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Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 1:53 PM
Subject: Illinois Municipal League Statehouse Briefing - June 20, 2014

IML Statehouse Briefing



On the ground news and insider information!

June 20, 2014

IML Working Toward Amendatory Veto to “Tap-On” Legislation

IML wants to provide an update on an issue that we previously wrote about in our [June 3 Statehouse Briefing](#) concerning water and sewer tap-on fees.

[Senate Bill 3507](#) (Sen. McCarter, R-Lebanon and Rep. Kay, R-Edwardsville) severely restricts the amount municipalities and townships may charge for tapping a property into water and/or sewer services. Specifically, the charge may only be up to 2 months of the estimated annual cost of the charge for supplying the water or sewer services. As an example of the impact of this legislation, a tap-on fee for a single family home could be no more than \$100 for many jurisdictions.

The bill did not receive any formal opposition as it moved through the General Assembly. The IML did have an amendment drafted to remove municipalities from this legislation; however, this amendment was approved by the House Rules Committee but never placed on the bill. The legislation was approved by both chambers and is headed for the Governor's desk for his consideration.

The IML met with Senator McCarter after the bill was approved by both chambers. The Senator agreed that it would be best to request an amendatory veto to remove the language limiting tap-on fees for water and sewer services that can be charged by municipalities. Although this does not assure that the Governor will issue an amendatory veto for the bill, it certainly does help persuade him toward that action. In addition, the Governor's staff has been working with Senator McCarter's staff with the understanding that it is unlikely that the Governor would approve SB 3507 without some type of change.

In addition to seeking an amendatory veto, Senator McCarter will continue to pursue a statutory provision that establishes a framework for water and sewer tap-on fee charges and is planning to introduce a trailer bill during this upcoming veto session. The Illinois Municipal League has agreed to participate in those discussions and work to identify reasonable statutory language to accomplish this objective. The IML will be working with municipal officials throughout the state on this issue.

The IML will be working with the Governor's office and the Senate Republican staff to assure that Senate Bill 3507 receives an amendatory veto. Although we believe that the Governor will remove the municipal impact from SB 3507, the IML continues to ask our municipalities to send a letter to the Governor requesting this action. We will have a model letter available soon.