

Village of Tinley Park

News Release



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New tourism bill to attract out-of-state events to Tinley Park Convention Center

Gov. Bruce Rauner last week signed Senate Bill 508, a tourism promotion bill that will provide grants to assist the Tinley Park Convention Center and other mid-size convention centers in Illinois in pursuing more events and trade shows currently held out of state.

These grants, which will be self-funded via revenue generated from the events, are part of a five-year pilot program and will be provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The grants will not exceed \$200,000 annually.

“This grant money will help Tinley Park attract out-of-state conventions, which will in turn generate more revenue for the Village via new visitors who will buy our gas, shop in our stores, eat at our restaurants and stay in our hotels,” Tinley Park Mayor David G. Seaman said. “I’d like to thank Sen. Mike Hastings, Rep. Al Riley, Rep. Margo McDermed, Rep. Bob Rita, Sen. Bill Cunningham and Sen. Emil Jones III for their support for this bill on the state level.”

Officials said the grant money could help bring conventions and conferences from elsewhere in the country to Illinois by helping to lower group rates on hotel rooms or offering transportation incentives.

“Other states currently have similar programs that allow them to aggressively pursue out-of-state conventions,” Village Manager Dave Niemeyer said. “This grant program will help level the playing field and allow Tinley Park to competitively pursue these very same conventions.”

(more)

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The bill states that qualifying facilities must be owned by a local unit of government or convention center authority and must have between 30,000 and 125,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space, criteria which the Tinley Park Convention Center meets. Other qualifying facilities include centers in Schaumburg, Peoria and Lombard.

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