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## **Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association**

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14171 Carole Drive, Bloomington, IL 61705 • PH: (309) 827-2774 • Fax: (309) 827-2779 • www.ifca.com

### **IFCA State Legislative Report Spring 2013**

After a long last week in Springfield, the Illinois General Assembly left town for their summer break on May 31. In the last few days, the General Assembly approved bills allowing hydraulic fracking and concealed carry firearms, but again kicked the can down the road on the public pension problem. Lawmakers also left town without considering bills to expand gambling or recognize same sex marriage. IFCA learned this week that Governor Quinn is calling back the General Assembly to Springfield for a special session to work on the public pension issue. Governor Quinn is asking that Senate President Cullerton and Speaker Madigan bring both of their pension plans together and get a compromise bill done. The special session will start on June 19 and as of right now IFCA doesn't know how long it will last.

At this time, it appears that 359 House Bills passed both houses and 236 Senate Bills passed both houses. When a bill passes both houses, the House or Senate has 30 days to enroll all of its introduced and amendment language into a final 'enrolled' form and present it to the Governor. Once a bill is before the Governor, he has 60 days to act on it.

IFCA followed many bills over the last five months, testifying in committee and meeting with legislators, all to protect the ag input industry. The final result is a fairly positive one for IFCA membership, who avoided tax increases and unnecessary regulations.

Listed below is the bills that passed both chambers and are on Governor Quinn desk that might effect IFCA members.

#### **HB 2273 CHANGES TO WEIGHTS & MEASURES ACT.**

Sponsored by Rep. Pat Verschoore and Sen. John Sullivan. This bill would make the act better defined regarding large truck scales. Many IFCA members were having problems regarding this issue. More details will be coming in the next IFCA newsletter.

#### **TUSCOLA FERTILIZER PLANT BILL.**

Tuscola Fertilizer Plant Bill. This bills amends the Illinois Enterprise Zone Act. It provides that a business that intends to establish a fertilizer plant at a designated location in Illinois may be designated as a high impact business. Provides that a business that intends to make a minimum investment of \$500,000,000. Rep. Adam Brown had been pushing this bill language all session. He finally got it added to SB 20, which is a huge spending bill. It was added in the last few hours of session.

#### **SB 2356 UNIFORM 70 MPH SPEED LIMIT**

By a vote of 85-30, the Illinois House passed legislation to adopt a uniform 70 MPH speed limit on rural Illinois interstate highways outside of the Chicago and Metro-East St. Louis metropolitan areas. The bill was previously approved in the Illinois Senate and now goes to the governor, who has not looked favorably on increasing speed limits.

HB 2361 allows several hundred 3-axle cement mixers to benefit from the axle and weight exemptions of the Special Hauling Vehicle registration. Previously these vehicles did not qualify for the exemption.

#### HB 1247 HAND-HELD CELL PHONE BAN FOR ALL DRIVERS

Sponsored by Rep. John D'Amico and Senator John Mulroe (D's-Chicago), this bill, as approved, would impose a cell phone ban on all drivers identical to the federal cell phone ban on commercial trucks. The bill now goes to the Governor.

#### SB 1715, AMENDMENT #1 OIL & GAS INDUSTRY FRACKING AGREEMENT

House Amendment #1 to SB 1715 is a compromise agreement that appears to satisfy the major concerns of most parties involved - environmentalists, oil & gas industry, labor unions and local governments. This agreement is seen as the impetus for major economic growth in southeast Illinois, which has large reserves of crude oil that can be extracted with modern fracking technology.

#### HB 1 MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Sponsored by Rep. Lou Lang (D-Skokie), it is the first medical marijuana bill to pass both chambers of the Legislature. This bill puts into place many facets of the intricate network of allowing doctors to prescribe cannabis and develops the taxing and structure of distribution. It will now go to the Governor for a signature or veto. The Illinois Department of Agriculture will administer the program.

THE BILLS BELOW DIDN'T PASS BOTH CHAMBERS OR DIDN'T GET CALLED FOR A VOTE.

#### SB 1666 and HB 3085, GMO FOOD LABELING

Sponsored by Sen. Dave Koelher and Rep. Mell. Both of these bills would require that all foods containing GMO products would have to be labeled. IFCA has been leading the fight to kill this bill. Sen. Koelher has proposed three different listening hearings across the state. June 20 at ISU, Aug 7 at SIU and the middle of September in Chicago. We ask all members to come to the hearings and express their opposition.

#### HB 107, 108, 109, 111 & 112, WORKERS' COMP REFORM

A series of bills sponsored by Rep. Dwight Kay which seek to reform and tighten Illinois' workers' comp laws. The bills seek to deal with specific issues, including pre-existing conditions, determination of partial disability, carpal tunnel, payment of benefits from a defined schedule, etc. The reform measures will continue to be the center of much debate. IFCA strongly supports all five workers comp reforms.

#### HB 2034 REGULATION OF STORM AND TILE DRAINAGE WATER.

Sponsored by Rep. Mike Tryon. This bill would regulate storm and tile drainage water. Rep. Tryon proposed this amendment to this bill in the middle of session. IFCA and many ag groups talked with Rep. Tryon about how damaging this amendment would be to Illinois agriculture. He ended up not calling the bill. IFCA looks for this bill to come up again in the future.

#### HB 2367 ROAD CLOSURE/WEIGHT RESTRICTION AUTHORIZATION

Sponsored by Rep. Wayne Rosenthal, this bill provides that highway commissioners may not close, vacate or reduce road weights on any road without the written approval of the township, the county superintendent of highways and the elected board associated with that road district.

#### HB 1554 TRANSACTION TAX ACT.

Sponsored by Rep. Mary Flowers, this bill creates the Financial Transaction Tax Act. Beginning September 1, 2013, imposes a tax on the privilege of engaging in a financial transaction on any of the following exchanges or boards of trade: the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Board of

Trade, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange. The bill would have provided that the tax is imposed at a rate of 0.01% of the value of the transaction. This bill didn't make it out of committee.

#### HB 3237 TRANSACTION TAX ACT

Sponsored by Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia. This bill would create the Financial Transaction Tax Act. Beginning January 1, 2014, imposes a tax on the privilege of engaging in a financial transaction on any of the following exchanges or boards of trade: the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange. It would also have provided that the tax is imposed at a rate of \$1 per transaction.