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**Illinois Updates – September 11, 2020**

Investigative Committee Meets in Springfield

As reported last week, House Republicans took steps to form a special investigative committee to determine whether Speaker Michael J. Madigan should be disciplined for his role in the ongoing federal investigation of utility Commonwealth Edison. House Rules allow for the formation of a special committee for this purpose, and the process has been used twice in the past few years to censure former state representatives Derrick Smith (D-Chicago) and former representative Luis Arroyo (D-Chicago).

The special committee is chaired by Rep. Chris Welch (D-Westchester), and includes Rep. Natalie Manley (D-Romeoville), Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez (D-Cicero), Rep. Tom Demmer (R-Dixon), Rep. Deanne Mazzochi (R- Westmont) and Rep. Grant Wehrli (R-Naperville). Committee members held a brief meeting in Springfield on Thursday where Republican members presented a list of individuals they wish to provide testimony, including Speaker Madigan and others named in the ComEd bribery investigation. It was also established that the committee will consult with the U.S. Attorney’s office to ensure that any actions taken by the committee will not interfere with the ongoing investigation. Chairman Welch pledged to expedite communications with the federal government and indicated that the committee would meet regularly over the next several weeks.

Potential Ethics Reforms Options Provided to House Members

The Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform provided House members with a list of proposals to be considered by lawmakers in the coming months. The communication came from House Majority Leader Greg Harris (D-Chicago) and Assistant Majority Leader Kelly Burke (D-Oak Lawn), who both serve on the Commission. Included in the potential ethics and lobbying reforms are:

* Expanding the requirements for lobbyist registration to individuals hired to assist with developing lobbyist strategy or any type of involvement in a legislative or lobbying effort;
* Require registered entities to disclose the total amount anticipated to be spent on lobbying activities, including percentages to be spent on entities that are minority owned and women owned;
* Require registered persons to disclose income anticipated to be paid by each client;
* Require registered entities and persons to disclose any communication with an official or staff intended to influence administrative or legislative action;
* Expand disclosures on Statement of Economic Interest forms;
* Provide penalties for General Assembly members that seek to influence legislation on which they have a conflict of interest;
* Establish term limits for legislators;
* Require temporary removal from the position of a legislative leader or committee chair; vice chair or spokesperson under criminal investigation or in the event of an actual charge or indictment.

A copy of the report is attached for your information. As organizations registered to lobby in Illinois, you are strongly encouraged to review the attachment and provide feedback regarding the various reforms that will be considered by the Joint Commission.

IDPH Puts 30 Counties on Warning List

The Illinois Department of Public Health today announced that thirty counties met the metrics to be put on a warning list for Covid-19 positivity. The Department indicated that the reasons for counties being placed on the list varied and that multiple factors are considered in determining whether a county is maintaining a stable positivity level or seeing increased incidence of infection and hospitalizations. Being placed on the warning list does not necessary impose additional mitigations from the state, but is intended to help local officials, health departments and residents make informed decisions.

Counties included on the warning list are: Bond, Bureau, Cass, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, DeKalb, DuPage, Effingham, Greene, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Jackson, Jasper, Jersey, Lawrence, Madison, McLean, Monroe, Morgan, Pulaski, Schuyler, Shelby, Stark, St. Clair, Tazewell, Vermilion, Washington, Williamson. information of each county’s status can be found on the IDPH website at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics>.

**Illinois COVID-19 Resources**

* State of Illinois: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov>
* Illinois House Republican Caucus: <https://ilcovid19info.com>
* Chicago residents can access information about the city’s response to the outbreak by texting “covid19” to 78015, or visiting the city’s dedicated webpage at <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home.html>
* A list of public and private testing sites can be found on the IDPH website at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/testing>.

**Dates to Remember**

* November 3, 2020 – General Election
* November 17, 18, 19 – First week of Veto Session
* December 1, 2, 3 – Second week of Veto Session