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From: IML Legislation [IMLLegislation@iml.org]
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 4:04 PM
Subject: Illinois Municipal League Statehouse Briefing - May 17, 2013

IML Statehouse Briefing

Educate. Advocate. Empower.

On the ground news and insider information! **May 17, 2013**

The General Assembly continues to plug along towards its scheduled adjournment date of May 31. Despite this date being only two weeks away, several major issues remain unresolved. The General Assembly must develop, debate, and adopt a budget for FY2014, approve pension reform legislation as an important cost-saving element for future budgets, and seek a concealed carry bill that can pass both chambers ahead of a court-prescribed June 9 deadline. In addition, the General Assembly continues to pursue a same-sex marriage bill and gaming expansion legislation. None of these are easy legislative tasks.

On Friday, May 17, the Illinois Senate did manage to approve a bill that would establish a pilot program for medical marijuana. The vote was 35-21. HB 1 (Rep. Lang, D-Skokie and Sen. Haine, D-Alton) will next be sent to Governor Quinn for his consideration. Last April, Governor Quinn indicated that he was "open-minded" about the bill.

Pension Reform: At present, there appears to be a stalemate between the House and Senate on pension reforms affecting existing participants within four of the five state-funded pension systems. SB 1 (Speaker Madigan, D-Chicago) currently sits in the Senate and SB 2404 (President Cullerton, D-Chicago) currently sits in the House. SB 1 includes more sweeping reforms and would save the state an estimated $150 billion over 30 years. SB 2404 represents an agreement with labor unions, but would only save the state an estimated $45 billion over 30 years. **Click on the links for a full explanation of the provisions within each bill.**

PSEBA Reform: On Friday, May 17, the Senate approved IML-supported legislation that will direct the State to collect critical information about current PSEBA financial obligations and recipients. SB 1245 (SA 6) will bring much needed transparency about PSEBA health insurance costs, the nature of the injuries sustained by recipients, whether the recipient has a new job, and whether they have access to health insurance through a new employer. **This information is not collected at all under existing law.**

The bill passed by a vote of 56-0 and will next be considered by the House. We would like to thank Senate Minority Leader Radogno (R-Lemont) for her sponsorship of the bill and her commitment to seeking a responsible balance in the PSEBA law between the interests of injured employees and the taxpayers that fund the benefit. PSEBA reform is a critical component of the IML's "Save Our Cities" agenda. **IML SUPPORTS**

Fire Facility Closures: Last week, we sounded the alarm about House Floor Amendment 2 to SB 1456 (Rep. Moffitt, R-Galesburg). This amendment would require referendum approval before a municipality could cease operations at a fire facility. IML lobbied the House hard this week and built

up considerable opposition to the amendment. We are pleased to announce that the amendment is likely dead, and we are awaiting another amendment that will reportedly address instances where a municipality seeks to completely dissolve its entire fire department in favor of transitioning to an all-volunteer department. The amendment is being drafted by the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois and we will carefully review the language once it is filed. We would like to thank our members for helping us to effectively communicate opposition to Amendment 2. **IML OPPOSES**

Increased Public Works Costs: HB 924 (Sen. Raoul, D-Chicago) was not called for a vote in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee this week. The bill would impose the state's "responsible bidder" requirement into the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act. Contractors wanting to bid on a public works project would be disqualified if they do not participate in a U.S. Department of Labor approved apprenticeship program. This requirement is expensive and many contractors, **particularly smaller and non-union contractors**, will not be able to afford it. The result would be fewer contractors eligible to bid on public works projects and less competition to hold down project costs. The bill would also begin to introduce the state's onerous and bureaucratic procurement rules into municipal government operations. **IML OPPOSES**

CPPRT: An amendment to divert revenue away from local governments was not adopted and advanced this week and remains in the House Executive Committee. House Amendment 1 to SB 492 (Majority Leader Currie, D-Chicago) would authorize the state to divert Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) revenue to fund certain costs associated with regional offices of education and educational service centers, election clerks, county clerks, county recorders, and payments reimbursable by the State Board of Elections. A substantially similar amendment, House Amendment 2, was assigned to the Executive Committee and could be considered next week as well. The difference between the two amendments is that House Amendment 2 includes an immediate effective date. **IML OPPOSES BOTH AMENDMENTS**

Telecom/Cable Update: Several developments occurred on the telecom/cable front this past week. First, the cable industry has decided not to advance a new Article 23 providing for a State-issued cable franchise through the Illinois Commerce Commission. Instead, they will seek modest changes to the existing Article 21 Cable & Video Competition law (enacted in 2007 providing for AT&T's U-verse). In addition, it appears an extension with modifications to the Telecommunication Act will emerge providing for greater broadband development. All changes will most likely have a 2016 sunset.

Parking Garages: SB 1929 (Rep. Jones, D-Calumet City) was approved by the House by a vote of 112-0-1. The bill was amended in the House and would remove a provision in current law that allows free parking in parking facilities/garages for persons that have a disability and a special disability decal or license plate. This provision granting free parking in parking garages was placed in the statute in 2012 as part of a bill addressing the abuse of using disabled placards for free parking. This legislation will provide relief to those municipalities that have parking garages without attendants at those garages around the clock. Those municipalities would not have been able to implement the free parking provision without making major modifications that would have incurred costs. The bill now goes back to the Senate where the Senate will consider concurrence with the House amendment. **IML SUPPORTS**

Tracked Bills: Our categorized list of legislation of interest to municipalities is frequently updated and available here.

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From: IML Legislation [IMLLegislation@iml.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 12:01 PM
Subject: Illinois Municipal League Statehouse Briefing - May 21, 2013

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On the ground news and insider information! **May 21, 2013**

Statehouse Preview Video: This week's *Statehouse Preview* discusses the "big picture" issues that remain unresolved as we approach the scheduled adjournment, as well as a bill requiring a referendum to close unnecessary fire stations, CPPRT diversion amendments, legislation making public works projects more expensive, and a bill establishing much-needed reporting requirements under PSEBA.

Fire Facility Closure Prohibition: An amendment was adopted onto SB 1456 (House Floor Amendment 1) last week **that does not include** the language that would strip locally-elected officials of their authority to cease operations at a fire facility without first getting referendum approval. We are aware, however, that the AFFI is still seeking to amend the bill with language similar to House Floor Amendment 2 in order to: (1) require referendum approval before a municipality can cease operations at any fire facility (i.e., close a fire station); and (2) require a referendum before a municipality could consolidate services with a fire protection district. This could be interpreted to include a contractual agreement to either share services, or have the fire protection district assume all fire service responsibilities. We continue to monitor this issue and will oppose any amendments that are harmful to municipal governments.

PSEBA Reporting Requirement: SB 1245 (Rep. Williams, D-Chicago) would result in the collection of critical information about current PSEBA financial obligations and recipients. SB 1245 will bring much needed transparency about PSEBA health insurance costs, the nature of the injuries sustained by recipients, whether the recipient has a new job, and whether they have access to health insurance through a spouse or new employer. This information is not collected at all under existing law. SB 1245 has been assigned to the House Personnel and Pensions Committee. **Please contact your state representatives and request that they become co-sponsors of this important bill! IML SUPPORTS**

Higher Public Works Project Costs: We still need your help to oppose another bill that would increase costs on local taxpayers and begin to impose the state's cumbersome procurement rules on local governments!

HB 924 (Sen. Raoul, D-Chicago) would begin imposing the **state's procurement requirements within the prevailing wage law.** In the case of HB 924, contractors wanting to bid on a public works project would be disqualified if they do not participate in a U.S. Department of Labor approved apprenticeship program. This requirement is expensive and many contractors, **particularly smaller and non-union contractors**, will not be able to afford it. The result will be fewer contractors eligible to bid on public works projects and less competition to drive down project costs.

Multiple bidders create a competitive marketplace and keep costs down. HB 924 will **undermine this essential marketplace dynamic!** HB 924 would be yet another law hatched in Springfield that makes local government more expensive for taxpayers. **The bill is also a first step toward imposing the State's cumbersome and bureaucratic procurement rules on local governments.** Local residents, as well as legislators, need to know that **local governments are OPPOSED to HB 924!**

The bill has received an extended deadline of May 31. The Senate Labor and Commerce Committee is not scheduled for a hearing **as of this writing**. We still urge that you contact your state senator **TODAY** and demand that they oppose HB 924. We also ask that you register your opposition on this witness slip. We have also prepared a model letter that you can **e-mail or fax** to your state senator's office. **IML OPPOSES**

CPPRT Diversions: The House Executive Committee approved House Amendment 3 to SB 492 (Majority Leader Currie, D-Chicago) on Tuesday, May 21. The bill as amended would authorize the state to divert some Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) revenue to fund certain costs traditionally borne by the state. These include expenditures associated with regional offices of education and educational service centers, election clerks, county clerks, county recorders, payments reimbursable by the State Board of Elections, and expenditures associated with the Educational Labor Relations Board. We estimate that the revenue loss would be approximately $12-15 million to local governments on a statewide basis during the forthcoming state fiscal year. The municipal share would likely be at least $2.4-3 million in the aggregate. The bill as amended now goes to the House Floor. Contact your state representatives and urge that they oppose this **permanent** diversion of local revenue. **IML OPPOSES**

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