

COMMITTEE REPORT

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

☒ John Lang	☒ LaDon Trost	☐ Peggy Bastian	☐ Don Zillig
☒ Lynn Gallagher	☒ John Schultz	☐ Michael Dittmar	

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: John Grizzoffi

Others: Angela Kaiser

1. **Call to Order:** Committee Chairperson John Lang called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
 - a) Minutes of the November 14, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting – **Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by Trost and motion passed.**
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – The committee reviewed their goals and plans. Kaiser suggested printing and framing the Strategic Goals and Plans after this year's County Board Retreat. Gallagher agreed and suggested adding them to the website as well. Discussion ensued.
 - b) Status of County Bills
 - (i) SB1740 – Jo Daviess 1% Service Tax – Assignments – Lang said this bill is dead. The question arose on whether or not to send a letter to Chesney's office. Lang does not think these bills will move.
 - (ii) SB2141 – ATV/UTV – on Public roads – Assignments – there has been no action.
 - c) Veto Override Session – Lang does not see anything that came out of the session.
5. **New Business:**
 - a) Lame Duck - January 2 to January 7, 2025 - Longer than usual - Possible Action - Immigration, Reproductive Health, Environmental Policies and Worker Rights – The Lame Duck session will be 5 days versus three.
 - b) Tier 2 Benefit Enhancement - Employees under State Retirement - Changes for Retirement Age, Pension Salary and Cost of Living Adjustments – The State of Illinois passed a law for employees under State Retirement in Tier 2 that will have employees working longer and their benefits will be reduced and capped. Tier 1 was not sustainable for the state.
 - c) Federal Windfall Elimination Provision – The Committee briefly discussed the Federal Windfall Elimination Provision.
 - d) 2025 Spring Legislative Session – Lang reviewed the sparse spring 2025 schedule.

- e) Medical Debt Relief – The Committee reviewed information in the packet. The Illinois Medical Debt Relief Pilot Program erases medical debt of Illinois residents whose household income is at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. There has been over \$72 million in debt erased for over 52,000 residents thus far.
 - f) State Possible Budget Deficit of \$3.2 Billion for 2026 – Despite raising taxes by \$1 billion in FY2025, the Pritzker Administration is asking state agencies to propose cuts to programs and operations. Lang believes there will not be substantial relief in property taxes while the state is running on this size of a deficit.
 - g) Possible Conflicts Between Trump Administration and Governor Pritzker – The article included in the meeting packet highlighted Governor Pritzker not being compliant with the Trump Administration’s policies. It quoted Senator Chesney in that he expects Illinois will see an entirely new wave of immigrants because of this.
 - h) Legislative Summary from Spring 2024 Session – There were approximately 550 bills that became law in 2024.
 - i) Legislative Proposals - Illinois Sheriff's Association – Of the proposals listed, one that stood out to Lang was the requirement of law enforcement agencies to provide 100% health insurance to retirees after 30 years of service.
 - j) Have our State Senator and Representative Address the Committee on the 2025 Session – Kaiser will soon be reaching out to Senator Chesney and Representative McCombie’s respective offices to invite them to a Legislative Committee meeting this year.
6. **Meeting Time for 2025** – There was discussion on the start time for the Legislative Committee meetings, with the possibility of scheduling the meetings later in the day to accommodate new members. Because this item wasn’t on the agenda, Schultz and Gallagher suggested adding to the next County Board agenda an action item to change the start time from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
7. **Legislative issues Committee members or County Officials want the Committee to be aware of and take action on at another meeting** – There was discussion on the possibility of introducing a limit or time frame on tax-exempt parcels. Lang said it would be beneficial to invite Senator Chesney and Representative McCombie to the next Committee meeting. He would like to hear what their priorities are for the Legislative Session. Kaiser planned to contact their offices to set something up.
8. **Citizens’ Comments:** None.
9. **Board Member Concerns:** None.
10. Next regular meeting – Thursday, January 9, 2025
11. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. following a motion made by Schultz. Seconded by Gallagher and motion carried by voice vote.