

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang
DATE/TIME January 12, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
PRESENT:

☒ John Lang ☐ Dan Holcomb ☒ LaDon Trost ☒ Darcy Wild
☒ John Schultz ☐ John Creighton ☒ Don Zillig

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: Joseph Heitkamp and John Grizzoffi

Others: Scott Toot and Kevin Turner

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
 - a) Minutes of the November 10, 2022 Legislative Committee meeting – **Don Zillig made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022 Legislative Committee Meeting. Seconded by Darcy Wild and motion carried.**
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) Vote on Advisory Referendum 64% yes – Despite some opposition, this still had 64%. Lang mentioned how the tourism agency in the County isn't going to oppose it, and anyone that opposes it would more than likely be in Senator Chesney's office and we would find out why they would want to do so.
 - b) Senator Chesney - Lang mentioned how he and Board Chairperson Trost met with Senator Chesney a few weeks ago. Our County's goal is to use this for Emergency Services. This bill would only be for Jo Daviess County.
5. **New Business:**
 - a) Discussion and possible action on establishing meeting dates and start time from the FY2023 Legislative Committee meetings – **John Schultz made a motion to approve the meeting dates as presented, but change the time to 2 p.m. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.**
 - b) Political make up of General Assembly –Democratic control House – 66%, Senate 67%.
 - c) Legislation to come out of Lame Duck session
 - (i) HB5855 (Assault Weapons) became SB2226, HB5471 – This bill has moved around with 3 different titles. It started out as an insurance bill and Lang commented how this is common in the Illinois General Assembly – they take a bill that has passed one House, and in the opposite chamber, they will strip out the language, and all it has to do is go back to the other House for concurrence. That means there have been no hearings on it. The General Assembly session that originally approved it only has to agree to the changes, which completely skips the hearing process. It is now named Public Act 102-1116. Sheriff Turner informed the committee to what a lot of it all means. He

spoke of the Sheriff's department and how they are handling all of this new legislation. There are at least 80 out of 102 counties in the Illinois that gave notice that this is an unconstitutional law.

- (ii) HB4664 Abortion medications and gender-affirming medication paid by insurance – This bill allows for abortion medications without any restrictions or prescriptions. There are also gender-affirming medications available.
- (iii) Salary increases for Legislators from \$71,800 to \$85,000 – 18.4% increase – SB1720 – John Lang said there is a commission that sets the legislators' salaries, so the members of the Illinois General Assembly do not have to vote for a salary increase. All they have to do is accept the commission's recommendation.
- (iv) HB5188 – Mandatory sex education – Lang stated this was a bill on sexual education. It was to mandate sex education starting in 1st grade. This bill did not pass.
- (v) Other bills – HB4412 is another bill that has recently passed. There were a number of counties in Illinois that had certain restrictions on solar and wind farms. This was a bill that wanted to take that zoning decision away from those counties. No other bills were discussed.

d) Possible new legislation

- (i) Reinstatement of no-cash bail – The governor has said he will do anything he can to keep no-cash bail. If the Illinois Supreme Court is against that, there will more than likely be legislation someplace bringing it back. The State has had record retirement of law enforcement officers because of the recent changes to everything.
- (ii) Funding for asylum seekers – Mayor Lightfoot wants \$54 million – The State, to-date has spent \$120 million. The busloads being shipped to the North, are being sent to the suburbs of Chicago. The State of Illinois is giving them medical care and ID cards so they may establish an identity. They are not receiving Social Security cards.
- (iii) Public colleges tuition-free for low-income – Pritzker would like to make public colleges and technical schools tuition-free for low-income citizens.
- (iv) Expand childcare, mental health and substance abuse funding – Some discussion was held on expanding the funding for these things.

6. **Legislation Board members or County officials want the committee to be aware of and take action on:** Don Zillig thanked John Lang and Sheriff Turner for keeping on top of everything and keeping the committee aware of legislation.
7. **Citizens' Comments:** Sheriff Turner commented that he double-checked with the Sheriff's Association, and 84 counties have notified the governor that they weren't going to enforce his Safe Community Act for weapons and magazines.
8. **Board Member Concerns:** Trost said he had no concerns, but he got an email from Nicole in Transit, and she said that one of her buses had a rider that had a heart attack today, and the

person's life was saved because of the bus driver's efforts. Trost would like this employee to be recognized. They spoke of how they could do that. John Grizzoffi wanted to clarify about the police retirements in Chicago. He said because of all of these laws, the retirement rate is high, suicide rates are high, and they are having a hard time finding people to get into these classes to become law enforcement. Darcy Wild wanted to thank Sheriff for him and his staff doing such an awesome job. Joe Heitkamp said that he is interested in what everyone is doing there at the meeting and he's trying to catch up to speed. He thanked the committee.

9. Next regular meeting will be held on February 9, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.
10. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m. following a motion made by Don Zillig. Seconded by LaDon Trost and motion passed following a voice vote.