



Illinois Municipal Utilities Association

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Memo

From: Ronald D. Earl, General Manager & CEO

To: IMUA members

Date: 2/15/2005

RE: General Assembly Update #2

Overview: Bill introductions now number more than 1,500 in the House with about 300 in the Senate. I will list below some bills you may wish to review. Please let us know if you have concerns about them, or if there are other bills you wish us to examine.

A number of new committees have been formed on a variety of topics. The House Utility Oversight Committee will be reviewing plans for the post-transition period. There is a new Environmental Health Committee we will be watching. And of course, the House has created a special Telecommunications Committee to prepare for the rewrite of the state telecom act. We will also watch the Public Utilities Committee.

On the Senate side, committees are little changed. We are watching Energy and Environment most closely, since most of the issues we will be interested in, including telecommunications, will go through that committee.

What follows are a number of categories and bills we are watching in each.

Municipal issues:

HB 112 – This bill would require units of government, under some circumstance, to fuel their diesel vehicles with so-called B2 diesel fuel (a 2% blend of biodiesel). After the bill was amended to remove a number of objections, it passed out of committee to the House floor. The link to the bill is:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=09400HB0112ham001&GA=94&SessionId=50&DocTypeId=HB&DocNum=0112&GAID=8>

HBs 1038 and 1057 – These would allow for attendance at public meetings under some circumstances by electronic means. Links are below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=1038&GAID=8&DocTypeId=HB&LegId=15728&SessionID=50&GA=94>

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=1057&GAID=8&DocTypeId=HB&LegId=15757&SessionID=50&GA=94>

Utility related issues:

HB 1364 – This bill places new requirements on the owners of above ground petroleum storage tanks including unspecified fees and potential fines. The link is below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=1364&GAID=8&DocTypeId=HB&LegId=16130&SessionID=50&GA=94>

Telecommunications issues:

A number of bills have been introduced that nibble around the edges of the issue, but nothing large to date. A number of shells (bills introduced as place holders for later action) are in the hopper including **HB 837** and **SB 147**. The House Telecommunications Committee is meeting, but only to discuss minor pieces of legislation and nothing related to the re-write. The Senate Environment and Energy Committee will hold an organizational meeting today to lay out how they wish to approach the re-write. In addition, we have held meetings with a variety of legislative staff and leadership on this issue. We will report on all this at a later date.

Environmental issues:

HB 634 – This bill would create a designation of Scenic River under the Department of Natural Resources. It is not clear at this time what the actual impact of this bill would be. Only one segment of the rivers seems to impact our members, which is the portion of the Illinois River from Ottawa to Havana. We are looking into this bill further. The link to the bill is below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=634&GAID=8&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=15047&SessionID=50&GA=94>

That's it for now. We will have additional updates for you as they become necessary.

Those of you who wish to have additional information on any bill can find it on the General Assembly's web site at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/default.asp>

And please feel free to call at any time.

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