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Airport bill gets new sponsor

5/24/08

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State representatives swapped spots to sponsor a bill to give Will County control of the state's proposed south suburban airport.

State Rep. Brent Hassert, R-Romeoville, initially sponsored the legislation that cleared the Senate on April 17. But state Rep. Lisa Dugan, D-Kankakee, asked for -- and received -- permission from Hassert to take over as the bill's sponsor.

Dugan said she did this "because it's in my district."

"Since Sen. (Debbie) Halvorson is the senator representing that district, and I'm the representative representing that district, it only makes sense," Dugan said.

Halvorson, D-Crete, sponsored the bill in the Senate.

The bill would create a board of seven members to oversee an airport near Peotone. Five members would come from Will County, with an appointee each from Cook and Kankakee counties.

Hassert said he handed off the bill willingly.

"Lisa Dugan came up to me and asked to be the lead sponsor and I let her because the airport is in her district," he said.

"Authorship is not a pride of mine," Hassert added. "It's getting the job done."

Hassert said he hoped the switch would propel the bill into law.

"Obviously I want this bill to move forward," he said. "It came out of the Senate and it's been stymied in the House."

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