



Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

Fwd: PTELL-for-all bill to sneak out of committee

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>
To: Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

Fri, May 24, 2019 at 12:27 PM

June Board Meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **State School News Service** <j.m.broadway74@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, May 24, 2019 at 9:46 AM
Subject: PTELL-for-all bill to sneak out of committee
To: <jbauer@panaschools.com>

Subscribe to ISNS



Volume 25, Number 35, May 24, 2019

To view the web version, [click here](#).

PTELL-for-all bill to sneak out of committee

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

In reviewing actions to anticipate in the final week of the legislative session (surprises often lurk there), I noticed that the House Revenue & Finance Committee has scheduled a [hearing for 8:30 a.m. Monday](#) to hear, among other bills, [SB 690](#), which *subjects all school districts to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law*.

This is a very sneaky bill. It was filed as a shell bill in January, and it passed in Executive Committee 16-0 in that form. It seemed to die on April 12, and again on April 30. But on May 1 it was revived, amended with the PTELL language, moved to third reading and was rolled out of the Senate with [36 votes](#) in its favor.

Even though interested parties had almost zero opportunity to express their views on this bill, [66 witness slips](#) were filed against it, all by school districts and the Illinois Education Association. Even though it is still on the order of first reading, the bill could pass next week. That, apparently, is the plan.

The [substance of the bill](#) is relatively short and is sprinkled on just 29 pages of legislation. (If you read the bill remember, words that are underlined are proposed to be added to current law and words stricken-through deleted.) Essentially, the bill would impose PTELL law on all school districts, beginning in "levy year 2022."

The bill caps a school district's tax extension at zero, unless an increase is approved by voters in a referendum (and provisions for that included in the bill). But there are exceptions.

For example, a "special purpose extension" could be allowed to pay principal and interest on bonds "or other evidences of indebtedness" or to pay any pension

contributions that may be required under the Illinois Pension Code. There is also the possibility of a "qualified school district" status to exempt a district.

What would make your district "qualified"? First, the Illinois State Board of Education would determine if there are any "qualified school districts" and would "certify" them by September 30 of each year. To be qualified, a district would have to be underfunded in categorical reimbursement or evidence-based funding.

In this regard, the bill will be described as a "guarantee," of sorts, that school districts will be able to rely on the promises embedded in the School Code, to know for sure that their properly submitted claims will be honored and that they will get the funding indicated for them by ISBE calculations based on the EBF law.

No doubt this will be touted as the "property tax relief" every Illinois property owner has been praying for. It is clear that the legislative process has been manipulated to give as little advance notice as possible, to minimize the ability of opponents to organize against the bill, or even to "slip" it in committee.

But you can [file a witness slip on SB 690](#) if you want to. Of course, you could also be present for the hearing at 8:30 Monday in Room 122B (a very small room) at the Capitol. You can file your witness slip in person, opt to deliver testimony and/or file documents to support your position, talk to committee members.

While I tell you all this, I'm not suggesting that any communication from anybody will derail the plans for this bill. It is clearly controversial. The majority party will surely describe it as part of a larger plan to shift more of the cost of public education to the state - and ease up on the property taxpayers.

As a political move, you can see the rationale for this. It fits well in the larger picture that includes graduated tax rates, which require ratification by the voters in 2020, as the key component, as the primary method of drawing in more revenue from the very wealthy while taxing the middle class, and below, less.

I've received excellent input on efforts at the local level to address the teacher shortage. I'll share them shortly after the legislative session is adjourned next week. *If you have information/ideas* about teacher-shortage remedies, or anything else related to the crisis, [please let me know](#). Send attachments if you have them.

These special ISNS features will be updated Saturday: the [bill-tracking web page](#) showing the status of viable bills that could affect public education policy, and a page of links to all [ISNS newsletters so far delivered](#) in 2019. (The URL for these pages was changed for May 13, so only ISNS readers can access them.)

The only way to contact me: Use the link below. As soon as you "submit" your message, it is sent to me by email. Your message may be complex and "attached" to a document, or it may be as simple as "call me."

IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK WITH ME directly, leave a phone number for me to call and tell me what would be a good time to converse. I am always connected to my email, and I promise to respond to you as soon as possible.

Invoice Reminder: All invoices are *emailed* via the PNC Bank. ISNS is *now paperless*. If you need me to resend an invoice, use the contact link to tell me. I deeply appreciate your support of ISNS. This service cannot exist without you.

Your input - questions, comments, suggestions - are valued. For twenty-four years ISNS has been guided by wisdom "from the field." To contribute in this way, just [click this link to my contact form](#).

DO NOT CLICK THE 'UNSUBSCRIBE' LINK! That would automatically drop you from the ISNS subscriber list. The "unsubscribe" link is required so we cannot remove it. But to continue receiving the ISNS newsletter, DO NOT CLICK IT. If you wish to update your account, including choosing your email preference (HTML or text-only) please [submit this form](#). Otherwise, use the "contact form" link in the last paragraph of today's newsletter to contact Jim Broadway for any reason. Thank you.

State School News Service, [347 S Durkin Dr, Springfield, IL 62704](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ jbauer@panaschools.com

[Forward this email](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by j.m.broadway74@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!

--
Mr. Jason Bauer
Superintendent - Pana CUSD #8
[14 E. Main Street](#)
[Pana, IL 62557](#)
Phone: (217) 562-1500
Fax: (217) 562-1501