

# **AGENDA**

## **LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011 – 8:30 a.m.**

**McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building**

**667 Ware Road – County Board Conference Room**

**Woodstock, IL 60098**

- 1.0 Call to Order
- 2.0 Minute Approval
- 3.0 Public Comment
- 4.0 Presentation
- 5.0 Old Business
  - 5.1 State Legislative Update
  - 5.2 Federal Legislative Update
  - 5.3 Redistricting
- 6.0 New Business
- 7.0 Executive Session (as necessary)
- 8.0 Reports to Committee, as applicable
- 9.0 Adjournment

**LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building**  
**667 Ware Road**  
**Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2011

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. The following Committee members were present: James Heisler, Chairman; Ersel Schuster; John Jung, Jr.; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; Pete Merkel and Marc Munaretto. Nick Provenzano was absent. Also in attendance: Ken Koehler, Chairman, McHenry County Board; Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Charlie Eldridge, McHenry County EDC; Julie Courtney, Workforce Network; Tom Annarella, Valley Hi Administrator; and the press.

James Heisler, Chairman	
John Jung, Jr.	Pete Merkel
Marc Munaretto	Nick Provenzano
Kathleen Bergan Schmidt	Ersel Schuster

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes from January 27, 2011. Ms. Schuster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jung to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Charlie Eldridge informed committee members that he was joining the committee meeting today on behalf of the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation. He stated that the EDC has sought help with the lobbying efforts and supports the County's agenda wherever it can. He stated he is a member of the EDC and they welcome any input to support the business community in the future.

PRESENTATION

*Workforce Investment Act Cuts:* Ms. Courtney from the Workforce Network joined committee members to inform them that the House of Representatives passed its spending bill last week which zeroed out all funding for WIA programs. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, over 600 McHenry County residents who are being served with WIA funds, would lose their services if the bill is passed by the Senate and is signed by the President. Many individuals are in the middle of training programs or placed at work experience sites. All job club meetings, seminars, workshops and training options for the WIA customers will end. This Bill has the potential to close 3,000 One-Stop centers across the country, including the one located in McHenry County. This Bill also takes back \$65,000,000 of unobligated funds from FY2010. The Senate still has to approve this bill so there is still time to show support for the WIA. Individuals are signing petitions in support of the Workforce Network. In this County alone, they have seen a 148% increase in requests for services. 26,000 residents have been served at McHenry County's site. 340 residents have been able to increase their skills at 21 businesses to keep that business competitive and able to remain in business. Over \$289,000 was reimbursed in training costs. 1263 people obtained employment and 89% of these individuals have retained those jobs. Over 75% of funds have been used for direct training and support services. For every \$1 spent for services \$2 has been put back into the economy. Ms. Courtney stated that the facility was prepared for cuts but this totally eliminates the program. She noted there may be enough funds to continue to close out the programs through October of this year. Committee members were informed that Senator Durbin is scheduled to join the McHenry County Workforce Network center on Friday to discuss the impacts this will have on the County. Ms. Courtney stated at least he is listening to the concerns and this issue is on his radar. EDC representatives will join Ms. Courtney for this meeting. Ms. Courtney stated that Senator Durbin sits on some very important committees, including those that affect these programs. He is scheduled to attend the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce luncheon to discuss this issue as well. A Workforce Investment Board member will attend this luncheon. Ms. Courtney stated it is important that support is shown and individuals speak on behalf of these programs in order for the Legislators to know how important these programs are. She asked committee members where the unemployed community members are supposed to go to help them find a job. There will no longer be help with assistance to find jobs, no job enhancement programs, search assistance or job training. Ms. Courtney thanked the committee members for their support.

*Proposed Nursing Home Cuts:* Mr. Annarella joined committee members to discuss the proposed Nursing Home Cuts of 6% in the Governor's Budget. The cut includes payments to nursing homes, hospitals, health care

providers, Supportive Living Facilities, and other non-institutional providers. The long term care line item looks to lose approximately \$100 million dollars. Last year the Governor signed the Nursing Home Reform bill with mandated increased staffing levels each year for the next few years with no reimbursement mechanism tied to it to fund the increase in staffing.

The Governor signed the bed tax proposal immediately following his budget announcement which increases the bed tax by \$6.07 per occupied bed effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. This will net the State approximately \$145 million in new tax revenue. Using the tax, the state receives additional funding through the FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentages) program. The enhanced FMAP has dropped from 61% to 59% effective January 1, 2011, on April 1<sup>st</sup> the FMAP will drop to 57% and on July 1<sup>st</sup> the FMAP will drop to 50%. Illinois ranks 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 for reimbursements. A majority of the states in the country have a daily reimbursement rate that is 50% higher than Illinois. Illinois has a higher cost of living than most and a higher rate of pay for nurses than most. The State of Illinois is looking to balance its budget on the backs of the nursing homes.

The Governor's budget calls for the elimination of the Circuit Breaker program which many of the Valley Hi residents use to pay for their medications and supplement their social security amounts, amounts which save the State money in the resource calculation process for Medicaid residents. The Governor's budget also calls for the elimination of the Illinois Cares Rx program, which will on its face save the State \$107 million dollars, however, without the program, Medicaid could potentially be responsible for paying for medications for Medicaid residents. The State is moving hard and fast on maximizing the federal matching dollars through the FMAP and bed tax program while eliminating or cutting expenses to those that participate in the State Medicaid program as either a provider or a recipient. The legislators need to be made aware of what is going on. The State was supposed to fund 100% for Medicaid recipients. This is now down to 80%. Facilities are now being built without Medicaid beds. With the expected increase to the system where are these individuals expected to go? These cuts affect any facility that provides services to Medicaid residents.

Committee members questioned what qualifies a person to be a Valley Hi resident. Committee members were informed that the individual's power of attorney must be a County resident, which are Valley Hi's rules. Committee members stated that the "waiting list" should be abandoned and changed to the "prospective resident pool". A waiting list implies the next person in line would be accepted as a resident and this is not the case. It would be depend on the type of bed available. If a bed is open for a "male" resident and the next four in line are female, the waiting list theory cannot be followed. Committee members suggested the Operating Board look into this change. Committee members questioned if there are any residents at Valley Hi that are able to take care of themselves. Mr. Annarella stated that there are, but, these residents have no way to pay for alternate facilities. These residents could be moved to a supportive living facility for Medicaid patients, but there are not a lot of these facilities available. Committee members stated that Valley Hi needs to work in association with these facilities. Another issue is that the residents of Valley Hi do not want to leave the facility. Valley Hi is currently at 100% occupancy without a decrease in the waiting list. There is currently a push to get individuals back into "home care" as it is cheaper to pay for these seniors if they remain in their homes.

#### OLD BUSINESS

*State Legislative Update:* Committee members were provided a list of bills that are being followed at the State level that may affect McHenry County. Chairman Koehler informed committee members that he attended a McCog meeting yesterday where they are proposing through House Bill 222 that a list be published of what each government employee makes and their titles. He questioned what purpose this serves. It was stated that this type of list would allow for all teachers salaries to be found as well as other elected officials. Mr. Austin stated that this type of list would be easy to provide, but questioned if the County wants to be told when and if to do this. Committee members stated that the State has also proposed elimination of the Regional Office of Education. If this should occur, the duties of these offices would fall to the local school districts. Some of these duties include truant duties, substitute teacher certificates, bus driver testing, and background checks.

Committee members noted that additional legislation that is not listed that should be included, is if a township road district has less than 100 miles of roads that they are responsible for, the road districts would be abandoned. This could require the county to be responsible for maintenance of more roads. Committee members reviewed the list

beginning with:

- House Bill 9, this Bill the Metro County Legislative Committee supports which states that a county of less than 3,000,000 may publish the assessment rolls on its internet website rather than in the newspaper. This Bill was assigned to the Revenue & Finance Committee on February 8<sup>th</sup>
- House Bill 146 is being reviewed. The Bill amends the articles of the Illinois Pension Code that would cap the highest salary for annuity purposes, final rate of earnings, final average compensation and final average salary for current members, participants and participating employees of the affected systems at \$106,800 but authorizes that amount to be increased annually by the lesser of 3% or ½ of the annual percentage increase in the consumer price index-u for the 12 months ending with the September preceding each November 1<sup>st</sup>. This requires employee contributions to also be based on these capped amounts. This would be effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. This Bill has been assigned to the Executive Committee.
- House Bill 156 is supported by the Metro County Legislative Committee. This amends the Counties Code which provides that 30 days prior to the issuance of a building permit for a facility necessitating the erections of a new tower, the applicant shall provide written notice of its intent to construct the facility to the State Representative, State Senator and County Board Member of the district in which the subject facility is to be constructed. This would be effective immediately. This Bill has been assigned to the Counties and Townships Committee and is set for its third reading.
- House Bill 213 is supported by the Metro County Legislative Committee. This Bill amends the Illinois Income Tax Act and provides that if the rate of tax is reduced because the State has exceeded the State spending limit, then, beginning with the first distribution to occur after the affected date of the reduction the State Comptroller shall order transferred and the State Treasurer shall transfer each month from the General Revenue Fund to the Local Government Distributive Fund an amount equal to 1/10 of the net revenue realized under the Act during the preceding month. This would be immediately effective. This was been assigned to the Revenue and Finance Committee.
- House Bill 216 is supported by the Metro County Legislative Committee. This amends the Clerks of the Courts Act. It provides that the clerk of the circuit clerk, if authorized by ordinance, by the County Board, may collect a fee up to \$10 for court interpreter services, in addition to other fees or costs allowed or imposed by law, in all criminal and quasi-criminal cases from each person convicted or sentenced to supervision in a case arising from a felony, misdemeanor, business offense, or petty offense complaint or arising from a minor traffic or ordinance violation. This has been assigned to the Counties and Townships Committee.
- House Bill 222 is opposed by the Metro County Legislative Committee. This amends the Department of Central Management Services Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. This Bill would provide that the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal (ITAP) shall also include a searchable database of all county, township, and municipal employees sorted by the employing unit of local government, employment position title and current pay rate and year to date pay. This limits home rule powers. This has been assigned to the State Government Administration Committee.
- House Bill 242 is opposed by the Metro County Legislative Committee. This amends the Township Code. The bill provides that in townships of less than 200,000, a township board may file suit with respect to a nuisance occurring within the unincorporated area of the township if a township requests that the County Board of the County in which the township is located commence specified proceedings and the county board does not commence proceedings to demolish, repair or enclose the nuisance within 60 days after receiving the request. This sets forth the types of relief the township may seek. This provides that the defendants shall be the owner or owners of the property and that any legal fees or costs incurred by the township may be assessed by the court against any or all of the defendants. This would be effective immediately. This Bill has been assigned to the Counties and Townships Committee.
- Senate Bill 42, is opposed by the Metro County Legislative Committee. This amends the Counties Code and requires a county board create a uniform application process for all appointed county positions. This defines an "appointed county position" as a position on a board or commission authorized or created by State law or county ordinance or resolution to which the county board, one or more members of the county board, the county board chairperson, or any combination of those persons, has the authority to make the appointment. This bill provides that, if a county maintains a website, the county must create and maintain on that website a centralized, searchable database, freely accessible to the public, of information concerning appointed county positions. If a website is not set up, the county must publish the information in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. This limits home rule powers and amends the State Mandates Act to require implementations without reimbursement, effective immediately.
- Senate Bill 134 is supported by the Metro County Legislative Committee. This amends the Illinois Income Tax Act which provides that beginning on the first day of the month to occur not less than 30 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act, the State Comptroller and the State Treasurer shall transfer each month from the

- General Revenue Fund to the Local Government Distributed Find an amount equal to 1/10 of the income tax proceeds collected during the previous month, minus certain amounts paid as refunds. This would be effective immediately. This has been assigned to the Revenue sub-committee on Special Issues.
- House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 5. This is supported by the Metro County Legislative Committee. This proposes to amend the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Constitution. This provides that a bill shall not become a law without the concurrence of three-fifths of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly if the bill increases a benefit under any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof. This has been referred to the Rules Committee. Committee members thanked Mr. Austin for this information.

*Federal Legislative Update:* Committee members were provided a list of House-passed program funding levels proposed for FY2011. The House passed bill is getting little traction in the Senate. While the Senate has acknowledged that difficult cuts need to be made, they want more modest reductions to ensure sufficient funding for programs that promote job creation, education and economic recovery. Mr. Austin reminded committee members that next week a group of county delegates would be going to Washington DC to meet our legislators and staff members to learn how the new rules will affect how the County obtains any Federal funding. The delegates will met with either the Federal Highway Authority or US Department of Transportation to find out what the County needs to do to get some of these federal highway funds. The County couldn't access previous funds that were available. Mr. Austin noted that it is important to get some face time with each of the legislators to talk about our county issues.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Discussion on Redistricting:* Committee members were informed that the Redistricting process would be handled by this committee and forwarded on to the County Board. There is GIS Software, which is the same as the State that can help with this process. It has been suggested that a Committee of the Whole (COW) be held within the next six weeks to kick off the redistricting process. There will be many questions that need to be asked before we can begin this process. Mr. Austin stated that when he spoke to a consultant, they spoke about the steps that the County would need to take in order to apply the new data to the districts. The County must identify principles this County Board wants to follow. Some of the questions are whether the board wants to follow township and municipal boundaries, consider incumbent addresses, follow current or change precinct lines. There will be a change to the State Senate lines, does the County Board want to wait for these changes, which are due in May. It was stated they might want to have the process completed by August or September as they would like the redistricting completed before the Spring primaries. Committee members questioned if there would be a benefit to wait for the State lines and if these would matter. Committee members stated that we shouldn't wait for the State. The software provides different options that can be considered. There will be additional precincts, should some of the precincts be split? The census results will determine where the additional precincts will be needed. There will be some smaller precincts than others.

Additional updates will be provided at the next committee meeting on this issue as well as an update regarding the Washington DC visit.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Merkel informed committee members that a Parks and Recreation Conference will be held in Washington DC in March. Ms. Kessler, Executive Director, has been very active with the County's MCCD will attend this conference with additional trustees to lobby for the McHenry County Conservation District's efforts. They will discuss issues that benefit the residents of the county. Mr. Merkel stated he would get a legislative agenda from the MCCD for presentation to this committee.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Noting no further business, Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:**

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# McHenry County 2011 State Legislation Tracking

<i>Bill Number</i>	<i>Bill Title</i>	<i>Metro County Sponsor</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Summation of Bill</i>	<i>Bill Status</i>
House Bill 9	PROP TX-ASSESSMENT NOTICE	Rep. Jim Sacia	Support	A county of less than 3,000,000 may publish the assessment rolls on its Internet website rather than in a newspaper.	2/8/11 - House - Assigned to Revenue & Finance Committee
House Bill 146	PEN CD-SALARY-STATE SYS + IMRF	Rep. Jack D. Franks, Rep. Sara Feigenholtz	Reviewing	Amends the General Assembly, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, State Employees, State Universities, Downstate Teachers, and Judges Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Caps the highest salary for annuity purposes, final rate of earnings, final average compensation, and final average salary for current members, participants, and participating employees of the affected systems at \$106,800, but authorizes that amount to be annually increased by the lesser of 3% or one-half of the annual percentage increase in the consumer price index-u for the 12 months ending with the September preceding each November 1. Requires employee contributions to also be based on these capped amounts. Effective July 1, 2011.	2/8/11 - House - Assigned to Executive Committee

House Bill 156	CNTY- TELECOMMUNICAT ION-NOTICE	Rep. JoAnn D. Osmond	Support	<p>Amends the Counties Code. Provides that 30 days prior to the issuance of a building permit for a facility necessitating the erection of a new tower, the permit applicant shall provide written notice of its intent to construct the facility to the State Representative and the State Senator of the district in which the subject facility is to be constructed and a member of the county board of the county in which the subject facility is to be constructed. Sets forth the notice requirements. Effective immediately.</p> <p><u>House Committee Amendment No. 1</u> <i>Removes language from the introduced bill requiring written notice of a permit to build a new telecommunications tower to be sent to a member of the county board of the county in which the subject facility is to be constructed. Provides that the notice must be sent to all county board members for the county board district in the county in which the subject facility is to be constructed.</i></p>	2/24/11 - Third Reading - Short Debate - Passed 110-0; 3/2/11 - Arrived in Senate and Assigned to Assignments Committee
House Bill 213	INC TX-LGDF IF RATE REDUCED	Rep. Sidney H. Mathias	Support	<p>Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that, if the rate of tax is reduced because the State has exceeded the State spending limit, then, beginning with the first distribution to occur after the effective date of the reduction, the State Comptroller shall order transferred and the State Treasurer shall transfer each month from the General Revenue Fund to the Local Government Distributive Fund an amount equal to 1/10 of the net revenue realized under Act during the preceding month. Effective immediately.</p>	2/8/11 - House - Assigned to Revenue & Finance Committee

House Bill 216	COURT CLERK-CT INTERPRETER FEE	Rep. Timothy L. Schmitz	Support	Amends the Clerks of Courts Act. Provides that the clerk of the circuit clerk, if authorized by an ordinance of the county board, may collect a fee of up to \$10 for court interpreter services, in addition to other fees or costs allowed or imposed by law, in all criminal and quasi-criminal cases from each person convicted or sentenced to supervision in a case arising from a felony, misdemeanor, business offense, or petty offense complaint or arising from a minor traffic or ordinance violation. Provides that the fee shall be deposited into a separate Court Interpreter Services Fund, of which the chief judge shall be the custodian, to be used to maintain court interpreter services. If this fee is collected, 10% shall be deposited into the Circuit Court Clerk Operation and Administrative Fund. Effective June 1, 2011.	2/8/11 - House - Assigned to Counties & Townships Committee
House Bill 222	CMS- ACCOUNTABILITY PORTAL	Rep. Jack D. Franks, Rep. Fred Crespo, and Rep. Keith Farnham	Oppose	Amends the Department of Central Management Services Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal (ITAP) shall also include a searchable database of all county, township, and municipal employees sorted by the employing unit of local government, employment position title, and current pay rate and year-to-date pay. Amends the Counties Code, the Township Code, and the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that counties, townships, and municipalities must comply with the requirements established by the Department of Central Management Services concerning ITAP. Limits home rule powers. <u>House Committee Amendment No. 1</u> <i>Provides that the inclusion of county, township, and municipal employee information in the database of the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal shall be subject to appropriation.</i>	2/8/11 - House - Assigned to State Government Administration Committee; 3/2/11 Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate

House Bill 242	TWP CD-NUISANCE PROCEEDINGS	Rep. David R. Leitch	Oppose	Amends the Township Code. Provides that in townships of less than 200,000, a township board may file suit with respect to a nuisance occurring within the unincorporated area of the township if a township requests that the county board of the county in which the township is located commence specified proceedings and the county board does not commence proceedings to demolish, repair, or enclose the nuisance within 60 days after receiving the request. Sets forth the types of relief a township may seek. Provides that the defendants shall be the owner or owners of the property, and that any legal fees or costs incurred by the township may be assessed by the court against any or all of the defendants. Effective immediately.	2/8/11 - House - Assigned to Counties & Townships Committee; 3/3/11 Third Reading - Short Debate - Passed 113-0
Senate Bill 42	CNTY CD-APPOINTMENTS/APPLY	Sen. Susan Garrett	Oppose	Amends the Counties Code. Requires that a county board create a uniform application process for all appointed county positions. Defines "appointed county position" as a position on a board or commission authorized or created by State law or county ordinance or resolution to which the county board, one or more members of the county board, the county board chairperson, or any combination of those persons or entities, has the authority to make the appointment. Provides that, if a county maintains an Internet website, then the county must create and maintain on that website a centralized, searchable database, freely accessible to the public, of information concerning appointed county positions. Sets forth the requirements for the database. Provides that if a county does not maintain an Internet website, then the county must publish the information in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Limits home rule powers. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.	2/9/11 - Senate - Assigned to Local Government; 2/16/11 - Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading February 17, 11; 3/3/11 - Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Assignments Refers to Local Government

House Bill 1869	NOTICE-PUBLICATION-WEBSITE	Rep. Frank J. Mautino	Support	<p>Amends the Notice By Publication Act. Provides that notwithstanding any other law, if a statute requires a unit of local government or school district to publish a public notice in a newspaper then, at its discretion, the unit of local government or school district may satisfy that requirement by publishing the public notice on its own website, accessible to the general public, for the same time periods applicable to the newspaper publication. Provides that if a public notice is published on a website in this manner, then the unit of local government or school district must publish a notification of the website publication in a newspaper which states the website notice is available, the accurate website address of the unit of local government or school district, and a location where print versions of the item published are available. Provides that a unit of local government or school district must maintain accurate records of the content and duration of each website publication for public inspection. Provides that a public notice published on a website is not invalidated if the website becomes temporarily unavailable due to technical reasons provided that the public notice is available to the general public for at least 75% of the time that the public notice is required to be available. Defines terms. Effective immediately.</p>	2/22/11 - House - Assigned to Revenue and Finance Committee
Senate Bill 134	INC TX-INCREASE LGDF	Sen. Martin A. Sandoval	Support	<p>Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that beginning on the first day of the first month to occur not less than 30 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act, the State Comptroller and the State Treasurer shall transfer each month from the General Revenue Fund to the Local Government Distributive Fund an amount equal to 1/10 of the income tax proceeds collected during the previous month, minus certain amounts paid as refunds (now, the amount transferred is a specified percentage based on the year the tax is collected and the rate of tax). Effective immediately.</p>	2/9/11 - Senate - Assigned to Revenue; 2/15/11 - To Revenue Subcommittee on Special Issues

Senate Bill 1811	HWY CD-TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICTS	Sen. Michael Noland	Reviewing	Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Provides that no township road district may continue in existence if the roads forming a part of the district do not exceed a total of 100 miles (rather than 4 miles) in length. Provides that upon reduction of a township road system to a total mileage of 100 miles (rather than 4 miles) or less, the township road district shall be abolished by operation of law. Effective immediately.	3/2/11 - Senate - postponed in Local Government
House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 5	CONAMEND-PENSION INCREASE VOTE	Rep. Michael J. Madigan, Rep. Jack D. Franks, and Rep. Sara Feigenholtz	Support	Proposes to amend the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Constitution. Provides that a bill shall not become a law without the concurrence of three-fifths of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly if that bill increases a benefit under any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof. Provides that if the Governor vetoes such a bill, then it shall not become law unless it is passed, upon its return, by a record vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly. Provides that if the Governor returns such a bill with specific recommendations for change to the house in which it originated, then those recommendations may be accepted only by a record vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly. Provides that an ordinance, resolution, or other action of the governing body of any unit of local government or school district shall not be valid without the concurrence of three-fifths of the members of that governing body if that ordinance, resolution, or other action increases a benefit under any pension or retirement system for officials or employees of that unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof. Provides that a bill, ordinance, resolution, or other action increases a benefit if it increases the amount of an existing benefit, adds a new benefit, or expands the class of persons eligible for a benefit, regardless of whether it includes an increase in contributions or a reduction in any other benefit. Effective upon being declared adopted.	1/18/11 - House - Referred to Rules Committee

House Bill 1277	OPEN MTGS- EXEMPT-AUDIT MEETING	Rep. Robert Rita, Rep. Kenneth Dunkin, Rep Randy Ramey, Jr., Rep. David Harris	Reviewing	Amends the Open Meetings Act. Authorizes the closure of meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America.	3/3/11 - Third Reading - Short Debate - Passed - Moved onto Senate
House Bill 3372	CNTY CD- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT	Rep. Mike Fortner, Rep. Elaine Nekritz	Support	Amends the Counties Code. Provides that a county board in a metropolitan county located in the area served by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, or Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Kankakee, Grundy, LaSalle, DeKalb, Kendall, or Boone county, that has adopted a stormwater management plan may adopt a schedule of fees applicable to real property within the county that benefits from the county's stormwater management facilities and activities. Sets forth the circumstances under which a fee schedule may be adopted and the uses for the fees. Caps the fees at the same limit as an authorized stormwater tax that has been approved by referendum in the county. Provides that the county shall give land owners at least 2 years' notice of the fee during which time the county shall provide education on green infrastructure practices and an opportunity to take action to reduce or eliminate the fee. Further provides that a fee waiver shall be included for property owners who have taken actions or put in place facilities that are approved by the county that reduce or eliminate the cost of managing runoff. Provides that the county may enter into intergovernmental agreements with other bodies of government for the joint administration of stormwater management and collection of the fees. Provides that if a county adopts a fee schedule and has existing debt repayments to make, the remainder of that debt may be paid with proceeds from a tax imposed for stormwater management purposes. Effective immediately.	2/28/11 - Assigned to Counties & Townships Committee

Senate Bill 1926	LOCAL GOVT CONSOLIDATION COMSN	Sen. Terry Link	Reviewing	Creates the Local Government Consolidation Commission Act. Establishes the Local Government Consolidation Commission to create a recommended list of units of local government to be abolished or consolidated. Provides that the Commission shall submit its recommended list to the General Assembly by no later than April 1, 2012. Sets forth the requirements for the recommended list. Provides that the General Assembly may disapprove the list of the Commission in whole, but may not disapprove of specific types of units of local government or specifically named units of local government on the list, within 30 calendar days after each chamber next convenes after the list is submitted to the General Assembly, by adoption of a resolution by a record vote of the majority of the members elected in each house. Provides that if the recommended list is not disapproved by the General Assembly within the time period for disapproval, then the Legislative Reference Bureau shall prepare for introduction a revisory bill effecting the changes in the statutes as may be necessary to conform the statutes to the changes in law made by the recommended list. Effective immediately.	3/8/2011 - Senate - Assigned to Local Governments
House Bill 2872	RURAL WATERWAY AUTHORITY	Rep. Jim Watson	Reviewing	Creates the Illinois Rural Water Authority Act. Provides that the Board of the Illinois Rural Water Authority shall consist of 9 members appointed by the Governor. Sets forth the terms of the Board members. Sets forth the powers and duties of the Authority. Provides that the Authority may issue revenue bonds to develop, construct, acquire, or improve facilities for the development, transportation, and distribution of water and sewage. Provides that the Authority has the power of eminent domain and the power to acquire property. Amends the Eminent Domain Act to make conforming changes	2/24/11 - House - Assigned to Executive Committee

House Bill 0267	CNTY CD-TAX INCREASE-OPT OUT	Rep. Jack Franks	Oppose	Amends the Counties Code. Provides that any county may opt out of any tax increase imposed under certain provisions of the Regional Transportation Authority Act, as amended by P.A. 95-708, that are to be used by the county as provided in that Act. Exempts taxes that are pledged to repay bonds or other long-term debt. Effective immediately.	2/24/2011 - House - Third Reading - Standard Debate - Passed 090-020; 3/2/1011 - Senate - Placed on Calendar Order of First Reading March 3, 2011
House Bill 1548	NORTHEASTER N TRANSIT AUTHORITY	Rep. Jack Franks	Opposes	Amends the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act and the Regional Transportation Authority Act. Provides that, by no later than July 1, 2012, the Regional Transportation Authority, Commuter Rail Division, Suburban Bus Division, and Chicago Transit Authority shall be consolidated into the Northeastern Transit Authority. Provides that the powers, duties, and obligations of the Regional Transportation Authority, Commuter Rail Division, Suburban Bus Division, and Chicago Transit Authority shall be exercised by the Northeastern Transit Authority. Creates the Northeastern Transit Authority. Sets forth the appointment and terms of the board members for the Northeastern Transit Authority. Provides that board members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. Effective immediately.	2/22/2011 - House - Assigned to Mass Transit Committee
House Bill 3254	HWY CD- BRIDGE REPAIR PRIORITY	Rep. Verschoore	Opposes	Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Increases from \$15,000,000 to \$30,000,000 the amount the General Assembly shall appropriate annually for apportionment to counties for construction of bridges 20 feet or more in length. Provides that the amount of grant for an approved road district project shall require at least \$1 of local funds committed to the project for each \$9 (rather than for each \$4) that may be allocated under the Code.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Transportation: Regulation, Roads & Bridges Committee

House Bill 3485	FUEL- INCREASE MFT- NO USE/OCC	Rep. Dan Harris	Opposes	Amends the Use Tax Act, the Service Use Tax Act, the Service Occupation Tax Act, and the Retailers' Occupation Tax Act. Provides that motor fuel and gasohol are exempt from taxation under the Acts. Amends the Motor Fuel Tax Law. Provides that, beginning July 1, 2011, the tax is imposed at the rate of \$0.38 per gallon. Provides that, of the additional taxes imposed under the Motor Fuel Tax Law, (i) 15 cents per gallon shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund and (ii) 0.8 cents per gallon shall be deposited into the County and Mass Transit District Fund and (iii) 3.2 cents per gallon shall be deposited into the Local Government Tax Fund. Effective immediately.	3/1/2011 - House - Assigned to Revenue & Finance Committee
Senate Bill 143	FINANCE-IDOT ROAD FUND	Rep. Martin A. Sandoval	Opposes	Amends the State Finance Act. Provides that 30% of the total amount deposited into the Road Fund shall be appropriated to the Department of Transportation to be used for projects in Cook County.	3/9/2011 - Senate - Postponed - Transportation
Senate Bill 1381	FINANCE- GRADE CROSSING FUND	Sen. Martin A. Sandoval	Opposes	Amends the State Finance Act. Creates the Grade Crossing Separation Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Provides that \$5,000,000 shall be transferred to the Fund from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund each month. Provides that moneys in the Fund shall be used by the Department of Transportation to separate railroad crossings used by passenger rail operators. Provides that the Department may adopt rules to administer the Fund. Effective immediately. Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Replaces everything after the enacting clause with substantially similar provisions, but with changes that include the following: (1) provides that the Department of Transportation shall compile a list of the grade crossings to be separated in order of priority; (2) provides that the Department shall consult and coordinate with the Illinois Commerce Commission's Rail Safety Division to develop the list of potential grade crossings; and (3) provides that grade crossing separation projects with local, federal, or freight rail matches shall be prioritized over projects without any match.	3/9/2011 - Senate - Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading March 10, 2011

HR 30	MASS TRANSIT CONSOLIDATE COMM	Rep. Kenneth Dunkin	Opposes	Creates the Mass Transit Consolidation Commission. Requires that the Commission prepare and issue a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by July 1, 2012, recommending the best procedure and governmental structure for consolidating the mass transit services provided by the Regional Transportation Authority, the Commuter Rail Board, the Suburban Bus Board, and the Chicago Transit Authority.	2/14/2011 - House - Assigned to Mass Transit Committee
House Bill 2865	PEN CD-IMRF- SURVIVING SPOUSE	Rep. Raymond Poe		Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Specifies that in order to be eligible for a surviving spouse annuity the spouse of the annuitant must meet a specific eligibility requirement no matter whether the annuitant was in service on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act or the effective date of Public Act 87-850. Removes a provision that required survivor annuities to be offset by workers' compensation benefits. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.	3/7/2011 - House - Reassigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee
House Bill 3076	PENSIONS-IMRF- EARNINGS	Rep. David Harris; Rep. Chad Hays; Rep. Sandy Cole; Rep. Dwight Kay		Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that, if the amount of a participating employee's earnings for any calendar year used to determine the participating employee's retirement annuity exceeds the amount of his or her earnings with the same participating municipality or participating instrumentality for the previous calendar year by more than 6%, then the participating municipality or participating instrumentality must pay to the fund the present value of the increase in benefits resulting from the portion of the increase in earnings that is in excess of 6%. Provides that the Fund must exclude certain earnings when assessing payment for any amount due under this provision. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee

House Bill 3081	PEN CD-STATE SYSTEMS- COLAS	Rep. David Harris		Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Decreases the amount of the annual increases in benefits to which current and future annuitants, participants, and survivors of the State-funded pension and retirement systems are entitled. Effective immediately.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee
House Bill 3253	PEN CD-IMRF- SLEP/CTY OFFICIALS	Rep. Karen May		Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Prohibits a sheriff's law enforcement employee who begins service in that capacity after the effective date of the amendatory Act from being able to convert up to 10 years of service in any other capacity into service as a sheriff's law enforcement employee. Provides that, on and after the effective date of the amendatory Act, an elected county officer will not be able to elect to establish alternative credits for an alternative annuity. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee
House Bill 3309	DEFINED CONTRIB PLANS- PRUDENCE	Rep. Karen May		Amends the Counties Code and Illinois Municipal Code to provide that if a county or municipality offers a 457(b) plan to its officers, employees, or both, or makes contributions to such a plan on behalf of its officers, employees, or both, then that county or municipality, and the persons acting under its authority, must act in accordance with the prudent investor rule when making plan-related decisions. Limits the concurrent exercise of home rule powers. Amends the School Code to provide that if a school board other than the Chicago Board of Education offers a 403(b) or 457(b) plan to its officers, employees, or both, or makes contributions to such a plan on behalf of its officers, employees, or both, then that school board, and the persons acting under its authority, must act in accordance with the prudent investor rule when making plan-related decisions. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee

House Bill 3332	PEN CD-IMRF- CREDIT/INTERE ST	Rep. Raymond Poe		Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Authorizes the board of trustees of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund to adopt rules specifying a separate interest rate that will apply to voluntary additional contributions made by employees. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.	3/7/2011 - House - Reassigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee
House Bill 3334	PEN CD-IMRF- CREDIT/INTERE ST	Rep. Raymond Poe		Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Removes a provision requiring an application for leave-of-absence credit to be filed within 2 years after termination of the leave. Specifies 2 additional criteria that must be met for a person to be eligible for either temporary disability benefits or total and permanent disability benefits. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.	3/7/2011 - House - Reassigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee
House Bill 3336	DEFINED CONTRIB PLANS- PRUDENCE	Rep. Elaine Nekritz		Amends the Counties Code and Illinois Municipal Code to provide that if a county or municipality offers a 457(b) plan to its officers, employees, or both, or makes contributions to such a plan on behalf of its officers, employees, or both, then that county or municipality, and the persons acting under its authority, must act in accordance with the prudent investor rule when making plan-related decisions. Limits the concurrent exercise of home rule powers. Amends the School Code to provide that if a school board other than the Chicago Board of Education offers a 403(b) or 457(b) plan to its officers, employees, or both, or makes contributions to such a plan on behalf of its officers, employees, or both, then that school board, and the persons acting under its authority, must act in accordance with the prudent investor rule when making plan-related decisions. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee

House Bill 3370	PEN CD-IMRF- DEF CONTRIB PLAN	Rep. Mike Fortner		Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Requires the Fund, by rule, to establish a defined contribution benefit plan. Requires the plan to be qualified under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and to authorize each participating municipality and participating instrumentality to (i) require participation in the plan by any person who first becomes its employee on or after January 1, 2012, (ii) define benefit levels and employer contributions as it sees fit, (iii) make benefit changes as it deems appropriate, and (iv) otherwise administer the plan. Provides that participating municipalities and instrumentalities must elect to participate in the plan by no later than January 1, 2012. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee; 3/7/2011 - House - House Committee Amendment No. 1 Rules Refers to Personnel and Pensions Committee
House Bill 3375	PEN CD- PENSION- SUSPENSION	Rep. Kevin A. McCarthy		Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that if a member or participant of a retirement system or pension fund subject to this Code is receiving a retirement annuity or retirement pension under that system or fund and becomes a member or participant of any other system or fund created by this Code and is employed on a full-time basis, then the person's retirement annuity or retirement pension under that system or fund shall be suspended during that employment. Effective July 1, 2011.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee
House Bill 3426	PENSION CD- EARNINGS- EXCLUSIONS	Rep. David Harris; Rep. Sandy Cole; Rep. Jil Tracy; Rep. Chad Hays; Rep. Dwight Kay		Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that lump sum payments for retirement, severance, or sick or vacation time may not be used to calculate the final rate of earnings. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.	2/28/2011 - House - Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee

House Bill 3427	PEN CD- EXCLUDE- INCR>6%/PYMN TS	Rep. David Harris; Rep. Dwight Kay	Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Requires all pension funds and retirement systems established under the Code to exclude the following items when computing the compensation, salary, or wages upon which an annuity, pension, or other benefit is to be based: (i) lump sum payments for retirement, severance, and sick or vacation time and (ii) any annual increase in compensation, salary, or wages of more than 6%. Applies only to persons who are participants on the effective date or who first become participants on or after the effective date. Effective immediately	3/7/2011 - House - Reassigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee
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