

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee

CHAIRPERSON: John Lang

DATE/TIME March 10, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

☒ John Lang ☒ Hendrica Regez ☒ LaDon Trost ☒ Darcy Wild
☒ John Schultz ☒ Diane Gallagher ☒ Don Zillig

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: Don Hill

Others: Scott Toot

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. **Minutes Approval:**

- a) Minutes of the February 10, 2022 Legislative Committee meetings – There were no minutes in the packet for review.

3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.

4. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) FY2021-22 Strategic Goals and Plans – The committee reviewed their strategic goals and plans. This item will continue to be worked on.
- b) Update on an advisory referendum on the 1% service tax – John Lang commented that he spoke to County Board Chair, Don Hill, this afternoon and Hill wants this committee to move forward with the question on the 1% service tax. Lang hopes to have some wording for the committee at the next meeting in April.

5. **New Business:**

- a) The cost of population loss – John Lang commented that there was a report in the packet regarding population loss. Illinois has lost \$31.4 billion amid continued population decline. Illinois currently has the highest gas tax in the nation. Our current Governor has proposed no further raise at this time.
- b) The cost of Illinois budget deficits – The Prompt Payment Act was discussed. This is a 1993 law that whenever the state fails to pay a bill within sixty days, the state must pay an interest penalty of 1% per month, or 12% per year. Lang explained the Vendor Payment Program, which authorized “qualified purchasers” typically, wealthy investors to purchase the bills by paying off the principal owed to those vendors, then collecting that money back from the state with 12% interest. The state’s bill backlog is now down to about \$3.6 billion. This includes \$900 million in late health care bills from the state’s group health insurance plan, which Governor Pritzker has proposed paying off in next year’s budget. Lang stated that he received a notice in the mail stating that a local medical provider will no longer accept his Illinois sponsored insurance.
- c) Corruption in Illinois Government –

- i. Former House Speaker Mike Madigan – 22 count indictment- Lang explained Mike Madigan has been indicted on 22 counts of racketeering and bribery. The trial is pending.
 - ii. Former State Senator Tom Cullerton resigned on guilty plea- Lang explained the criminal charges and current state status.
 - iii. Recent criminal charges – Former State Senator Martin Sandoval & Former State Representative Luis Arroyo – Lang explained the criminal charges and current state status.
- d) Review the status of bills from February meeting – HB4169 – Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. SB3010 basically the same. Both of these bills would give Counties more money. HB4373 – Appropriates \$25,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to Supreme Court to be distributed to counties for expenses for direct mental health services provided to individuals and families participating in mental health courts or on standard adult and juvenile probation caseloads. This bill is on hold. HB4393 – Local government best value bidding. This bill is currently in the Senate. SB4021- HB5009 Peace Officer Arbitration. HB451- Ban no knock warrant. HB4093- Amends the Environmental Protection Act. SB3063- Unfunded mandates prohibited. Amends the State Mandates Act. Provides that any State mandate regarding any subject matter implemented on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act that necessitates additional expenditures from local government revenues shall be void and unenforceable unless the General Assembly makes necessary appropriations to implement that mandate. Provides that the failure of the General Assembly to make necessary appropriations shall relieve the local government of the obligation to implement any State mandate. This bill currently has only one sponsor and is back in assignments.
- e) Bills that County officials or committee members want to bring to the membership – Don Zillig thanked John Lang for all his hard work researching the bills. LaDon Trost asked about bill HB5009 Peace Officer Arbitration. Scott Toot read the synopsis as introduced: Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. Provides that notwithstanding the provisions of the Act and the Uniform Arbitration Act, arbitrators' decisions involving peace officer terminations or suspensions of more than 30 days are subject to judicial review under the Administrative Review Law. Amends the Uniform Peace Officers' Disciplinary Act. Provides that for purposes of an arbitration proceeding concerning alleged misconduct by a peace officer: (1) a law enforcement agency or, if applicable, a civilian or community oversight board, agency or review body, has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence to show that: (1) the officer engaged in the alleged misconduct; and (2) created to oversee disciplinary matters concerning law enforcement officers pursuant to a city charter or ordinance for which a measure that included the question of whether to establish the board, agency, or body. Provides that when the imposed disciplinary action is termination of employment, an arbitrator may not set aside or reduce the imposed disciplinary action if setting aside or reducing the disciplinary action is inconsistent with the public interest in maintaining community trust, enforcing a higher standard of conduct for officers and ensuring an accountable, fair, and just disciplinary process. Amends the Illinois Police Training Act. Provides that the

Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board shall adopt rules that prescribe uniform: (1) standards of conduct, including guidelines and procedures, to which law enforcement officers shall adhere; and (2) disciplinary standards and procedures, including a range of disciplinary actions that may include consideration of aggravating or mitigating circumstances, by which a law enforcement agency, a civilian or community oversight board, agency or review body, and an arbitrator who serves in an arbitration proceeding concerning peace officer discipline. Lang advised the Illinois General Assembly will take a break for a week or two over Easter. Sheriff Turner addressed the committee concerning multiple bills that would negatively affect law enforcement.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
7. **Board Member Concerns:** None.
8. Next regular meeting will be held on April 14, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.
9. Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m. following a motion made by LaDon Trost. Seconded by John Schultz and motion passed.