

## House leaders may hold tax hearings

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A plan to protect taxpayers from paying more than they expected from voter-approved tax-rate increases has drawn the attention of the top House Democrat, and could face swift approval if everything goes smoothly.

Speaker Mike Madigan is considering a hearing on the proposal — introduced by first-year state Rep. Mike Tryon of Crystal Lake — which seeks to limit the amount of money taxing bodies collect from rate increases.

“I know that there are some concerns about whether (the proposal) does what the representative actually expects it to do,” said Steve Brown, Madigan’s spokesman, “and whether it truly solves the problem that some people think exists. I don’t know that any final decision has been made on hearings.”

A Daily Herald analysis, published Sunday, of 25 school districts in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties showed that, over the past five years, the school districts collected \$204 million more than most school officials would have told voters.

“There needs to be a comfort level in the leadership of the House that we’re solving a problem,” Tryon, a Republican, said, “and not solving one and creating another. If they’re convinced that’s the case, I think we’ll be voting on it rather quickly.”

Absent an extension, Friday is the deadline for any proposal to make it out of the House.

“There’s always the option of extending the deadline,” Brown said. “That may be something that happens.”

The proposal also picked up four new supporters Tuesday, upping the total to 17 lawmakers who have backed the legislation.

Carolyn Krause, a Republican from Mount Prospect, added her name as a chief co-sponsor of the proposal, and Republicans Ronald Wait of Belvidere, Shane Cultra of Onarga and Sidney Mathias of Buffalo Grove signed on as sponsors.

- Daily Herald State Government Editor John Patterson contributed to this report.