

## **Minutes from the ILA-PPC Meeting on March 1, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Daniel Matthews at 10:00am.

### **State Legislation Bill List**

Due to scheduling needs, the meeting began with Derek Blaida's review of key bills to monitor. D. Blaida highlighted several bills for the committee.

- HB 162 – Requires government entities to form a committee every 10 years to consider consolidation. D. Blaida recommends ILA take no position as drafted. There are no objections from the committee.
- HB 433 – Voters may hold a binding referendum to dissolve a unit of local government. D. Blaida notes that it is overly broad and expansive. In theory, voters could dissolve a whole city's government. D. Blaida recommends ILA take no position as drafted given the current language.
  - Diane Foote asks if there is a downside to taking a "no" position. There was a brief discussion about various methods ILA can use to oppose bills.
  - The committee agreed to list on website as oppose and authorize D. Blaida to oppose if the bill begins to move.
- HB 566 – Prohibits using government funds to oppose initiatives to consolidate, merge, or eliminate a unit of local government.
  - Sam Adams-Lanham asks if this is similar to rules prohibiting libraries from using resources to support referenda. D. Blaida says that is "political activity" and this bill as written could prohibit libraries from holding meetings about potential consolidation.
  - D. Blaida does not expect this bill to move forward as written. List on the website as oppose, monitor progress.
- HB 616 – Establishes FMLA at the State level. D. Blaida expects several bills focused on employee protections, essential worker protections, etc.
  - D. Blaida expects an amendment to be filed shortly that would require paid leave.
  - There are a lot of details that are not covered in the proposed bill.
  - The committee was unable to come to consensus during this meeting and will revisit.
- HB 2496 – Requires review of whether to impose term limits on chairpersons, presidents, or executives of their governing board.
  - D. Blaida recommends monitoring bill.
- HB 3776 – One of several bills related to COVID-19 being introduced. Requires that each employer with at least 30 employees shall establish a safety committee.
  - D. Blaida recommends monitoring bill.

Property Taxes – D. Blaida is not concerned about cuts or freezes to property taxes this year due to State and local budget concerns.

D. Blaida left the meeting at 10:56 AM.

### **Attendance**

Voting Members Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Marian Albers, Monica Dombrowski (left 11:30), Ryan Livergood (left 11:45), Rebecca Malinowski, Daniel Matthews, Karolyn Nance (left before 11), Kathy

Parker, Dee Anna Phares, Scott Pointon, and Catherine Yanikoski.

Ex Officio Members Present: Molly Beestrup, Deirdre Brennan, Derek Blaida, E. CLerage, Veronica De Fazio, Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton (left after 30 min), Lou Ann Jacobs, Greg McCormick, Ellen Popit, Magan Szwerek, and Alex Todd, and Leigh Ann Wilson.

Ex Officio Members Absent: P. Molloy, L. Wilson

Guests Present: Cyndi Robison, ILA; Mary Witt, RAILS; Aaron Skog, SWAN

### **Approval of Agenda**

Add to agenda – library district fiscal years (D. Foote), seven board members v. nine board members (M. Dobrowski), RAILS seeking legislative support for statewide database funding (D. Brennan)

M. Albers moved to approve the agenda with the additions. S. Pointon seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

E. Popit notes Tina Hubert's name was misspelled in attendance, E. Clarage attended for A. Craig

D. Danowski moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting as corrected. D. Phares seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

### **ILA Legislative Meet-ups Update**

Diane Foote reported that six of seven meetups have completed successfully. The final meet-up is this Friday, March 5 and RSVPs are still being collected. Overall, the online format has been successful, with legislators engaged in participants.

D. Matthews noted that the Chicago meetup was cancelled and asks about potential follow up. D. Foote will plan for follow up with Chicago legislators.

### **Federal Update**

US Citizenship Act of 2021 and LC Subject Headings

- Rebecca Malinowski shared information on the US Citizenship Act of 2021 and potential impact on Library of Congress subject headings related to noncitizens and undocumented immigration.
- Lou Ann Jacobs reported that at the AISLE board meeting Chicago Public Schools requested support from AISLE as they are seriously considering changing subject headings.
- Diane Foote's information from ALA noted that the US Citizenship Act of 2021 will probably face significant opposition. ALA wrote, "We are exploring approaches to the LC Subject Heading Issue."

Federal funding legislation

- House has passed \$1.9 trillion Coronavirus package which does include dedicated library funding. Includes \$200 million for IMLS, \$178 million of which would go to State Library agencies with a \$2 million state minimum. Through the reconciliation process, this will only require 50 votes in the Senate.
- Build America's Libraries Act – ALA is asking ILA to work with cosponsor Rodney Davis (R-IL) on this bill. Most states do not have an ongoing construction grant program for libraries. Illinois is one of four that does.

## ALA Advocacy Events 2021

- Fly-in days: ILA has gone to meet with members of the appropriations committee. Will not take place this year.
- National Library Legislative Day: Cancelled last year and not taking place this year.
- Setting up small, virtual meetings with specific members and invited advocates. Planned for April 6 and 7. D. Foote does not have information on potential attendees yet.

## Library District Fiscal Years

ILA member-at-large approached D. Foote with a proposal to enable library districts to determine their own fiscal year. Currently, state law stipulates district fiscal years as July 1. The member would like to see the option for a calendar year fiscal. There was no interest in pursuing such a proposal from the committee.

## Secretary of State's Budget Request 2022

Greg McCormick reports that ISL is currently pleased with the budget planning for 2022. The SoS's request is for level funding for libraries, with an increase for per capita grant. Modifications may need to be made to appropriate authority based on federal legislation. All positive news as this point.

## Seven or Nine Member Boards

Should we modify the Library Act so that all library boards have 7 members instead of 9? A committee member says that among their colleagues, no one is sure why there is a different requirement, and some city libraries feel it is harder to secure the extra members with no real benefit.

S. Pointon discusses the Library District and Local Library Act. M. Albers concurs that there is little benefit for seven members. K. Parker supports a seven-member board for consistency across library types.

G. McCormick notes that there are six city libraries in the state with seven board members. ISL is researching the ordinances that authorized those changes.

A. Todd suggests working with the Illinois Municipal League if the committee wants to move forward with this project in the future.

D. Foote asks if it would be beneficial to work on a member-wide survey on legislative priorities before Fall 2021. ILA can check in with Trustees Forum. D. Brennan suggests this change would require a lot of work for a limited benefit. D. Foote reminds the committee of an ILA document on creating or modifying library law:

<https://www.ila.org/advocacy/creating-or-changing-illinois-state-libr>

## RAILS Database Funding

RAILS previously wrote a proposal for ILA PPC to request a new state funding stream for a statewide database program. The proposal has a lot of support from members. On February 26, the RAILS Board passed a resolution directing RAILS to begin reaching out to legislators to request sponsorship of a bill and share a position paper. At this time, they estimate asking for \$5 million.

RAILS Board members heard at legislative meetups that libraries should be more proactive about asking for resources from legislators, which in part spurred this timing.

## AISLE Inclusive History Committee

Lou Ann Jacobs reports that AISLE is waiting for Governor Pritzker's signature on HB 2170 Education and Workforce Development Bill. Creates Inclusive History Commission to work with schools.

**Adjournment**

K. Parker moved to adjourn and S. Pointon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM.