

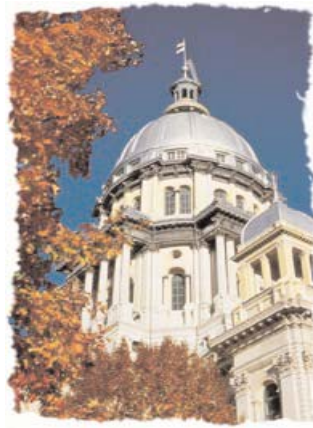
**Illinois Association of County Board Members
and Commissioners**

2012

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

*97th Illinois General Assembly
Second Session*

**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONERS**
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July 6, 2012

The Illinois General Assembly spring session ended in recrimination on May 31 as lawmakers came together on a \$33.7 billion budget, but failed to get a final package on pension reforms through both houses before the midnight adjournment. The failure of the Legislature to agree on a sustainable, long-term solution to the state's structural deficit means continued turbulence in planning and delivering services at the local level.

Lawmakers debated a proposal that would cut costs by giving retirees a choice of either smaller cost-of-living adjustments, or the complete loss of their health care benefits. Another part of the proposal wanted to make schools, community colleges and universities start paying the future retirement costs for their employees. House Speaker Michael Madigan and Minority Leader Tom Cross clashed over the pension shift, resulting in a confrontation on the House floor. When Madigan withdrew his support for the bill, he took enough Democratic votes with him to leave the bill short of what it needed for passage. So far, meetings between the Governor and top lawmakers have failed to make any visible headway, with both parties accusing the other of seeking to stall the issue until after the November elections. Meanwhile, the "worst-funded retirement system in the country" continues to crumble.

But it wasn't all politics as usual. The Legislature did come together to pass a major Medicaid reforms package, a tobacco tax hike, gaming expansion, and a repeal of the state's health insurance subsidy. How did counties fare? We were pleased that lawmakers supported several of our priorities and rejected most of the bills that were problematic for county operations including bills aimed to increase litigation costs, place fines on local governments, enact responsible bidder requirements, and institute PTELL limitations. At the same time, the level of budget reductions and lack of new revenue means that counties will find it more difficult to carry out their responsibilities. The state budget continued the diversion of local government funds to pay for regional superintendents of schools and diverted funds that counties currently receive for certain estate tax funds, keeping the money for the state. Several substantial diversions of state road funds were also included in the budget.

The reason we achieved our goals was because county leaders took the time to meet with lawmakers to explain the consequences state policies have on county constituent services. We are grateful for your outreach efforts. As a direct result, some affirmative county bills became law, and detrimental legislation was stopped.

We have made every effort to identify and include in this publication any bill that affects local government. The synopsis of each bill is extremely brief and may not encompass the full content or impact of the bill. For full meaning, it may be necessary to obtain a copy of the complete bill. The Governor has the option to sign these bills into law, amend the legislation, or veto the bill in its entirety. Public Act numbers are included for bills already signed into law by the Governor. Measures that are amended or vetoed will be considered by lawmakers when they return for the fall "Veto Session" in November.

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Murray
Executive Director

State Budget & Facility Closures



STATE BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

Governor Quinn signed the state's \$33.7 billion FY2013 budget into law on June 30, 2012, after vetoing \$57 million in spending approved by the General Assembly. The action sets the stage for another battle between the Governor and state lawmakers this fall on how to spend the \$57 million Quinn blocked. The fiscal plan goes into effect July 1, 2012.

The budget reduces discretionary spending by about \$1.4 billion from the previous fiscal year. The FY12 discretionary budget was \$25.3 billion compared to \$23.9 billion for FY13. It spends about \$34 billion in General Funds, which is \$300 million more than last year. The budget allocates \$1.3 billion to pay down the state's huge backlog of unpaid bills. Of the \$1.3 billion, \$1 billion will go towards Medicaid bills and the remaining \$300 million will be used for other bills.

The state budget also includes \$25.3 billion for capital construction, including \$2 billion for new projects. It fully funds the state's mandated pension payments of \$5.1 billion in FY13. This is a \$1 billion increase over the previous fiscal year.

FY 2013 State Budget Acts

Approved

SB 2378	General Services appropriations
SB 2413	P-12 Education appropriations
SB 2443	Higher Education appropriations
SB 2454	Human Services appropriations
SB 3802	Budget Implementation Act

Line Item and Reduction Vetoed

SB 2474	Public Safety appropriations
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Reduction Vetoed

SB 2409	General Services appropriations
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Line Item Vetoed

SB 2332	Capital re-appropriations
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The budget reduces overall spending at state agencies under the Governor's control, including a 9% reduction in the Governor's office. It closes and consolidates 57 state facilities and restructures the state's Medicaid program. The Medicaid program will get checked over by a private company to sort out fraud and make sure people enrolled in the program are in fact eligible for benefits.

Education funding was cut by \$200 million and child welfare spending by \$85 million. Substantial cuts were also made to probation, therefore, counties will have to absorb more cost.

FACILITY CLOSURES

According to the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB), the Governor plans to move forward with the closure and consolidation of 57 state facilities throughout FY13. The closures are estimated by the GOMB to save the state \$82 million in FY13 and \$136 million per year beginning in FY14. The closures and consolidations will occur within the Departments of Corrections, Juvenile Justice, Human Services, Children and Family Services, Agriculture, Central Management Services and State Police. Facilities affected by these actions follow:

Department of Corrections:

- Tamms Correctional Center – close by August 31, 2012
- Dwight Correctional Center – close by August 31, 2012
- Westside Chicago, Decatur and Southern Illinois Adult Transition Centers – close by August 31, 2012

Department of Juvenile Justice:

- IYC Joliet – close by October 31, 2012
- IYC Murphysboro – close by August 31, 2012

Department of Human Services:

Consolidate 24 local offices throughout FY13

- Tinley Park Mental Health Center – close by July 2, 2012
- Singer Mental Health Center – close by Oct. 31, 2012
- Jacksonville Developmental Ctr. – close by Oct. 31, 2012
- Murray Developmental Center – close by Nov. 30, 2013

Once the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center is complete, DHS will begin the process of closing Murray. All savings from the closure of Jacksonville will be used for transitions of Murray residents.

Department of Children & Family Services:

- Chicago Offices – close one office and move another office from leased space to state-owned space.
- Skokie office – consolidate with Deerfield office

Department of Agriculture:

- Centralia Animal Disease Laboratory – consolidate with Galesburg Lab.

Department of Central Management Services:

- State Garages – close four state garages on July 1, 2012 (Monmouth, Fairfield, Chicago North, Champaign) and consolidate vehicle repairs into the remaining facilities

Department of State Police:

- Telecommunication Centers – consolidate 14 regional centers into six larger, more advanced facilities.

Local officials are very concerned about the jobs that will be lost as a result of the closures. In the case of Tamms, in southern Illinois, it could mean about 300 layoffs. Overall, more than 1,000 correctional workers could lose their jobs as a result of the facility closures.



HB 1084 (P.A. 97-0719)

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES

Provides that if a gubernatorial appointee, who was designated before August 26, 2012 and whose term of office expires more than 60 calendar days prior to the effective date of this act, then that office is considered vacant on the day this law takes effect. Also states that after the initial terms for arbitrators appointed pursuant to the reforms of 2011, the term of arbitrators shall be 3 years. Requires Senate confirmation of all arbitrator appointments in the future.

HB 3129 – Sent to Governor 5/15/12

PREPAID WIRELESS 9-1-1

Modifies how the surcharge on prepaid wireless purchases is deposited and how the fund revenue is handled by the State Treasurer.

HB 3188 (P.A. 97-0718)

LEGISLATIVE FURLOUGHS AND COLAS

Imposes furlough days and prohibits cost of living increase (COLAs) for legislators. Requires every legislator to forfeit 12 days of compensation during FY2013. Prohibits COLAs for legislators, state's attorneys, and elected constitutional officers. Savings from furlough days is about \$674,000; a .9% COLA would have amounted to about \$285,000.

HB 3810 – Sent to Governor 6/19/12

GA SCHOLARSHIP ELIMINATION

Eliminates the General Assembly Scholarship program. No scholarship may be awarded after September 1, 2012. Creates a Tuition and Fee Waiver Task Force delegated to review programs at the state's public universities.

HB 3934 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

DCEO EDGE TAX CREDIT

Requires DCEO to post on its website the terms of each agreement for EDGE tax credits the Dept. enters into.

HB 4570 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

COMPTROLLER OFFSETS

States that all debts owed to state agencies that exceed \$250 (currently \$1,000) and are more than 90 days past due are to be placed in the Comptroller's Offset System. Allows Universities to elect to only send debt that exceeds \$1,000. Outlines methods for protesting the offset.

HB 4596 – Sent to Governor 6/26/12

FOIA LAW ENFORCEMENT

Protects information from ongoing investigations from being disclosed by exempting from FOIA certain law enforcement records created for law enforcement use and contained in a shared electronic record-keeping system (ICLEAR). Records exempt include those in which the recipient of the request didn't create and did not participate in or have a role in any events the record pertains to.

HB 4991 – Sent to Governor 6/26/12

JUDICIAL CIRCUITS

Clarifies that there shall be no at-large circuit judgeships and only resident circuit judges elected in the new 23rd judicial circuit.

HB 5283 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

FIRE TRUCK FUND

Expands the fire truck revolving loan fund to be used for the purchase of "brush trucks" at varying interest levels for purchase by fire departments, fire protection districts, or township fire departments. Includes ATVs, pickups or other trucks modified to fight grass or brush fires.

HB 5337 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

COMPTROLLER VOUCHER PAYMENT

Provides that an itemized voucher for under \$5 that is presented to the Comptroller for payment shall not be paid except through electronic funds transfer. Exempts the legislative branch.

HB 5650 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

STATE-OWNED VEHICLES MONITORING

Requires each state agency to designate a vehicle use officer to monitor the use of state-owned vehicles. Exempts the judicial branch, legislature and local governments.

HB 5656 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS

Provides that the unused portion of any federal funds received for a capital improvement project that are not contributed towards the cost of the project shall remain in the Capital Development Board Contributory Trust Fund and shall be used for future capital projects and for no other purpose.

HB 5877 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

JUDICIAL PRIVACY ACT

As a means to improve security, limits, at the request of the judicial officer, the public, businesses, associations and government entities from distributing or making public personal information of Illinois judicial officers.

HB 5880 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

EMS FIRST RESPONDER

Requires first responders to be at least 18 years of age and establishes a "provisional first responder (PFR)." A PFR must be at least 16 years of age and successfully complete an instructional emergency responder training course approved by the Department of Public Health. The PFR can provide first response services prior to the arrival of an ambulance or other emergency response vehicle and may apply for a first responder license at the age of 18 with the written approval of the EMS Medical Director.



SB 549 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

METRO EAST POLICE

Creates a special police district in St. Clair County that incorporates the corporate boundaries of East St. Louis, the Village of Washington Park, the Village of Alorton, and the Village of Brooklyn. This bill was controversial as it permits TIF funds to be used to hire police officers in East St. Louis and surrounding areas.

SB 1034 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

FOID CARDS

Makes a number of changes to state Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) laws. Clarifies the law to ensure people who have been convicted of a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" are not issued FOID cards. Restricts issuance of FOID cards to non-Illinois residents. Outlines protocol for new, eligible residents who possess firearms to obtain a FOID card. Enhances mental health reporting by courts to the Illinois State Police (ISP). Addresses Amish religious concern regarding photographs. Provides more accountability for seized/confiscated/revoked cards being returned to ISP. Amends provisions regarding judicial review of ISP Director's decision to deny a request for relief from a person who has been denied a FOID Card.

SB 1849 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

GAMBLING EXPANSION

Advances a major gambling expansion measure that includes a 4000 position Chicago Casino to be operated by a Chicago Casino Development Authority to be appointed by the Mayor. Casino revenues would go to Chicago. It also includes four new riverboat licenses for Rockford, Park City (next to Waukegan), Danville and the South Suburbs of Cook County as well as gaming at the state's six horse racing tracks. COGFA estimates more than \$1 billion in one time revenues, but not for at least four years after new facilities are operation. Recurring revenue estimates are \$334 million a year, most which will not be realized until FY2016. Though he supports a casino in Chicago, Governor Quinn has stated his opposition and may well veto the bill.

SB 2488 – Sent to Governor 6/07/12

CELL PHONE BAN

Extends the ban on cell phone use in construction or maintenance zones to all projects, not just those with a reduced speed limit.

SB 2528 – Sent to Governor 5/24/12

MOTORCYCLE RED LIGHT

Effective this year, is a new law that allows motorcyclists to proceed with caution through an intersection if the light fails to turn green due to a signal malfunction or simply because the vehicle does not set off ground sensors. This law designates that the motorcyclist must wait for at least 2 minutes before proceeding through the light.

SB 2820 (P.A. 97-0735)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

Authorizes expenditures from the Public Assistance Emergency Revolving Fund to the Child Support Enforcement Trust Fund or the Child Support Administrative Fund for the immediate payment of fees (i) to sheriffs and other public officials authorized by law to serve process in judicial and administrative child support actions, (ii) to county clerks, recorders of deeds, and other public officials and keepers of real property records in order to perfect and release real property liens, and (iii) to State and local officials in connection with the processing of Qualified Illinois Domestic Relations Orders. Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has been paying these fees with petty cash, which is not in compliance with state law.

SB 2885 (P.A. 97-0715)

GROUP HEALTHCARE PURCHASING

Allows businesses with up to 2,500 employees to join health care purchasing groups. Previously, Illinois law had restricted membership in Health Insurance Co-ops to businesses with 500 or fewer workers. Purchasing groups shall utilize a licensed insurance producer to obtain insurance for the group.

SB 2958 – Sent to Governor 6/06/12

WORKERS COMPENSATION

This is an omnibus Procurement Code reform bill. Contains a provision that would outsource the State's Workers' Compensation Program to a third party vendor. Requires Central Management Services (CMS) to relinquish responsibility to the third party on January 1, 2013, and transfer all parts of the program to the vendor. State government has been hit hard not only by skyrocketing Workers' Compensation costs, but also by scandals highlighting mismanagement of the program. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees opposed the legislation, saying that CMS already has the power to outsource workers' comp administration but that this legislation would make it a mandate.

SB 3794 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

FINANCIAL REPORTING

Creates an independent body to assist the State in improving the timeliness, quality, and processing of financial reporting. Audits of the State's financial statements have repeatedly concluded that Illinois doesn't have adequate controls to ensure that information reported by agencies is fairly stated and compliant with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The State's financial reporting system is comprised of more than 250 disparate financial reporting systems that are antiquated and costly to operate. More than 80% of those systems are not compliant with GAAP.

County Government



HB 735 – Sent to Governor 6/26/12

LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS

Allows for the appointment of a special local liquor control commissioner if the person who would traditionally be the local liquor commissioner (county board chair, mayor, etc.) has a direct interest in the manufacture, sale or distribution of alcoholic liquor. This bill stems from a situation in Niles, Illinois where a businessman with a liquor license intends to run for Mayor.

HB 3881 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

COOK COUNTY LANDFILL

Bans new landfills or landfill expansions in Cook County.

HB 4145 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

HAZARDOUS DILAPIDATED VEHICLE

Allows a county board to declare by ordinance all inoperable motor vehicles, whether on public or private property and in view of the general public, to be hazardous dilapidated motor vehicles that will be subject to removal by law enforcement officials. The ordinance must include a provision stating that a notice requirement be sent by certified mail to either the real property owner that the vehicle is located on or the vehicle owner 10 days prior to removal.

HB 4239 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Allows county assessors to require that leases show either a leaseholder or property owner is paying the real estate taxes when claiming the general homestead or leaseholder exemption. Delays a requirement for counties to create a database of tax sales as well as an automated bidding process until January 1, 2013.

HB 4445 (P.A. 97-0717)

SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ECONOMIC BOARD

Designed to make it easier to secure a quorum, this bill increases the number of persons on the Southeastern Illinois Economic Board. Gives county board chairpersons appointments on the board.

County Apportionment and Vital Records Fees

HB 4962 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

COUNTY POPULATION APPORTIONMENT

Allows boards that elect members by districts to apportion those districts with substantially equal population, rather than equal population in each district. Allows counties between 25,000 and 1,000,000 to increase, by ordinance, the fee for certified copies of vital records.

HB 4514 – Sent to Governor 6/13/12

ELECTRONIC RECORDS

Allows county recorders to store records electronically in counties with populations of less than 500,000.

HB 5236 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

PORT DISTRICT BOARD

Changes the size of the Jackson-Union Counties Port District Board from 23 members to 7 members. Due to a combination of vacancies and large size of the board, it has become difficult for the board to conduct business.

HB 5616 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Allows the Will-Kankakee Regional Development Authority to increase its debt limitation to \$250 million. Removes the power to issue moral obligation bonds, for bonds issued after the effective date of the Act. Interest on the Authority's bonds paid to bondholders is exempt from State income tax, with exceptions.

HB 5899 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

FOREST PRESERVE ZONING

Clarifies that a county may enter into an agreement with a forest preserve that exempts the forest preserve from county zoning ordinances.

SB 555 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

9-1-1 DATABASE

Allows local governments to create a database that includes information from citizens who voluntarily provide information that can be used when subscribers call for emergency services. Provides that expenditures from the Emergency Telephone System Fund account may be made to pay for costs associated with the implementation of a computer aided dispatch system or hosted supplemental 9-1-1 services.

SB 1900 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

LAKE COUNTY ASSESSMENT

Changes the Lake County deadline for submission of assessment books from October 15 to July 15. Late property tax assessment reporting in Lake County has caused problems in the Supervisor's office finishing the end of year reports because of the large volume of reports they receive in October.

SB 2536 – Sent to Governor 6/8/12

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR RECORDS

Designates that in Cook County, the public administrator will retain records in accordance with the Local Records Act instead of turning them over to the Circuit Court Clerk, who is no longer accepting them. This will allow the public administrator to archive or dispose of the records.

FY2013 CPPRT Diversions



Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) payments are made as a percentage of a shared pool which will shrink this year again due to state stipends to local officials and salary disbursements to Regional Offices of Education among others.

Replacement taxes are revenues collected by the state of Illinois and paid to local governments to replace money that was lost by local governments when their powers to impose personal property taxes on corporations, partnerships, and other business entities were taken away. These taxes resulted when the new Illinois Constitution directed the legislature to abolish business personal property taxes and replace the revenue lost by local government units and school districts.

In 1979, a law was enacted to provide for statewide taxes to replace the monies lost to local governments. Corporations pay a 2.5 percent tax on income; partnerships, trusts, and S corporations pay a 1.5 percent tax on income; public utilities pay a 0.8 percent tax on invested capital. The state of Illinois collects the whole sum received. The proceeds from these taxes are placed into the Personal Property Replacement Tax Fund to be distributed to local taxing districts. 51.65% goes to Cook County, while 48.35% goes to "downstate" counties. This payment is made 8 times a year: July, August, October, December, January, March, April and May.

In the last five years, CPPRT's intake has ranged from \$1 to \$1.5 billion. Thus far in FY12, approximately \$1.1 billion has been deposited into the CPPRT fund.

In the FY13 budget, \$26.3 million was set aside from the CPPRT to cover a portion of the operating budget of the Department of Revenue (DOR), then entity that enforces the CPPRT law and collects taxes from the returns. In addition, \$4.8 million was set aside for the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB), as has been the process for the last four years.

Up until FY12, state stipends and salary reimbursements to local officials were paid entirely from the General Revenue Fund (GRF). In FY12 a portion of the salary reimbursements for state's attorneys and public defenders was paid through CPPRT as well as stipends for county treasurers, assessors, coroners and sheriffs. ROE salaries were also ultimately covered by CPPRT in FY12. About \$25.2 million was set aside for these purposes in FY12.

In the FY13 budget all of the aforementioned stipends and salary reimbursements are to be paid through CPPRT as well as ROE salaries. This action increases the amount of CPPRT diversions to just under \$40 million, an increase of approximately \$15 million from FY12.

FY13 Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax Diversions

Agency	Fund	Line Item	FY12 Approp.	FY13 Request	FY13 Final	\$ Change
Revenue	802	State's Attorney's Salaries*	\$ 5,586,000	\$14,300,000	\$14,300,000	\$8,714,000
Revenue	802	County Public Defenders**	2,730,000	6,900,000	6,900,000	4,170,000
Revenue	802	Assessors Salaries	3,000,000	3,050,000	3,050,000	50,000
Revenue	802	Local Assessors Comp (2.3/2.6)	350,000	440,000	440,000	90,000
Revenue	802	Local Assessors Comp (2.7)	660,000	660,000	660,000	0
Revenue	802	County Treasurers	663,000	663,000	663,000	0
Revenue	802	County Sheriffs	663,000	663,000	663,000	0
Revenue	802	County Coroners	663,000	1,056,500	1,056,500	393,500
Revenue	802	County Auditors	110,500	176,400	176,400	65,900
ISBE	802	ROE Salaries	10,806,400	12,025,000	12,025,000	1,218,600
TOTAL			\$25,231,900	\$39,933,900	\$39,933,900	\$14,702,000

* In FY12 States Attorneys were also appropriated \$7,714,000 General Revenue Fund for salaries. For FY13 their entire appropriation is CPPRT.

** In FY12 County Public Defenders were also appropriated \$3,770,000 General Revenue Fund. For FY13 their entire appropriation is CPPRT.

Municipalities & Special Districts



HB 587 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

PARK DISTRICT REFERENDUMS

Allows a park district to levy taxes for corporate or recreation purposes up to the total maximum rate authorized for those purposes under the Park District Code without a referendum as long as the district's total levy does not exceed the tax cap (PTELL).

HB 1390 (P.A. 97-0720)

HAM RADIO

Prohibits municipalities from regulating the placement, screening, or height of amateur radio antennas or support structures. A local ordinance shall contain language that has a reasonable and clearly defined aesthetic, public health or safety objective and represents the minimum practical regulation that is necessary and that also reasonably accommodates ham radio operators.

HB 4562 – Sent to Governor 6/13/12

PARK DISTRICT APPOINTEES

Allows a park board to appoint an assistant secretary and an assistant treasurer so that these assistants can perform certain duties if the secretary or treasurer is unable to do so. While park districts already appoint assistant officers, this will clarify the authority of those assistants to perform important functions such as signing bond documents.

HB 4937– Sent to Governor 6/20/12

DRUG FORFEITURE FUNDS

This bill is aimed at saving costs for smaller villages that contract with county or other law enforcement agencies to provide police services. Allows for any local, municipal or county law enforcement agency entitled to receive funds through forfeiture cases to share those proceeds pursuant to the terms of an intergovernmental agreement with a municipality. The municipality must have over 20,000 residents and provide police services over \$1 million. The forfeitures must take place within the municipality and the funds collected must be used for public safety services.

HB 4988 – Sent to Governor 6/15/12

CAR BOOTING

Allows the City of Chicago to create an ordinance that will allow them to boot vehicles if the owner has failed to pay fines that were issued because they haven't registered their vehicle with the City. Current law requires a code officer to physically deliver the violation notice, rather than allowing the City Clerk to mail out violation notices and then immobilize the vehicle.

HB 5319 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

SANITARY DISTRICTS – WASTEWATER

Allows sanitary districts to enter into agreements to sell treated wastewater to private and public entities. The water is often used in factories for industrial purposes and could not be used as drinking water.

HB 5642 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

WATER PERMIT FEES

Initiates new water permit fees for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) that have National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to discharge pollution into waters of the U.S. Fees range from \$750 for large farms, to \$350 for medium farms, and \$150 for small farms. The annual fees will help fund the IEPA's permitting program. To date, livestock operations have always been exempt from paying fees, while all other regulated industries such as municipal sewage plants and industrial processing facilities pay permit fees.

SB 3047 – Sent to Governor 6/08/12

ROAD DISTRICTS

Allows municipalities to form a road district in counties that do not have township governments.

SB 3184 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

CAROL STREAM INDEBTEDNESS

Allows the Carol Stream Park District to continue to issue bonds that were previously approved by its voters.

SB 3576 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

ALDERMAN REDISTRICTING

Attempts to address conflicts in current law with regards to municipal redistricting. The legislation addresses situations on whether and/or how a city would decrease their number of alderman if the city loses population. The bill as first introduced allowed aldermen who have been moved to a new district to run for re-election from the old district for two election cycles. The House changed the measure to reduce it to a single election cycle, similar to the rules governing state legislators.

SB 3727 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

SWIMMING POOL LICENSURE

Establishes a fee structure for the Department of Public Health to impose construction, license and inspection fees for swimming pools and water facilities. Local government swimming pools were exempted from most of the fees and all of the fines, but must remain closed until any violations are rectified.

SB 3809 (P.A. 97-0700)

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Expands criminal background checks for potential hires. Allows park districts to check juvenile court convictions for crimes such as murder, attempted murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault and other specified serious crimes. Previously, park districts were only able to perform criminal background checks for adult convictions. Also adds the criminal convictions of stalking, cyberstalking, and aggravated stalking to the list of offenses.

Townships

HB 1981 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12 **TOWNSHIP COLLECTORS**

Eliminates Cook County township collectors. Assigns the duties of the collector to the township assessor.

SB 3170 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12 **BULK ELECTRICITY BUYING**

Allows township boards to adopt ordinances under which they may aggregate residential and small commercial retail electrical loads, similar to the bulk electricity buying option already available to cities and counties. A few years ago, the legislature passed a law allowing cities and counties in Ameren and ComEd territories, the state's two largest energy providers, to purchase bulk electric power on behalf of their residents. Grouping multiple residential loads together can increase the level of competition in the retail markets, which translates into less expensive power for residents. Current law does not extend this provision to townships unless the entire county has approved the referendum. This bill will allow township governments to place a referendum on their ballot so citizens may vote on whether or not to aggregate their power. If the referendum passes, a township official from the community will be able to renegotiate power contracts to the lowest power supply bidder.

SB 3324 (P.A. 97-0736) **TOWNSHIP OFFICER COMPENSATION**

Prohibits township officers from receiving compensation for future or anticipated dates of service; compensation can only be for time actually served. This legislation addresses circumstances where township officers were giving themselves salary advances.

Education

SB 2706 (P.A. 97-0703) **REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT REDUCTION**

Cuts the number of regional superintendents of schools from 44 to 35 by the next election in 2014. Establishes that each educational service area must contain at least 61,000 (instead of 43,000) in inhabitants. The measure incorporates recommendations from the Streamlining Illinois' Regional Offices of Education Commission. The panel was created to study the offices after the governor zeroed out funding for them last year in an attempt to save the state \$12 million. Which regional offices will be eliminated is not clear, but counties can consolidate voluntarily until June 2013. After that, the decision lies with the Illinois State Board of Education. The reduction of nine offices is expected to save the state \$1.5 million. Unfortunately, the positions will be funded through diversions from the

Elections



HB 2009 (P.A. 97-0681) **PARTY SWITCHING**

Codifies into law two separate Illinois Supreme Court cases where the eligibility of a candidate was challenged due to their past participation in a differing party's primary. This "party switching" was ruled differently in both cases due to different circumstances. The measure would first prohibit a person who files a statement of candidacy for a partisan office of an established political party or who voted the ballot of an established political party in any given Primary Election from filing for a different party within that election cycle; however, any party participation in previous election cycles would not exclude them from participating in any party moving forward.

HB 5203– Sent to Governor 6/22/12 **FILING DEADLINE**

Provides that two or more petitions filed during the last hour of the filing deadline will be considered to have been filed simultaneously. If this occurs, a lottery will be conducted to determine the ballot position. Targets jockeying among candidates to be the last position on the ballot.

SB 3722– Sent to Governor 6/13/12 **ELECTION OMNIBUS**

Allows political candidates to raise an unlimited amount of money if third-party groups dump certain amounts into their races. Stipulates that if a person or a PAC spends a certain amount of money independently in a race, the campaign contributions are lifted for everyone in that race. For a statewide race, that threshold is \$250,000; in other races, it is \$100,000. Also requires local election authorities to set up grace registration and early voting locations at public universities.



Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT). The Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools initially favored reducing the number only to 39.

SB 3252 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12 **SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION**

Gives school districts that are seeking to consolidate flexibility to reconcile taxpayer obligations due to past bond issues. Communities can use a front door referendum vote to decide if consolidation is a benefit and newly consolidated districts have five years to bring their tax rate back to the 4% or less rate. The new unit district is prohibited from combining the tax rates of the two districts.

Law Enforcement & Courts



HB 1907 (P.A. 97-0686)

RACKETEERING

Allows law enforcement agencies to target gangs with racketeering charges similar to federal RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) law. Gives local prosecutors the tools to join different organized crime offenses and different offenders into a single court proceeding. Gang members convicted of criminal conspiracy could face more than 30 years in prison, depending on the associated crimes, and fines of up to \$250,000. Illinois joins 31 other states in having racketeering statutes.

HB 4081 – Sent to Governor 5/31/12

WIRETAPS

Allows a state's attorney to approve a wiretap for a conversation involving a law enforcement officer or confidential informant, when police believe the other party in the conversation could soon commit a drug offense.

HB 4749 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

SPECIAL PROSECUTORS

Before a court appoints a private attorney to prosecute or defend a case where the state's attorney has a conflict, the court must first contact various public agencies to determine a public prosecutor's availability to serve as a special prosecutor. Gives the county the right to participate in agreements on the rate of compensation of a special prosecutor and sets certain procedures regarding the authority and fees associated with a special prosecutor. This grew out of a case in McHenry County where the State's Attorney was the defendant in an official misconduct case and a special prosecutor was appointed. The special prosecutor's bills were three times what the County Board had set aside to cover the anticipated costs.

HB 5122 – Sent to Governor 6/26/12

ABUSE OF A CORPSE

Prohibits the unauthorized movement of a corpse or sexual activity with a corpse. It is intended to cover cases in which bodies are removed from a potential crime scene and dumped elsewhere in order to divert attention from the real location, such as when someone has died from an overdose. Exempts paramedics, physicians, medical students, funeral directors and employees of coroners' or medical examiner's offices from the prohibition.

HB 5289 – Sent to Governor 6/26/12

SALES TAX EVASION

Creates the crime of "Sales Tax Evasion" to prosecute serious offenders who evade paying Illinois sales tax. This legislation is in response to an investigation of gas stations that found many retailers were collecting sales taxes but not turning the money over to the state. Increases punishment and fine levels. It also extends the statute of limitations from 3 years to 5 to match other evasion statutes for income taxes and motor fuel taxes.

HB 5635 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

CORONER TRAINING

Establishes a training program in death and homicide investigations for coroners and allows only coroners who have completed the training to be a lead investigator in coroner's investigation. However, provisions concerning training in death and homicide investigations do not affect or impede the powers of the office of the coroner to investigate all deaths.

HB 5749 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

STATE'S ATTORNEYS

Intended to codify the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's current practice of assisting county State's Attorneys with post-conviction proceedings. Also allows the Office of the State's Attorneys appellate Prosecutor to contract for investigators to provide investigative services in criminal cases and tax objection cases.

SB 1047 – Sent to Governor 5/24/12

COURT FEES

Adds a \$10 fee on criminal, traffic, local ordinance and conservation cases that will go to fund probation and court services operations. Allows a county to use its probation and court services fund for payment of salaries of probation officers and other court services personnel.

SB 2492 – Sent to Governor 5/24/12

WAIVE JURY FEES

Allows jurors to waive reimbursement for their duties. Currently, counties are mandated to pay citizens serving on juries between \$4 - \$17.20 a day from their treasuries, and possible mileage and child care reimbursement.

SB 2844 – Sent to Governor 5/24/12

DOC CONTRACTS AND INMATE CO-PAY

Changes the definition of an "indigent" committed person in relation to the exemption from the \$5 co-payment for medical and dental services. Provides that the committed person who has \$20 or less in his or her Inmate Trust Fund at the time of such services and (rather than or) for the 30 days prior to such services. Also changes the requirement that certain Department of Corrections (DOC) vendors maintain an investment grade or higher rating which DOC says is unattainable for most organizations.

SB 2869 – Sent to Governor 6/08/12

ACTIVE NOTICE OF ORDERS OF PROTECTION

Requires the sheriff or other law enforcement official charged with maintaining Illinois State Police records to notify the Department of Corrections (DOC) within 48 hours when an order of protection, a civil no contact order, or a stalking no contact order is entered against an individual who is committed to DOC or who is on parole or mandatory supervised release.

Business, Commerce & Labor



HB 1882 (P.A. 97-0721) BUSINESS SURVEY

Creates a number of new responsibilities for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity including requiring a survey of businesses in the State and those that have left the State in the past 10 years.

HB 4013 – Sent to Governor 6/13/12 COPPER PURCHASES

Requires recyclable metal dealers to keep records of all purchases of recyclable metal containing copper, rather than only those valued at \$100 or more and metal street signs. Identifying information must be entered into forms provided by the State Police and retained for 2 years for each transaction.

HB 5212 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12 PREVAILING WAGE NOTIFICATION

Allows a public body to make required notifications regarding revisions in the prevailing wage rate by inserting in the written contract a stipulation that states the revised prevailing wage rates are available on the Department of Labor's website.

SB 3279– Sent to Governor 6/27/12 BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION

Requires a building permit applicant must present a government-issued identification along with the building permit application. A certain provision shall not apply to a county or municipality whose building process occurs through electronic means.

SB 3616 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12 ENTERPRISE ZONE

Extends all enterprise zones expiring in the next few years to FY2016. The State currently has a total of 97 zones. At that point and thereafter, authorization of all zones that expire will be competitively bid between any interested communities. Beginning in 2016, 68 zones will be up for grabs. DCEO will manage the application process for renewal or reassignment of the zones to new areas by scoring the application based on ten specific criteria. A newly formed Enterprise Zone board will review the applications and either confirm or deny them. The board will consist of the directors of DCEO and Illinois Department of Revenue and three members appointed by the Governor. Members must be picked geographically so that one represents Cook County, one represents the collar counties bordering Cook and one from anywhere else in the State. Eliminates the River's Edge Redevelopment Zones upon their expiration and converts them into additional enterprise zones. Creates a new sales tax exemption process and establishes new accounting procedures to ensure compliance and review effectiveness of zones. The bill also eliminates three income tax incentives for businesses, the Jobs Tax Credit for Enterprise Zone Employers, the dividend subtraction for corporations investing in zones and the exemption for interest income earned by business that make loans to secure property within enterprise zones. All together these incentives cost the State \$8.7 million in FY2010, or 8.3% of its total annual enterprise zone costs.

Consumers

HB 3782 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12 FACEBOOK PRIVACY

Amends State law on privacy in the workplace to prevent employers from demanding account information and passwords from their workers or job applicants to gain access to the employee's social networking website.

HB 4242 (P.A. 97-0716) NATURAL DISASTER ASSESSMENT FREEZE

Creates a homestead exemption for residences damaged or destroyed that are rebuilt within 2 years of the disaster. The exemption amount is the EAV minus the base amount in the first taxable year for which a property owner applies.

SB 409 – Sent to Governor 6/27/12 SPECIAL SERVICE AREAS NOTICE

Requires notice be given to affected property owners prior to the levy of taxes for a special service area. Requires hearings for tax levies of more than 105% of the amount



extended in the preceding year and further provides that the municipality may propose a special service area for the purpose of providing energy conservation measures to any residential or commercial building.

SB 681 – Sent to Governor 6/07/12 MAIL ORDER AMMUNITION

Allows an Illinois resident with a valid FOID card and Illinois driver's license or state i.d. to buy ammunition through the mail from an in-state federal firearm-licensed retailer or seller of ammunition.

SB 3607 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12 ASSESSMENT CHALLENGES

Sets a uniform 30-day deadline for property owners to file an assessment complaint.

Taxes and Fees



HB 1645 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT TAX

Creates the Live Adult Entertainment Facility Tax. Requires either a \$3 entry into a club, or requires club owners to pay an annual \$5,000 - \$25,000 surcharge. Facilities could choose which tax they pay. Applies only to venues that feature live nude entertainment and serve alcohol. Proceeds will largely go to the Sexual Assault Prevention Fund, less 2% which shall be paid into the Tax Compliance and Administration Fund in the State treasury from which it will be appropriated to the Department of Revenue.

HB 3859 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

TAX SHARING AGREEMENTS

Requires counties and municipalities to provide the Department of Revenue a report on their sales tax rebate agreements and exempts these agreements from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). These reports must be filed within 90 days for existing agreements and within 30 days after a new agreement is executed. **Note:** Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

HB 5192 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

TAX APPEAL TRIBUNAL

An Illinois Chamber initiative, this bill creates an Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal to resolve tax disputes between the Department of Revenue and taxpayers prior to taxpayers being required to pay taxes in dispute. A taxpayer may request a hearing by filing a petition with the tribunal. The tribunal will hear all protests of taxes, penalties or denials of refunds exceeding \$15,000. Next steps will be funding the tribunal (estimated to cost \$1 million) and Senate confirmation hearings for the administrative law judge selection process. If Gov. Quinn signs this bill into law, Illinois will join 27 other states with separate entities for handling tax collection and tax appeals.

HB 5362 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

SALES TAX

Extends the sunset date for use of sales tax revenue for expenditures on municipal operations by 5 years (2015 to 2020) for non-home rule communities who held a referendum on the question of levying a sales tax after July 14, 2010.

SB 180 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

COMPTROLLER WARRANT DEDUCT – CIRCUIT COURTS

Allows the clerks of the circuit courts to enter into a reciprocal offset agreement with the State Comptroller in order to intercept tax refunds and other state payments to people who owe money on past due fines to the clerks of the circuit courts. This will improve the circuit clerks' ability to collect unpaid debt and provide more revenue without raising taxes or increasing fees.

SB 3101 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

PROPERTY TAX NOTIFICATION

Allows the county treasurer to mail a property tax bill to the property owner at a new address if the property owner has submitted a change address form to the US Postal Service. Also includes a provision which allows taxpayers to grant permission for tax bills to be sent via email. This legislation should expedite delivery of property tax bills.

SB 3250 – Sent to Governor 6/13/12

PROPERTY TAX CODE

Amends property tax code by stating that unpaid property taxes are delinquent on June 1, September 1, or the date specified on the bill. Those deemed delinquent will bear interest after that date.

SB 3314 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

PROPERTY TAX CALCULATION

Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code to provide a new method for calculating the approximate amount of the tax extendable for purposes of a referendum question submitted to impose a new or increasing limiting rate or to increase the extension limitation. Requires the estimated dollar amount of a property tax increase to be calculated on the equalized assessed value, including the State multiplier.

SB 3386 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

REVIEW APPEAL / ELECTRONIC NOTICE

Allows the Cook County Board of Review to send out results of tax appeals electronically, instead of by mail. Requires assessment change notices made by a board of review or a board of appeals must also be mailed to a taxpayer's attorney, if the taxpayer had been represented by an attorney. Also allows property taxpayers to file appeals electronically in Cook County.

SB 3507 (P.A. 97-0709)

UNEMPLOYMENT DOUBLE TAXATION

Addresses a double taxation issue for Illinois residents receiving unemployment benefits from another state by stating that unemployment benefits paid by the Illinois Department of Employment Security are taxable by the state. Corrects the current situation in which Iowa taxes all unemployment benefits that are issued there regardless of where the worker lives. At the same time, Illinois also taxes the unemployment benefits of its residents. This has created a double taxation situation for Illinois residents that receive unemployment benefits from Iowa. Under this bill, the Illinois resident will still pay tax on the benefits to Iowa, but he/she would receive a credit in Illinois so as not to be taxed twice. While some people who are currently paying taxes will get a credit, out of state residents will be taxed on the benefits received from Illinois. This swap will ensure Illinois is not losing any money.

Energy & Environment



HB 587 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

PARK DISTRICT REFERENDUMS

Allows a park district subject to tax caps to increase two of its fund rates if the increases are offset by reductions in the district's other funds.

HB 4753 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION DISTRICT ACT

Changes the petition process for creating and dissolving districts among other provisions.

HB 4761 – Sent to Governor 6/26/12

ELECTRIC UTILITY BROKERS

Requires electric brokers or consultants that receive payments from alternative retail energy suppliers to disclose that to the involved units of local government of any professional services agreement.

HB 4986 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

RECYCLING REVIEW TASK FORCE

Creates a Task Force to review recycling and solid waste management planning in Illinois including county recycling and waste management planning.

HB 5071 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Allows owners of electric vehicle charging stations to charge for power without having to be certified as a public utility or retail electric supplier. Entities will be able to recoup money from car owners that plug into their chargers.

HB 5145 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

NON-COAL MINE LAND RECLAMATION

Allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to spend up to 2% of their annual budget to reclaim non-coal mine (lead, minerals, etc.) land.

HB 5195 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

Adds energy efficiency projects to the definition of energy conservation project under the Illinois Finance Authority Act, and makes the projects eligible for financing.

SB 3453 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

DCEO ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUND

Creates the Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards Fund to receive DCEO program fees from electric utilities, to be used to provide public sector customers with financial incentives to make energy efficiency improvements.

SB 3672 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12

EPA PERMIT STREAMLINING

Requires the Illinois EPA to mirror any changes made by the U.S. EPA to air permit regulations in state law. This bill is aimed at helping businesses adhere to federal EPA air permit changes in a timelier manner.

SB 3766 – Sent to Governor 6/11/12

LEUCADIA

Requires Nicor Gas and Ameren Illinois to pay 95% of the costs to build and operate a \$3 billion coal-to-gas plant proposed by Leucadia National Corp. on the Southeast side of Chicago. The plant is expected to bring 200 permanent jobs, and produce "clean coal" with fewer emissions.

SB 3811 – Sent to Governor 6/28/12

NET METERING

Adds language to protect current and future renewable energy customers' ability to receive a 1:1 kilowatt-hour credit for their overproduction. Net metering is when customers use wind turbines or solar panels to provide their own power and are credited by the utility for the power.

Transparency

HB 222 – Sent to Governor 6/19/12

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PORTAL

Expands the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal (ITAP) to include local government employee information. Calls for a searchable database of all county, municipal and township employees be added to the existing portal. Data would be searchable by unit of local government, current pay rate, year-to-date pay and employment position title. Local governments are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided.

HB 4687 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Seeks to increase public access with regard to notices and

agendas required under the Open Meetings Act. A public body must take reasonable steps to ensure that a copy of the notice and agenda are continuously made available for public review for the entire 48-hour period prior to the meeting. Publication on a website satisfied the continuous posting requirement. Exemptions are granted if the website goes down through no fault of the public body.

SB 3508 – Sent to Governor 6/08/12

ONLINE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Requires the Comptroller to post all financial reports that are required to be submitted by governmental units, including counties and municipalities, on the Internet.

Transportation



HB 3948– Sent to Governor 6/13/12 POLICE CDL

Exempts from Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirements police officers serving in their official capacity when driving equipment owned or operated by county, municipal or state agencies.

HB 3982– Sent to Governor 6/26/12 MOVING VIOLATION INFORMATION

Requires circuit clerks to furnish a list of all registered taxicabs with a record of moving violations. The list would include the name of the defendant, taxi registration plate number, type of violation and a percentage breakdown of the total number of cases for which there was a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt and the total number of cases that were dismissed. This analysis would be used as a tool to review taxi driver safety in Illinois.

HB 4568 – Sent to Governor 6/14/12 INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Authorizes \$1.6 billion in bonds to finance state infrastructure repairs and improvements. Half of the total would be used for state and local roads (transportation "D") and half would be used for rail and mass transit statewide. These bonds are part of the remaining bond authorization approved in the 2009 capital program.

HB 4691 – Sent to Governor 6/15/12 AMBULANCE FREE TOLL

Allows public and private ambulances engaged in emergency service to use the tollway without paying.

HB 5099 – Sent to Governor 6/26/12 CELL PHONES IN ACCIDENT ZONES

Prohibits the use of cell phones and similar devices within 500 feet of an emergency scene, such as a fire or an accident. Texting or uploading videos or photographs would also be prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.

HB 5780 – Sent to Governor 6/20/12 POLICE VEHICLES

Beginning with the 2013 registration year, municipally-owned vehicles operated by or for any police department shall be exempt from any fee for the transfer of registration from one vehicle to another vehicle.

SB 2822– Sent to Governor 6/29/12 IDOT LAND CONVEYANCE

Authorizes the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to sell parcels in Bond, Kendall, Sangamon, Tazewell, Vermilion and Woodford counties.

SB 2861 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12 STATE RAIL ESCROW ACCOUNT

Establishes a state escrow account allowing IDOT to deposit federal money for the maintenance of rail lines

along the routes that are used for federal high speed rails. Rail carriers would be permitted to withdraw funds from the account with the Department's consent and under the terms of an established maintenance plan.

SB 2937– Sent to Governor 6/28/12 NORTHWEST METRA COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT

Creates the Northwest Metra Commuter Rail District to include all municipalities within McHenry County. As a municipal corporation, the District would have eminent domain powers and the ability to levy property taxes. A property tax would have to be approved by a majority of voters, and the property tax rate would not exceed 0.25 percent of assessed value.

SB 3216 – Sent to Governor 6/22/12 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TRAILER

Follows-up legislation passed in 2011 that allows a transportation agency to enter into a Public Private Partnership with private entities to develop, finance and operate transportation projects. In addition to making technical changes, the bill would impose new hearing requirements for candidate public-private partnership (PPP) projects, eliminate restrictions on the length of PPP agreements, and direct net proceeds from PPP agreements to a new PPPs for Transportation fund.

SB 3318 – Sent to Governor 6/21/12 ILLIANA EXPRESSWAY

Streamlines the planning process for the Illiana Expressway, a proposed highway connecting Interstate 65 in Lake County with Interstate 55 near Joliet, Ill. The road is intended to relieve traffic on the often-congested Borman Expressway and spur economic development along its likely route in south Lake County and into Illinois. Allows IDOT to use "quick take" powers to secure property for the Illiana Expressway. Also clarifies that contractor bonds are not a debt of the state. The expressway is expected to bring in \$6 billion in investment over a 30-year period and create up to 4,300 short-term construction jobs and 13,800 long-term jobs in northeastern Illinois.

SB 3518 (P.A. 97-0692) CHARITABLE SOLICITATION

Requires municipalities and counties to allow law enforcement, firefighters, or other public safety officers to collect charitable contributions on streets, regardless of safety and traffic concerns, so long as they file an appropriate application. Opponents pointed out that this bill could open up communities to civil-rights liability because it requires local governments to violate the First Amendment by mandating that they give preferential treatment concerning free speech to certain individuals.

Human Services

HB 5007 (P.A. 97-0687)

COOK COUNTY MEDICAID

Allows Cook County to apply for a Medicaid Waiver to receive additional federal Medicaid funds. Proponents claim the expansion plan would be self-funding, while opponents say it is wrong to add between 100,000 to 250,000 new Medicaid recipients at a time when the system is near collapse.

SB 2194 (P.A. 97-0688)

TOBACCO TAX HIKE

Increases cigarette taxes by \$1 per pack and doubles the tax on other tobacco products from 18% to 36%. Also spells out requirements that hospitals must meet in order to qualify for property tax exemptions as not-for-profits and imposes charity care requirements on for-profit hospitals. The measures combined are expected to close \$800 million of the Medicaid budget gap.

SB 2840 (P.A. 97-0689)

MEDICAID REFORMS AND REDUCTIONS

Reduces Medicaid liabilities by more than \$1.6 billion, and is a major component of the Medicaid reform package that is anticipated to reduce overall liabilities by \$2.7 billion in FY13. Reforms target eligibility verification, utilization controls, optional services, and rate adjustments, among other changes.

SB 3397 (P.A. 97-0691)

MEDICAID REFORM (SECTION 25)

Part of a series of measure to reform the state's Medicaid program. Beginning with the current fiscal year, the state cannot roll over more than \$700 million in Medicaid bills. The following year and every year thereafter, the state's credit limit will be held to \$100 million.

Veterans

HB 4926 – Sent to Governor 6/15/12

SERVICE MEMBER COURTS

Allows for the creation of Veterans and Servicemembers Courts, as a problem solving court. Includes a mental health court to make it easier for courts and mental health providers to share information.

SB 3241 – Sent to Governor 6/27/12

TAX EXEMPTIONS AND ABATEMENT

Allows a county or municipality to abate property taxes on the residence of a surviving spouse of a soldier who dies while on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Under the job-hiring part of the bill, a tax credit of up to \$5,000 would be available to employers who hire a qualified veteran who had been unemployed for an aggregate of four weeks or

Pensions



HB 3969 – Sent to Governor 6/29/12

RETIRED LEGISLATORS

Designed to prevent further abuses of a law that allows outgoing and former state lawmakers to cash-in by boosting their pension "spiking" upon taking another government job at a higher salary after leaving office. Requires former lawmakers in this position to either opt out of the higher pension or require the hiring government agency's pension fund to pick up the additional cost.

HB 4622 – Sent to Governor 6/13/12

ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND

Makes technical changes aimed at correcting language and removing obsolete Social Security procedures, including clarifying that taxes levied for IMRF purposes can only be used for IMRF employer contributions.

SB 179 (P.A. 97-0694)

PENSION FUND REVIEWS

Requires the hiring of a state actuary charged with reviewing, monitoring and reporting on Illinois' retirement systems. The state actuary will review the figures presented by the actuaries employed by the retirement systems' boards of trustees, essentially reviewing and fact-checking the information.

SB 1313 (P.A. 97-0695)

RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE

Repeals the state's health insurance subsidy of up to 100% for retired employees with 20 years or more of service. CMS will issue a retiree health insurance premium payment plan annually for annuitants of the five state pension systems. The plan is subject to approval by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JARC).



more during the year before his or her date of hire. The tax credit for new hires will be equivalent to 20 percent of the unemployed veteran's gross wages during the tax year, not to exceed \$5,000. As a continuation of current law, employers who continue to employ a veteran can collect a credit equal to 10 percent of the gross wages paid to the veteran, not to exceed \$1,200.

SB 2761 – Sent to Governor 6/11/12

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE

Clarifies how property taxes are charged to private companies providing housing on military bases in Illinois.

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Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners (IACBMC) to enhance the stature, role and responsiveness of county government in the State of Illinois. IACBMC will promote the ability of Illinois counties to provide responsible public service, efficiently through cooperative legislative action, education of public officials, provision of quality member services and programs, and increasing public awareness of local government issues.