

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

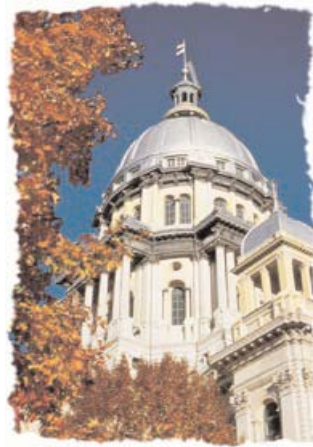
2009

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

*96th Illinois General Assembly
First Session*

**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONERS**

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The 2009 legislative session began with a dramatic display of anger and solidarity as lawmakers ousted one governor and anointed another. Patrick Quinn was sworn in as the state's 41st governor vowing a new course for Illinois. The crippling political infighting that had consumed state government for the last six years was finally over. Well, for a brief period.

With a large budget deficit, nobody expected an easy session. As Governor Quinn pushed for an income tax increase, the legislature expressed sharp differences over how to solve the budget challenge. It was clear early on that it would be difficult to achieve increased resources for counties. As budget talks broke down, it seemed less and less likely that any local government, state agency, department or program would escape unscathed. Ultimately, the Governor signed a FY 2010 budget that relies heavily on borrowing and payment delays. The level of unpaid state obligations stands at \$4.4 billion and the deficit continues to grow.

Legislators introduced over 7,000 bills in 2009 of which 853 became Public Acts. Despite budget conflicts, lawmakers did come together to pass the first capital construction program in ten years and legalized video gaming to partially pay for it. With many towns now banning gambling and state gaming officials predicting at least a year until the machines are ready to be installed the overall revenue video gaming is projected to raise has been put in doubt. The General Assembly also doubled the statewide limit on charter schools, tightened laws on procurement, pension-fund management and lobbying, strengthened ethics reform targeting "pay-to-play" abuses and significantly rewrote the state's Freedom of Information Act.

Despite the tense climate in which the executive and legislative branches labored, we are pleased to report that our accomplishments this session are many and our losses few. IACBMC has become a recognized presence at the State Capitol. We do not act solely in a reactive mode. Lawmakers often ask to meet with our staff regarding their opinions before any legislation is advanced. We are respected for our expertise, professionalism, tenacity and ability to negotiate successfully for the common interest of counties.

This legislative summary contains details on the priority issues we followed this session in addition to a few remaining bills on which we continue to concentrate our lobbying efforts. It is important to understand that the Illinois General Assembly is structured on a two-year cycle. Legislation that did not pass this year can be resurrected next year. Remember, advocacy is a continuous process.

Thanks to all our members who read *Counties at the Capitol* and made contact with their legislators. It does make a difference. Our successes we have achieved together.

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Murray
Executive Director

State Government



SB 1912 (P.A. 96-0045)

STATE BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The state operating budget for fiscal year 2010 is \$54.3 billion – 1.9% over last year's \$53.3 billion. The main budget was contained in four House bills and two Senate bills. The FY 2010 General Funds operating appropriations were made in lump sums rather than being appropriated for specific line items, leaving some discretion where to cut spending.

FY 2010 State Budget Acts

96-0113	Illinois State Board of Education Funds
96-0114	Institutions of Higher Education Funds
96-0032	Mandated Medicaid Budget
96-0039	Capital plan projects Funds
96-0042	Operational expenses
96-0043	Authorizes Pension Obligation Notes
96-0044	Special funds transfers to GRF
96-0045	Budget Implementation (BIMP) bill
96-0046	Non GRF grant funding

SB 54 (P.A. 96-0555)

STATE ETHICS ACT

Strengthens the Governmental Ethics Act. It forbids the promise of state jobs and contracts or political favors in exchange for campaign contributions and increases scrutiny of officials, state workers and lobbyists. Requires state employees responsible for procuring goods or services to fill out an economic disclosure form, including detailing relationships with outside entities that may create a conflict of interest. This bill also expands the duties and investigative powers of the Executive Inspectors General.

ETHICS & LOBBYING ACT CHANGES

Senate Bill 54 makes numerous changes to state laws on ethics and lobbying. These provisions take effect on January 1. Persons required to register as lobbyists must get annual ethics training from the Secretary of State. The annual registration fee rises from \$150 for 501(c)(3) organizations, and \$350 for others, to \$1,000 for each. Lobbyists must report weekly if the General Assembly is in session and monthly at other times (formerly twice a year) on all expenditures (formerly only those over \$100) related to attempting to influence official action. The maximum penalty for violating the act (now \$10,000) rises to \$10,000 per day a report or registration is late.

SB 1466 (P.A. 96-0832)

CAMPAIGN FINANCES

A measure to change Illinois' campaign finance law was the most anticipated legislation to be considered during the fall Veto Session. Senate Bill 1466 would impose Illinois' first-ever contribution limits on individuals, businesses and special interest groups. Political leaders and their political committees' donations would only be limited during primary elections—allowing for unlimited spending

during the general election. Senate Republicans were disappointed with the measure. They said that without capping contributions limits for legislative leaders and political parties during the General Election, the measure will have limited impact.

SB 1602 (P.A. 96-0543)

PUBLIC SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Establishes strict ethics requirements and restrictions for current and prospective members of state boards and commissions appointed by the Governor and calls for the creation of a website (www.appointments.illinois.gov) that provides information about board and commission membership. In addition, the Governor also launched the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal to provide Illinoisans with access to state government spending information. The website makes the State's expenditures and employee pay data available through a single, searchable portal (www.accountability.illinois.gov).

SB 189 (P.A. 96-0542)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & OPEN MEETINGS

Major changes to the FOIA and some to the Open Meetings Act will take effect on January 1. As first proposed by the Attorney General, the legislation would have imposed tremendous burdens on local governments, including criminal penalties for non-compliance with the Act. In the end, the bills were modified, but will still require additional effort to conform to the new law, including designation of an employee, officer or member as FOI officer and mandatory computer training. The time for a public body to respond to a request is reduced from 7 working days to 5 business days. Many exemptions from FOIA disclosure are narrowed. There are no criminal penalties included, however.

Capital Plan

HB 255 (P.A. 96-0034)

Governor Quinn signed into law a \$31 billion capital bill this summer. Funded through a variety of taxes and new legalized gambling, the bill is the first comprehensive construction bill in a decade. It includes more than \$14 billion for roadwork and bridge repair. However, the final legislation, much to the chagrin of all local governments, affords \$100 million a year to be split among counties, townships and municipalities for roads and bridges. There is an additional \$7 billion for non-road transportation projects, \$1.5 billion for higher education facilities and \$3.6 billion for K-12 educational facilities.

County Government



HB 146 (P.A. 96-0227)

COUNTY LAW LIBRARY FEE

Provides that a county board may authorize a county law library fee of not to exceed \$18 in 2009, \$19 in 2010, and \$21 in 2011 and thereafter.

HB 242 (P.A.96-0501)

PTELL DEBT SERVICE BASE

Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law to increase the debt service extension base each year by the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12-month calendar year preceding the levy year.

HB 347 (P.A. 96-0237)

COUNTY DETENTION HOMES

Amends the County Shelter Care and Detention Home Act. Provides that, if the county board of any county has levied a tax for a detention home and cannot adequately support the facility, the county board may expend the tax receipts for detention services purchased through agreements with other governmental units.

HB 379 (P.A. 96-0588)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVERSE AUCTION

Authorizes State purchasing officers under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services and units of local government to use an electronic reverse auction procurement method for purchases of supplies and services other than professional and artistic services. Exempts contracts for construction projects.

Local agencies must comply with new identity protection law

HB 547 – Returned to Governor for Certification IDENTITY PROTECTION ACT

On July 1, 2010, state and local agencies will be banned from including people's Social Security numbers (SSNs) in materials mailed or e-mailed to them (unless state or federal law requires it or exceptions apply). Starting January, state and local governments will be prohibited from encoding or embedding SSNs in cards, documents, and electronic storage devices from which the Act requires them to be removed. By Jan. 1, 2011, each unit of local government must draft an identity-protection policy requiring training in use of SSNs; restricting access to them; and requiring disclosure of planned uses when collecting them.

HB 585 (P.A. 96-0170)

COMPETITIVE BIDS

Provides that in a county with fewer than 2,000,000 inhabitants that Certain contracts in excess of \$30,000 (instead of \$20,000) must be let by competitive bidding.

HB 704 (P.A. 96-0175)

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Provides that in "Calhoun County, Edwards County, and Union County", the registered voters of the county may, upon referendum initiated by the adoption of a resolution by the board of county commissioners or a petition signed by not less than 10% of the registered voters in the county, establish a 5-member board of commissioners.

HB 722 (P.A. 96-0176)

AGGREGATION OF ELECTRICITY

Authorizes the corporate authorities of a municipality or county to aggregate in accordance with specified provisions residential and small commercial retail electrical loads located within the municipality or the unincorporated areas of the county. The corporate authorities or the county board may seek through referendum to operate the aggregation program as an opt-out program for residential and small commercial retail customers. The corporate authorities or county board must work with the Illinois Power Agency to develop a plan of operation and governance for the program. Contains provisions concerning the process for soliciting bids for electricity and other related services.

HB 883 (P.A. 96-0566)

TEST WIND TOWERS

Deletes the requirement in the Counties Code that test wind towers be dismantled within 3 years of installation.

HB 1332 (P.A. 96-0513)

U.S. FLAG DISPLAY

Requires each U.S. flags flown on the property of state government or the property of units of local government to be manufactured in the United States.

HB 3630 (P.A. 96-0295)

COUNTY CARE DISABILITY BOARD

Provides that the county board of any county with a 3-member county board for care and treatment of persons with a developmental disability may provide that that board shall consist of 5 members.

HB 3717 (P.A. 96-0495)

COUNTY JAIL GOOD BEHAVIOR

Allows the county sheriff to revoke the good behavior allowance of an inmate who is sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for misconduct committed by the inmate while in custody of the county sheriff.

HB 3718 (P.A. 96-0696)

ZONING TOWERS

Authorizes any county to impose a minimum lot line set back distance of 300 feet for a telecommunication carrier facility or an AM broadcast facility from a residentially zoned lot.

HB 3746 (P.A. 96-0306)

WIND TOWERS

Provides that a county may not require a wind tower or other renewable energy system that is used exclusively by an end user to be setback more than 1.1 times the height of the system from the end user's property line.

HB 4625 (P.A. 96-0816)

COOK COUNTY BOARD

Provides that the Cook County Board of Commissioners may override a veto by the County Board President by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of its members (instead of four-fifths).

SB 78 – MANUFACTURED HOMES

Held on second reading while negotiations continue.

Provides that mobile homes, as defined in the Mobile Home Local Services Tax Act, are included in the definition of real property.

SB 133 (P.A. 96-0650)

PUBLISH ADA COORDINATOR

Requires counties, townships, and municipalities to post or publish specified information pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator employed by the respective unit of local government and the grievance procedures.

SB 138 (P.A. 96-0704)

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Requires the Capital Development Board to adopt a commercial building code for areas of the state that are not within a jurisdiction that has a building code. Counties and municipalities will not be required to adopt, administer and enforce a building code. Nothing in the amendment prohibits a county or municipality that is currently without a building code from adopting its own code at any time.

SB 230 (P.A. 96-0124)

OCCUPATION TAX PROCEEDS

Authorizes counties to share tax proceeds received for public safety purposes, including proceeds received before the effective date of this amendatory Act, with any fire protection district located in the county.

SB 1462 (P.A. 96-0098)

COUNTIES CODE – VETERAN BURIAL

Increases the amount a county may spend on a veteran burial from \$600 to \$900, and adds that veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in any congressionally-sanctioned war or conflict are eligible for internment by any Illinois county upon death.

SB 1511 (P.A. 96-0721)

OCCUPANCY PERMIT

A county board may not require more than one occupancy permit per newly constructed residential dwelling. A county board may not impose a fee on an occupancy permit for a newly constructed dwelling unless it imposed a fee before the effective date of the amendatory Act.

Juveniles

Three significant juvenile justice reform laws take effect on January 1, 2010. The first two laws reported here were passed in the 95th General Assembly.

SB 2275 (P.A. 95-1031)

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AGE

Amends the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction in Illinois by one year from the youth's 17th to the 18th birthday, for misdemeanor offenses only effective January 1, 2010. Minors charged with a misdemeanor and a felony are sent to the adult court. The bill sets up a task force to study the impact of raising the age for felonies. The bill does not change any transfer statutes so youth would still be subject to all adult court transfer provisions. The bill does not apply retroactively. This bill will have a fiscal impact on counties.

SB 1013 (P.A. 95-1050)

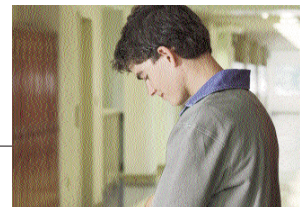
REDEPLOY ILLINOIS

Establishes Redeploy Illinois as a policy initiative for the state and removes "pilot" program language. Through the creation of a pool of money, smaller counties will be eligible to apply for services that will keep delinquent youth in their own community instead of committing them to the state youth prison system.

SB 1030 (P.A. 96-0707)

RECORD EXPUNGEMENT

Provides for a hearing to be held when a juvenile with a first offense misdemeanor turns 18 or upon completion of the sentence, whichever comes later. If local prosecutors do not file objections as outlined in the law, expungement of the record will be automatic.



Municipal Government



HB 159 (P.A. 96-0138)

INCREASE BID LIMITS – PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Raises the minimum bid requirement from \$500 to \$10,000 pertaining to when certain municipalities provide public improvements, to be paid for in whole or in part by special assessment or special taxation. The legislation allows municipalities to perform the work on a project if the amount of the project is under \$10,000 (instead of \$500).

HB 460 (P.A. 96-0503)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WASTEWATER FACILITIES

Allows certain bonds and grants that are currently used for loans or grants to units of local government for wastewater facilities to also be used for loans or grants to serve unincorporated areas.

HB 719 (P.A. 96-0372)

PARTIAL CENSUS

Requires the Secretary of State to certify a partial census conducted by a municipality. The intent of this legislation is to provide that if a municipality's population is over 25,000, the municipality is officially home rule without having to wait for the next decennial census. Currently, the statute is not clear regarding if the Secretary of State may certify a partial census.

HB 952 (P.A. 96-0186)

PREVAILING WAGE ACT

The Act now applies to the demolition of public works.

HB 1003 (P.A. 96-0188)

ANNEXATION AGREEMENTS

Provides that, except for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, Madison, McHenry, St. Clair, and Will counties, if property that is the subject of an annexation agreement is located more than 1.5 miles from the corporate boundaries of the annexing municipality, that property is subject to the ordinances, control, and jurisdiction of the annexing municipality unless the county board retains jurisdiction by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members. This procedure now exists within Boone, DeKalb, Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, Ogle, and Winnebago counties. The bill expands this procedure to the remaining 86 counties. House Bill 1003 is an attempt to resolve a dispute between Sangamon County and the Village of Chatham.

HB 1307 (P.A. 96-0386)

AMBULANCE SERVICE EQUIPMENT GRANT

Requires the office of the State Fire Marshal to establish and administer the Ambulance Service Equipment Grant Program. Fire departments, fire protection districts and volunteer, non-profit, and stand-alone ambulance services are eligible for the grants. The bill further provides that this program could include such items as defibrillators and communication equipment.

HB 2410 (P.A. 96-0277)

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS – NOT-FOR-PROFIT BOARD

Allows for limited circumstances when a municipal officer may hold a position on the board of not-for-profit corporation that is interested in a contract, work, or business of the municipality.

HB 3987 (P.A. 96-0078)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY BUILDING CODE

Creates a statewide energy efficiency building code for residential buildings. The Capitol Development Board (CDB) will be required to adopt the latest published edition of the International Code Council's International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Residential buildings may not use an energy efficiency standard that is less stringent than the code adopted by the CDB. Municipalities will be prohibited from adopting any energy conservation code after the bill is enacted unless the standards are identical to the code adopted by the CDB. Municipalities will also be prohibited from imposing energy efficiency standards in annexation agreements. Municipalities with an energy conservation code that is equivalent to or more stringent than the 2006 IECC at the time of the bill's enactment may continue to regulate those standards if: (1) the code was adopted prior to May 16, 2009; or (2) the proposed code was provided to CDB by May 16, 2009. Municipalities will no longer be able to modify energy conservation standards to meet the needs of their community. The bill further provides that municipalities that do not regulate energy efficiency standards are not required to adopt, regulate, or enforce the State code.

SB 148 (P.A. 96-0478)

RAILROAD CROSSING CAMERAS

Provides that the Illinois Commerce Commission, in cooperation with a local law enforcement agency, may establish in any county or municipality a system for automated enforcement of railroad crossing violations.

SB 1450 (P.A. 96-0220)

VEHICLE WIDTH LIMITATION

Changes the maximum allowable width for a motor vehicle or its load on Illinois highways from 8 feet wide to 8 feet, 6 inches wide.

SB 1894 – Sent to the Governor

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

Aims to help municipalities deal with the problematic issue of foreclosures, helping in the identification of the actual owners of the foreclosed upon property. Amends the Residential Real Property Disclosure Act. Provides that a predatory lending database program shall be established within Cook, Kane and Will counties.

Township Government



HB 255 (P.A. 96-0034)

VIDEO GAMING ACT (CAPITAL PLAN)

Increases weight limits on local roads to 80,000 pounds. Local governments can continue to post exceptions to that allowance, and fines for weight limit violations are doubled.

HB 476 – Passed House; Lost in Senate Committee

MOTOR FUEL TAX DISTRIBUTION

Provides for a proportional allotment of motor fuel tax receipts to all townships, rather than to just those that levy at .08%.

HB 564 (P.A. 96-0241)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Remedies a situation where a city and a township are coterminous and a city council is exercising powers that would ordinarily be exercised by the township board and allows the council by a ¾ vote to authorize the township supervisor to preside over portions of the city council meetings when addressing township issues.

HB 621 (P.A. 96-0564)

TOWNSHIP CODE – WEED CUTTING

Adapts language that would authorize township boards to deal with mowing grass, trimming or removing nuisance trees or bushes on neglected property.

HB 641 (P.A. 96-0366)

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION FUNDS

Extends the time period for expenditure of moneys apportioned by IDOT to counties for the use of road districts for

bridge construction. Passed both Houses; signed by the Governor (PA 96-366).

HB 644 (P.A. 96-0842)

SEWERAGE CHARGES

Adds township sewer service systems as entities that may, along with municipalities and sanitary districts, discontinue water service for non-payment of sewer bills.

SB 49 – Passed Senate; Held in House Committee

IDOT ROAD SALT GRANTS

Increased state reimbursement to local road districts for the purchase of road salt during the 2008-2009 season.

SB 1268 – House Amendment #2; Defeated in House Committee

ILLINOIS VEHICLE CODE

This bill would have provided full access to heavy trucks on local roads and bridges with no limits for up to five miles.

SB 1379 (P.A. 96-0422)

HIGHWAY CODE – PECUNIARY INTEREST

Increases the threshold for a township highway commissioner to have a pecuniary interest in lease contracts if the aggregate total of the contracts is less than \$2,000 (was \$1,000) with the approval of the town board of trustees or the highway board of auditors.

Environment

SB 99 (P.A. 96-0418)

COMPOSTING SITES

Composting Sites can be exempt from regulation as “pollution control facilities” under the Environmental Protection Act if they meet standards in this amendatory law for total quantity being composted at one time, protection from floods, separation from neighbors and historic sites, and protection of endangered species.

SB 178 (P.A. 96-0121)

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Drop-off of household hazardous wastes may be allowed only at places where products of the type being collected are sold or distributed, in addition to one-day collection events; sites operated by schools or governments; and sites for collecting mercury thermometers or thermostats. One-day household waste collection events must have permits from the Illinois EPA and operate under conditions it imposes.

SB 1906 (P.A. 96-0103)

ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY

The Authority’s bond issuance limit for energy projects is raised from \$2.7 to \$3 billion, and its purposes expanded to include making “substitute natural gas” from coal, and building power lines; carbon dioxide pipelines; and carbon abatement equipment at existing power plants. Within the \$3 billion overall limit, up to \$2 billion can be used for clean coal projects, and up to \$2 billion for renewable energy projects. The limit on the Authority’s outstanding state guarantees for existing debts of farmers held by lenders is tripled to \$225 million; and such guarantees may be used to support renewable energy projects.

SB 2150 (P.A. 96-0159)

RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE FUND

A new Renewable Energy Resources Fund will help the Illinois Power Agency obtain electricity for use in Illinois from renewable resources.

Prevailing Wage



Two separate prevailing wage laws, aimed at clarifying what work is covered and how contractors are to be notified that projects are subject to prevailing wage requirements, become effective January 1, 2010.

HB 163 (P.A. 96-0437) PREVAILING WAGE NOTICE

This bill was enacted in order to enhance the notice requirements under the Prevailing Wage Act. Among the new notice requirements, Public Act 96-0437 requires public bodies awarding contracts to provide the contractor with written notice on the purchase order or other separate document that the project is subject to the Prevailing Wage Act when a public works project is awarded without a public bid, contract or project specification. In addition, public bodies that fail to provide proper written notification to a contractor that a project is subject to the Act will be held financially responsible for any interest, penalties or fines. Similarly, contractors that fail to notify their subcontractors that a project is subject to prevailing wage requirements will be held responsible for any interest, penalties or fines. However, regardless of whether they were properly notified, contractors that fail to pay the proper wages to their workers are still responsible for all back wages owed to those workers. The consequence of failure to notify applies to work performed pursuant to bids, contracts, purchase orders, or project specifications issued or entered into on or after January 1, 2010.

SB 223 (P.A. 96-0058) DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC WORKS"

This bill was enacted in order to clarify that "public works" includes all projects funded in whole or in part through bonds, grants, loans or other funds made available by or through the State or any of its political subdivisions. These political subdivisions include municipalities, counties and state agencies, such as the Illinois Finance Authority, the Illinois Housing Development Authority and regional economic development authorities.

SB 43 – Passed Senate; Remains in House Rules ENTERPRISE ZONES AND TIF PROJECTS

This bill would require all projects in Enterprise Zones or Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts to pay prevailing wages on their construction projects, even if those projects are 100% privately funded. The legislation drastically alters the original intent of the Prevailing Wage Law, which was to ensure that public works projects, including the construction and maintenance of publicly-funded property (i.e. schools, municipal buildings, roads and bridges) followed prevailing wage guidelines. SB 43 creates a state mandate. Opponents of the measure say it could raise project costs by as much as 20 percent. Labor unions are in support of the legislation. The bill is pending in the House after being approved in the Senate 34-21.

Deadlines in the Year 2010 for the 96th General Assembly

January 13, 2010	Governor State of State Address
January 15, 2010	Final day to request House Bills from Legislative Reference Bureau
February 11, 2010	Final day for introduction of House Substantive Bills
March 12, 2009	Final day for Standing and Special Committees of the House to report out House Substantive Bills
March 26, 2010	Final day for Third Reading and passage of House Substantive Bills
April 1-12, 2010	SPRING BREAK
April 23, 2010	Final day for Standing and Special Committees of the House to report out Senate Substantive Bills
May 7, 2010	Final Day for Third Reading and passage of Senate Substantive Bills
May 7, 2010	SCHEDULED ADJOURNMENT



Adjournment pending the House has scheduled the following dates for Session: May 10-14, 2010
May 17-21, 2010
May 24-31, 2010

Business & Economic Development



HB 264 (P.A. 96-0234)

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

An 11-member Illinois Urban Development Authority can issue up to \$500 million in bonds, maturing in up to 35 years, to promote development by financing commercial, industrial, and housing projects in municipalities with poverty rates more than 3% above the state average. It will have 9 members appointed by the Governor, and one each appointed by the Chicago Mayor and Cook County Board President. It must file annual reports and issue a 4-year economic development strategy for each such municipality.

HB 1526 (P.A. 96-0834)

EDGE TAX CREDIT

Expands the Economic Development for a Growing Economy or EDGE tax credit to make it easier for existing manufacturing plants in Illinois to benefit from the tax credit. Chrysler, Ford, and Mitsubishi plants in Illinois will be most directly affected by this legislation.

HB 4120 (P.A. 96-0755)

PROPERTY TAX – VACANT FACILITIES

Allows any taxing district, upon a majority vote of its governing body, to abate any portion of property taxes if a new business first occupies a facility located on the property during the taxable year and the facility had been vacant for a period of at least 24 continuous months prior to being occupied by the business. The abatement period cannot exceed two years and the aggregate amount of abated taxes for all taxing districts cannot exceed \$4 mil-

lion. The legislation could help spur some redevelopment and re-occupancy of properties. This was the intention of state legislators and hopefully local officials will follow suit. If more than one taxing district, say a school district and a municipality, agree to do an abatement, it could be a good incentive and just what is needed to help a business expand or start up in a new site. (Source IAR).

HB 3990 (P.A. 96-0579)

ILLINOIS FOODS PROMOTION

The Department of Agriculture is to set up a Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council with 35 members—29 people involved in producing food or getting it to users, and 6 state agency employees. It can encourage state agencies to buy Illinois foods; help farmers expand their sales; develop a labeling program; and set goals for Illinois residents' use of Illinois foods. Goals in this act are that by 2020, 20% of food bought by state agencies, and 10% by entities funded partly by the state and spending over \$25,000 per year on food, will be from Illinois.

SB 658 (P.A. 96-784)

GAS FROM COAL

The Illinois Power Agency must seek cost projections for a substitute natural gas plant that would be built on a brown-field site in Chicago, use petroleum or high-sulfur coal as feedback, and store carbon emissions.

Transportation



HB 71 (P.A.96-0130)

BAN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send, or read an electronic message. The bill allows for exemptions.

HB 648 (P.A.96-0658)

TRAFFIC STOP STATISTICAL STUDY

Extends the repeal date of a provision of the Illinois Vehicle Code concerning a traffic stop statistical study.

HB 3721 (P.A. 96-0523)

EXCESSIVE BRAKING NOISE

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code allowing the Illinois Department of Transportation to erect and maintain excessive engine braking noise signs on interstate highways near weigh stations that are adjacent to residential areas or communities.

HB 4590 – Remains in House; Negotiations continue

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Amends the Department of Transportation Law of the Civil Administrative Code. Creates the State Transportation Policy Committee. Requires the Department, with the advice of the Committee, to develop a statewide transportation plan that meets certain requirements (now, the Dept., without consultation, develops a statewide plan).

SB 1434 (P.A. 96-0715)

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

For any road project whose state-appropriated paving costs will exceed \$500,000, the Department of Transportation is to select pavement that, using historical data, is projected to have the lowest life-cycle cost – with exceptions for Interstate highways with high traffic volume and experimental projects.

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2009-2010 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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.