



Dara Thompson <dthompson@panaschools.com>

Fwd: Capitol Watch 11.6.17 - Call to Action! Property tax freeze heads to House

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com> Mon, Nov 6, 2017 at 3:37 PM
To: Dara Thompson <dthompson@panaschools.com>

November board meeting

Jason

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

From: **IASA** <iasa@iasaedu.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 6, 2017 at 3:32 PM

Subject: Capitol Watch 11.6.17 - Call to Action! Property tax freeze heads to House

To: jbauer@panaschools.com



November 6, 2017

Call to Action! Property tax freeze heads to House

The legislative challenges just keep on coming for public schools, the latest one being a property tax freeze bill that is headed to the House floor this week. House Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 851 passed out of committee last week and is expected to be called for a vote on the House floor before the Veto Session winds up Thursday.

The SB 851 proposal calls for a two-year property tax freeze in Cook and some collar counties and allows for all other counties to freeze property taxes through voter referendum. The legislation contains the following provisions:

- Increases the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption from \$5,000 to \$8,000 for all counties (other than Cook) beginning in taxable year 2018. Cook County taxpayers have already received the increase.
- Increases the General Homestead Exemption from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for taxpayers in all counties beginning in taxable year 2018.
- Provides, for taxing districts subject to PTELL with a majority of their EAV in Cook, Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage, and Will counties, an extension limitation of 0% or a rate approved by the voters for levy years 2017 and 2018.
- Provides for a voter initiated property tax freeze of 0% for levy years 2018 and 2019. This provision affects districts subject to PTELL with a majority of their EAV in a county whose electorate chooses to be subject to a property tax freeze.
- Provides that for taxing districts under PTELL who are not subject to a 0% extension limitation property tax "freeze" for 2017 and 2018 levy years, they will be subject to the normal PTELL provisions of the lesser of 5% or the increase in CPI during the preceding calendar year or the rate of increase approved by the voters.
- For the 2017 and 2018 levy years, exempts bond payments and indebtedness and, applies the 5% or CPI provisions to contributions to pension funds.
- Exempts, for one levy year, "qualified school districts" from the provisions of the bill. A qualified school district is one that has been granted a financial hardship exemption by the State Superintendent after being designated as on financial watch or early warning status.

We encourage you to contact your state representative and urge them to vote "No" on SB 851! We will continue to monitor this piece of legislation.

Diane L. Hendren
Director of Governmental Relations
Illinois Association of School Administrators

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