

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee

**CHAIRPERSON:** John Lang

**DATE/TIME** February 20, 2019

**PRESENT:**

John Lang     Hendrica Regez     Scott Toot     LaDon Trost (11:08 am)  
 Ron Smith     John Schultz (11:08 am)     Vacant     Don Zillig

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members:

Others: Mary Althof, Dan Burke, and Dan Reimer

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
2. **Minutes Approval** – None.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a) Fiscal year 2019 Strategic Goals and Plans – Chairman Lang commented that if we are to set a goal it would be to get a bill passed this time through the General Assembly. Two bills have been introduced by Representative Chesney. Lang handed out copies of the bills. These were the two bills that this committee asked him to introduce. Chesney had emailed Scott Toot to let him know that he had introduced the bills.
  - b) Prevailing Wage Legislation – On the prevailing wage bill 500 people have signed in support and 300 have signed against a \$15 per hour prevailing wage.
  - c) Legislation for the 1% Service Tax – The 1% tax will be called a service tax from now on.
  - d) Legislation for Part-time Public Employee Disability – Scott Toot commented that he brought up this item two years ago. He thinks we should just focus on what we think we can get accomplished. He doesn't think it is going to happen with the part-time disability because there is too much opposition. We should take this item off of the agenda.
5. **New Business:**
  - a) Review of Legislative calendar – Lang handed out the Legislative calendar and asked the committee to keep it handy because this tells us when things are going to happen. The Governor's budget address is happening today at noon. March 19 is the last day for subcommittee action on bills. Every bill has to be through the House by April 12<sup>th</sup>. Then they will go over to the other chamber.
  - b) How a bill becomes law in Illinois – Asking to have a bill introduced is the very first step in the long process. After a bill is introduced, in the House it is called the Rules Committee and in the Senate it is called the Assignment Committee. The Rules Assignment Committee has to assign that bill to a committee. If it doesn't get assigned to a committee it can just linger in the Rules or Assignment Committee. When you see bills on the sheet you will see first reading, second reading, etc. A first reading is when the bill goes through rules. Second reading is when the bill is voted on in committee. The third reading is when the bills are

voted on. Every bill that passes from one house has to go back through the other house and the same process over again. A bill has to be assigned to a committee and a public hearing has to be held. It is a long process.

- c) How to file an appearance slip for a committee hearing – The only place that we have public input is at the committee. That is the only place you can testify and that is the only place you can put an appearance slip in. You can't get on the floor in front of the house and senate to speak. You could pass a note in to the representative or senator to come out and talk to you, but once they go into session public input is done. Lang directed the committee to the Illinois General Assembly website (ilga.gov). He walked the committee through the process to file a witness slip. Committee members will need to register and set up their own accounts. If we decide as a committee to support a bill, no one will put in a witness slip against that bill as a County Board member.
- d) Capital Fax – by Rich Miller
- e) Review of possible bills to support and oppose – The two bills that we want to have our main emphasis on are HB2780 and HB2781. These are our bills that we asked Representative Chesney to put in. We have to be prepared if they come up for hearing to go to Springfield to testify. One or two people will need to be there to sit at the table. We should also be watching HB158 which has to do with state income tax. This bill has already been assigned to committee so you can put a witness slip in. Every topic in the statute there will be a shell bill on. There will be at least 100 shell bills. Right now there have been over 5,000 bills introduced. Remember a session of the Illinois General Assembly is a two year session. Nothing is dead for two years. It can languish in rules or assignments but it also can come out at any time. Hendrica Regez would like us to follow HB2545 regarding urban agriculture. This is for smaller producers. John Lang suggested looking at HB191 in regards to metal detectors in public institutions.

6. **Legislative Looking Glass –**

7. **Citizens' Comments:**

8. **Board Member Concerns:** LaDon Trost suggests that it really sounds like the area the legislature is going to go to this year is trying to get more money are gambling revenue. We should take this opportunity to try to get a license back for riverboat gambling.

9. Next regular meeting – Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

10. Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m. following a motion made by John Schultz, seconded by Don Zillig.