Legislative overview on current/pending urban flooding and stormwater bills

Calumet Stormwater Collaborative - September 8, 2017

Hal Sprague
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Urban Flooding Awareness Act
Illinois Legislature (2014)

Directed IL DNR to conduct study of urban flooding across entire state

Reviewed claims data: NFIP & Private Insurance
Total urban claims paid: 497,265
Total cost: $2,319,164,168

(8 years – census block aggregation)
Density: ~2,530/sq.mi.
(Report: June 2015)

>92% of claims outside floodplains

33 Recommendations:

- IL General Assembly (15)
- IL Congressional Delegation (3)
- Local Government (9)
- State Government (6)
Illinois General Assembly

Grant all counties authority to adopt countywide stormwater ordinances, projects and programs.

Rationale:
• Counties in Illinois have significant resources
• County SW programs are very effective
• At a larger scale, and with a consistency that many small programs cannot
• Avoid competitive lowering of standards
Currently, 16 urban counties have authority to develop countywide stormwater management plans and adopt ordinances to implement them.

SB 1337 grants this authority to all counties containing all or part of an “urbanized area” — about 32 — without the need for a referendum. It grants the authority to any other county that passes a referendum.

Not a mandate, but allows counties to consolidate the existing stormwater management framework into a united, countywide structure.

Requires counties to evaluate and address urban flooding problems.

In standard setting, requires emphasis on use of cost-effective solutions (green infrastructure).

Allows counties to provide needed financial assistance, in the form of grants, to municipalities, non-profits and other units of local government.

Newly established SW commissions must include representatives from drainage districts and soil & water conservations districts.
SB 1337 – ILCS §§5-1062

**Senate sponsors:** S. Rezin (R), M. Bush (D), P. Althoff (R), H. Steans (D)

**House sponsors:** M. Fortner (R), K. Cassidy (D), M. Moylan (D)

**Status:**
May 29: passed in Senate (42-6-0), went to House, assigned to Rules.
May 30: assigned to Executive Comm.
May 31: re-assigned to Rules.
Other Bills in 2017 ILGA

HB 1778 – Martwick; creates homestead exemption of $1000 for homestead property on which a retention basin has been constructed in the taxable year.

HB 2756 – Fortner; parallel bill to SB 1337
UFAA – Potential Local Government Actions

- Pre-disaster planning
- Stormwater flow pathways
- Property flood risk assessment programs
- Ordinances to require reduction in impervious surfaces, installation of green infrastructure
- Real-time monitoring of sewer systems
- Update storm sewer atlas with size and design data
- Participate in NFIP, CRS programs
- Participate in IAFSM
- Upgrade building code re below grade construction