

December 15, 2009

To all board members and concerned citizens,

The Legislative committee would like to bring you all up to date as to what is happening in Springfield, Illinois. The following House Bills were considered and finalized, as law of the land, on the dates indicated.

The Legislative committee has been working on and watching these bills as they progressed thru the legislature.

The committee felt that we should bring these bills to your attention so you can be fully informed on the laws that will have an impact on your constituents.

Thank you,

The Jo Daviess County Legislative Committee.

HB-0037- Enacted 8/18/09

Synopsis As Introduced

Creates the Lease of Closed State Properties Act. Requires that the Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency offer to lease to any interested unit of local government, non-profit organization, or public or private college or university the operation and maintenance of any closed State park or historic site for one dollar. Provides that the leasing entity shall retain all revenues generated by such operation during the term of the lease. At the end of the lease, requires the State to reimburse the leasing entity for the undepreciated portion of any improvements made or paid for by the entity. Effective immediately.

Deletes everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the bill with the following changes: Removes non-profit organizations and private colleges and universities as eligible lessees under the Act. Requires that the leasing entity must contract with the State for any work to be performed by employees covered by collective bargaining agreements if that work, when performed by the State, would be performed by State employees covered by collective bargaining agreements. Adds provisions for the selection of a qualified local entity. Authorizes the Department or Agency to include lease terms concerning protection of artifacts or exhibits. Requires the Department's or Agency's advanced written approval of park or site improvements by the leasing entity. Permits the Department or Agency to terminate a lease under certain conditions. Provides that the Act is superseded by any federal prohibitions against leasing a park or historic site. Repeals the Act December 31, 2014. Effective immediately.

Deletes everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the amended bill with the following changes. Provides that property owned, managed, or leased by the Department and with which there is a federal nexus, as identified by the Department's federal aid coordinator, shall not be eligible to be leased under this Act. Requires leases to contain a term providing for the return of human skeletal remains to the Illinois State Museum. Effective immediately.

Further amends the Lease of Closed State Properties Act. Inserts a provision which specifies that leases under the Act are established at the discretion of the Agency or Department. Removes a provision that prohibits the leasing of property with which there is a federal nexus. Makes other technical changes.

HB-0146 Enacted 8/11/09

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Counties Code. Provides that a county board may authorize a county law library fee of not to exceed (i) \$18 in 2009, (ii) \$19 in 2010, and (iii) \$21 in 2011 and thereafter (instead of \$13). Effective immediately

HB0242 Enacted 8/14/09

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code. Provides that the debt service extension base must be increased each year by the percentage increase, for the previous calendar year, of the Consumer Price Index. Effective immediately.

Provides that the debt service extension base must be increased by the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12-month calendar year preceding the levy year (instead of the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index for the previous calendar year).

Fiscal Note, House Committee Amendment No. 1 (Dept. of Revenue)
HB 242 will have no fiscal impact on State revenues.
HB-0267 Enacted 8/14/09
Synopsis As Introduced
Amends the Election Code. Provides that grace period registration runs through the day of the election or primary (now, runs until the 14th day before the election or primary).
Deletes everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Election Code. Permits grace period registration until the 7th day (now, the 14th day) before the election or primar
HB-0585 Enacted 8/10/09
Synopsis As Introduced
Amends the Counties Code. 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. Allows counties to contract for the use, purchase, delivery, movement, or installation of data processing equipment, software, or services and telecommunications and inter-connect equipment, software, and services without advertising for bids when the individual orders do not exceed \$35,000 (instead of \$25,000)
HB-0883 Enacted 8/18/09
Synopsis As Introduced
Amends the Counties Code. In a Section concerning counties under township organization, provides that public notice of a special meeting of a county board must be given as prescribed in the Open Meetings Act (now, publication in a specified newspaper).
<i>Deletes reference to:</i>

Adds reference to:

Deletes everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Counties Code. Deletes the requirement that test wind towers be dismantled within 3 years of installation. Effective immediately.

HB-0952 Enacted 8/10/09

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Provides that the Act applies to the demolition of public works.

HB-3664 Enacted 8/14/09

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. In counties of less than 3,000,000, provides that if an owner fails to file an application for any homestead exemption (instead of only the senior assessment freeze), a certificate of error may be issued. Effective immediately.

HB-3746 Enacted 8/11/09

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Counties Code and the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that a county or municipality 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 renewable energy system from the end user's property line. Limits home rule powers.

HB-4120 Enacted 8/25/09

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that any taxing district may order the county clerk to abate its taxes on any property if (i) a new business first occupies a facility located on the property during the taxable year, and (ii) the facility was vacant for a period of at least 24 continuous months prior to being occupied by the business.

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the introduced bill with changes. Provides that the abatement requires a majority vote of the governing authority of the taxing district. Provides that the taxing district may abate all or a portion of its taxes on the qualified property. Provides that the abatement shall not exceed a period of 5 years and the aggregate amount of abated taxes for all taxing districts combined shall not exceed \$4,000,000.

Provides that the abatement shall not exceed a period of 2 years (instead of 5 years).