



# Counties at the Capitol



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This report includes status changes concerning bills of relevance to local governments and new amendments filed.

*The House will begin hearing Senate Bills in House Committees on a larger scale this week. The Senate will not convene in session this week, but are scheduled to conduct virtual committee meetings on various appropriations issues related to the state budget and ARPA fund distributions. We anticipate a fast-paced process the next few weeks as session heads towards the scheduled April 8 adjournment date.*

### SB 2912 (Johnson) Greenwood – **SUPPORT** SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Status: Passed Senate 39-10-0 / House Cities and Villages Committee

A superintendent of a department of public works shall be a registered professional engineer, hold a degree in engineering from an accredited institution of higher learning, or have at least 10 years of professional, management-level experience in either a municipal or county public works department. However, at least one employee in the public works department shall be a certified registered professional engineer or hold a degree in engineering. **NOTE:** An amendment has been filed in the House for clarification replacing "certified registered professional engineer" with "professional engineer licensed under the Professional Engineering Practice Act of 1989."

### SB 3097 (Hunter) Zalewski – **NEUTRAL** PROPERTY TAX NOTICE OF REDEMPTION Status: Passed Senate 53-0-0 / House Revenue and Finance Committee

After filing a petition to obtain a tax deed, the owner of a certificate of purchase must file with the clerk of the circuit court (currently, the county clerk) the names and addresses of persons who are entitled to service of notice.



### Clarity with use of county recorder's seal

A measure to simplify the process for use of a county recorder's seal passed the Senate under the leadership of Sen. Linda Holmes (D-Kane County).

**Senate Bill 3187** streamlines the recording process to establish a stamped or electronic version of the county seal satisfies the signature requirement for record instruments.



This issue arose after a Sangamon County Recorder's office customer believed the printed name of the Recorder should be considered a signature.

"In any case where there is doubt as to whether a printed Recorder's name is legal, this clearly states the recorded document is legal," Holmes said.

County Recorders are generally responsible for maintaining records of all governing body transactions including resolutions and ordinances. They keep records of deeds, marriage licenses and most other public records. They also issue permits, as well as many licenses.

"We are the official record keeper of all land record transactions; by having this placed on the stamps, it lends credibility that this document was properly processed and recorded as part of the public records," said Will County Recorder Karen Stukel, President of the Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recorders.

Status: House Counties and Townships Committee. – **SUPPORT**

## ACT NOW! Prevailing Wage Expansion

A proposal to expand Prevailing Wage laws on public works projects in Illinois has moved to the Senate. **House Bill 5538** sponsored by Sen. Dave Koehler (D-Peoria County) provides that the provisions of the Act apply to the construction or demolition of public works performed by an employee of a public body engaged in the construction or demolition of public works on behalf of another public body.

A prevailing wage is defined as the hourly wage, usual benefits and overtime, paid to the majority of workers within a particular area. Prevailing wages are established by the Dept. of Labor for each trade and occupation employed in the performance of public work. Expansion of prevailing wages will force county governments, as well as, cities, townships and school districts to cut scarce capital projects even further due to higher labor costs. – **OPPOSE** Please contact your Senator today!

## Senate Bills in the House

### SB 2154 (Tracy) Hammond – **OPPOSE** ATTACHED PROPERTY

**Status:** Passed Senate 50-0-0

Buildings, structures, and improvements that are not permanently attached to the land are not considered property for the purposes of the Property Tax Code.

**NOTE:** *We have met with the sponsors of this legislation as it would override the "Freeze Act". We do not believe it will be called for consideration in the House at this time as negotiations continue.*

### SB 3120 (Bush) Moeller – **NEUTRAL** FAMILY BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

**Status:** Passed Senate 38-11-0 /

**House Labor and Commerce Comm.**

Provides up to 10 days of unpaid leave following a pregnancy loss, stillbirth or an unsuccessful intrauterine insemination, among other issues impacting pregnancy or fertility. The measure also allows 10 days of unpaid leave for the death of an immediate family member.

### SB 3460 (Syverson) Vella – **SUPPORT** OFFICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

**Status:** Passed Senate 53-0-0 / **House Ethics and Elections Committee**

Creates a process in which countywide elected officials or township officers can be placed on administrative leave in the wake of being charged with an infamous crime or any felony in violation of his or her official oath.

### SB 3633 (Koehler) Hoffman – **NEUTRAL** DEMOLITION DOCUMENTATION

**Status:** Passed Senate 54-0-0 /

**House Energy and Environment Committee**

Counties and municipalities must maintain documentation submitted from a

contractor on the disposal of specified demolition debris, clean or general, or uncontaminated soil.



### SB 3651 (Villa) Hirschauer IMRF CONTRIBUTIONS

**Status:** Passed Senate 52-0-0 / **House Personnel and Pensions Committee**

Creates an exemption for accelerated payments that arise due to workers' compensation payments.

## KENDALL COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXPANSION

Sen. Linda Holmes also passed legislation to help the Kendall County Courthouse grow to serve the demand for additional facilities and more timely resolution of court cases. **Senate Bill 3737** would allow the county to finish space that was built but never completed, and to house additional judicial staff hired to support the increasing needs for court services in the county.

"Kendall County was the fastest growing county in the U.S. from 2000 to 2010, and the fastest growing county in Illinois from 2010 to 2020, having grown its population by 141% since 2000," Holmes said. "Population growth means the courthouse needs expanding to meet the county's legal proceedings."

This measure would allow Kendall County to adopt a fee of up to \$30 on civil and criminal cases. Approximately \$150,000 would be generated by the fees and would serve as part of a bonding effort to fund the courthouse growth. Court officials are allowed to waive the fee for lower income individuals.

**SB 3737 is assigned to the House Judiciary-Civil Committee. – SUPPORT**



## Bipartisan effort to stop catalytic converter theft

Alarmed by the rise of catalytic converter thefts around Illinois, Rep. Dr. Paul Jacobs (R-Jackson County) and Rep. La Shawn Ford (D-Cook County) have advanced legislation that will make it difficult for thieves to sell stolen parts for cash at scrap metal recyclers without creating a paper trail that can prevent the crime in the first place.



"Catalytic converter thieves have shown little regard for the harm they are doing to individual vehicle owners and institutions that provide educational and charitable services to children and adults that need help with transportation," Jacobs said. "This legislative package offers strong deterrents for people thinking they can make a quick buck by stealing catalytic converters and companies that might offer thieves cash for stolen converters. I look forward to this bill passing the Senate and being signed by the Governor."

**House Bill 107** targets the incentives of catalytic converter theft by requiring scrap yards and metal recyclers to review and record the identification of sellers. If a seller does not have a Secretary of State-issued license identifying them as an automotive parts recycler or scrap processor, the seller will be required to fill out a 1099-MISC tax form by the buyer. If a catalytic converter is valued at more than \$100, buyers would be prohibited from paying in cash.

"This is a bipartisan solution that will help law enforcement create a paper trail that can help deter or solve crimes," Ford said.

**HB 107 passed the House unanimously on March 4 and awaits Committee assignment in the Senate.**

**SB 3685 (Stadelman) Zalewski – NEUTRAL  
PROPERTY TAX CODE – TRAININGS**

**Status: Passed Senate 55-0-0 / House  
Revenue and Finance Committee**

Courses and training for the Certified Illinois Assessing Officer certificate shall be held in a manner and format deemed appropriate by the Department of Revenue (currently, required to be held at various convenient locations throughout the State). Removes a requirement that the hearing concerning the tentative equalization factor shall be held in either Chicago or Springfield.

**SB 3795 (Morrison) Mason – SUPPORT  
COUNTY DESIGN-BUILD AUTHORIZE**

**Status: Passed Senate 52-0-0 / House  
Counties and Townships Committee**

Allows counties to enter into design-build contracts. If the total overall cost of a project is estimated to be less than \$12,000,000, the county may combine the two-phase procedure for selection into one phase. **NOTE:** *Relative to the awarding of a design-build contract to the highest overall ranked design-build entity, the county may not request a best and final offer after the receipt of proposals of all qualified entities.*

**SB 3895 (Gillespie) Zalewski  
AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING**

**Status: Passed Senate 53-0-0 / House  
Revenue and Finance Committee**

Modifies various definitions in the Property Tax Code related to assessment reductions including "assessed value for the residential real property in the base year", "maximum income limits", and "maximum rent".

**NEWSWORTHY...**

Rep. Dave Severin (R-Marion) advanced legislation cutting regulations impacting owners of hunting land in Illinois. Currently, landowners must submit a permit application and proof of eligible land ownership to the Dept. of Natural Resources every year. **House Bill 5042** changes the requirements to once every 5 years.

"Hunting is a way of life for many people that own land in Southern Illinois," Severin stated.



**Butler introduces bill allowing recall of  
Cook County State's Attorney**

Rep. Tim Butler (R-Springfield) has introduced **House Bill 5712**, which would allow citizens the ability to recall the Cook County State's Attorney. According to Butler, Foxx has created controversy on many prosecutorial decisions while crime rates continue to soar in Cook County.

"State's Attorney Foxx has created a crisis of confidence in the Cook County judicial system," said Butler. "Giving preferential treatment to some defendants like Jussie Smollett and totally ignoring the victims of crime has caused the public to lose faith in her ability to execute the duties she was elected to do."

**House Bill 5712** sets up a process for voters to initiate a recall election within 60 days of petitions being certified by the Cook County Clerk. The petitions must be signed by registered voters from Cook County, equaling at least five percent of total votes cast in the preceding Cook County State's Attorney election.

**The bill was assigned to the House Rules Committee on March 1st.**



**House Bills in the Senate**

**HB 182 (Flowers) Van Pelt  
VEHICLE CODE – TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS**

**Status: Passed House 79-36-0 / Senate Assignments**

For purposes of a provision concerning procedures for traffic violations, a violation shall be deemed resolved if the person has appeared in court and the court entered any final disposition, including: (i) a final order regarding the person's guilt or innocence; or (ii) an order granting a request by the State or local governmental body that initiated the charges for permission not to prosecute the charges. If the prosecutor shows that default was due to an intentional refusal to pay, and due to a failure on the offender's part to make a good faith effort to pay, rather than the offender demonstrating the absence of these factors, the court may order the offender imprisoned for a term not to exceed 6 months if the fine was for a felony, or 30 days if the fine was for a misdemeanor, a petty offense or a business offense.

**HB 231 (Hernandez) Villa  
COUNTIES CODE – POPULATION**

**Status: Passed House 112-0-0 / Senate  
Assignments**

Changes definition of "population" to be the total number of inhabitants according to the last preceding federal decennial census (rather than number of inhabitants or number of persons).

**HB 378 (Jones) Harris  
BLACK OWNED MEDIA**

**Status: Passed House 71-29-0 / Senate Assignments**

Requires each municipality, county, school district, and community college district to adopt an ordinance or resolution for the procurement of black-owned media services that establishes an aspirational goal that no less than 10% (rather than 20%) of the total dollar amount used for the purchase of media services shall be used to procure the services of black-owned media.



## IN THE KNOW

### HB 427 (Yingling) Villivalam LAKE COUNTY CCAO

**Status: Passed House 111-2-0**

The election authority for Lake County shall cause to be submitted to the voters at the first general election held after the effective date of the amendatory Act a referendum to convert the Office of the Chief Assessment Officer to an elected office rather than an appointed office.

### HB 448 (Walker) Gillespie PTELL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**Status: Passed House 93-11-0**

For levy years 2021 and later, the taxing district's aggregate extension base is the greater of (A) the district's last preceding aggregate extension limit or (B) the district's last preceding aggregate extension, subject to certain adjustments. The provisions apply only to certain school districts; park districts; library districts; and community college districts.

### HB 828 (Chesney) Stewart – **SUPPORT** CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC ASSESSMENT

**Status: Passed House 108-0-0**

Repeals the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act on January 1, 2023 (rather than January 1, 2022). Amends the Clerks of Courts Act. Provides that a Section concerning circuit court clerk fees is repealed on January 1, 2023 (rather than January 1, 2022).

### HB 2409 (Davis) Castro EDGE TAX CREDIT – DIVERSITY

**Status: Passed House 116-0-0**

The Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall not issue a tax certificate to any taxpayer under the Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit Act unless the taxpayer first submits a supplier diversity report. The Department shall publish on its website all supplier diversity reports filed by taxpayers under this Act and maintain those reports for at least 5 years.

**On March 4, Gov. Pritzker extended the COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation through April 2, 2022. Therefore, public meetings may continue to be held remotely as long as certain requirements are met.**

## Relief for Illinois wine operations

To offer financial relief to struggling Illinois wineries, Sen. Rachell Crowe (D-Glen Carbon) advanced legislation to lower licensing fees for first-class manufacturers.

In partnership with the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association, **Senate Bill 1001** lowers the licensing fees for first-class wine manufacturers to \$750 if renewed online and \$900 for initial or non-online certification. Under a law passed in 2021, the fees were raised to \$1,200 if renewed online and \$1,500 for initial licenses and non-online. Illinois has more than 150 wineries statewide. **Status: Senate Third Reading**



### HB 2807 (Halbrook) Landek – **OPPOSE** LOCAL ACCUMULATION OF FUNDS

**Status: Passed House 112-0-0**

A unit of local government's funds, excluding the capital fund, shall not exceed an amount equal to or greater than 2.5 times the annual average expenditure of the previous 3 fiscal years of the local government. Defines "capital fund" as a capital fund of a township or a similar fund of another unit of local government established to dedicate funds toward capital improvement as a part of the local government's annual budget. Repeals a Section of the Township Code about accumulation of funds.

### HB 4073 (Manley) Connor – **OPPOSE** BATTERY-CHARGED FENCE ALARMS

**Status: Passes House 103-2-0**

A municipality or county may not: (1) require a permit or fee for the installation or use of a battery-charged fence alarm that is in addition to an alarm system permit issued by the municipality or county; (2) impose installation or operational requirements for the battery-charged fence that are inconsistent with the Act; or (3) prohibit the installation or use of a battery-charged fence alarm.

### HB 4116 (Morgan) Peters RIGHT TO PRIVACY DRUG TEST

**Status: Passed House 61-41-0**

An employer may not refuse to hire an individual or discipline an employee because results of an individual's drug test indicate the presence of THC. Provides that nothing in the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act shall be construed to create or imply a cause of action under the Act for any person against an employer for actions taken pursuant to an employer's workplace drug policy that complies with the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act. Removes specified provisions concerning employment and employer liability. Among other provisions, provides that nothing in the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act prohibits an employer from disciplining or discharging an employee whose use of a lawful product adversely affects or impairs the employee's job performance, conduct, or ability to safely perform the assigned job duties in the employer's workplace during working hours or hours the individual is on call or implementing and enforcing workplace policies regarding the possession, use, or impairment of lawful products in the employer's workplace during working hours or hours the individual is on call.



### HB 4215 (West) Castro – **NEUTRAL** CHILD EXTENDED BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

**Status: Passed House 96-4-0**

An employee of a large employer is entitled to use a maximum of 12 weeks of unpaid leave if the employee experiences the loss of a child by suicide or homicide. An employee of a small employer is entitled to use a maximum of 6 weeks of unpaid leave if the employee experiences the loss of a child by suicide or homicide.

**HB 4348 (West) Wilcox  
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAMERA GRANT**

**Status: Passed House 104-0-0**

Expands the definition of "law enforcement officer" to include any person employed by a unit of local government or an Illinois public university as a policeman, peace officer, or in some like position involving the enforcement of the law and protection of the public.

**HB 4406 (Bos) McConchie – NEUTRAL  
LINE OF DUTY COMPENSATION**

**Status: Passed House 104-0-0**

Expands the definition of "law enforcement officer" to include any person working as a volunteer for the State or a local government entity in some position involving the enforcement of the law and protection of the public.

**HB 4489 (Hoffman) Bennett – SUPPORT  
GATA APPLICABILITY**

**Status: Passed House 104-0-0**

The requirements established under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act do not apply to awards, including capital appropriated funds, made by the Dept. of Transportation to local governments for the purposes of transportation projects utilizing State and federal funds.

**HB 4646 (Rohr) Villivalam – NEUTRAL  
IMRF EMPLOYEE TRUSTEES**

**Status: Passes House 69-42-0**

Requires all employers to make at least 20 days of paid leave available annually to any employee trustee. It also requires the Fund to reimburse these employers for the actual cost of hiring a substitute employee during such leaves (currently requires reimbursement only of the trustee's actual salary).



**HB 4674 (West) Morrison  
NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS**

**Status: Passed House 104-0-0**

Among other provisions, provides that employees of a local government agency charged with inspecting, surveying, or evaluating facilities are required to complete at least 10 hours of continuing education annually.

## Harper passes legislation to boost youth civic engagement

To encourage civic engagement among young people, Rep. Sonya Harper (D-Chicago), passed a bill that provides an excused absence for middle and high school students to engage in a civic event.

Because of school attendance requirements, a school district can punish students for missing school to participate in a march, protest or demonstration. **House Bill 5488** provides any child from a public middle or high school an excused absence for at least one full school day to attend a civic event. A school board may require that students provide advance notice of the absence and require that the student display documentation or proof of attendance. **HB 5488 passed the House 62-38-0 and heads to the Senate.**



**HB 4772 (McLaughlin) McConchie – SUPPORT  
COUNTY DESIGN-BUILD AUTHORITY**

**Status: Passed House 102-2-1**

Allows a county to enter into design-build contracts. *Companion to SB 3795.*

**HB 4845 (Willis) Holmes – SUPPORT  
COUNTY RECORDER STAMP**

**Status: Passed House 104-0-0**

A physical or electronic image of the recorder's stamp satisfies the signature requirement for recorded instruments. *Companion to SB 3187.*

**HB 4990 (Hoffman) Villivalam – NEUTRAL  
DOWN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACT**

**Status: Passed House 104-0-0**

No later than 180 days following the last day of a participant's fiscal year (rather than the State fiscal year) each participant shall provide the Dept. of Transportation with an audit prepared by a Certified Public Accountant covering that fiscal year. Upon the Department's final reconciliation determination that identifies a discrepancy between the Downstate Operating Assistance Program funds paid and the percentage of the eligible operating expenses which results in a reimbursement payment due to the Department, the participant shall remit the reimbursement payment to the Department no later than 90 days after written notification. Makes other changes.

**HB 5041 (Severin) Fowler – NEUTRAL  
JUVENILE COURT – DETENTION CENTER HIRING**

**Status: Passed House 105-3-0**

Requires the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts to adopt rules to permit the hiring of personnel at a county juvenile detention center that possess less than a bachelor's degree.

**HB 5061 (Davis) – NEUTRAL  
COUNTIES CODE – DIVERSITY GOALS**

**Status: Passed House 104-0-0**

A county may establish goals to promote minority-owned and operated businesses, women-owned and operated businesses, businesses owned and operated by persons with disabilities, and businesses located within the county.



**HB 5532 (Collins) Stadelman  
LAND BANK EXEMPTION**

Status: Passed House 97-0-1

With the exception of a county or taxing district acquiring tax certificates to property, all purchasers or assignees of a property at a tax sale shall pay the clerk postage plus the sum of \$10 dollars (currently, the purchaser or assignee). Not less than 1 month (currently, 3 months) nor more than 6 months prior to the expiration of the period of redemption, the purchaser or his or her assignee shall prepare and deliver to the clerk of the Circuit Court of the county in which the property is located, the notice provided for, together with the statutory costs for mailing the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, all properties owned and held for future development by specified entities are exempt from property taxes. Provides requirements to claim the exemption among other provisions.

**Illinois Department of Revenue  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP  
June 15, 2022 (Virtual)**

*This year's event focuses on the Local Tax Allocation Division. Register at (217) 785-6518 or [REV.LocalTax@illinois.gov](mailto:REV.LocalTax@illinois.gov).*

## NEWSWORTHY...



### Memorial Highway

Rep. Dave Severin (R-Marion) passed **HJR 70** through the Illinois House, a measure that will rename a stretch of Illinois Route 37 north of Benton as Trooper Frank R. Dunbar Memorial Highway. Trooper Dunbar was killed in an automobile accident on May 14, 1972 while patrolling Route 37. At the time, he was the first state trooper in 26 years to be killed in the line of duty and the first to be killed in a patrol car accident in Southern Illinois.

## Lawmakers announce formation of Illinois Assyrian Caucus



Sen. Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) and Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D-Chicago) announced formation of the bipartisan, bicameral Illinois Assyrian Caucus. The Caucus will bring together members of the General Assembly to advocate for the state's Assyrian community by providing a unified platform to educate the public on Assyrian-American identities and issues.

"Assyrian Americans deserve a voice in state government and the formation of the Illinois Assyrian Caucus is an important step in ensuring that this vibrant, unique community is heard," Gong-Gershowitz said.

Founding members of the caucus include State Senators Christina Castro (D-Elgin), Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), Laura Fine (D-Glenview), Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove), Laura Murphy (D-Des Plaines), Mike Simmons (D-Chicago), Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago), and Representatives Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago), Deb Conroy (D-Villa Park), Amy Grant (R-Wheaton), Maura Hirschauer (D-West Chicago), Michael Kelly (D-Chicago), Lindsey LaPointe (D-Chicago), Michelle Mussman (D-Schaumburg), Denyse Stoneback (D-Skokie) and Mark Walker (D-Arlington Heights).

Illinois is the first in the nation to establish a statewide caucus on Assyrian issues.

## Legislation mandates residential buildings accommodate EV charging

A measure advanced from the House on March 3 is being criticized by some lawmakers and advocacy groups as government overreach. **House Bill 3125** sponsored by Rep. Robyn Gabel (D-Evanston) would require new and renovated residential or commercial buildings to be "electric vehicle capable."

The bill creates the Electric Vehicle Charging Act. It requires a new single-family residence or a small multi-family residence to have at least one electric vehicle capable parking space (charging station) for each residential unit that has dedicated parking. The Illinois Home Builders Association and the Illinois Realtors are opposed to the legislation on the basis it will drive up housing costs.



The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on April 8.  
For more information visit our website at [www.ilcounty.org](http://www.ilcounty.org).