

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee

**CHAIRPERSON:** John Lang

**DATE/TIME** October 16, 2019

**PRESENT:**

John Lang     Hendrica Regez     Scott Toot     LaDon Trost  
 Ron Smith     John Schultz     Diane Gallagher     Don Zillig

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members:

Others:

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 11:05 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
  - a) John Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2019 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by LaDon Trost and motion carried.
  - b) John Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2019 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by LaDon Trost and motion carried.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a) Invitation to legislators to attend a meeting in either November or December – John Lang commented that he has drafted a letter to the legislators. He is looking for committee approval so that it can be sent by the end of the week. This draft is a form letter that will be sent to both Representative Chesney and Senator Stewart. **Hendrica Regez made a motion to approve sending an invitation to Representative Chesney and Senator Stewart to attend a committee meeting in either November or December. Seconded by Diane Gallagher and motion carried.**
  - b) Canceling November and December regular meetings pending response from legislators – John Lang stated that we will cancel the regularly scheduled November and December committee meetings until we hear from the legislators.
  - c) Update on County 1% service tax – John Lang commented that if we can get the 1% service tax through along with the 8% that we plan to get from GGMI we will be doing pretty well on tourism down the road. Lang added that he has been in the Senate hearings where he has sat in the back and changed legislation wording on a bill because the objective brought it forward in the past. It was just a matter of words. Lang doesn't know if Chesney has to put in a whole new bill since the bill is in rules or if he can just go into rules and change the language. The biggest thing was that Chesney wanted to change the bill that it came back to a local vote. We would have to ask the voters to vote on the 1% tax. The way the bill is written it is just the County Board. After the voters pass the vote it would have to come to the County Board to approve. Chesney was concerned about placing a tax on the people and the people not having a say in the tax.
5. **New Business:**

- a) Veto session October 25-30<sup>th</sup> and November 12-14 – This is the earliest veto session they have had in recent memories. It used to be before and after Thanksgiving every year and was that way for 20-30 years.
- b) 591 bills have become law while 8 were vetoed but only 4 may be called – There were over 5,000 bills introduced in the General Assembly and only 591 bills actually became law. Hendrica Regez informed the committee that she will be going to Springfield at the end of the month for a lobbying session on Future Energy Jobs Act. It doesn't stand much of a chance but we need to get the pressure up. Lang continued that there aren't that many bills that they will have to deal with in the override session. Eight bills were vetoed and only four may be called.
- c) Items from Sept UCCI meeting
- i. PA 101-0544 - Removal of county board chair and county board members receiving IMRF. The county board chair can be removed without cause. In some counties the county board chair is elected, not appointed by their fellow board members. UCCI wants to see without cause removed from the bill.
  - ii. A possible bill on vaping. Vaping has become a big issue. There is the possibility that there will be some kind of law on vaping. There is currently no bill in the General Assembly.
  - iii. There is a problem with legislation on the sanitation of hospital instruments; causing a major problem in the Chicago area. They passed a law on how hospital instruments have to be sanitized. There is a problem with the procedure in Chicago hospitals because it will cost them a fortune to do what is required by the law. They want to go back and look at doing something different.
  - iv. Clean up legislation on cannabis. The Chicago legislators wanted to have social justice which means they want disadvantaged groups to be in charge of the dispensaries and growing facilities. So far only those places that were approved for medical marijuana have been officially approved. That is five in the state that have been approved: Effingham, Canton, Joliet, Mundelein and Naperville. Those are the locations that are supposed to be ready to go January 1<sup>st</sup>. Changes are wanted on zoning in Chicago so they could open up more places to sell cannabis. There is a good chance there will some kind of modification of the cannabis bill. There will probably be a workshop on cannabis after the override session.
  - v. Currently there are no operators interested in a casino license in Chicago due to the high costs. Casino operators can't see that they would make a good profit off of it because of the high fees.
- d) State budget issues
- i. Illinois created 21 new taxes and fees with the hope of \$4.7 billion in revenue. Lang handed out an informational sheet on these taxes for review.
  - ii. This fiscal year the State will have \$7 billion in unpaid bills and interest.
  - iii. Lt. Governor has informed State agencies they will need to reduce operating budgets by 6.5%
  - iv. Mayor Lightfoot has meet with the Governor for State help since Chicago will have a \$838 million deficit which is the largest they have ever faced with \$42

billion in pension liability. Chicago is also facing a teacher's strike. The teachers were offered a 16% increase over five years.

- v. When Rahm Emanuel was mayor he raised taxes to help with the budget and tried to sell \$10 billion in bonds.
- vi. The five State pensions together have \$134 billion in unfunded liabilities. This cannot be changed unless they change the state constitution. Even if they changed the state constitution the U.S. constitution says you can't pass an ex post facto law.
- vii. Illinois bond rating is currently just above junk and Pritzker is afraid to take on any more debt or the State bond rating will be junk.
- viii. Pritzker is studying whether to join all the pension funds together so they could get more interest when invested. May look for legislation in the override session to consolidate 650 pension funds for suburban and downstate police and firefighters into one.

6. **Legislative suggestions from Sheriff Turner** – Sheriff Turner was not in attendance.
7. **Additional information committee members may have on agenda items** – Diane Gallagher informed the committee that there are three topics for the educational program for UCCI. One is Sweeping Changes in Illinois Employment Law on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. High Stakes: The Impact of Legalized Marijuana and Everything's Going to Pot are the other two topics.
8. **Legislative Looking Glass** – There was nothing current on the Legislative Looking Glass this month.
9. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
10. **Board Member Concerns:** Diane Gallagher informed the committee about Goggle Alerts and how to set them up on your cell phone. Hendrica Regez commented that she is going to find out what the cost is to the County to maintain the Legislative Looking Glass document on the County website.
11. Next regular meeting to be announced once we hear the availability of the legislators.
12. Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m. following a motion made by John Schultz, seconded by LaDon Trost.