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Fwd: Parkhurst motion halts charter bill override

1 message

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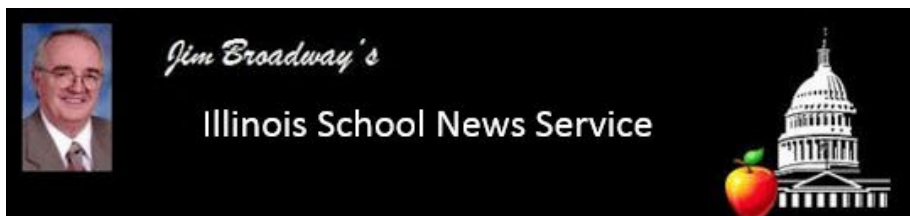
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December Regular Board Meeting

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From: **State School News Service** <j.m.broadway74@gmail.com>
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Parkhurst motion halts charter bill override

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

Just last week I was praising 15 House Republicans - including [Rep. Lindsay Parkhurst](#) of Kankakee - for being "wise" and joining 56 Democrats in voting to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of HB 5175, the bill to keep the State Charter School Commission from forcing charters on districts whose boards don't want them.

But, alas, it was a scam, at least on Parkhurst's part. After the override vote passed [71-34](#), she moved to "reconsider the vote." House Rule 65 ([see 48th page](#)) gives anyone who voted "on the prevailing side" the right to file such a motion, which holds a bill in place until the motion is voted on or withdrawn.

What's the rationale for such a rule? Perhaps a legislator pushed the green button by mistake? Or had a change of heart? Either is possible, but the fact is the motion to reconsider is almost always a parliamentary tactic to freeze the bill. Usually it is just an indication that a game of some kind is being played.

What kind of game? Parkhurst apparently is a friend of charter schools; one of her political campaign's ["top contributors"](#) is the Illinois Network for Charter Schools. But her motion to stall the override came on November 14. It could have been voted down on the 15th. But it wasn't. Who knows the name of this game?

FYI, House Rule 65 is presented in its entirety below.

So is HB 5175 dead? Perhaps, but not necessarily. Tension in the policy process often creates a kind of force field for those who know how to use it. Speaker Michael Madigan knows. If there's a game going on, you can bet he's either part of it or he's onto it. Some kind of a deal may be in the works.

The veto of HB 5175 could be overridden in a flurry, in just a few minutes. Parkhurst could withdraw her motion, or it could be defeated with 71 votes; the bill would then return to the Senate needing just 36 votes - [the total it got](#) when when it passed in the Senate back in May - to become law.

Other bills whose vetoes were overridden in the House two weeks ago seem likely to prevail similarly in the Senate this week. The veto of [HB 1262](#), requiring all legislators - not just caucus leaders - to decide mandate waivers, was overridden *unanimously* in the House. Why would the Senate accept Rauner's opinion on this bill?

[HB 4284](#), requiring that three members of the State Board be professional educators, has received overwhelming votes; now it needs only for the Senate to do it again. And [HB 4657](#), setting up an "Emotional Intelligence and Social and Emotional Learning Task Force," is in the same posture, ready for the Senate to act.

There are other bills whose vetoes could be overridden. [SB 2345](#), for example, requiring a district's report card to reflect whether it participates in the [Illinois Youth Survey](#), received a unanimous override vote in the Senate two weeks ago; the House originally passed it 79-26, so an override there seems likely.

The Senate barely overrode Rauner's veto of [SB 2332](#) - raising to 21 the minimum age to buy tobacco products - but that bill may be asking too much of the House majority caucus; no motion has been filed in that chamber, and I doubt that one will be. Many vetoes will stand, but some will be overturned next year.

State Comptroller Susana Mendoza has [joined the crowd of candidates](#) seeking to be elected as mayor of Chicago. She has been a political star since she became a member of the House in 2001. In her sixth term she was elected as the city clerk of Chicago. If I lived in the Windy City, I'd vote for her.

But there are other candidates of significant gravitas in the running. Former Chicago Public Schools CEO [Paul Vallas](#) is back in Illinois looking for an elective office. Chicagoans gave him a big majority in his 2002 gubernatorial primary against the since discredited Rod Blagojevich, but he lost. Better luck in 2019?

William Daley made national news as a candidate who is - as [reported in the New York Times](#) - "the brother of Chicago's longest-serving mayor [Richard M. Daley] and the son of Chicago's second longest-serving mayor [Richard J. Daley]" may bring the most of that all-important Chicago ingredient, "clout," to the contest.

[State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford](#), whose legislative work always seemed to me to receive less respect than it deserved, has apparently decided to seek the mayoralty, but the number of candidates so inclined is reported to be "at least 15" at this time. If there's no majority winner in February, a run-off will be held April 2.

The charter school "movement" has suffered some setbacks recently, without regard to the outcome of HB 5175. In a vote early this month, teachers in 15 Chicago charter schools [voted on the question](#) of whether to become the first charter school teachers in the nation to authorize a strike.

The outcome: 98% of those who voted said let's do it. Working longer hours at lower pay with fewer benefits and less respect than teachers in the public schools will do that to a person - no matter how professional they wish to be. The effects of this outcome will be interesting to watch in the coming months.

Meanwhile, other elections boded ill for charter schools. Winning candidates in formerly charter-welcoming New York are [cool to the movement](#). New York City should "get rid of"

large charter networks, one of them said. "I'm not interested in privatizing our public schools," a newly elected state senator said.

The New York Times report (linked above) cited gubernatorial election outcomes in Wisconsin, Michigan and, yes, in Illinois, as evidence of anti-charter backlash. The [California state superintendency](#) election told a similar story. The new [Arizona state superintendent](#) defeated an incumbent charter executive.

What's the bottom line on HB 5175? If the override action that started in the House two weeks ago stalls, a new bill to pull the teeth of the Charter School Commission will pass and be signed into law by Gov. J.B. Pritzker in 2019.

(House Rule 65)

65. Reconsideration.

(a) A **member who voted on the prevailing side of a record vote** on a legislative measure still within the control of the House **may on the same or the following legislative day move to reconsider the vote**. The motion to reconsider may be laid on the table without affecting the vote to which it refers. When the motion to reconsider is made during the last 3 days of April or any time thereafter during the regular session, or at any time during a veto or special session, any member may move that the vote on reconsideration be taken immediately. The member who filed the motion to reconsider may withdraw the motion at any time by filing a notice of withdrawal with the Clerk. A question that requires the affirmative vote of a majority of those elected or more to carry requires a majority of those elected to reconsider. A question in committee that requires the affirmative vote of a majority of those appointed or more to carry requires a majority of those appointed to reconsider; any other question in committee requires a majority of those voting to reconsider.

(b) A motion to reconsider a record vote on the adoption of a floor amendment to a bill may be made only on Second Reading.

(c) If a motion to reconsider is made under this Rule and the motion is later tabled, the question shall not be further reconsidered. This subsection (c) may be suspended only by the affirmative vote of 71 members elected.

(d) **When a motion to reconsider is made within the time prescribed by these Rules, the Clerk shall not allow the bill or other subject matter of the motion to pass out of the possession of the House until after the motion has been decided or withdrawn.** Such a motion shall be deemed rejected if laid on the table.

(e) A Representative who voted "present" or failed to vote on a question does not have the right to move for reconsideration. [Emphasis by ISNS.]

Snippets:

Measles, an illness that should be eradicated, is still killing children. High poverty is cited, [but irrational anti-vaxxer](#) attitudes are a major factor. A thoughtful essay on the ethics of vaccination [comes from The Conversation](#). There's plenty of [evidence on this issue](#). Does evidence matter? Probably not.

Education has lasting cultural effects. A study published in the [Quarterly Journal of Economics](#) reveals educational attainment is *still higher today* in communities near a Jesuit mission that was a learning center in South America, a learning center that was *shut down in 1767*. ([See WP article.](#))

Sleep-deprivation is a major problem for teens. A [UCLA professor cites research](#) suggesting half of America's teens suffer from this, which negatively affects their health and their educations. A "deceptively simple" solution - "provide teens with a good pillow" - is often successful, she reports.

Where to teachers get the most respect? As you surely know already, it's not in America. As the Varkey Foundation [index for 2018](#) documents, teachers in the far east - in China, Malaysia and Korea, for example - are viewed on a social spectrum similarly to doctors and other professionals.

The United States is middling in this index, as it is in most indices.

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