



2015 WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 12, 2015

LGA BILLS

On Thursday, the Senate Tax committee heard three LGA bills. The first, SF712 (Weber), would provide providing LGA penalty forgiveness for 2014 for cities that provided the state auditor with audited financial statements for calendar years 2013 and 2014 by June 1, 2015. The auditor must certify to the commissioner of revenue that it received the statements in order for the city to receive the penalty forgiveness. The second, SF874 (Koenen), would increase the appropriation for LGA for aids payable in 2016 and aids payable in 2017 and thereafter. The third, SF1057 (Skoe), would provide for modifications to LGA payments in lieu of taxes for natural resources land.

All three bills were laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

EXEMPTION ON MOTOR VEHICLES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

On Thursday, the House Tax committee heard HF122 (Swedzinski). This bill would expand the existing motor vehicle sales tax exemption for town purchases of road maintenance vehicles, such as snow plows or dump trucks, to purchases of these vehicles by other local governments. Local governments eligible for this exemption will now include: statutory and home rule charter cities; counties; towns; and instrumentalities of these entities, including special taxing districts. This change would be effective for sales and purchases made after June 30, 2014.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

FIREWORKS EXPANSION BILL

Last week, the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention committee heard HF1089 (Rarick). This bill would legalize large, loud, and powerful fireworks that have the potential to cause safety, fire, and nuisance problems. It would also limit local control over the sale and use of these products, only allowing local governments to charge an annual license fee to stores. No action was taken on the bill, which was laid over.

LICENSE PLATE READERS

On Tuesday, the House Civil Law committee heard two bills addressing LPR, HF155 (Scott) and HF222 (Cornish). HF155 would prohibit police from keeping data gathered on “non-hits” under a policy known as “zero retention.” This bill was taken up first and, on a vote of 9-4, was passed and re-referred to the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee. However, later in the day, upon the author’s request, the bill was pulled back and laid on the table.

HF222 was significantly amended and, on a divided voice vote, was passed and sent to the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention committee. Amongst other things, the bill would limit the police retention of data they collect from license-plate readers for 30 days. As amended, the bill provides for annual audits of law enforcement agencies' handling of the data. Additionally, the bill contains a number of other items of concern to law enforcement that have yet to be worked out.

The companion bill, SF86 (Latz) is in Senate Finance Division, where a hearing is expected after the break.

REPEAL LIQUOR LICENSE

Last week, the House Commerce committee took up HF1044 (Anderson). This bill would repeal current statute that prohibits a city from issuing more than one off-sale intoxicating liquor license to any one person. The author told members that this repeal would allow for increased local control for municipalities in issuing off-sale licenses. Opponents argued that the repeal could allow for big box liquor stores to have multiple locations in any one city and subsequently shut down smaller liquor stores.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the liquor omnibus bill.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS THIS WEEK

HF #	Author	SF #	Author	Short Description
1536	Youakim			Sanitization regulation and inspection for licensees who sell electronic delivery devices provided.
1589	Davids	1559	Skoe	Taxation policy changes made.
1590	Davids	1558	Skoe	Income and corporate franchise, estate, sales and use, special, property and other taxes and provisions technical and clarifying changes
1671	Drazkowski			Reverse referendum allowed.
1679	Yarusso	1660	Dibble	Local government alternative Web site publication requirement
1708	Uglen			Metropolitan Council Transportation Advisory Board role and composition changed.
1731	Drazkowski	1721	Thompson	Rent constituting property tax percentage reduced.
1732	Kelly	1636	Dibble	Metropolitan Council required to consult with the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee on procurements.
1761	Nash	1687	Franzen	Ten-day notice and public hearing required before a moratorium on residential development takes effect.
1769	Swedzinski	1724	Dahms	Notice of proposed ordinances affecting business licenses required.
1775	Davids			Federal tax burdens required to be included in tax incidence study.
1820	Moran			Peace officer residency requirements establishment by municipalities allowed.

1828	Lesch			Income producing property assessment data clarified.
1831	Green			Property tax credits for overvalued property required.
1835	Runbeck			Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee modified and duties specified, and groundwater management area plan implementation delayed.
		1557	Rest	State general levy amount reduction and automatic inflation elimination
		1561	Gazelka	State general levy automatic inflation elimination; general levy first tier of commercial-industrial property exemption; general levy tax apportionment repeal