

NEWS...

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Rep. Fine Advances Ethics Expansion Out of Committee

GLENVIEW, IL – A measure sponsored by state Rep. Laura Fine (D-Glenview) to increase transparency and accountability of public officials, unanimously advanced out of the House State Government Administration Committee last week.

“All public servants must be held accountable to the public, including individuals who are appointed by elected officials,” said Fine. “This measure fills a gap in the law to ensure proper oversight and appropriate internal controls of government appointed boards. It is a strong step in the right direction of transparency in government.”

House Bill 4208 expands on Public Act 98-0457 and states that any officials appointed by the County Board President or Chair must abide by the same code of ethics as elected officials. Public Act 98-0457 resulted from recommendations made by the Cook County Inspector General’s Office after an investigation of three Northfield Woods Sanitary District trustees. The investigation found that the three trustees overpaid themselves by more than \$264,000 from 2008 to 2011. Additionally, and without any authorization, the trustees created and contributed to a pension plan. This new bill expands the scope of the act and applies the ethics laws of the jurisdiction of the inspector general to appointees by a County Board, acting as a whole, or any individual member of a County Board.

“This legislation increases transparency and ethical standards even more, and protects hard-working taxpayers’ money from being wasted,” said Fine. “I will continue to advocate for stronger ethics laws that hold public officials accountable to the people they serve.”

For more information on future meetings or other upcoming events, please contact Fine’s constituent service office at 847-998-1717 or email RepFine@gmail.com. The 17th Representative District includes all or portions of Evanston, Glenview, Golf, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Skokie and Wilmette.

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