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Legislative Update Week of May 26, 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): Modeled in part after programs developed by DuPage County's Heroin Coalition, this comprehensive approach to combat the growing problem of heroin addiction in our communities would: require first responders to possess and be trained in the administration of the antidote Narcan; permit licensed pharmacists who have received training to prescribe Narcan; require the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse to publish annually a report on drug overdose trends and efforts to educate the public about unused medications; require the Department of Human Services to establish a statewide medication take-back program by June 1, 2016 as well as a mail-back program; permit a household waste drop-off point (and one day events) to accept controlled substances; requires coroners to report to the Department of Public Health all deaths caused by a drug overdose; authorizes a school nurse or trained personnel to administer Narcan; requires the development of a three year pilot program on heroin and opioid prevention program for elementary and secondary schools; requires insurance coverage under a prescription drug program (including Medicaid) to include at least one opioid medication product or administration device and requires insurance coverage to offer coverage for medically necessary acute treatment services and medically necessary clinical stabilization services; and establishes a Prescription Monitoring Program among other items.

Status: The bill is on the Order of Third Reading in the House.

SB 636 - Runway Cap & Noise Level Standard (Mulroe, D-Chicago/Moylan, D-Des Plaines): As introduced, the legislation amended the Illinois Aeronautics Act to increase the number of permitted runways at O'Hare International Airport from 8 to 10. As amended by the House, the bill amends the Permanent Noise Monitoring Act to delete the definition of "LDN" and add the definition of "annual community noise equivalent level" as the noise standard (daily community noise equivalent level or CNEL). Requires permanent noise monitoring reports to include noise contour maps showing the 65 CNEL, 70 CNEL, and 75 CNEL zones around the airport.

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

(Support Continued):

SB 1747 – Frivolous Lawsuits (Mulroe, D-Chicago/Cassidy, 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 90 days of good behavior allowance under the Act. Provides that if the person has not accumulated 90 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 was adopted by the Senate by a vote of 46-1-2 and is currently held on the Order of Second Reading in the House.

HJR 65 – Government Efficiency Resolution (Sandack, R-Downers Grove): A DuPage County and Transform Illinois Initiative, the resolution acknowledges that the current size, scope and cost of local government in Illinois may overburden taxpayers, negatively impact our economy, discourage civic engagement, reduce transparency, and impair the efficient delivery of public services. Supports efforts: (i) to examine the existing landscape of local and State government to determine how more effective and efficient models can be developed; (ii) to improve the quality, cost, and accountability of government services at all levels through cooperation, collaboration, partnerships, shared services, and, if appropriate, through the consolidation or elimination of government agencies; and (iii) to eliminate the duplication of services and to enact measures that will streamline government operations across the State.

Status: The resolution is assigned to the House Rules Committee.

SJR 5 – Jerome McBride Memorial Bridge (Connelly, R-Lisle): The resolution designates the bridge at Illinois Route 38 and Illinois Route 53 as the "Jerome F. "JR" McBride, Jr." Memorial Bridge. JR McBride represented DuPage County Board District #4 from 2006 until his passing in October of 2014.

Status: The resolution is before the Senate Committee on Assignments.

Wireless Surcharge Extension (SB 96, House Amendment #2): 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 state listing expenditures made from surcharge revenues to ensure transparency and compliance with the law; and establish a permanent Statewide 9-1-1 Advisory Board. The Act would sunset in three years. **(A joint priority of Cook and the Collar Counties)**

Oppose:

HB 229 – Expansion of DuPage County Government Efficiency Model Senate Amendment # (Franks, D-Woodstock/Cullerton, J., D-Chicago): After six amendments and a spirited debate, legislation was adopted by the House that expands the Local Government Reduction & Efficiency Act enacted in 2013 to permit DuPage County to initiate a transparent and lengthy process to dissolve a small number of county appointed agencies to the counties of Lake and McHenry. This successful model requires the adoption of two county board ordinances, three audits, a 150 waiting period for citizens to object among a number of other provisions.

While DuPage County supports the bill as adopted by the House, the County **opposes** language contained in Senate Amendment #2 that would require every employee of a dissolved unit of government to be transferred to the unit assuming the responsibilities. As the majority of savings to be achieved under a consolidation are related to personnel costs, this requirement would negate the majority of taxpayer savings.

Status: The bill was adopted by the House by a vote of 61-40-4 and remains before the Senate Executive Committee on postponed consideration – Senate Amendment #2 is before the Senate Committee on Assignments (deadline extended until May 31).

Monitor:

HB 2641, Reduce juror pay increase (Cassidy, D-Chicago/Mulroe, D-Chicago): During the fall 2014 Veto Session, legislation was adopted (Public Act 98-1132) to mandate counties increase juror compensation to the sums of \$25 for the first day and \$50 for each subsequent day of attendance. This unfunded mandate, set to take effect June 1, will cost DuPage taxpayers an estimated \$200,000+ annually. As amended by the Senate, the legislation reduces the mandated sums required to \$20 for the first and second day of service and \$32 for each subsequent day of service and delays implementation of these amounts until December 1, 2015. In addition, the amendment authorizes county boards by ordinance to impose a juror services fee not to exceed \$15 to help defray the costs of juror compensation.

Status: HB 2641 is currently on the Order of Concurrence in the House with the Senate amendments.

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.

DuPage Convalescent Center – Medicaid Budget: The DuPage Convalescent Center (county nursing home) provides care to 360 of our most vulnerable residents. Approximately 79% 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 12.6% for the remaining two months of the state fiscal year. Additional cuts in state Fiscal Year 2016

(Appropriations Continued):

would have a devastating impact on the quality of care and level of operations provided at the center and at the other 19 county nursing homes remaining in the state.

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