

TAX FACTS



Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois

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2011 Legislative Synopsis – A Look Back

By Scott Selinger

Scott Selinger has been Legislative Director for the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois since February 2010. With over twelve years experience in the Illinois Legislature, he has previously served as Director of Government Relations at the Illinois Bankers Association, Legislative Liaison for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) and as an Issues Development Staff Member for Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan. Scott is a Springfield native who graduated from Regis University in Denver, CO in 1999. Scott currently makes his home in Springfield along with his daughter Ella.

In this edition of Tax Facts, we will take a quick look back at the major pieces of legislation that were enacted into law during the 2011 Legislative Session. This year's review is coming out later than usual due to the extensive legislative activity that took place in December and the resulting gubernatorial action that took place in January 2012, as well as some production delays earlier this spring. The 2011 Legislative Session was highlighted by a variety of big-ticket initiatives. Some of these issues were resolved while others have been deferred into the 2012 Spring Session. Key issues like Education Reform, Legislative Redistricting, Workers Compensation Reform and "Smart Grid" Public Utility Modernization were resolved while others like Public Pension Reform, Gaming Expansion, Enterprise Zone and TIF Reform were not. The year ended with passage of an omnibus tax reform package that kept the Legislature in session right up until the Christmas Holiday Season. We hope you find this review informative

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NOTES FROM THE INSIDE. . .

By J. Thomas Johnson

This issue is our annual report on the 2011 legislative session. We usually try to issue this a little earlier in the year but the Veto session went a little longer than usual largely attributable to the “Omnibus Tax Package” deliberations. A lot of issues as you can see were addressed although the big ones, including the on-going structural deficit and the pension funding issue, were pushed off for at least another year.

But as this issue is going to press Governor Quinn has announced bold moves to address both of these issues. Under his plan the Medicaid program would see significant changes in eligibility standards and the elimination of optional service coverage. His plan for pension reform would include changes in retirement age and cost of living adjustments as well as a new funding formula which would eliminate 100% (rather than 90%) of the unfunded debt three years earlier than the current plan. It also greatly reduces the “crowding out” effect on other governments programs that is caused by the ever increasing amount required under the current pension funding plan. We applaud the Governor for setting forth bold plans in both of these areas.

Future issues of Tax Facts will report on the outcome of these proposed changes.

and look forward to keeping you updated throughout 2012 with our weekly TFI from the Capitol newsletters.

FY 12' BUDGET

The Governor proposed a \$35.4 billion General Funds Budget inclusive of full payment of the required deposits for the pension funds. In the two previous years, the pension payments were funded through issuance of pension notes and bonds. The General Assembly ultimately enacted a budget of \$33.4 billion with full pension funding. The Governor also trimmed an additional \$376 million from what the General Assembly initially approved, however there was much debate about the actual scope of these “cuts”. A significant portion of the \$2 billion difference between the Governor’s proposed budget and the one ultimately enacted now appears to be Medicaid payments deferred until Fiscal Year 2013 rather than actual cuts in program expenditures.

Also among the changes the Governor made to the Legislature’s FY '12 budget was the elimination of \$89 million in funding for local school district transportation reimbursements and \$11.3 million in state support for local school superintendent salaries. The Governor believed these were costs that should be borne at the local level and not paid for by state government.

During the Veto Session in November, a bill reallocating previously budgeted expenditures in the FY 2012 spending plan was passed. SB 2412 was aimed at preventing the shutdown of seven state facilities and the laying off of state employees through the end of this fiscal year. The reallocation provided additional money for community mental health services, grants for

homeless programs, burial expenses for the indigent and alcohol and substance abuse programs. Most of these reallocation funds came from the Governor's previous budget vetoes and other shifts in spending priorities. A link to SB 2412, now **Public Act 97-0642**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/PDF/097-0642.pdf>

Also passed in the Veto Session, was SB 2147 which restored local school superintendents salaries that the Governor had previously cut. These salaries are to be paid by the Personal Property Replacement Tax under SB 2147, now **Public Act 97-0619**, and a link to the bill can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2147&GAID=11&GA=97&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=58341&SessionID=84>

- Life Insurance Company allowed to adjust reserve deduction for IRS exempt bond interest income adjustment
- Exempt partnership retirement income from withholding
- Combination of Holding Company for Separate Unitary Groups
- Alternative Fuels Credit Deduction
- Claim of Right Deduction
- Railroad Property Basis Adjustment for IRC 45G Federal Tax Credit
- Allow for deduction for IRC 965 repatriated dividends
- Allows refund more than 3 years after return due date if original return was filed timely

A link to HB 2955, now **Public Act 97-057**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/097-0507.htm>

INCOME TAX

HB 2955 - IDOR/TFI Income Tax Technical Corrections Bill. HB 2955, sponsored by State Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-Olympia Fields) and House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago), makes a variety of technical clean-up changes to The Illinois Income Tax Act. TFI had worked closely with Senate Revenue Chairwoman Hutchinson, Leader Currie and the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) on the various components of this legislation. A summary of the important pieces of this bill are below:

- Captive Insurance Company Loss Subtraction Election
- NOL Adjustment for REMIC - Residual Interest Holders
- Reinstate Election for Reinsurance Company Apportionment

SB 4 - Edge Credit Utilization Bill. SB 4, sponsored by State Sen. Gary Forby (D-Benton) and State Rep. John Bradley (D-Marion), amends the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit Act providing that certain taxpayers that are primarily engaged in the manufacture of inner tubes or tires, or both, from natural and synthetic rubber or who are engaged in cable television infrastructure design or manufacturing and wireless telecommunication or computing terminal device design or manufacturing for use on public networks may elect to claim the EDGE Credit against their withholding tax obligations. It also sunsets the EDGE Credit program on December 31, 2016 and sunsets the Film Production Services Tax Credit five years after the effective date of SB 4. A link to SB 4, now **Public Act 97-0002**, can be found here: <http://>

SB 398 – Film Production Services Tax Credit. In response to previous passage of SB 4, this bill allows for the extension of the Film Production Services Tax Credit Act for an additional ten years after enactment of SB 4, which previously made changes to various tax credit sunset dates. SB 398 further allows for an additional five-year sunset date extension of this credit as well. A link to SB 398, now **Public Act 97-0003**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0003>

SB 397 and SB 400 – Omnibus Tax Package. The General Assembly returned to Springfield in mid-December to pass the “Omnibus Tax Package” that was the subject of much debate during the Fall Veto Session. The provisions of the “package” were broken up into two bills and passed separately. SB 397, contained the majority of the business tax relief and incentives for the CME Group, Sears, small businesses and other taxpayer friendly provisions. SB 400, expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and indexed the Standard Exemption. TFI strongly supported SB 397 and would like to sincerely thank Rep. John Bradley (D-Marion), Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-Olympia Fields), Rep. David Harris (R-Arlington Heights), Legislative Leadership and their staff for their hard work in crafting this bi-partisan compromise....thank you! A more in-depth description of the key components in SB 397, now **Public Act 97-0636**, and SB 400, now **Public Act 97-0652**, are both listed below:

- Creates Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal
- Creates the Live Theatre Tax Credit capped at \$2 million annually
- Extends the current Sears Company Economic Development Area agreement in Hoffman Estates.
- Extends for five years the Investment Tax Credit
- Extends for five years the Research and Development Tax Credit and allows for carry-forward.
- Grants five-year extension to all tax credits expiring in 2011, 2012, and 2013
- Changes income tax apportionment formula for the CME Group
- Allows Sears to utilize EDGE Credit against withholding liability
- Extends lower tax rate on Gasohol and Biodiesel fuels
- Increases Estate Tax Exemption level from \$2 million to \$4 million by 2013
- Extends for five years the New Markets Tax Credit
- Allows Champion Labs to utilize EDGE Credit against withholding liability
- Extends Business Location Efficiency Incentive through calendar year 2016
- Extends for five years the Small Business Job Creation Tax Credit
- Extends the Food and Drug Sales Tax Exemption to individuals receiving public aid
- Extends the Historical Society Property Tax Abatement Period through calendar year 2018
- Partial Restoration of Net Operating Loss (NOL) Deduction allowing taxpayers to utilize up to \$100,000 in NOLs for 2012 and 2013.

- Increases the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 5% to 7.5% in 2012 and to 10% in 2013
- Increases the Standard Exemption from \$2,000 to \$2,500 in 2012 and then indexes the amount to inflation in 2013 and beyond

SB 2168 - River Edge/Historic Preservation Tax Credit. SB 2168, sponsored Sen. James Clayborne (D-Belleville) and Rep. Jehan Gordon (D-Peoria), creates a credit in an amount equal to 25% of qualified expenditures incurred by a qualified taxpayer during the taxable year in the restoration and preservation of a qualified historic structure located in a River Edge Redevelopment Zone. It further provides that the credit may be carried forward until the tenth taxable year after the qualified rehabilitation plan was placed into service. A link to SB 2168, which is now **Public Act 97-0203** can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0203>

SB 2194 – Local Sales Tax Sourcing. SB 2194, sponsored by State Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-Olympia Fields), specifies that with respect to sales taxes imposed by the State and units of local government, sales are attributed to the unit of local government where the purchase order is accepted, subject to certain exceptions. The bill codifies existing Department of Revenue regulations on the sourcing issue. Previously there was no statutory provision which guided the Department’s regulatory position.

The bill further specifies, for sourcing purposes, that if the purchase order is received by the retailer or its authorized representative, and, prior to final acceptance of the order by the retailer or its authorized representative, the ordered tangible personal property is delivered or shipped from the inventory of the retailer at a location in this State, then the sales location shall be the retailer's or its authorized representative's office location in this State where the purchase order for such tangible personal property is first received or, if the order is first received at an office location outside of the State, then the sales location shall be the inventory location from which the tangible personal property was shipped or delivered. SB 2194 also states that if the order for the purchase of tangible personal property is first received by the retailer or placed by the purchaser at a retailer's retail sales location and both the immediate payment for the sale occurs at that location and the delivery or shipment of the property occurs from that location, then that retail sales location shall be deemed the sales location for that sale. While SB 2194 did not pass during the 2011 Spring Session, the TFI anticipates continued future discussions with the RTA and IDOR on this controversial issue. A link

Illinois Tax Facts

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to the bill can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/97/SB/09700SB2194eng.htm>

SB 401 – Centralized Purchasing Exemption Extension. This bill amends the Use, Service Use, Service Occupation, and Retailers' Occupation Tax Acts by extending the exemption for centralized purchasing activities from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2016. A link to SB 401, now **Public Act 97-0073**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/097-0073.htm>

SB 2170 – School Facility Occupation Tax. SB 2170 allows for the imposition of a school facility occupation tax by referendum. It further provides that a school facility occupation tax imposed by approval of the electors may be reduced or discontinued if the electors have voted to reduce or discontinue the tax. It also removes a sentence in the Local Government Debt Reform Act providing that a backdoor referendum is not required for alternate bonds if the proceeds backing the alternate bonds are realized from revenues obtained from a school facility occupation tax. Finally, SB 2170 amends the School Code providing that a referendum shall not be required if the purchase, construction, or building of a school building is paid from funds received from the County School Facility Occupation Tax Law or from the proceeds of bonds secured by revenues obtained from that law. A link to SB 2170, now **Public Act 97-0542**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0542>

HB 2991 – IDOR Retail Vending Machine Verification. This bill amends the Retailers' Occupation Tax Act requiring retailers to verify the total number of vending machines used in the retailer's business upon request of the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). It also requires a retailer to request an additional sub-certificate or sub-certificates if he or she increases the number of vending machines used in the business. A link to HB 2991, now **Public Act 97-0335**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0335>

SB 1712 – Innovation Development and Economy Act. This bill makes a variety of changes to the Innovation Development and Economy Act including to the definition of “local sales taxes”. It also amends the Flood Prevention District Act by deleting provisions concerning the monthly transfer of local sales tax increment from STAR bond districts located in flood prevention districts to the STAR Bonds Revenue Fund. A link to SB 1712, now **Public Act 97-0188**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0188>

PROPERTY TAX

HB 212 – Business Corridor Property Tax Abatement. This bill specifies that property that is not otherwise exempt from taxation and is situated in a business corridor created by intergovernmental agreement between two adjoining disadvantaged municipalities is entitled to a property tax abatement. It requires each municipality to conduct a public hearing before entering into an intergovernmental agreement designating a business corridor and

specifies that the taxing district may order a business corridor abatement by a majority vote of its governing authority and provides that a business corridor abatement may not exceed a period of 10 years. A link to HB 212, which is now **Public Act 97-0577**, can be found here:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0577>

HB 234 – Open Space Property Tax Applications.

This bill amends the Property Tax Code to change the application date for open space valuation filing from January 31st to June 30th in counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants. A link to HB 234, which is now **Public Act 97-0296**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0296>

HB 508 – Brownfield Property Tax Delinquency Waiver. This bill also amends the Property Tax Code allowing the county board, upon the recommendation of the county treasurer, to waive an interest penalty for the delinquent payment of taxes on brownfield property in any year (instead of "any year prior to the 2008 taxable year"). A link to HB 508, which is now **Public Act 97-0655**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0655>

HB 1218 – Tax Sales Transparency. This legislation amends the Property Tax code and requires tax purchasers in all counties to register with the county tax collector. It also addresses automated tax sale bidding and notice requirements to be employed by county tax collectors. A link to HB 1218, which is now **Public Act 97-0557**, is here: <http://www.ilga.gov/>

[legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0557](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0557)

HB 1518 – High Speed Rail Property Valuation & Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral. This bill amends the Property Tax Code by providing that any increase in railroad operating property's overall valuation that is directly attributable to the investment, improvement, replacement, or expansion of railroad operating property on or after January 1, 2010, through state or federal government programs necessary for high-speed passenger rail transportation, including cooperative agreements, shall be excluded from the valuation of its real property improvements. The bill further specifies that certain statements and schedules required to be submitted by railroad companies must include information pertaining to any potential increases in the property's overall valuation that is directly attributable to the investment, improvement, replacement, or expansion of railroad operating property on or after January 1, 2010 through State or federal governmental programs necessary for high speed passenger rail transportation.

HB 1518 also amends the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Act in tax year 2012 by increasing the taxpayer's income limit from \$50,000 to \$55,000 and providing that "qualified property" must not be held in trust, other than an Illinois land trust with the taxpayer identified as the sole beneficiary, if the taxpayer is filing for the program for the first time effective as of the January 1, 2011 assessment year or tax year 2012 and thereafter. This change becomes effective as of the January 1, 2011 assessment year or tax year 2012 and thereafter, and further

provides that the total amount of any deferral shall not exceed \$5,000 per taxpayer in each tax year. A link to HB 1518, now **Public Act 97-0481**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0481>

HB 1926 – Housing Authority Property Tax Exemptions. This bill amends the Property Tax Code in a section granting an exemption for property of housing authorities created under the Housing Authorities Act, specifying that the property shall not lose its exemption because the legal title is held by either: (i) an entity that is organized as a partnership or limited liability company, in which the housing authority, or an affiliate or subsidiary of the housing authority, is a general partner of the partnership or managing member of the limited liability company; or (ii) an entity that is organized as a partnership or limited liability company, in which the housing authority, or an affiliate or subsidiary of the housing authority, is a general partner of the partnership or managing member of the limited liability company, for the purposes of owning and operating a residential rental property that has received an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits for 100% of the dwelling units. A link to HB 1926, which is now known as **Public Act 97-0451** can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0451>

SB 1335 – Tax Sales and Special Assessments on Delinquent Property. SB 1335 amends the Property Tax Code to set the schedule, in Cook County, for all applications for judgment and order of sale for taxes and special assessments

on delinquent properties. A link the bill, which is now **Public Act 97-0637**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0637>

SB 1386 – Property Tax Overpayment Refunds. This bill amends the Property Tax Code to provide that, in Cook County, a claim for a refund for an erroneous assessment or overpayment is allowed if the petition is filed between September 1, 2011 and September 1, 2012 and the right to a refund arose more than five years prior to the date the petition is filed but not earlier than January 1, 2000. The bill further specifies no such refund shall be paid if the issuance of the refund would cause the aggregate total of taxes and interest refunded under those provisions to exceed \$350,000. A link to SB 1386, now known as **Public Act 97-0521** can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0521>

SB 1686 – Property Tax Assessment Notice Publication. This bill makes a variety of changes to the types of property tax assessment notices that need to be published and the rates that will be charged for them by newspaper publishers. A link to SB 1686, now **Public Act 97-0146**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0146>

SB 1804 – Special Service Area Changes. This measure provides that a deed restriction, restrictive covenant, or similar provision may not waive, prohibit, or restrict the statutory rights (instead of "the right") to notice of a public hearing or the right to object, oppose, or

challenge (i) the creation of a special service area, (ii) the levy of any tax of a special service area, or (iii) the issuance of bonds of a special service area. A link to SB 1804, now known as **Public Act 97-0533** can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0533>

brick and mortar merchants throughout the state. Although similar legislation has faced legal challenges in other states, the Illinois Department of Revenue hopes to recoup \$150 million in lost sales tax through the enactment of HB 3659. A link to the bill, now known as **PA 96-1544**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-1544>

OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

SB 540 – TIF and Enterprise Zone Reform. Efforts to reform both TIF district and Enterprise Zone provisions failed to gain the necessary approval to pass before adjournment of the Spring 2011 Session. SB 540 was the TIF reform bill sponsored by State Rep. John Bradley (D-Marion) that passed the House but stalled in the Senate. The measure included a variety of reforms aimed at increased reporting and transparency standards. Rep. Bradley had also held meetings to discuss enterprise zone reform but those discussions never materialized in the form of legislation before adjournment. TFI anticipates further discussions with Rep. Bradley on this subject. A link to SB 540 can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=09700SB0540eng&GA=97&SessionId=84&DocTypeId=SB&LegID=55348&DocNum=540&GAID=11&Session=>

HB 3689 – Tax Nexus. Governor Quinn signed House Bill 3659 from the 96th General Assembly during the early January 2011 “lame-duck” session. It would for the first time attempt to collect sales taxes from on-line retailers that have at least \$10,000 in annual sales and that utilize Illinois-based affiliates. This legislation would require on-line retailers to collect Illinois’ 6.25% sales tax charged on purchases made at

HB 172 – Airline Baggage Tax. An amendment filed to HB 172 by Rep. Andre Thapedi (D-Chicago) attempted to amend the Illinois Aeronautics Act creating the Baggage Fee Sharing Program. Specifically, HA#1 to SB 172 stated that the Department of Transportation shall collect a fee equal to 12.5% of all fees charged and collected in this State by persons operating aircraft for hire or reward for simultaneously transporting tangible personal property. TFI strenuously opposed this amendment and HB 172 ultimately died. A link to the HA#1 to HB 172 is here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=09700HB0172ham001&GA=97&SessionId=84&DocTypeId=HB&LegID=54745&DocNum=172&GAID=11&Session=>

HB 3548 – Financial Transaction Tax. Another bill strenuously opposed by TFI was HB 3548, sponsored by Rep. Mary Flowers (D-Chicago), which would have created the Financial Transaction Tax Act. This measure would have imposed a tax on the privilege of engaging in a financial transaction on any of the following exchanges or boards of trade: the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange. HB 3548 specifically stated

that the tax imposed would be at a rate of 0.01% of the value of the transaction. It further defined the term "financial transaction" as meaning a transaction involving the purchase or sale of a stock contract, futures contract, swap contract, credit default swap contract, or options contract, while exempting a transaction involving securities held in a retirement account or a transaction involving a mutual fund. This bill also died and a link to the bill is here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=84&GA=97&DocTypeld=HB&DocNum=3548&GAID=11&LeglD=60916&SpecSess=&Session=>

HB 1866 – Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority. This bill raises the amount of debt the Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority can issue from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and allows for taxes on this debt to be free of taxation except in limited circumstances. It also removes the State's moral obligation for these bonds after the effective date of this bill. A link to HB 1866, now **Public Act 97-0312**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0312>

HB 2073 – Small Business Development. This bill creates the Small Business Development Grant Fund at the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to make grants (i) to small businesses in the State that commit to using the grant moneys to create additional jobs, (ii) to small businesses from outside of the State that commit to relocate within the State, and (iii) for individual projects that create 100 or fewer additional jobs. HB 2073 further specifies that priority must be given to (i) minority owned

businesses, (ii) female owned businesses, (iii) businesses owned by a person with a disability, (iv) businesses that pledge not to use the grant moneys as additional compensation for an executive, and (v) businesses that have as their primary purpose the provision of energy derived from renewable energy technology. A link to HB 2073, now **Public Act 97-0406**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0406>

SB 43 – Taxation Disclosure Act. This bill creates the Taxation Disclosure Act requiring the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) to make tax rate information available on its Internet website. It further specifies that information disclosed for use and occupation taxes shall include the tax rate applicable in a municipality or the unincorporated area of a county and list the individual rates that comprise the aggregate rate in that municipality or in the unincorporated area of that county. SB 43 also specifies that the property tax information shall include the name of each taxing district, a list of all funds for which taxes were extended, and the district's total tax rate and that information for income taxes shall include the individual and the corporate income tax rates. Finally, the bill states that information for excise taxes shall include the statewide and the local rates and requires that all tax information on the website shall be made available in a viewable and downloadable format and shall be updated regularly. SB 43, now known as **Public Act 97-0353** has an effective date of July 1, 2012. A link to the bill can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0353>

SB 270 – Department of Lottery. This bill removes the Division of Lottery from the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) and instead creates an independent Department of Lottery. It further sets forth compensation for the Superintendent of Lottery and makes other transitional changes. A link to SB 270, now **Public Act 97-0464**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/097-0464.htm>

SB 539 – Municipal Joint Redevelop Project Areas. This bill amends the Industrial Jobs Recovery Law in the Illinois Municipal Code providing that two or more municipalities may designate a joint redevelopment project area if: (i) both municipalities are located within the same Metropolitan Statistical Area, (ii) the 4-year average unemployment rate for that Metropolitan Statistical Area was at least 11.3%, and (iii) at least one participating municipality demonstrates that it has made commitments to acquire capital assets to commence the project and that the acquisition will occur on or before December 31, 2011. It also requires that the joint redevelopment project area must encompass an interstate highway exchange for access and be located, in part, adjacent to a landfill or other solid waste disposal facility. A link to SB 539, now **Public Act 97-0591**, can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0591>

SB 2149 – School Financial Oversight Panels. This comprehensive education measure creates the Financial Oversight Panel Law of the School Code allowing a school district (other than the Chicago school district) to petition the State Board of Education for the establishment of a

Financial Oversight Panel for the district. It also contains provisions concerning duties of the district; members and meetings of a Panel; powers of a Panel; officers of a Panel; school treasurers; collective bargaining agreements; deposits and investments; cash and bank accounts; the financial, management, and budgetary structure; the School District Emergency Financial Assistance Fund; grants and loans; a tax levy; tax anticipation warrants; obligations; reports; a Panel audit; assistance; sanctions; and abolition of a Panel. SB 2149 also makes related changes in the School Code, the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, the Property Tax Code, and the Illinois Pension Code. A link to SB 2149, now known as **Public Act 97-0429** can be found here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/097-0429.htm>

Redistricting/Re-Map Bills – The various “remap” bills passed by the Legislature in 2011 are listed below. These newly drawn districts will first be utilized in the 2012 Election cycle:

- SB 1177/**PA-97-0006** – New Illinois General Assembly Maps <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/097-0006.htm>
- SB 1178/**PA 97-0014** – New Illinois Congressional Maps <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/097-0014.htm>
- SB 1179/**PA 97-0015** – New Cook County Board of Review Redistricting <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/97/097-0015.htm>

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