



## ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (94-81)

### 94<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMES TO CLOSE

The 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly completed its work Tuesday and the legislative session was adjourned. Today (Wednesday), the members of the new 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will be sworn in.

Unlike previous years, this session went out – not with a bang, but with a whimper. No major bills were approved, no controversial pension bills were considered, no last minute compromises were reached. Legislation to extend the utility rate freeze stalled, as was a bill to extend the alternative homestead exemption.

Today, 66 Democrats will be sworn in as members of the House of Representatives along with 52 Republicans. This will give House Speaker Michael Madigan plenty of breathing room as he controls the chamber (60 members is a majority). In the Senate, 37 Democrats will be sworn in along with 22 Republicans. This will give Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. a “super majority” (30 members is a majority).

New faces in the House include: Representative Franco Coladipietro (R-Bloomington); Representative Sandy Cole (R-Grayslake); Representative Fred Crespo (D-Hoffman Estates); Representative Shawn Ford (D-Chicago); Representative Mike Fortner (R-West Chicago); Representative Gregory Harris (D-Chicago); Representative Elizabeth Hernandez (D-Cicero); Representative Elga Jeffries (D-Chicago); Representative Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst); and Representative Jil Tracy (R-Mt. Sterling).

New Faces in the Senate include: Senator Michael Bond (D-Grayslake); Senator Michael Frerichs (D-Gifford); Senator Linda Holmes (D-Aurora); Senator David Koehler (D-Peoria); Senator Dan Kotowski (D-Park Ridge); Senator Matt Murphy (R-Palatine); and Senator Michael Noland (D-Elgin).

Former Representatives William Delgado (D-Chicago) and Randy Hultgren (R-Winfield) will move up to take seats in the State Senate.

### LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

**SB 380 (Cronin, R-Elmhurst)** was amended in November with several education-related provisions. The bill increases the debt limit for Oswego C.U.S.D. #308 and Lincoln-Way CHSD #210; increases the debt limit for Ford Heights S.D. #169 and allows the district to levy a supplemental tax; allows Oak Park-River Forest SD #200, Oak Park ESD #97, and River Forest SD #90 to withdraw from the jurisdiction and authority of the township trustees/treasurer of schools; and allows the village of Forsyth to increase its’ sales tax rate with receipts going to a new school for the Maroa-Forsyth school district. The bill was approved by both chambers in November and sent to the Governor. Governor Blagojevich vetoed the bill on January 5. This week, **both chambers voted to override the Governor’s veto and the bill will become law.**

**SB 862 (del Valle, D-Chicago)**, regarding the student teaching portion of the early childhood teaching certificate, allows for the student (or candidate) to be under the active supervision of a teacher who is qualified in “self-contained, general elementary education”. **The bill was approved** by the Senate in November. The House approved the bill Monday and it will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

**SB 2300 (Link, D-Vernon Hills)** would extend the “7% Solution” Alternative Homestead Exemption (see Alliance Legislative Report (94-79) at [www.iasb.com/files/alr-9479.htm](http://www.iasb.com/files/alr-9479.htm)). The bill was called for a vote on the House floor in November but failed to receive the required number of votes for passage. The bill was called in the House again on Tuesday where it was approved on a 61-54 vote (60 votes were required for passage). The bill, however, was not considered in the Senate so it died when the session adjourned yesterday.

**HB 3752 (Mendoza, D-Chicago)** contains “clean-up” language for the recent increase in the minimum wage. The bill amends provisions of the Minimum Wage Law allowing an employer to pay an employee, during the first 90 consecutive calendar days after the employee is initially employed by the employer, a wage that is not more than 50¢ less than the minimum wage. It requires an employer to pay not less than the full minimum wage to a day or temporary laborer who is 18 years of age or older and to an employee who is 18 years of age or older and whose employment is occasional or irregular and requires not more than 90 days to complete. **The bill was approved** by both chambers and will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

### **LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE**

Though the official beginning of the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly starts at noon today (Wednesday), the rest of this month will be devoted to “perfunctory time” for the chambers allowing for the filing of bills and other paper work. The legislators will begin to work in earnest next month. For a complete legislative schedule, you can visit the General Assembly website at: [www.ilga.gov/senate/schedules/default.asp](http://www.ilga.gov/senate/schedules/default.asp)

Though some bills have been “pre-filed” for introduction in the new general assembly, all new bills will be read into the record and given bill numbers over the next few weeks. As bills are introduced, the Alliance lobbyists will be reviewing them and reporting these via the Alliance Legislative Report.

**Alliance Legislative Reports:**  
**Bill Text/Status: Illinois General Assembly**

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