

## MEMO

FROM: Chuck Vaughn  
DATE: January 25, 2011  
RE: Legislative Report

As we begin the 2011 session these things are certain:

1. The state is broke.
2. While the democrats still control both chambers, the majorities are smaller; "Common ground" will play a bigger part this year.
3. After passing a huge tax increase the chambers will have difficulties with any additional tax increases and the 10 convenient "lame ducks" are gone. "
4. Regulatory changes should be our focus.
5. The fire service is still a powerful force in Springfield.

Here are the topics, as of 1-25-11 that will be on our agenda for the fire caucus, the districts and chiefs, While all are worthy, i believe several have a low probability of success. At the end of this document will give you an estimate of probabilities.

### CAUCUS BILLS

1. Revenue enhancement (fee increases)
  - *1% of gross vehicle insurance premiums to Fire Prevention Fund (FPF)*
  - *\$3.00 increase in driver history requests to FPF*
  - *\$5,00 increase in driver license renewals to FPF*
  - *\$1,00 increase in license sticker renewal fee to FPF*
  - *Maintenance of MABAS operations and capital expenses*
2. Require notice to local FPD's on railroad crossing closures to ,allow better response to incidents
3. Classifying natural gas as a hazardous material to allow recover/ from those incidents
4. A resolution to create a task force on standardizing rules and procedures on mergers and contracts between municipalities and FPD's
5. Clarifying the FPD authority's authority to require, and to participate in, fire alarm monitoring systems. This is only to provide the best possible fire protection).
6. Remove "certified paramedics" as being required to draw blood at DUI incidents.
7. Alternatives to newspaper budget publication.

## **NON-CAUCUS POSITIONS**

1. Exempting pension contributions and insurance from PTEL.
2. Modify new pension trustee training rules to a more workable burden. This does not indicate any desire to lower standards or protections for pensions.
3. Strike the required public hearings for the new growth exemption under PTEL allows for a reasonable referendum call for a hearing.
4. Tax credits for volunteers and firefighters
5. Insurance rider to close loop-hole that sometimes exists on FPD claims for nonresident claims
6. Placing open burning authority to districts, not just notice
7. On a personal NIAFPD issue, we need contract protection when municipalities fail to pay, as per contract, when a district takes over to provide fire protection. Interjection may be a remedy here.

I am encouraged about the passage of the bills on train crossing notice, consolidation of districts as mandatory blood drawers in DUFs, trustee training time burdens, open burning authority, organization of new district, hearings on PTEL new growth, and payments from municipalities to districts when a valid contract exists.

More difficult will be natural gas as a haz mat entity, not having to publish budgets, PTEL exemptions, insurance riders on non-resident incidents, and the most unlikely tax credits.

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to begin!

## Election Results Bring Newcomers to the Illinois General Assembly...

Congratulations to the following State Senators and Representatives who have officially been elected to hold a seat within the 97th General Assembly.

The IAFFPD urges its members to take this opportunity to introduce your Board of Trustees and Fire Chief to their respective state legislators and become a voice for fire protection districts throughout Illinois. Given your specific role within their community, most legislators would consider it an honor and privilege to be invited to *tour* your station or attend a fire department event. Meeting face-to-face is an effective way for you to educate the newcomers on your fire district successes and challenges.

Finally, we encourage you to ask them to become a member of the Illinois Fire Caucus and help support our legislative efforts in Springfield.

### Newly Appointed/Elected Members to the 97th General Assembly...

#### **ILLINOIS STATE SENATE**

Toi Hutchinson (D-40, Olympia Fields)  
Sam McCann (R-49, Carlinville)  
Kyle McCarter (R-51, Lebanon)  
John Mulroe (D-10, Chicago)  
Sail Schmidt (R-31, Lake Villa Township)

#### **ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Daniel Biss (D-17th, Chicago)	Rita Mayfield (D-60, Waukegan)
Adam Brown (R-101, Decatur)	Tom Morrison (R-54, Palatine)
Kelly Burke (D-36, Evergreen Park)	Rich Morthland (R-71, Cordova)
Bill Cunningham (D-35, Chicago)	Michelle Mussman (D-56, Schaumburg)
Anthony DeLuca (D-80, Chicago Heights)	Chris Nybo (R-41, Elmhurst)
Robyn Gabel (D-18, Evanston)	Sue Rezin (R-75, Morris]
David Harris (R-66, Arlington Heights)	Wayne Rosenthal (R-98, Morrisonville)
Chad Hays (R-104, Catlin)	Carol Sente (D-59, Vernon HHIs)
Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr. (D-114, East St. Louis)	Joe Sosnowski (R-69, Rockford)
Thaddeus Jones (D-29, Calumet City)	Arthur Turner (D-9, Chicago)
Dwight Kay (R-112, Glen Carbon)	Michael Unes (R-91, East Peoria)
Camille Lilly (D-78, Chicago)	Ann M. Williams (D-11, Chicago)

To see the complete list of the persons elected or continuing in the House or Senate, we invite your district Public Policy page of the IAFFPD website ([www.iaffpd.org](http://www.iaffpd.org)) or request your own pocket-size Legislative Directory that is also available through the IAFFPD.