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Fwd: Charter Commission bill halfway unvetoes

1 message

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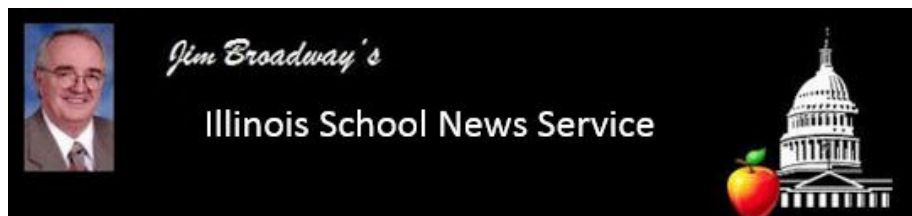
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December Board Meeting

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Charter Commission bill halfway unvetoes

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

As [you read in this space recently](#), House Democrats are too few (at the moment) to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of [HB 5175](#), the bill to stop the Charter School Commission from overruling local school boards' denials of charter proposals. Republicans could help with an override, and they'd be wise to do so.

Turns out a good many House Republicans are wise in that way. Rep. Jay Hoffman's motion to make HB 5175 law even though Rauner hates the idea [got 71 votes](#) - the bare minimum needed for an override - and *fifteen of those green buttons* were pushed by members of Rauner's party. (He is a very lame duck.)

Override motions are first considered in a bill's chamber of origin. For HB 5175, that's the House, where the concurrence with the Senate's restoration of local control in charter authorization had originally passed with just 64 votes. The Senate, which passed the bill with a veto-proof majority, can make it law this week.

Rauner had a bad week last week. As State Journal-Register veteran [journalist Doug Finke reported](#), the legislators passed motions to override his vetoes on *more than three dozen bills*. It takes super-majority votes to do that, and in the House, as noted above, it requires some Republicans to turn against Rauner each time.

In addition to the bill to pull the fangs of the Charter Commission, Rauner vetoed another dozen bills amending the School Code in various ways. Motions to

override his vetoes of seven of those bills were considered, and five of those motions passed - *four of them in the House*. The table below has the details.

Bill	Governor's rationale for vetoing the bill	Override action, if any
HB1262	Governor: "This legislation would require that when the State Board of Education submits to the General Assembly requests of school boards or superintendents for relief from certain state mandates, the requests must be reviewed by the entire General Assembly, and not a panel of the four leaders. Last year, Public Act 100-465 changed the process for how requests by school boards to have state mandates waived are handled. The new process allows the requests to be reviewed by the four legislative leaders as opposed to the entire General Assembly before the State Board is allowed to approve them. The purpose of this change was to streamline the waiver process and allow more flexibility when school districts do not believe that a given mandate serves the best interests of their students."	House override motion passed 112-0. Senate override vote passage, likely this week, would make the bill law.
HB3792	Governor: "While I recognize the value of instilling strong work-ethics into our students, I do not believe it is the role of the legislature to dictate to schools how and when this skill should be taught."	House motion lost 67-44, needing 71. THIS BILL IS DEAD.
HB4284	Governor: The legislation dictates that three members of the State Board of Education must represent the educator community. However, there has historically been an abundance of educator experience on the board.... Out of the 38 states with Governor-appointed State Boards of Education, only five states require specific mandates for Board composition. (Erodes executive appointment powers.)	House override motion passed 85-27. Senate override vote passage, likely this week, would make the bill law.
HB4657	Governor: "My administration believes deeply in the importance of supporting both the intellectual and emotional development of Illinois' children. However, by creating a Task Force without any substantive directives to address this issue, we will only add to government waste without any assurance of healthier outcomes for students."	House override motion passed 92-18. Senate override vote passage, likely this week, would make the bill law.
HB4882	Governor: "Today I veto House Bill 4882, which would expand the Grow Your Own Teacher preparation program.... We must be rigorous in ensuring all teacher preparation programs are grounded in evidence, so that our taxpayers' dollars fund programs only of the highest quality. This administration is unwilling to experiment with the future of Illinois' children by sacrificing teacher excellence."	House motion lost 61-45, needing 71. THIS BILL IS DEAD.
HB5175	Governor: "Today I veto House Bill 5175 from the 100th General Assembly, which, per my veto message earlier this year, would eliminate an appeals process for certain denial or closure decisions affecting charter school applicants and operators.... The Charter School Commission remains a proper venue to appeal these decisions of local school boards before sending parties to court, and the Commission has a history of thoughtfully evaluating appeals to ensure that all Illinois children have access to a high-quality education."	House override motion passed 71-34. Senate override vote passage, likely this week, would make the bill law.
HB5481	Governor: "The link between smaller class size and improved	No override

	student outcomes has indeed been proven. However, information about classroom populations is already published on an annual basis in school report cards, thus making the bill's proposed reporting requirement redundant. Additionally, current class size averages in Illinois do not differ vastly from the goals set forth in the legislation. "	motion has been filed. This week's session days will tell the story.
HB5750	Governor: "This appropriation was incorporated into the negotiated budget, Public Act 100-586, and is this standalone bill is therefore moot."	No override motion has been filed.
SB2332	Governor: "Raising the age people can purchase tobacco products will push residents to buy tobacco products from non-licensed vendors or in neighboring states. Since no neighboring state has raised the age for purchasing tobacco products, local businesses and the State will see decreased revenue while public health impacts continue."	Senate override motion passed 36-19. House override vote passage seems unlikely. Bill is probably dead.
SB2344	Governor: "This bill was drafted in response to a single occurrence of a specific local disagreement. Since this bill's proposal and subsequent passage in the General Assembly, the disputing parties have reached an agreement. This has rendered this bill unnecessary and has demonstrated that local issues do not inevitably require statutory solutions."	No override motion has been filed. Perhaps Rauner is not lying about this.
SB2345	Governor: "Mere disclosure of a school's participation in the Illinois Youth Survey will not reveal any substantive data findings, thus rendering the information useless. The information will make report card users no more informed about a school, as no additional data about academic performance or the school environment will be disclosed. This mandate will cause unnecessary confusion without providing any useful information to parents."	No motion is filed, but passage votes exceeded override levels. Veto seems likely to be overridden.
SB2572	Governor: "I fully support efforts to encourage our students to be active and healthy. However, this legislation represents an attempt to block reform of the many mandates on our schools that are inflexible and overly burdensome. ... The new standard in this legislation fails to recognize that depending on schools' scheduling, this minute-based mandate may result in the very daily requirement that was just rolled back last year."	Override motion filed. Senate vote was strong but House was weak.
SB2892	Governor: "Teachers are our greatest asset in ensuring the future of our youth and they deserve to be well-compensated for their hard work. However, minimum pay legislation is neither the most efficient nor the most effective way to compensate our teachers. Illinois is one of only 17 states that utilize statewide teacher salary schedules to guarantee some level of minimum pay for teachers. This approach to teacher compensation both limits a school district's local control and imposes a significant unfunded mandate on school districts. "	Override motion filed. Senate vote was strong but House was weak.
SB3220	Governor: "Today I veto Senate Bill 3220, which would allow higher education teacher preparation programs that are denied recognition by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board (SEPLB) to have a standalone hearing on their appeal before a meeting of the State Board of Education (ISBE). This bill creates unnecessary statutory language as there is already an opportunity for denied programs to submit public comment at both ISBE and SEPLB meetings; a separate hearing would be duplicative. My administration has consistently prioritized the streamlining of	Override motion filed. Passage votes strong in both chambers. Veto seems likely to be overridden.

governmental processes, not the addition of unnecessary bureaucratic requirements."

To become law over the governor's veto, a successful override vote in the chamber of origin must be followed by a similar result in the second chamber. So the final story has not been told (but note that the Senate originally passed all of these bills by veto-proof majorities. Rauner's record of futility continues.

Turning schools into armed fortresses will do far more harm than good. In fact, in an objective sense - given the rarity of "active shooter" incidences, and the reality that kids are safer in a school than they are in their own homes - there's little "good" to balance against the obvious harm that "hardening" schools will do.

But, you knew as soon as President Trump said it would be a good idea that an industry "boom" was in the making. As the [Washington Post reported](#), school administrators are being lured to exhibits, wined and dined, and persuaded to "protect" the children from "escalating" gun violence targeting schools.

No doubt, fear is a powerful motivator - and some powerful corporations are paying an army of talented PR firms a ton of money to foster it. There's fear of actual violence (which has statistically nil potential at any schools) and there's fear of *being accused of not responding* to the danger (real or not) children face.

The [market analysis is promising](#) for corporations that supply such things as high-security doors, metal detection systems, facial recognition technology and other products offered as responses to fear. With no effect on actual child safety, such products tell the children (falsely) that they are in danger. Will this help them learn?

Snippets:

It seems predictions of a Pritzker-Madigan power struggle may have been exaggerated. In last week's newsletter, you were linked to Illinois Policy Institute director John Tillman's lame assertion that J.B. Pritzker's election as governor sets up an "[epic battle](#)" between him and House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Tillman, whose income we documented at more than \$400,000 per annum, runs a pretend "think tank" whose primary mission in recent years has been to demonize Madigan, at whose mercy he predicts Pritzker will be. But now it looks like [Madigan is signing on](#) to some of Pritzker's best ideas.

A belated congratulations to Susan Converse, special education teacher at Edwardsville High School, who has been named [Illinois Teacher of the Year](#). She's clearly an excellent part of an excellent school district - one that I tormented years ago as a reporter for the Edwardsville Intelligencer, [to which you are linked](#).

Some educators out there are obviously getting young people to see the importance of civic engagement. Participation in the recent elections by young people 18-29 [soared to over 30%](#), the highest since tracking it began in 1994 by the Center for Education and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement.

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