Legislative Update – April 18, 2023

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Summary Key Bill List (of bills still moving through the legislative process):

Support:
HB 1533 (Hernandez, D-Aurora/Feigenholtz, D-Chicago) Bans declawing of cats
HB 2376 (Gong-Gershowitz, D-Glenview/Fine, D-Glenview) Bans Foam Disposable Food Containers
HB 2431 (Kelly, D-Chicago/Cervantes, D-Chicago) Prohibits use of video conferencing while operating a motor vehicle
HB 2811 (Johnson, D-East Moline) Establishes a Central Receiving Center Grant Pilot Program
HB 3230 (LaPointe, D-Chicago/Fine, D-Glenview) Statewide Continuum of Behavioral Health Crisis/response services
HB 3236 (Carroll, D-Northbrook/Holmes, D-Aurora) Prohibits installment loans of pet sales
HB 3878 (Rashid, D-Berwyn) Establishes an IDHA Matching Funds program/affordable housing tax credit
HB 3899 (Syed, D-Palatine) Provides Medicaid coverage of applied behavior analysis treatment (autism)
HB 3900 (LaPointe, D-Chicago) Establishes Medicaid (hospital) presumptive eligibility for individuals in psychiatric crisis
HB 3940 (Guerrero-Cuellar, D-Chicago/Cunningham, D-Chicago) Extension of the Emergency Telephone System Act
SB 724 (Feigenholtz, D-Chicago/LaPointe, D-Chicago) Establishes the Interagency Children’s Behavioral Health Services Act
SB 836 (Holmes, D-Aurora/Welch, D-Westchester) Creates the Paint Stewardship Act
SB 1230 (Holmes, D-Aurora/Stava-Murray, D-Downers Grove) Changes the definition of “dog dealer” to exclude specific retail sales
SB 1499 (Villa, D-West Chicago/Hirschauer, D-West Chicago) Companion Animal Forfeiture Act – enhanced penalties
SB 1555 (Koehler, D-Peoria) Packaging and Paper Products Stewardship Act
SB 1882 (Holmes, D-Aurora/Moeller, D-Elgin) Dog and Cat Testing Restrictions
SB 1883 (Holmes, D-Aurora/Mason, D-Gurnee) Establishes the Wild Animal Public Safety Act

(see page 2)
Other Issues:

 Restore LGDF Funding
Monies allocated under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), established in 1969 when the State of Illinois enacted an income tax, does not represent a “grant” from the State but rather a small share of income taxes paid by county residents that are returned on a per capita basis to support critical local services.

Under the original agreement with the State, units of local government were to receive 10% of total state income tax revenues which continued until 2011, when the State instituted a temporary income tax increase but failed to share the corresponding (increased) portion with local governments. In 2017, the General Assembly further reduced LGDF payments to local governments by 10% of state income tax revenues received, and in 2018, by another 5% of revenues received (to help balance the state budget).

As part of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget package, the General Assembly approved a modest one-year increase in local government’s total share of income tax proceeds, raising the amount distributed from the previous 6.06% of individual income tax collections to 6.16%, (for state fiscal year 2023 only), which translated into an annual increase of $133,632 for DuPage County.

DuPage County, together with our municipal partners and the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo), urge the Illinois General Assembly to restore the distribution of LGDF dollars to the agreed upon 10% share of income tax proceeds to local governments.

 Expand Tourism/Economic Development Opportunities
Tourism is a major driver of economic activity, contributing billions of dollars to the State’s economy that welcomed over 110 million visitors last year. The Illinois Office of Tourism (under the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, DCEO) works with the (38) certified Convention and Visitors Bureaus statewide, including the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau (DCVB), to promote Illinois as a travel destination for meetings, conventions, domestic and international visitors as well as leisure travelers. In 2021, the tourism and hospitality industry employed nearly 400,000 people statewide.

DuPage County has 16,000 hotel rooms and last year, sent $22 million in state hotel/motel tax receipts to Springfield yet the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau (as a capped bureau), received only $1.5 million in return from the State Local Tourism Convention Bureau grant (that also required a $750,000 local match). These dollars are critical to the success of local bureaus to attract meetings, conventions, tour groups and sporting events.

DuPage County requests that the Illinois Office of Tourism work with local bureaus to develop a strategy to provide additional discretionary grant funding for bureaus (based on performance), that generate significant economic impact for the State.