



# Illinois Municipal Utilities Association

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## Memo

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

**To:** IMUA members

**Date:** 3/10/2005

**RE:** General Assembly Update #4 – Non telecommunications issues

**Overview:** Committees in the Senate have until March 17 to move bills to the floor. Deadline in the House is March 10 (today). By the end of next week we will have a much clearer idea of the main issues we will have to deal with for the remainder of the session.

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. A new amendment has been filed further defining bulk refueling facility. The bill is currently on the House floor. The link to the bill is:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=112&GAID=8&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=14255&SessionID=50&GA=94>

### **Utility related issues:**

**SB 90** – Synthetic natural gas act. This bill would allow contracts between natural gas public utilities and plants that manufacture synthetic natural gas from coal and allow the cost to be included in rates under some circumstances. It is on third reading in the Senate. The 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 would have placed new requirements on the owners of above ground petroleum storage tanks including unspecified fees and potential fines. It was opposed by a wide variety of groups and was killed in the State Government Administration Committee March 9. 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, drafted changes at the request of a number of entities. The new amendment now allows for up to 10 minutes of idling per hour, allows for exceeding those limits if the temperature is under 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and limits the authority of the bill to non-attainment areas in the state, specifically Cook, Dupage, Lake, Kane, McHenry, Will, Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe counties, and parts of Grundy, Kendall and Randolph counties. 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>

**SB 2060** – This bill would not allow the shut off of a number of services, including electric and gas utilities, of active duty military personnel for non-payment. It covers all utility providers, including municipal and cooperatives. It also deals with many other services from insurance to cell phones. It passed committee unanimously and is on the Senate floor. The link is below:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2060&GAID=8&GA=94&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=20493&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 cleared committee and is on the Senate floor. 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.