

Legislative Update



THE LATEST LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AFFECTING PARKS, RECREATION and CONSERVATION

November 12, 2013

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TO: IAPD Members

**FROM: Peter M. Murphy, JD, CAE, IAPD President and CEO
Jason Anselment, IAPD Legal/Legislative Counsel**

RE: Veto Session Roundup

The General Assembly concluded its Fall Veto Session last week, and we want to update you on a couple bills of interest.

During the Veto Session, the House failed to override the Governor's veto of [HB 1200](#). As we previously reported, this legislation would have reduced the number of free admission days that are required for an aquarium or museum funded by the tax that is levied under the [Park District Aquarium and Museum Act](#). The Act requires these facilities to be open to Illinois residents free of charge for at least 52 days a year, and [HB 1200](#) would have reduced that number to 26 free days. With the failure to override, the Governor's veto stands.

In addition, a bill that IAPD has been closely tracking for many months and that we discussed in detail at last May's Legislative Conference moved out of the Senate Labor Committee last week. As we have covered in a number of past Legislative Updates, [HB 924 \(Hoffman, J. / Harmon, D.\)](#) proposes to amend the Prevailing Wage Act to require bidders on public works contracts to meet the "responsible bidder" standards under the Illinois Procurement Code.

IAPD opposes [HB 924](#) because it would impose standards that many small businesses may be unable to satisfy. For example, the Illinois Procurement Code requires state contractors to participate in applicable apprenticeship and training programs. Applying this standard to local government contracts would ultimately reduce the number of eligible bidders, particularly on smaller projects, which may increase labor costs. [HB 924](#) also takes away local control by applying state bidding standards to local governments, which are much better positioned to decide their own local bidding rules.

[HB 924](#) previously passed the House in April and is now on 2nd reading in the Senate. Because this is the first of the two-year 98th General Assembly, the bill will still be alive when legislators return in 2014. It is also possible that both chambers may return for a special session before the end of the year to consider pension legislation related to the State's five public pension systems. If so, [HB 924](#) could also be called at that time.

Spring Session Calendars Released

The Spring Session calendars for the House and Senate have just been released. Simply click on the following links for the [2014 House Calendar](#) and the [2014 Senate Calendar](#).

With Senators back in their district offices, now is a good time to make sure they are aware of the concerns with [HB 924](#) as outlined above. As always, if you have questions concerning this or any other legislative matter, please contact us at 217/523-4554.

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