



TO: Law & Government/Liquor Committee
FROM: Alicia Schueller, Director of Public Affairs
RE: Legislative Report
DATE: April 25, 2025

DEADLINES AND PROCEDURAL ITEMS

The deadline for bills to pass from the opposite chamber's committee is May 9 for both chambers, and third reading must occur by May 23. Adjournment is scheduled for May 31.

Chair Althoff, in consultation with Chairman Buehler, has instituted a new practice regarding proposed legislation which impinges upon McHenry County legislative tenets. For the most consequential and statewide legislation, a letter will be issued to all of McHenry County's General Assembly legislators describing how the proposed legislation violates the County Board's legislative tenets. This practice was implemented regarding HB 3363, the State Public Defender bill described below.

ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

State Public Defender Bill

All four of McHenry County's Illinois senators (the House had already passed the legislation) received a letter expressing concerns about how the passage of HB 3363 could take away local control and create unfunded mandates.

HB 3363 could take away local control by removing the circuit court judges' authority to appoint the County Public Defender. Instead, the County Public Defender would be nominated by a nominating committee half comprised of local judges and appointees from the statewide public defender. The formal appointment would be made by the State Public Defender Commission. Another potential loss of local control is through the State Public Defender Commission's power to set standards and requirements for local public defender offices.

While HB 3363 does set up a Public Defender Fund to offset potential costs of public defense, the fund is subject to appropriation, and there is no requirement that the fund offset costs of State Public Defender Commission mandates.

Transit

SB 5/ HB 1883 Metropolitan Mobility Auth Act (Villivalam)(Delgado) "The MMA Bill"
SB 1938/ HB 2963 Metro & Regional Transit Auth (Villivalam) (Evans, Jr.) "The Labor Bill"

On April 22, another transit hearing was held, but in the House. Security for transit workers was discussed as well as the need for a transit police force. Transportation Chair Moylan later signed on to labor bill as a sponsor.

Townships

The Governor championed township elimination as part of his annual budget address this year. SB 2217 and SB 2504, which propose township consolidation and/or elimination, have not passed committee, however, SB 2504, now sponsored by Senate President Don Harmon, has been assigned to the Executive Committee with a third reading deadline of May 9.

SB 71 *Noticed for Hearing for April 30, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 122B of the Capitol Building*

This bill formerly contained unfunded mandates to local governments by requiring the development of additional plans and the setting of potentially confusing school evacuation routes for hazardous waste spills. Senator Murphy did file a third amendment which placed the responsibility of developing plans on the Illinois Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security instead of local governments.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Congressional representatives have indicated that they would be prioritizing last year's Community Project Funding requests for the upcoming budget year. It is unclear whether funding will be available. Congresswoman Schakowsky who is carrying the Police Social Work Program Headquarters Community Project Funding request has been subject to a media leak regarding her possible retirement. She will make a formal announcement on May 5. Senator Durbin has also announced that he will not run for reelection.