



DuPage County Board Chairman

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DuPage County Legislative & Government Affairs Committee

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Legislative Update Week of April 13, 2015

This document highlights bills of interest to DuPage County Government that are still moving through the legislative process. To view the actual text of bills, consult the General Assembly's website at www.ilga.gov or contact the County Board office for additional information.

SUPPORT:

HB 1 - Heroin Crisis Act (Lang, D-Skokie): A comprehensive approach to combat the growing problem of heroin addiction in our communities, the legislation establishes a statewide prescription drug return program, limits pharmacies from dispensing opioid prescriptions for more than a 10 day supply, requires all first responders to be trained in the administration of Narcan and provides at no cost to police departments the antidote, requires physicians to participate in substance abuse courses, mandates the reporting of deaths due to narcotics or controlled substances, and creates a voluntary drug prevention education pilot program among other items.
Status: The bill is on the Order of 2nd Reading, Short Debate, in the House.

HB 228 - Moratorium on New Governments (Franks, D-Woodstock/Connelly, R-Lisle): Provides that until 4 years after the effective date of the amendatory Act, the General Assembly shall not enact any law creating any new unit of local government, including, but not limited to, the division of existing units of local government. Provides that the amendatory Act does not apply to the creation of a new unit of local government from the consolidation of 2 or more pre-existing units of local government.
Status: The bill was adopted by the House by a vote of 111-2-0 and is before the Senate Committee on Assignments.

HB 229 - Expansion of DuPage County Government Efficiency Model (Franks, D-Woodstock): As amended, the legislation extends the applicability of a provision of the Counties Code granted to DuPage County in 2013 (Public Act 98-0126), the Local Government Reduction & Efficiency Act) to permit, per a detailed process, the potential dissolution of a number of county appointed agencies, to the McHenry County Board.
Status: The bill is on the Order of 3rd Reading, Short Debate, in the House.

SUPPORT – (CONTINUED):

HB 1455 - Electronic Products Recycling (McAsey, D-Romeoville): Addresses the current shortage of vendors willing to accept (residential) recycled electronics by increasing the manufacturers goal from 50% of weight sold to 80% of weight sold; requires manufacturers to meet 100% of this goal (versus the current 70%); and prohibits units of local government from acting as collectors by charging a fee for recycling services among other provisions. (A joint priority of Cook & the Collar Counties)

Status: The bill is on the Order of 2nd Reading, Short Debate, in the House.

HB 3747 – Dissolution of DuPage Fair & Exposition Authority (Sandack, R-Downers Grove): A DuPage County initiative (with the support of the DuPage County Fair Association and the Fair & Exposition Authority), the bill requires that within 30 days of the effective date of this amendatory Act, that the duplicative DuPage Fair & Exposition Authority be dissolved and all remaining funds be transferred to the DuPage County Fair Association.

Status: The bill is on the Order of 3rd Reading, Short Debate, in the House.

SB 59 – Juror Compensation (Mulroe, D-Chicago): Provides that if the county board determines it cannot pay jurors the increased sums of \$25 for the first day and \$50 for each subsequent day of attendance (per Public Act 98-1132), then the county board shall fix an amount no less than \$4 for each day of necessary attendance in counties of the first class, the sum of \$5 for each day in counties of the second class (includes DuPage), and the sum of \$10 for each day in counties of the third class.

Status: The bill is on the Order of Second Reading in the Senate.

SB 727 – Expanded participation in Drug Courts (Stadelman, D-Rockford): Amends the Drug Court Treatment Act to eliminate the provision that excludes a defendant from a drug court program if the defendant has previously completed or has been discharged from a drug court program. (A joint priority of Cook & the Collar Counties)

Status: The bill is on the Order of 3rd Reading in the Senate.

SB 773 - Illinois Economic Development Corporation (Connelly, R-Lisle): Creates the board of directors of the Corporation and sets forth the membership of the board. Provides that the board shall develop and implement economic programs to provide business support and expertise and financial assistance to companies that are investing and creating jobs in Illinois and to support new business start-ups and business expansion and growth in Illinois. Creates the Illinois Small Business Development Center within the corporation to provide business counseling and educational programs developed at the local, regional, and State level to support Illinois small business creation and growth.

Status: The bill is on the Order of 2nd Reading in the Senate.

SUPPORT – (CONTINUED):

SB 804/HB 3352 – Increase/Court Services Fee (Haine, D-Alton/Moffitt, R-Galesburg): Authorizes counties (permissive), per an acceptable cost study, to increase the current \$25 court services fee that helps defray the cost of court security expenditures. (A joint priority of Cook & the Collar Counties)

Status: The bill was adopted by the Senate by a vote of 32-17 and is before the House Rules Committee.

SB 1747 – Frivolous Lawsuits (Mulroe, D-Chicago): Amends the County Jail Good Behavior Allowance Act to provide that if a lawsuit is filed by a person confined in a county jail, whether serving a term of imprisonment or confined pending trial or sentencing, against the sheriff or county, or against any of their officers or employees, and the court makes a specific finding that a pleading, motion, or other paper filed by the prisoner is frivolous, the warden may revoke up to 180 days of good behavior allowance under the Act. Provides that if the person has not accumulated 180 days of good behavior allowance at the time of the finding, then the warden may revoke all of the good behavior allowance accumulated by the prisoner. Defines "frivolous" and "lawsuit."

Status: The bill is on the Order of 2nd Reading in the Senate.

Wireless Surcharge Extension: The 9-1-1 wireless surcharge that funds the majority of the county's response to 9-1-1 calls placed is set to expire as of July 1. The DuPage County Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) is the single largest system in the state and absent these funds, dispatch and other services required to ensure a swift and appropriate public safety response to citizen requests for emergency assistance would be in jeopardy. DuPage County supports the draft recommendations recently issued by the 9-1-1 Services Advisory Board to: implement a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 Network within 5 years; require the consolidation of smaller PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points); create a statewide monthly surcharge in the amount of 87 cents per connection for each wireline, postpaid wireless, VoIP and cable provided telecommunications services along with a 3% surcharge on prepaid wireless sales; continue to require 9-1-1 systems to provide financial audits to the ICC listing expenditures made from surcharge revenues to ensure transparency and compliance with the law; and continue ICC regulatory oversight of 9-1-1 systems and establish a permanent Statewide 9-1-1 Advisory Board within the ICC.

OPPOSE:

HB 2462 – Electronic Monitoring Nursing Homes (Harris, D-Chicago): Creates the Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities Act to permit under certain conditions, a resident of a facility licensed under the ID/DD Community Care Act or the Nursing Home Care Act, to use an audio or video surveillance system in his or her room at his or her own expense. Raises a number of concerns for the DuPage Convalescent Center including the privacy of residents, the use and storage of recordings, decisional capacity of residents to consent to such recordings (and roommates), rights of employees to be recorded and potential (negative) impact on caregiver relationship with residents, liability concerns, among other items.

Status: The bill is on the Order of 2nd Reading, Short Debate, in the House.

OPPOSE – (CONTINUED):

SB 1602 - Electronic Monitoring of Licensed Residential Facilities (Clayborne, D-East St. Louis): Creates the Electronic Monitoring Act to require all state licensed residential facilities to have a written policy regarding the use of electronic monitoring devices. Permits electronic monitoring of a resident's room under certain conditions. Raises a number of concerns as to the impact on the County's Convalescent Center.

Status: The bill is on the Order of 2nd Reading in the Senate.

MONITOR:

HB 3620 – Court Interpreters/Civil Cases (Soto, D-Chicago): the bill requires courts (in Cook and the Collar Counties only) to provide for the cost of interpreters in civil cases. DuPage County currently employs 3 in-house Spanish interpreters who are utilized largely for criminal cases and 4 part-time Spanish interpreters at the four traffic court rooms/locations. Recently, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts started to reimburse some of the costs associated with interpreter services and the Illinois Supreme Court has asked the circuit courts to develop plans to offer interpreter services in all matters.

Status: The bill is on the Order of 2nd Reading, Short Debate, in the House.

SB 1879 – Illinois Energy Plan (Lightford, D-Westchester): The comprehensive bill initiated by ComEd, seeks to strengthen the security and reliability of the company's grid, expand energy efficiency programs, and community solar projects among other items. Provides a \$300 million investment for the construction of six microgrids including a location on the DuPage County Complex (campus) to reinforce reliability and resiliency during extreme weather conditions or other events.

Status: The bill is on the Order of 2nd Reading in the Senate.

APPROPRIATIONS:

Local Government Distributive Formula (LGDF): The Governor's proposed 50% reduction of LGDF monies received by counties and municipalities, from 8% to 4% of income tax proceeds for FY 2016, would result in a cut of \$4.87 million (annually) to DuPage County. Monies allocated to the county under LGDF represent only a small portion of what DuPage County taxpayers send to Springfield in income taxes paid. These revenues support basic county services our residents depend upon including the operation of the county nursing home, mental health care, senior citizen programs, public safety and many other core county government services.

Recognizing the state's financial position, County Leaders ask that the General Assembly work to minimize the impact of such cuts by repealing a number of unfunded mandates placed on local governments and by providing greater local authority and the tools necessary for non-home rule entities like DuPage to sustain this level of cuts.

APPROPRIATIONS – (CONTINUED):

DuPage Convalescent Center – Medicaid Budget: The DuPage Convalescent Center (county nursing home) provides care to over 300 of our most vulnerable residents. Approximately 80% of the center’s patient days are covered by the state’s Medicaid program. In order to balance the state’s FY 2015 budget, the center received a rate cut of 5.9% for the remaining three months of the state fiscal year, a loss of an estimated \$129,000 in revenues. Additional cuts in state Fiscal Year 2016 would have a devastating impact on the quality of care and level of operations provided at the center.

Capital Program: DuPage County is responsible for a large portion of the county’s infrastructure including: the provision of water and sewer services to approximately 200,000 county residents; the operation and maintenance of countywide flood control facilities including sixteen reservoirs/dams and pumping stations; the operation of a number of facilities on the county’s main campus in Wheaton including the county jail, courthouse, health department, animal shelter and county nursing home; plus the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

DuPage County has developed a list of (60) flood control, transportation, wastewater, water and other critical infrastructure projects that once completed, would significantly reduce flooding for hundreds of homeowners and businesses, relieve traffic congestion, improve water quality and enhance public safety for the county’s 932,126 residents. To review the county’s 2015 capital program, please visit our website:

www.dupagecapitalplan.com