



The General Assembly cancelled legislative days last week after an unprecedented lack of work being done. So far, for the year the House has filed a fraction of the number of bills that would historically have been filed, 515 and the senate dropped the bar even further by filing 393 bills. This means that filings for the year are at about 30% of what would be expected. The Legislative Reference Bureau, the agency responsible for issuing a bar code for all legislation, indicated that requests were down about 20% from years past. Ultimately, this means that the upcoming week will see a higher bill file rate than has recently been recorded; as many as 2000 bills could be filed this week.

A quick perusal of the bills that have been filed suggest the General Assembly's top priorities this year are 1. Protecting dogs, 2. Not spending money the state doesn't have and 3. Further controlling who, when and what can carry firearms. These are all political issues, and a desire for headlines seem to be dominating the bill filings so far. There are almost 50 seats impacted by the primary, so some of the political rhetoric will die down after the Primary on March 20, but much of it will continue into the General Election with what will be record breaking spending on political advertisements this summer and fall.

Multiple legislators commented that the high point of the legislative week was the joint League and Illinois Banker's Economic Investment Day held in Springfield last week. The event was a true success with positive feedback from both Leaders involved in meetings as well as rank and file legislators who attended the events held that day. Even though the House of Representatives cancelled the following day, many legislators stayed to participate in the evening event, including one of the League's legislative priority sponsors.

Legislation of Interest:

- HB4570 disqualifies banks and savings and loan associations that have not achieved a federal Community Reinvestment Act rating of "outstanding record of meeting community credit needs" from serving as a depository of State moneys upon their failure to established at least one ATM or branch in a low-income area.
- HB 4731 allows the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to send official notices to financial institutions via email.

- *Andrew Bodewes*

LEINENWEBER BARONI & DAFFADA LLC
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