



# Illinois Municipal Utilities Association

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## Memo

**From:** Ronald D. Earl, General Manager & CEO

**To:** IMUA members

**Date:** 3/4/2005

**RE:** General Assembly Update #3 – Non telecommunications issues

**Overview:** Bill introductions now number more than 4,000 in the House with about 2,100 in the Senate. We are tracking a number of bills that don't relate to telecommunications and are working on some at the request of various members.

Below are 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.

### **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) if their trucks refueled from a bulk central refueling facility. 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. Neither has moved. 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:**

**SB 90** – Synthetic natural gas act. Link is below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=90&GAID=8&DocTypeID=SB&LegId=14731&SessionID=50&GA=94>

**HB 1364** – This bill places new requirements on the owners of above ground petroleum storage tanks including unspecified fees and potential fines. It is opposed by a wide variety of groups and has yet to clear committee. The link is below:

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

**HB 2347** – This bill restricts the amount of time a diesel truck of greater than 8,000 lbs. can idle, with some exceptions. The sponsor, Rep. Nekritz, is drafting changes at the request of a number of entities. She has said she will increase the allowed idling time to 5 minutes out of 60 and may exempt geographical areas that are in compliance under Federal clean air rules. The trucking association is most opposed, while utilities are looking for exemptions. The bill is still in committee. The link is below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2347&GAID=8&GA=94&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=17340&SessionID=50>

**HB 1434** – This is a reintroduction of the Electricians' Licensing Act. It contains the exemptions we sought for municipal systems. It has yet to be assigned to a substantive committee for a hearing. The link is below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1434&GAID=8&GA=94&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=18588&SessionID=50>

**Environmental issues:**

**HB 634** – This bill would create a designation of Scenic River under the Department of Natural Resources. Only one segment of the rivers seems to impact our members, which is the portion of the Illinois River from Ottawa to Havana. This bill is widely opposed by a variety of interests. It is still in committee. 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>

**SB 109** – This bill would eliminate the annual fees related to discharges under NPDES permits for units of local government. The bill is in committee. The link is below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=0109&GAID=8&GA=94&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=15003&SessionID=50>

**SB 761** – This is the industry preferred bill dealing with preservation of wetlands in Illinois. It is currently in committee. The link is below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=0761&GAID=8&GA=94&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=17795&SessionID=50>

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.

