

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2025 and 2026 HB2515

Introduced 2/4/2025, by Rep. Joe C. Sosnowski

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

35 ILCS 505/8

from Ch. 120, par. 424

55 ILCS 5/5-1192 new

60 ILCS 1/Art. 24.5 heading new

60 ILCS 1/24.5-5 new

60 ILCS 1/24.5-10 new

Amends the Township Code. Provides that all townships with a population less than 500 are dissolved 2 years after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Provides for the transfer of real and personal property, and any other assets, together with all personnel, contractual obligations, and liabilities of the dissolving township to the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township. Provides that, on and after the date of dissolution, all rights and duties of the dissolved township may be exercised by the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township solely on behalf of the residents of the geographic area within the boundaries of the dissolved township. Provides that the county board of the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township may levy a property tax within the boundaries of the dissolved township for the duties taken on by the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township. Provides that all road districts wholly within the boundaries of a dissolving township are dissolved on the date of dissolution of the dissolving township and the powers and responsibilities of the road district are transferred to the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township, and provides that municipalities within the dissolving township may elect to assume the duties and responsibilities of the road district or road districts. Provides that elected and appointed township officers and road commissioners shall cease to hold office on the date of dissolution of the township and road districts, no longer be compensated, and do not have legal recourse relating to the ceasing of their elected or appointed positions upon the ceasing of their offices. Amends the Motor Fuel Tax Law and Counties Code making conforming changes. Effective immediately.

LRB104 11984 RTM 22078 b

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1 AN ACT concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- Section 5. The Motor Fuel Tax Law is amended by changing

 Section 8 as follows:
- 6 (35 ILCS 505/8) (from Ch. 120, par. 424)
- 7 Sec. 8. Distribution of proceeds of tax. Except as provided in subsection (a-1) of this Section, Section 8a, 8 9 subdivision (h)(1) of Section 12a, Section 13a.6, and items 13, 14, 15, and 16 of Section 15, all money received by the 10 Department under this Act, including payments made to the 11 Department by member jurisdictions participating in 12 13 International Fuel Tax Agreement, shall be deposited into a 14 special fund in the State treasury, to be known as the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, and shall be used as follows: 15
 - (a) 2 1/2 cents per gallon of the tax collected on special fuel under paragraph (b) of Section 2 and Section 13a of this Act shall be transferred to the State Construction Account Fund in the State Treasury; the remainder of the tax collected on special fuel under paragraph (b) of Section 2 and Section 13a of this Act shall be deposited into the Road Fund;
- 22 (a-1) Beginning on July 1, 2019, an amount equal to the 23 amount of tax collected under subsection (a) of Section 2 and

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- Section 13a as a result of the increase in the tax rate under subsection (a) of Section 2 authorized by Public Act 101-32 shall be deposited each month into the Transportation Renewal Fund; provided, however, that the amount that represents the part (b) portion of the rate under Section 13a shall be deposited each month into the Motor Fuel Tax Fund and the Transportation Renewal Fund in the same proportion as the amount collected under subsection (a) of Section 2;
 - (b) \$420,000 shall be transferred each month to the State Boating Act Fund to be used by the Department of Natural Resources for the purposes specified in Article X of the Boat Registration and Safety Act;
 - (c) \$3,500,000 shall be transferred each month to the Grade Crossing Protection Fund to be used as follows: not less than \$12,000,000 each fiscal year shall be used for the construction or reconstruction of rail highway grade separation structures; \$5,500,000 in fiscal year 2022 and each thereafter shall be transferred fiscal year to the Transportation Regulatory Fund and shall be used to pay the cost of administration of the Illinois Commerce Commission's railroad safety program in connection with its duties under subsection (3) of Section 18c-7401 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, with the remainder to be used by the Department of Transportation upon order of the Illinois Commerce Commission, to pay that part of the cost apportioned by such Commission to the State to cover the interest of the public in the use of

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highways, roads, streets, or pedestrian walkways in the county highway system, township and district road system, municipal street system as defined in the Illinois Highway Code, as the same may from time to time be amended, for separation of grades, for installation, construction or reconstruction of crossing protection or reconstruction, alteration, relocation including construction or improvement of any existing highway necessary for access to property or improvement of any grade crossing and grade crossing surface including the necessary highway approaches thereto of any railroad across the highway or public road, or for the installation, construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of safety treatments to deter trespassing or a pedestrian walkway over or under a railroad right-of-way, as provided for in and in accordance with Section 18c-7401 of the Illinois Vehicle Code. The Commission may order up to \$2,000,000 per year in Grade Crossing Protection Fund moneys for the improvement of grade crossing surfaces and up to \$300,000 per year for the maintenance and renewal of 4-quadrant gate vehicle detection systems located at non-high speed rail grade crossings. In entering orders for projects for which payments from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund will be made, the Commission shall account for expenditures authorized by the orders on a cash rather than an accrual basis. For purposes of this requirement an "accrual basis" assumes that the total cost of the project is expended in the fiscal year in which the order is entered,

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while a "cash basis" allocates the cost of the project among 1 2 fiscal years as expenditures are actually made. To meet the 3 requirements of this subsection, the Illinois Commerce Commission shall develop annual and 5-year project plans of 5 rail crossing capital improvements that will be paid for with moneys from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund. The annual 6 7 project plan shall identify projects for the succeeding fiscal 8 year and the 5-year project plan shall identify projects for 9 the 5 directly succeeding fiscal years. The Commission shall 10 submit the annual and 5-year project plans for this Fund to the 11 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Senate Minority 12 Leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives on the first 13 14 Wednesday in April of each year;

- (d) of the amount remaining after allocations provided for in subsections (a), (a-1), (b), and (c), a sufficient amount shall be reserved to pay all of the following:
 - (1) the costs of the Department of Revenue in administering this Act;
 - (2) the costs of the Department of Transportation in performing its duties imposed by the Illinois Highway Code for supervising the use of motor fuel tax funds apportioned to municipalities, counties and road districts;
 - (3) refunds provided for in Section 13, refunds for overpayment of decal fees paid under Section 13a.4 of this

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Act, and refunds provided for under the terms of the International Fuel Tax Agreement referenced in Section 14a;

- (4) from October 1, 1985 until June 30, 1994, the administration of the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Law, amount shall be certified monthly Environmental Protection Agency to the State Comptroller and shall promptly be transferred by the State Comptroller and Treasurer from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund to the Vehicle Inspection Fund, and for the period July 1, 1994 through June 30, 2000, one-twelfth of \$25,000,000 each month, for the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2003, one-twelfth of \$30,000,000 each month, and \$15,000,000 on July 1, 2003, and \$15,000,000 on January 1, 2004, and \$15,000,000 on each July 1 and October 1, or as soon thereafter as may be practical, during the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2012, and \$30,000,000 on June 1, 2013, or as soon thereafter as may be practical, and \$15,000,000 on July 1 and October 1, or as soon thereafter as may be practical, during the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015, for the administration of the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Law of 2005, to be transferred by the State Comptroller Treasurer from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund into the Vehicle Inspection Fund;
- (4.5) beginning on July 1, 2019, the costs of the Environmental Protection Agency for the administration of

the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Law of 2005 shall be paid, subject to appropriation, from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund into the Vehicle Inspection Fund; beginning in 2019, no later than December 31 of each year, or as soon thereafter as practical, the State Comptroller shall direct and the State Treasurer shall transfer from the Vehicle Inspection Fund to the Motor Fuel Tax Fund any balance remaining in the Vehicle Inspection Fund in excess of \$2,000,000;

- (5) amounts ordered paid by the Court of Claims; and
- (6) payment of motor fuel use taxes due to member jurisdictions under the terms of the International Fuel Tax Agreement. The Department shall certify these amounts to the Comptroller by the 15th day of each month; the Comptroller shall cause orders to be drawn for such amounts, and the Treasurer shall administer those amounts on or before the last day of each month;
- (e) after allocations for the purposes set forth in subsections (a), (a-1), (b), (c), and (d), the remaining amount shall be apportioned as follows:
- (1) Until January 1, 2000, 58.4%, and beginning January 1, 2000, 45.6% shall be deposited as follows:
- 23 (A) 37% into the State Construction Account Fund, 24 and
- 25 (B) 63% into the Road Fund, \$1,250,000 of which 26 shall be reserved each month for the Department of

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Transportation to be used in accordance with the provisions of Sections 6-901 through 6-906 of the Illinois Highway Code;

- (2) Until January 1, 2000, 41.6%, and beginning January 1, 2000, 54.4% shall be transferred to the Department of Transportation to be distributed as follows:
 - (A) 49.10% to the municipalities of the State,
 - (B) 16.74% to the counties of the State having 1,000,000 or more inhabitants,
 - (C) 18.27% to the counties of the State having less than 1,000,000 inhabitants,
 - (D) 15.89% to the road districts of the State.

If a township is dissolved under Article 24 of the Township Code, McHenry County shall receive any moneys that would have been distributed to the township under this subparagraph, except that a municipality that assumes the powers and responsibilities of a road district under paragraph (6) of Section 24-35 of the Township Code shall receive any moneys that would have been distributed to the township in a percent equal to the area of the dissolved road district or portion of the dissolved road district over which the municipality assumed the powers responsibilities compared to the total area of the dissolved township. The moneys received under subparagraph shall be used in the geographic area of the dissolved township. If a township is reconstituted as

provided under Section 24-45 of the Township Code, McHenry County or a municipality shall no longer be distributed moneys under this subparagraph.

If a township is dissolved under Article 24.5 of the Township Code, the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township shall receive any moneys that would have been distributed to the township under this subparagraph, except that a municipality that assumes the powers and responsibilities of a road district under paragraph (5) of Section 24.5-10 of the Township Code shall receive any moneys that would have been distributed to the township in a percent equal to the area of the dissolved road district or portion of the dissolved road district over which the municipality assumed the powers and responsibilities compared to the total area of the dissolved township. The moneys received under this subparagraph shall be used in the geographic area of the dissolved township.

As soon as may be after the first day of each month, the Department of Transportation shall allot to each municipality its share of the amount apportioned to the several municipalities which shall be in proportion to the population of such municipalities as determined by the last preceding municipal census if conducted by the Federal Government or Federal census. If territory is annexed to any municipality subsequent to the time of the last preceding census the

corporate authorities of such municipality may cause a census to be taken of such annexed territory and the population so ascertained for such territory shall be added to the population of the municipality as determined by the last preceding census for the purpose of determining the allotment for that municipality. If the population of any municipality was not determined by the last Federal census preceding any apportionment, the apportionment to such municipality shall be in accordance with any census taken by such municipality. Any municipal census used in accordance with this Section shall be certified to the Department of Transportation by the clerk of such municipality, and the accuracy thereof shall be subject to approval of the Department which may make such corrections as it ascertains to be necessary.

As soon as may be after the first day of each month, the Department of Transportation shall allot to each county its share of the amount apportioned to the several counties of the State as herein provided. Each allotment to the several counties having less than 1,000,000 inhabitants shall be in proportion to the amount of motor vehicle license fees received from the residents of such counties, respectively, during the preceding calendar year. The Secretary of State shall, on or before April 15 of each year, transmit to the Department of Transportation a full and complete report showing the amount of motor vehicle license fees received from the residents of each county, respectively, during the

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preceding calendar year. The Department of Transportation shall, each month, use for allotment purposes the last such report received from the Secretary of State.

As soon as may be after the first day of each month, the Department of Transportation shall allot to the several counties their share of the amount apportioned for the use of road districts. The allotment shall be apportioned among the several counties in the State in the proportion which the total mileage of township or district roads in the respective counties bears to the total mileage of all township and district roads in the State. Funds allotted to the respective counties for the use of road districts therein shall be allocated to the several road districts in the county in the proportion which the total mileage of such township or district roads in the respective road districts bears to the total mileage of all such township or district roads in the county. After July 1 of any year prior to 2011, no allocation shall be made for any road district unless it levied a tax for road and bridge purposes in an amount which will require the extension of such tax against the taxable property in any such road district at a rate of not less than either .08% of the value thereof, based upon the assessment for the year immediately prior to the year in which such tax was levied and as equalized by the Department of Revenue or, in DuPage County, an amount equal to or greater than \$12,000 per mile of road under the jurisdiction of the road district, whichever is

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less. Beginning July 1, 2011 and each July 1 thereafter, an allocation shall be made for any road district if it levied a tax for road and bridge purposes. In counties other than DuPage County, if the amount of the tax levy requires the extension of the tax against the taxable property in the road district at a rate that is less than 0.08% of the value thereof, based upon the assessment for the year immediately prior to the year in which the tax was levied and as equalized by the Department of Revenue, then the amount of the allocation for that road district shall be a percentage of the maximum allocation equal to the percentage obtained by dividing the rate extended by the district by 0.08%. In DuPage County, if the amount of the tax levy requires the extension of the tax against the taxable property in the road district at a rate that is less than the lesser of (i) 0.08% of the value of the taxable property in the road district, based upon the assessment for the year immediately prior to the year in which such tax was levied and as equalized by the Department of Revenue, or (ii) a rate that will yield an amount equal to \$12,000 per mile of road under the jurisdiction of the road district, then the amount of the allocation for the road district shall be a percentage of the maximum allocation equal to the percentage obtained by dividing the rate extended by the district by the lesser of (i) 0.08% or (ii) the rate that will yield an amount equal to \$12,000 per mile of road under the jurisdiction of the road district.

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Prior to 2011, if any road district has levied a special tax for road purposes pursuant to Sections 6-601, 6-602, and 6-603 of the Illinois Highway Code, and such tax was levied in an amount which would require extension at a rate of not less than .08% of the value of the taxable property thereof, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue, or, in DuPage County, an amount equal to or greater than \$12,000 per mile of road under the jurisdiction of the road district, whichever is less, such levy shall, however, be deemed a proper compliance with this Section and shall qualify such road district for an allotment under this Section. Beginning in 2011 and thereafter, if any road district has levied a special tax for road purposes under Sections 6-601, 6-602, and 6-603 of the Illinois Highway Code, and the tax was levied in an amount that would require extension at a rate of not less than 0.08% of the value of the taxable property of that road district, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue or, in DuPage County, an amount equal to or greater than \$12,000 per mile of road under the jurisdiction of the road district, whichever is less, that levy shall be deemed a proper compliance with this Section and shall qualify such road district for a full, rather than proportionate, allotment under this Section. If the levy for the special tax is less than 0.08% of the value of the taxable property, or, in DuPage County if the levy for the special tax is less than the lesser of (i) 0.08% or (ii) \$12,000 per mile of road under the

jurisdiction of the road district, and if the levy for the special tax is more than any other levy for road and bridge purposes, then the levy for the special tax qualifies the road district for a proportionate, rather than full, allotment under this Section. If the levy for the special tax is equal to or less than any other levy for road and bridge purposes, then any allotment under this Section shall be determined by the other levy for road and bridge purposes.

Prior to 2011, if a township has transferred to the road and bridge fund money which, when added to the amount of any tax levy of the road district would be the equivalent of a tax levy requiring extension at a rate of at least .08%, or, in DuPage County, an amount equal to or greater than \$12,000 per mile of road under the jurisdiction of the road district, whichever is less, such transfer, together with any such tax levy, shall be deemed a proper compliance with this Section and shall qualify the road district for an allotment under this Section.

In counties in which a property tax extension limitation is imposed under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, road districts may retain their entitlement to a motor fuel tax allotment or, beginning in 2011, their entitlement to a full allotment if, at the time the property tax extension limitation was imposed, the road district was levying a road and bridge tax at a rate sufficient to entitle it to a motor fuel tax allotment and continues to levy the maximum allowable

amount after the imposition of the property tax extension limitation. Any road district may in all circumstances retain its entitlement to a motor fuel tax allotment or, beginning in 2011, its entitlement to a full allotment if it levied a road and bridge tax in an amount that will require the extension of the tax against the taxable property in the road district at a rate of not less than 0.08% of the assessed value of the property, based upon the assessment for the year immediately preceding the year in which the tax was levied and as equalized by the Department of Revenue or, in DuPage County, an amount equal to or greater than \$12,000 per mile of road under the jurisdiction of the road district, whichever is less.

As used in this Section, the term "road district" means any road district, including a county unit road district, provided for by the Illinois Highway Code; and the term "township or district road" means any road in the township and district road system as defined in the Illinois Highway Code. For the purposes of this Section, "township or district road" also includes such roads as are maintained by park districts, forest preserve districts and conservation districts. The Department of Transportation shall determine the mileage of all township and district roads for the purposes of making allotments and allocations of motor fuel tax funds for use in road districts.

Payment of motor fuel tax moneys to municipalities and counties shall be made as soon as possible after the allotment

- 1 is made. The treasurer of the municipality or county may
- 2 invest these funds until their use is required and the
- 3 interest earned by these investments shall be limited to the
- 4 same uses as the principal funds.
- 5 (Source: P.A. 102-16, eff. 6-17-21; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21;
- 6 102-699, eff. 4-19-22; 103-8, eff. 6-7-23.)
- 7 Section 10. The Counties Code is amended by adding Section
- 8 5-1192 as follows:
- 9 (55 ILCS 5/5-1192 new)
- 10 Sec. 5-1192. Dissolution of townships with a population of
- 11 less than 500. If a township dissolves as provided in Article
- 12 24.5 of the Township Code, the county containing the
- 13 geographic boundaries of the dissolving township shall assume
- 14 the powers, duties, and obligations of the dissolved township
- as provided in Article 24.5 of the Township Code.
- 16 Section 15. The Township Code is amended by adding Article
- 17 24.5 as follows:
- 18 (60 ILCS 1/Art. 24.5 heading new)
- 19 ARTICLE 24.5. DISSOLUTION OF TOWNSHIPS WITH A POPULATION LESS
- 20 <u>THAN 500</u>
- 21 (60 ILCS 1/24.5-5 new)

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Sec. 24.5-5. Dissolving townships with a population of

less than 500. All townships with a population less than 500

are dissolved 2 years after the effective date of this

amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly.

(60 ILCS 1/24.5-10 new)

Sec. 24.5-10. Dissolution; transfer of rights and duties.
(a) When a township is dissolved under Section 24.5-5:

(1) On or before the date of dissolution, all real and personal property, and any other assets, together with all personnel, contractual obligations, and liabilities of the dissolving township and road districts wholly within the boundaries of the dissolving township shall be transferred to the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township. All funds of the dissolved township and dissolved road districts shall be used solely on behalf of the residents of the geographic area within the boundaries of the dissolved township.

After the transfer of property to the county under this paragraph, all park land, cemetery land, buildings, and facilities within the geographic area of the dissolving township must be utilized for the primary benefit of the geographic area of the dissolving township.

Proceeds from the sale of the park land, cemetery land, buildings, or facilities after transfer to the county must be utilized for the sole benefit of the geographic area of

the dissolved township.

(2) On and after the date of dissolution, all rights and duties of the dissolved township may be exercised by the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township solely on behalf of the residents of the geographic area within the boundaries of the dissolved township. The duties that may be exercised by the county include, but are not limited to, the administration of a dissolved township's general assistance program, maintenance and operation of a dissolved township's cemeteries, and the chief county assessment officer of the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township exercising the duties of the township assessor.

(3) The county board of the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township shall not extend a property tax levy that is greater than 25% of the property tax levy extended by the dissolved township or road districts for the duties taken on by the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township. This property tax levy may not be extended outside the boundaries of the dissolved township. In all subsequent years, this levy shall be bound by the provisions of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law.

A tax levy extended under this paragraph may be used for the purposes allowed by the statute authorizing the

tax levy or to pay liabilities of the dissolved township or dissolved road districts that were transferred to the county under paragraph (1). The taxpayers within the boundaries of the dissolved township are responsible to pay any liabilities transferred to the county: the county shall reduce spending within the boundaries of the former township in the amount necessary to pay off any liabilities transferred to the county under paragraph (1) that are not covered by the assets enumerated in paragraph (1) or taxes under this paragraph.

- (4) All road districts wholly within the boundaries of the dissolving township are dissolved on the date of dissolution of the dissolving township, and all powers and responsibilities of each road district are transferred to the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township except as provided in paragraph (5).
- (5) The county board of the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township shall give written notice to each municipality whose governing board meets within the boundaries of a dissolving township that the municipality may make an offer, on or before 60 days after the date of dissolution of the dissolving township, that the municipality will assume all of the powers and responsibilities of a road district or road districts wholly inside the dissolving township. The notice shall be sent to each municipality on or before 30

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days after the date of dissolution of the township. Any eligible municipality may, with consent of its governing board, make an offer to assume all of the powers and responsibilities of the dissolving township's road district or road districts. A municipality may offer to assume the powers and responsibilities only for a limited period of time. If one or more offers are received by the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township on or before 60 days after the date of dissolution of the dissolving township, the county board of the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township shall select the best offer or offers that the board determines would be in the best interest and welfare of the affected resident population. If no municipality makes an offer or if no satisfactory offer is made, the powers and duties of the dissolving township's road district or road districts are retained by the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township. The municipality that assumes the powers and duties of the dissolving township's road district or road districts shall not extend a road district property tax levy under Division 5 of Article 6 of the Illinois Highway Code that is greater than 25% of the road district property tax levy that was extended by the county on behalf of the dissolving township's road district or road districts for the duties taken on by the municipality.

	(6) On the date of dissolution of the township or road
<u>d</u> :	strict, elected and appointed township officers and road
C	ommissioners shall cease to hold office. An elected o
ar	opointed township official or township road commissione
sł	nall not be compensated for any other duties performed
ai	fter the dissolution of the township or road distric
tł	nat they represented. An elected township official o
to	ownship road commissioner shall not have legal recourse
re	elating to the ceasing of their elected or appointed
	ositions upon the ceasing of their position.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon 12 becoming law.