

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Fall 2018



By Chuck Vaughn
IAFPD Lobbyist, Vaughn Consulting, Inc.

Over the last 21 years, I had the privilege of being a part of the IAFPD team as your representative before the General assembly. I take great pride in what we accomplished together, and I will always proudly consider myself as a part of IAFPD. Men like Tom Harnsbarger and Tim Deutschle (among so many others) made every day a labor of love. I have also told you on many occasions that Jim Sinclair is one of the finest lawyers I have ever known, and one of the best men I have ever claimed as a friend.

There is still a lot to accomplish, and hard work to do. I believe in IAFPD to do these things. I am glad to share the announcement on the excellent young professional, Brittan Bolin will be a valuable new component of what the Association does with legislation as you go forward. I encourage you all to give her the support and advice that was so much a part of my success for you.

Charles R. Vaughn

Welcome Brittan Bolin

On behalf of the IAFPD Board of Directors I would like to welcome Brittan Bolin as the Association's new lobbyist. Brittan replaces Chuck Vaughn who has decided to retire (after 21 years) from his IAFPD legislative position. Brittan was selected earlier this year by the Legislative committee, recommended to and approved by the full Board. Brittan has been working with Chuck to assure a smooth transition into her new role as IAFPD lobbyist. I look forward to working with Brittan knowing the Association will have challenges with new and ever-changing legislation.

Mike Dillon, IAFPD President



Introducing Brittan Bolin

When Chuck Vaughn announced last year that he would end his tenure as IAFPD's lobbyist with the 100th General Assembly, the association began looking for a replacement. Your leadership understood that filling Chuck's very large shoes would not be easy, and chose to hire his replacement early enough to provide for a transition period. I applied for the position, and am grateful and excited to have been chosen as IAFPD's lobbyist, beginning January 2019.

To tell you a bit about myself, I have worked with the Illinois General Assembly for almost thirty years. My first job was on the House Republican staff, followed by working as a legislative liaison and later Director of Legislation for State Comptroller Loleta Didrickson. After serving in a similar role for Lt. Governor Corinne Wood, I left the government side of the legislative process and began a career as a private sector lobbyist. Working for two large lobbying firms, Ronan Potts LLC and McGuireWoods Consulting, was an invaluable experience. But I found that owning my own consulting firm was most rewarding. With the exception of my time with McGuireWoods, I have operated my business, Brittan Bolin Consulting, since 2003. Owning my own firm has allowed me to get to know my clients on an individual level and provide hands on, personalized service.

One of the reasons I wanted to work with IAFPD is to use my knowledge of local government issues in a new subject area. Serving a local government association requires knowledge of the statutes pertaining to local governments, of issues like local government consolidation, property tax abatement and local government finance. My work with multiple county official associations will help me represent you before the legislature. This experience has also given me tremendous respect for those who serve at the local level. Local governments are expected to deliver more services with ever dwindling resources. As your lobbyist, I will make sure legislators understand what you need in order to do your jobs and the value you provide to their voters.

It has been my experience that associations - even those of local governments representing numerous citizens- are comprised of individuals. Individuals represent their respective districts, and those individuals make up the association. One of my goals as your lobbyist is to get to know you as individuals. Just as you balance your responsibilities to your constituents, I will make sure your unique voices are heard in the legislative process while at the same time focusing on the overall goals of IAFPD.

Fire protection and all it entails are new to me. During the 2018 spring session, I met regularly with Chuck and began following your bills and issues. Chuck and the IAFPD team have been tremendously helpful in sharing their knowledge, but I know there is much more to learn. Lobbying provides continuous opportunities to learn. It is what I like best about my job. The depth and scope of your issues is remarkable, and that is what makes this job exciting and challenging. I ask that you share your knowledge, experience and grant patience as my learning process continues.

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IAFPD ADVOCATED BILLS

Public Act 100-0837 - Amends the Governmental Account Audit Act to allow units of local government to retain the use of cash basis and modified cash basis accounting systems rather than accrual accounting. *Effective 8/13/18.*

Public Act 100-0904 - Amends the Pension Code to eliminate a separate and duplicative 8 hour annual ethics training requirement for Article 4 (firefighter) pension fund trustees. *Effective 8/17/18.*

Public Act 100-0973 - Amends the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job Protection Act which protects volunteer firefighters from being disciplined or terminated for responding to calls while working in their regular employment. Defines a "volunteer emergency worker" to be a person who meets the definition of a "volunteer" under U.S. Department of Labor regulations and rulings. This bill overcomes a court decision which found a volunteer who received compensation not to be entitled to the protection of the Act. *Effective 8/19/18.*

Senate Bill 2629 - Vetoed. This bill would have authorized the IAFPD to provide the training required by the Open Meetings Act to trustees of fire protection districts as an alternative to the now required on-line training through the Illinois Attorney General's website.

OTHER LEGISLATION OF NOTE

Public Act 100-0593

Corrects legislation adopted in 2017 which removed "community integrated living arrangements" (group homes) from the priority inspection procedure of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and restored such facilities to a priority status thus relieving local fire protection district departments from demands for inspections that many local departments were not prepared to provide. *Effective 6/22/18.*

Public Act 100-0600

Amends the Fire Protection Training Act to make various technical changes regarding the administration of the Act and the reimbursement of local fire agencies who meet the requirements of the Act for the training of fire personnel. *Effective 1/1/19.*

Public Act 100-0673

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act to provide that a child of a disabled firefighter need not be born, legally adopted, or in the legal custody of the firefighter before the disabling injury occurs in order to be eligible for the benefits of the Act. *Effective 8/3/18.*

Public Act 100-0727

Amends the Vehicle Code to provide that the prohibition against use of an electronic communications device while driving does not apply to "a first responder, including volunteer first responders, while operating his or her own personal motor

vehicle using an electronic communication device for the sole purpose of receiving information about an emergency situation while en route to performing his or her official duties." *Effective 8/3/18.*

Public Act 100-0856

Allows (but does not require) units of local government to use an "electronic notification delivery system" to provide notification to interested parties of a local government's action. Sets requirements for the use of such a system. *Effective 1/1/19.*

Public Act 100-0895

Creates the Government Severance Pay Act which limits the amount of severance pay that may be included in an employment contract and prohibits the granting of severance pay when the officer, agent, employee, or contractor of a unit of government has been terminated for misconduct by the unit of government. "Misconduct" is defined by the Act. *Effective 1/1/19.*

Public Act 100-0900

Establishes "First Responder Mental Health Day" to be observed on the third Friday in May of each year to honor firefighters, police officers, and other first responders "who have lost their lives due to and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other mental health issues." *Effective 1/1/19.*

Public Act 100-0968

Amends the Local Government Professional Services Act which governs the selection and hiring of architects and engineers by units of local government, including fire protection districts, to allow a waiver of the selection requirements of the Act if the services involved are expected to cost less than \$40,000 (previously \$25,000) and provides for this figure to be adjusted annually by the consumer price index. *Effective 1/1/19.*

Public Act 100-1040

Amends the Local Records Act to require disclosure of information in connection with a severance agreement entered into by a unit of local government with an employee or contractor found to have engaged in sexual discrimination or harassment. *Effective 8/23/18.*

Public Act 100-1072

Adds Sections 15c to the Fire Protection District Act to allow a home rule municipality which provides fire service to at least 80% of the territory in the municipality to disconnect that portion of the municipality which is located in a fire protection district by petitioning the circuit court. The disconnection cannot make the district noncontiguous or impair the ability of the district to serve the territory remaining in the district by loss of

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Public Act 100-1072 Continued

assessed value. Further, adds Section 15d to the Fire Protection District Act to require a municipality seeking to disconnect territory from a fire protection district to perform an "economic impact analysis" concerning the effect of the disconnection both within the municipality and the district. Sets out the requirements for the analysis. Requires service of the report on the board of trustees of the district. A disconnection is not effective unless service of the report is certified to the clerk of the court where the disconnection proceeding is pending. Disconnections take effect on the January 1st following the entry of an order of disconnection. *Effective 1/1/19.*

Public Act 100-1113

Amends the Counties Code provisions regarding the dissolution of units of local government. *Effective 1/1/19.*

Senate Bill 2619 - Vetoed

This bill would have changed the requirements in Section 16.04b of the Fire Protection District Act concerning the hiring qualifications for the position of Fire Chief in career departments. (This bill follows Public Act 100-0425 approved in 2017 which originally added Section 16.04b and set qualifications for the hiring of fire chiefs in career departments.)

House Bill 0126 - Vetoed

This bill would have amended the Illinois Public Relations Act to include within the definition of "fire fighter" under the Act "paramedics employed by a unit of local government."

House Bill 0127 - Vetoed

This bill would have amended the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA) to include within the definition of "firefighter" under the Act a paramedic or emergency medical technician employed by a unit of local government.

House Bill 5221 - Vetoed

This bill would have amended the Public Employee Disability Act (PEDA) to include a "full time paramedic or firefighter who performs paramedic duties" within the coverage of the law.

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