 2003 was about \$1.6 billion. This year, it could be about \$6.7 billion, a \$5 billion difference that would be enough to pay for the whole state prison system for five years.

So Quinn's assignment Wednesday is a tough one, a reality acknowledged even by those depending on a solution.

"I can't see a way out of it for the state," Vapnar said.

Paying: State's unpaid bills could more than double in the next 5 years, watchdog group says

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From: IML Legislation [IMLLegislation@iml.org]
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 1:30 PM
Subject: Illinois Municipal League Statehouse Briefing -- March 1, 2013

IML Statehouse Briefing



On the ground news and insider information!

March 1, 2013

A lengthy and contentious debate over amendments to a concealed carry bill was the highlight of legislative activity this week. On Tuesday, Speaker Madigan scheduled a “weekly order of business” to allow rank-and-file House members to introduce and debate a myriad of amendments to [HB 1155](#) (Rep. Phelps, D-Harrisburg). There were 27 amendments filed, with eleven being adopted, four being defeated, and twelve eventually withdrawn. HB 1155, as amended, is presently on Second Reading in the House. Some Statehouse insiders believe that the almost 9-hour exercise was politically motivated to put individual members on record as supporting or opposing various exemptions to concealed carry. Representative Phelps has a second concealed carry bill on the House Floor. [HB 997](#) is entitled the “Family and Personal Protection Act.” This bill awaits eight possible floor amendments that were kicked out of the House Rules Committee on Thursday.

The House took up pension reform on Thursday and debated four politically controversial pension reform amendments to three bills. Each amendment was sponsored by Speaker Madigan (D-Chicago) and would have applied to state-funded pension systems. To say that the amendments did not draw much support would be a gross understatement. The amendments were as follows:

- [Floor Amendment 1](#) to HB 1154 proposed to eliminate cost-of-living adjustments. This amendment received two votes in support.
- [Floor Amendment 2](#) to HB 1154 proposed to suspend cost-of-living adjustments until an affected pension system achieved an 80% funded level. This proposal received five votes in support.
- [Floor Amendment 1](#) to HB 1165 proposed to increase the retirement age to 67. This proposal received one vote in support.
- [Floor Amendment 1](#) to HB 1166 proposed a 5% employee contribution increase. This proposal received three votes in support.

Efforts to persuade the General Assembly to include municipal police and firefighter pension funds within a comprehensive pension reform bill have thus far proven futile. The prevailing wisdom is that adding additional pension systems will only make an eventual pension reform bill even more difficult to pass.

Sales Tax Borrowing: [HB 193](#) (Speaker Madigan) and [SB 622](#) (Speaker Madigan)

Both of these bills propose to borrow \$6.6 million from the Local Government Tax Fund (sales tax revenue) in order to fund a medical regulatory unit within the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. The money would be repaid in three installments of \$2.2 million. These bills were moved from Second to Third Reading this week. Both must still be considered by the Senate if approved by the House. **IML OPPOSES**

Firefighter “Act of Duty” Expansion: [HB 1377](#) (Rep. Burke, D-Chicago) was not called in the House Personnel and Pensions Committee on Thursday. This legislation proposes to expand eligibility for a 65% of salary duty disability pension benefit for injuries sustained during a training exercise for which a firefighter participates on their own private time. By considering such activities as being an “act of duty” even though the firefighter is not on their shift, the legislation opens the door to making firefighters eligible for workplace benefits (workers’ compensation, PEDDA, etc.) even when they are off duty. IML has prepared a [fact sheet](#) explaining this bill and we continue to educate legislators about the wide ramifications. **IML OPPOSES**

Firefighter Pension Increase: [HB 1375](#) (Rep. Beiser, D-Alton) received a “subject matter only” hearing in the House Personnel and Pensions Committee on Thursday. The bill remains in Committee. This legislation would increase pension benefits for surviving children that are being raised by a guardian when a firefighter has passed away and there is no surviving spouse. The IML opposes any benefit enhancements, especially when the municipal police and fire funds are not being included within comprehensive pension reform discussions. **IML OPPOSES**

Workers’ Compensation Expansion: The IML spoke with legislators and learned that [SB 1253](#) (Sen. Holmes, D-Aurora) is likely to be assigned to a subcommittee. This is good news for municipal governments. The bill would expand coverage under the Workers’ Occupational Diseases Act by providing a rebuttable presumption for any condition or impairment of health of a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic that results directly or indirectly from Parkinson’s disease resulting in any disability to the employee. **IML OPPOSES**

Revenue Restrictions: Several bills that would impose harmful limitations on local government taxing authority did not advance this week. The House bills are currently in the House Revenue and Finance Committee’s Property Tax Subcommittee. The Senate bill is the Senate Revenue Committee. The bills are as follows:

- [HB 89](#) (Rep. Franks, D-Woodstock) would prevent tax-capped local governments from collecting sufficient property taxes to keep up with inflationary increases.
- [HB 1310](#) (Rep. Franks, D-Woodstock) provides that, for tax years 2013 and 2014, the extension limitation is zero or the amount approved by referendum if the current year EAV is less than the previous year EAV.
- [HB 95](#) (Rep. McSweeney, R-Cary) provides, for tax years 2013-2015, that the extension limitation is zero or the rate of increase approved by a referendum (note that this applies regardless of whether EAV has dropped.)
- [HB 1499](#) (Rep. Kay, R-Edwardsville) provides that, beginning in taxable year 2013 and concluding in taxable year 2017, the county clerk shall reduce the property taxes levied by each taxing district to a level that is not greater than that taxing district’s levy in the previous taxable year.
- [SB 1308](#) (Sen. Murphy, R-Palatine) provides that, beginning in taxable year 2013 and through taxable year 2015, the total amount due on each property tax bill in each taxable year may not exceed the total amount due for that property in taxable year 2012.

We have so far been successful in preventing these bills from advancing. **Please utilize our [fact sheet](#) to educate your legislators about the harmful impact of these bills. IML OPPOSES**

Local Government Consolidation Report: [HB 1045](#) (Rep. Franks, D-Woodstock and Sen. Holmes, D-Aurora) would extend the deadline for the final Local Government Consolidation Commission Report to September 30, 2013. The bill was approved by the House and is now in the Senate. A similar bill, [SB 1471](#) (Sen. Holmes, D-Aurora), was approved by the Senate Executive Committee and is now on Third Reading in the Senate.

Tracked Bills: We have so far identified 368 bills that will affect, or are of interest to, municipal governments. This [list is always accessible](#) to you on our website.

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