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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.

In addition, Senate Bill 1907  amends the Highway Code to allow township boards in Cook County to submit to the electors a proposal to abolish the road district. If the road district is abolished, the road district responsibilities, duties and taxing authority would revert to the township board. The amendment is effective January 1, 2012. 605 ILCS 5/6-133 provides as follows:

Sec. 6-133. Abolishing a road district in Cook County. By resolution, the board of trustees of any township located in Cook County, Illinois, may submit a proposition to abolish the road district of that township to the electors of that township at a general election or consolidated election in accordance with the general election law. The ballot shall be in substantially the following form:

*Shall the Road District of the Township of
..... be abolished with all the rights,
powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities,
obligations, and responsibilities being assumed
by the Township of?*

YES

.....
NO

In the event that a majority of the electors voting on such proposition are in favor thereof, then the road district shall be abolished by operation of law effective on January 1 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the proposition was approved by the electors.