



DuPage County Board Chairman

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DuPage County Legislative Committee

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Legislative Update Week of April 19, 2021

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, please consult the General Assembly website at www.ilga.gov or contact the County Board Office for additional information.

Support:

HB 270 (Moeller, D-Elgin): Sidewalk Construction – requires IDOT to solely fund the cost of bicycle and pedestrian ways (sidewalks) in or within one mile of an urban area in conjunction with the construction, reconstruction, or other change of any state transportation facility. It is estimated that only 32% of state roads have sidewalks on both sides of the street. Pedestrian deaths have also increased by 50% in recent years.

Status: The bill was adopted by the House by a vote of 104-04 and is before the Senate Committee on Assignments.

HB 572 (Carroll, D-Northbrook): Prohibit Financing of Pet Adoptions - amends the Sales Finance Agency Act to provide that a sales finance agency shall not finance, enter into a retail installment contract, or make a loan for the purchase of a canine or feline. Provides that if a sales finance agency violates these provisions, the financing, retail installment contract, or loan shall be null and void and the sales finance agency shall have no right to collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the loan, retail installment contract, or financing. Unfortunately, DuPage County Animal Services has witnessed countless examples of families borrowing significant funds at extremely high interest rates to purchase an animal, only to have to surrender the animal later due to illness or high medical expenses related to the sourcing of the animal (from a puppy mill).

Status: The bill was adopted by the House by a vote of 108-0 and is before the Senate Committee on Assignments.

HB 633/SB 170 (Harper, D-Chicago/Koehler, D-Peoria): Vegetable Garden Protection - creates the Vegetable Garden Protection Act. Provides for the right to cultivate a vegetable garden and permits state and local regulation on height, setbacks, water use, fertilizer use or control of invasive species if the effect does not preclude gardens. Defines "vegetable garden" and limits home rule powers.

Status: Both bills are on the order of second reading.



HB 804 (Williams, D-Chicago): Clean Energy Jobs Act – creates the Clean Jobs, Workforce and Contractor Equity Act to put Illinois on a path to 100% renewable energy by 2050, eliminating carbon emissions from the power sector by 2030 and electrifying the equivalent of 1.2 million vehicles. Components of the Act include; creation of a Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs Network, expansion of Clean Energy Entrepreneurship & Contractor Incubator Network, creation of the Jobs & Environmental Justice Grant program, creation of an Equity & Empowerment in Clean Energy Advisory Board, creation of the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs & Justice Fund, and creation of the Equitable Energy Financing program, among many other provisions.

DuPage County supports measures that reduces our carbon footprint (Cool DuPage program), reduce industrial emissions and that develop affordable clean energy and solar energy options.

Status: The bill is on the order of second reading in the House.

HB 813 (Gabel, D-Evanston): Grade Crossing Protection – authorizes the Illinois Commerce Commission to enter into agreements with rail carriers or public authorities to fund, provide, install, and maintain safety treatments to deter trespassing on railroad property, at locations approved by the rail carrier following a diagnostic evaluation. The costs of treatments, installation, and maintenance shall come from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund. The legislation expands the physical location for projects to address rail safety hazards and railroad trespassing, specifically, suicide safety concerns.

Status: The bill is on the order of third reading in the House.

HB 1711 (Chesney, R-Freepport): Sourcing of Animals - amends the Animal Welfare Act to provide that a pet shop operator may offer for sale a dog or cat only if the dog or cat is obtained from an animal control facility or animal shelter. Provides that an animal control facility or animal shelter that supplies dogs or cats to pet shop operators to be offered for sale shall not be a dog breeder or a cat breeder or obtain dogs or cats from a dog breeder, a cat breeder, a person who resells dogs or cats from a breeder, or a person who sells dogs or cats at auction in exchange for payment or compensation. Defines the term "offer for sale" and modifies the definitions of "pet shop operator" and "animal shelter." Effective 180 days after becoming law.

(see attached fact sheet for additional information)

Status: The bill was adopted by the House by a vote of 76-24-2 and is before the Senate Committee on Assignments.

HB 2775 (Ford, D-Chicago): Emergency Housing Assistance – amends the Illinois Human Rights Act. Defines "source of income" to provide that if a landlord requires that a prospective tenant or current tenant have a certain threshold level of income, the landlord shall subtract any source of income in the form of a rent voucher or subsidy from the total of the monthly rent prior to calculating if the income criteria have been met. Provides that a landlord shall not apply an income or asset requirement to a tenant with a non-wage source of income that the landlord does not apply to all tenants. The legislation seeks to prevent landlords from refusing to rent to tenants participating in the federal Housing Choice Voucher program and other emergency rental assistance programs.

Status: The bill is on the order of second reading in the House.



HB 2950 (Morgan, D-Highwood): Expanded use of MFT dollars - amends the Counties Code to provide that, in the counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will, and McHenry, proceeds from the County Motor Fuel Tax Law may also be used for operating, constructing, improving, and acquiring land for shared-use paths for nonvehicular public travel, sidewalks, and bike paths. Amends the Illinois Highway Code to also provide that "highway" includes shared-use paths for nonvehicular public travel, sidewalks, and bike paths. Provides that any county may acquire property for the construction, maintenance, or operation of any shared-use path for nonvehicular public travel, sidewalk, or bike path within the county. Provides that the county board of a county with a population over 500,000 may also use state motor fuel tax funds allotted for the construction and maintenance of shared-use paths for nonvehicular public travel, sidewalks, and bike paths. If adopted, this measure would assist the county in the construction of non-motorized infrastructure projects including the East Branch DuPage River Trail.

Status: The bill was adopted by the House by a vote of 90-23-1 and is before the Senate Committee on Assignments.

HB 3289 (Walsh, D-Joliet): Automatic Renewal of Homestead Exemptions – provides that the county's chief assessment officer may automatically renew homestead exemptions for the 2021 taxable year (without an application) under certain criteria for three exemption programs; senior citizens assessment freeze; homestead exemptions for persons with disabilities and veterans with disabilities. Also permits the county assessor to perform any audits required to verify a taxpayer is eligible to continue to receive an exemption. Last year, the county's assessor's office approved 18,000 applications for the senior citizen exemption, 2,500 for persons with disabilities, and 1,800 for veterans. Automatic renewal of these exemptions would prevent a large number of seniors and disabled individuals from having to travel in person to the county administration building (especially as we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19) to complete what can be burdensome paperwork.

Status: The bill is on the order of third reading in the House.

HB 3372 (Didech, D-Buffalo Grove): U.S. Flag Half Staff - amends the Flag Display Act. Establishes a procedure and the occasions in which the United States national flag shall be flown at half-staff. Defines "half-staff" per the U.S. Flag Code. In April of 2020, Governor Pritzker directed that all flags in Illinois be lowered to half-staff to honor the victims of COVID-19 (the Governor recently announced he would raise flags back to full-staff on April 17).

Status: The bill is currently on the order of third reading in the House.

HB 3702 (Willis, D-Addison): Extension of the Emergency Telephone System Act - extends the repeal of the Act (and the \$1.50 surcharge that funds local ETSB's) from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Provides that within 18 months of a contract award under the Public Utilities Act, the state shall establish a statewide next generation 9-1-1 network and every 9-1-1 system in Illinois shall provide next generation 9-1-1 service.

Status: The bill is on the order of third reading in the House.



SB 1899 (Curran, R-Downers Grove): Relocation of Utilities – a DuPage County initiative that seeks to hold utilities accountable when they fail to address requests to relocate utilities as part of a transportation project. Currently, there is no enforcement mechanism when a utility fails to, within the current statutory deadline of 90 days, remove, relocate, or modify ditches, track, rails, poles, wires, pipeline, or other equipment as requested, often delaying county projects at significant costs to taxpayers (often into another construction season). During the 2019/20 construction season, a number of projects were delayed by utilities, *costing DuPage County taxpayers almost one million dollars in additional construction costs and engineering fees.*

Status: The bill failed to advance per the Senate’s procedural deadline, however, the sponsor has indicated he will hold meetings over the summer with the Illinois Energy Association and the Illinois Telecommunications & Cable Associations that opposed the legislation.

Oppose:

HB 2379 (Walsh, D-Joliet): Extension of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act – extends this Act beyond its sunset date of June 1, 2021 (until December 31, 2026) that currently limits the authority of municipalities and counties beyond the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order to site small cell devices in accordance with local zoning and aesthetic guidelines.

Status: The bill is on the order of second reading in the House.

SB 643 (Murphy, D-Des Plaines): Takeover of Local Health Departments – amends the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act to provide that during a proclamation by the Governor declaring a statewide disaster, impacting every county in the state, all 97 local (county) health departments shall report to and be directed by, the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Status: The bill is on the order of postponed consideration before the Senate Executive Committee and the deadline was extended until April 23.

Other Issues:

- **Reapportionment:** With the recent announcement that the U.S. Census will not be sharing with states and local governments the census data required to redraw legislative and county board district boundaries until September, county boards will be unable to meet the current statutory deadline of July 1 to redraw county board districts. The General Assembly should consider either moving candidate filing deadlines or make some other type of accommodation to ensure counties can comply with this statutory deadline and that accurate population data is utilized during the reapportionment process.