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We are writing to inform you that Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn recently signed several pieces of legislation that will have an impact on township governments.

First, HB 3152  amends the Township Code (60 ILCS 1/30-50) to allow the township road district to dispose of personal property at any time during the year by a vote of the township board or at the request of the township highway commissioner. The road district no longer needs to wait for the electors to approve the sale of personal property at the annual town meeting. The House Bill did not, however, change the requirement that the electors must adopt a resolution before the lease or sale of township real property. The amendment is effective immediately.

Second, Senate Bill 41  amends both the Township Code (60 ILCS 1/30-117 - Special services; disaster relief) and the Highway Code (605 ILCS 5/6-201.21 - Special services; disaster relief). With regard to the changes to the Township Code, the bill permits the corporate authorities of a township to, by ordinance, 1) provide for the collection, transport, and disposal of brush and leaves within the unincorporated areas of the township and 2) authorize the use of permanent road funds, general road and bridge funds, or town funds for the purpose of collecting, transporting, and disposing of brush and leaves generated from specified properties. Referendum approval was previously required.

With regard to the changes to the Highway Code, the bill permits the highway commissioner of each road district to provide for the collection, transport, and disposal of brush and leaves that have been properly placed for collection along the road district rights-of-way in accordance with local guidelines in those townships or counties that regulate by ordinance open burning of brush or leaves. The amendments are effective January 1, 2012.