

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang
DATE/TIME September 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
PRESENT:

☒ John Lang	☐ Vacant	☒ LaDon Trost	☒ Darcy Wild zoom
☒ John Schultz	☐ John Creighton	☐ Don Zillig	☒ Mike Holt

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None.

Others: Angela Kaiser. Judy Chiarelli, Jo Daviess County Democratic Committee Chairperson, attended via zoom.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
 - a) Minutes of the April 11, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting – **Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by Holt and motion passed.**
 - b) Minutes of the June 13, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting – **Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by Holt and motion passed.**
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) Status of County Bills
 - (i) SB1746 – Jo Daviess 1% Service Tax – Assignments – There has been no action.
 - (ii) SB2141 – ATV/UTV – on Public roads – Assignments – there has been no action.
5. **New Business:**
 - a) Committee response to Senator Chesney's letter – The committee discussed the letter from Senator Chesney that was in the packet asking Lang to let him know if there are any pending bills that he would like brought to his attention. Chesney's letter also added what to do if Lang had any important issues that he believes require prompt legislative attention, to provide him with as much information as possible so the issue can be looked into and determined if a legislative remedy is available. **Schultz made a motion to send a letter to Senator Chesney asking him to continue to find more support for the bills in which Jo Daviess County is interested. Seconded by Holt and motion passed.**
 - i. Veto override November 12-14 and 19-21 – The committee noted the veto override period.
 - ii. Lame Duck – First week in January 2025 – The committee noted the lame duck session.

- b) “Chesney’s Really Bad Bills of 2024” – Senator Chesney had a guest column that was included in the packet. Of those listed, some bills that illustrate ‘just how out of touch the progressive members of the General Assembly have become’, were as follows: HB4409 – this changes the terminology that must be used when referring to individuals who have committed crimes. They cannot be called offenders or criminals and are now to be called ‘justice impacted individuals’. HB5142 mandates that insurance companies cover abortion services without a co-pay or deductible. According to Chesney, as approved, women who receive abortions have no co-pay. Women who give birth or suffer a miscarriage do pay a co-pay and are subject to their deductible. HB5239 discusses the allowance of minors from other states to act on their own behalf, without a parent, and come to Illinois for a free abortion. HB4582 is the revenue package that includes nearly \$1 billion in tax hikes on Illinoisans. It allows the following: Large online travel platforms will now collect a renter’s tax. Retailers who were allowed to keep 1.75% of their sales tax revenue will now have that amount capped so they can only keep a maximum of \$1,000 per month. This will take approximately \$101 away from our job providers. There were a lot of issues listed.
- c) The outflow of income in Illinois – This topic was briefly discussed. The article in the meeting packet talked about the nearly \$10 billion income loss that Illinois faced in the past year. In the prior six years, \$47.5 billion in income has left Illinois. Chesney was mentioned in the article, saying that by Democrats continuing to deny population decline, they continue bad policies. He continued to say how Illinois is not bringing in the best and brightest in many cases to the state, and that they’re actually pushing them out of the state with horrible policies and they’re back filling it with folks that want services. The State’s sanctuary status policies welcome non-citizen migrants that cost taxpayers money and taxpayers are fed up.
- d) Non-citizens voting in Illinois – Also included in the packet was another article addressing non-citizens’ and migrants’ voting rights. Currently, there is The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that states it is illegal for non-citizens to vote in Federal elections. There is also Article III Section I of the Illinois Constitution that states ‘Every United States citizen who has attained the age of 18 or any other voting age required by the United States for voting in State elections and who has been a permanent resident of this State for at least 30 days next preceding any election shall have the right to vote at such election’. As of right now, municipalities in Illinois can extend voting rights to non-citizens if they are not explicitly barred from doing so at the Federal or State level.
- e) Law banning prior authorization – Despite a threat of increased costs to taxpayers, Pritzker has signed into law the Healthcare Protection Act. HB5395 includes a package of proposals designed to restrict methods that insurance companies use to reduce the amount of health care that patients receive. Pritzker stated how the reforms in this bill will mean the difference between people suffering with curable health conditions and getting the care they need in a timely manner. Opponents of this legislation have been extremely worried about what the law will do to their insurance premiums. It’s estimated that it could cost an additional \$30 million a year for State taxpayers.
- f) Non-citizens eligible for Obama Care – This was briefly discussed.
- g) Illinois to provide gender care – This topic was discussed in great detail.
- h) Illinois to cover medical debt – HB5290 creates The Medical Debt Relief Pilot Program Fund and is ready to be sent to the Governor. It could affect more than 300,000 Illinois

residents that could potentially be cleared of all outstanding medical debt. It looks to be for households with individuals falling below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level or saddled with medical debt that accounts for 5% or more of their household income. If this is approved by the Governor, the five-year pilot program will work with a non-profit to use \$10 million to pay off up to \$1 billion in medical debt.

- i) New Title IX requirements – There was an excerpt from an email regarding the New Title IX that includes mandates for every public school and university plus all private schools and universities that receive federal funds. This new document was released by the Biden Administration’s Education Department. These mandates require any federally funded school to open girls’ facilities to biological boys who self-identify as girls. The same applies to girls who claim to be boys. **Holt made a motion to add to the Senator Chesney letter a request to see the Title IX language revert to the original intent. Seconded by Schultz and motion passed.**
- j) The effects of marijuana – The article in the packet was briefly discussed.
- k) The effects of crime – Shoplifting reports have soared 45% this year, making 2024 the worst year for retail theft in Chicago since at least 2003. Illinois Retail Merchants Association President & CEO, Rob Karr, said that burglaries and thefts are troubling. Karr stated that there are a lot of people that view retail theft as a harmless crime – retail theft has the most victims. We are all impacted by retail crime because of the sales tax that’s generated off those sales.
- l) Flights bring in immigrants – The Department of Homeland Security announced this past summer, that it would be suspending flights it had been using for years to bring Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans into the country. They do not otherwise qualify for legal entry under current law. This was discussed.

- 6. **Legislative issues Committee members or County Officials want the Committee to be aware of and take action on at another meeting** – None.
- 7. **Citizens’ Comments:** Judy Chiarelli asked Lang which document he was reading from and also asked him what authority he has to ask Chesney to do anything.
- 8. **Board Member Concerns:** Trost wished there were more people at Chesney’s event. Lang doesn’t know if there will be an October meeting yet.
- 9. Next regular meeting – Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 2 p.m.
- 10. Meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m. following a motion made by Schultz. Seconded by Holt and motion carried by voice vote.