

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

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The Fall 2021 Veto Session has wrapped up, and the Illinois General Assembly is looking at a shorter session for spring 2022. The House of Representatives calendar ([HERE](#)) and the Senate calendar ([HERE](#)) have been released; both chambers are scheduled to return for session **January 4 – April 8, 2022**. While this might seem like an abbreviated session, lawmakers have managed to pack in just as many scheduled session days, if not more, than if a regular May 31 adjournment had been set. The 2022 session will be a long sprint so legislators can get back to their home districts to campaign ahead of the June 28 primary.

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 4: Second Half of the 102nd General Assembly Convenes
- January 7: Senate Legislative Reference Bureau Deadline
- January 14: House Legislative Reference Bureau Deadline
- January 21: Senate Bill Introduction Deadline
- January 28: House Bill Introduction Deadline
- February 2: Governor's Joint State of the State and Budget Address
- February 10: Senate Committee Deadline
- February 18: House Committee Deadline
- February 25: Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- March 4: House 3rd Reading Deadline

LEGISLATION SWITCHES CHAMBERS

- March 25: House and Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House and Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE MAPS

On Thursday evening, House and Senate Democrats released a fourth draft of a redistricted **congressional map**. The map can be found [HERE](#); the associated demographic data can be found [HERE](#). Congressional redistricting text was filed as [Senate Amendment 1](#) to House Bill 1291. The Senate approved the fourth version of the map by a 41-18 vote, followed by the House with a vote of 71-43.

In this version, a new opportunity district was created for Latino representation. US Reps. **Chuy Garcia** and **Marie Newman** were drawn into the 4th District together. Newman, however, has since announced a re-election campaign challenging **Sean Casten** in the 6th District. **Mary Miller** and **Mike Bost** are still together in the 12th District. Bost has already announced his reelection bid. **Adam Kinzinger** and **Darin LaHood** are mapped together in the 16th District. The morning after the map was approved by the legislature, however, Kinzinger announced that he will NOT seek re-election, while LaHood announced that he will run again.

The only other GOP incumbent, **Rodney Davis**, was drawn into a safe GOP district (the 15th District), likely to dissuade him from running for Governor. That is, unless any of his colleagues also want to run there as Miller’s home is just a mile outside of Davis’ district. Democrats crafted the map to win 14 of the 17 congressional seats in the state.

A **redistricting lawsuit** filed earlier this month (which alleged that the latest Democratic-passed legislative redistricting plan “cracked” Black East St. Louis residents from a majority Black district to help shore up a neighboring white district) has been lumped in with two existing suits over legislative maps. That case will likely reach a decision by the end of the year.



LEGISLATION PASSED BY BOTH CHAMBERS THIS WEEK

PAID COVID LEAVE FOR EDUCATORS

Gov. Pritzker is threatening to veto a proposal that would allow educators to be able to isolate for COVID-19 without having to use their sick days. [House Bill 2778](#) will require all school districts, community colleges, and public universities to allow their employees ample paid leave to abide by “public health guidance, mandates and requirements issued by the Department of Public Health.” The amendments would also apply if an educator has a child who must isolate after virus exposure.

HEALTH CARE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE ACT AMENDMENT

The Illinois House voted 64-52 and the Senate voted 31-24 to pass [Senate Bill 1169](#), which amends the Health Care Right of Conscience Act to shield employers from civil suits if they enforce COVID vaccine testing mandates. House Sponsor Robyn Gabel (D-Evanston) said that the bill would correct the misuse of a state law that was established decades ago primarily to prevent health care providers from being forced to provide abortions. Currently, the law allows individuals to object to receiving or participating in health care services on moral or religious grounds. If Gov. JB Pritzker signs the bill, which is expected, the law will specifically exempt treatments such as vaccines that prevent the contraction or transmission of COVID-19. In other words, individuals could no longer legally use a moral or religious argument to skirt a COVID-19 vaccine or testing requirement.

REPEAL OF THE PARENTAL NOTICE OF ABORTION ACT OF 1995

Senators voted 32-22 and the House voted 62-51 to pass [House Bill 370](#), which would repeal the state law that requires doctors and other health care providers to notify the parents of a minor seeking an abortion. In addition to the repeal, the legislation creates the Youth Health and Safety Act, which “seeks to restate Illinois’ commitment to full and equitable access to reproductive health care for all persons across the State, without barriers based on race or ethnicity, immigration status, age, geographic location, economic means, education level, or other categories of identity. The Act confirms that Illinois will not move backwards and will continue to assure that reproductive rights are protected and recognized.” It also creates a new Youth Health and Safety Advisory Working Group to identify and review laws that impact pregnant youth, parenting youth, and those that may become pregnant or a parent. The Governor has indicated he will sign the bill.

REIMAGINING ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN ILLINOIS ACT – THE REV ACT

[House Bill 1769](#), a package of tax credits and incentives meant to encourage the development of the electric vehicle industry in Illinois, passed the Senate 55-0 and later passed the House 110-2-1. The Governor is expected to sign the bill. Businesses involved in the electric vehicle industry, from automakers to parts and battery manufacturers, would be eligible for income tax credits based on the amount of new jobs they create and construction credits for building facilities.

GAMING

[House Bill 3136](#), which passed the state Senate 44-12 and the House 100-11, would allow for some betting on in-state college sports teams. Bets will be permitted on the final outcome of games -- but not individual performance -- and would have to be placed in person at a casino. The bill would also prevent additional municipalities from enacting a “push tax,” which is placed on each bet made at video gaming terminals. However, the handful of cities that have already enacted the tax will be grandfathered in, allowing them to continue collecting the tax, which has been subject to several lawsuits. The bill also caps an annual fee that non-home rule municipalities can charge on video gaming terminals at \$250, up from \$25. Additionally, Illinois residents would be able to sign up for sports betting accounts from their phones or computers beginning March 5, 2022, instead of doing so in person at a casino as required under the 2019 law.

MIDWIFE LICENSURE

[House Bill 3401](#) will create the Licensed Certified Professional Midwife Practice Act to set standards for the qualifications, education, training, and experience of people who seek to be licensed as certified professional midwives. Currently, 25 states recognize certified professional midwives as health care professionals who can supervise home births. Illinois does not currently recognize CPMs, as the occupation does not require a nursing degree. Instead, the state only recognizes certified nurse midwives who are advanced-practice registered nurses. Advocates of this legislation have been trying to license the profession for 43 years.

ELECTION OMNIBUS LEGISLATION

[Senate Bill 536](#) was passed to clean up some provisions and include other items after the General Assembly passed a much larger election bill in the spring. The bill creates a task force to explore access to voting for persons with disabilities, enables voters to select a non-binary option when designating the applicant’s sex of the voter registration form, makes changes concerning 2022 general primary election and general election dates and signature requirements, increases election precinct sizes, establishes that at least one voting booth at a polling place accessible to voters with disabilities is wheelchair accessible, clarifies ballots at drop boxes must be collected on days prior to election day but not at a specific time, and many other changes. Additionally, the bill would bar direct contributions to judicial campaigns from dark money groups and out-of-state sources.

ENERGY PACKAGE BILL

[House Bill 3666](#) was billed as a “technical clean-up.” The bill requires any grant or rebate applicants for installation of an electric vehicle charging station must comply with the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act; contractors and subcontractors on High Impact Business construction jobs must file diversity reports; wind energy and solar energy supplies must submit an annual report on procurement goals and

minority spending; the incremental change to specified charges are not applicable to utilities serving less than 100,000 customers (not 25,000 customers); the start date for the assessment of a monthly Energy Assistance Charge is fixed; construction of a new utility scale solar power facility by a High Impact Business, electric vehicle charging station projects financed under the Act, and renewable energy projects are required to pay prevailing wage as “public works;” and other changes.

CHICAGO SCHOOL BOARD

House and Senate lawmakers approved a measure that tweaks the law passed earlier this year for a fully elected Chicago school board by 2027. The bill would remove a requirement that Chicago’s mayor receive City Council approval for appointments of 10 board members and the board president when a partially elected, partially appointed board takes effect after the November 2024 election. The measure also specifies that the board positions will be unpaid.

TRANSPORTATION OMNIBUS BILL

[House Bill 106](#) contains cleanup language for the Secretary of State’s office and some fare percentage relief for the Chicago Regional Transit Authority. The bill also allows airline employees to use already-earned sick time to care for sick family members.

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COVID

The seven-day statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total test is 1.8%. Of Illinois’ total population, 69% have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 54% of Illinois’ total population is fully vaccinated.

PROVIDERS PREPARING FOR VACCINATIONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 11

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued emergency use authorization for Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. Illinois is expected to receive an initial allotment of 306,000 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, as well as 73,000 specifically for the city of Chicago and over 100,000 for pharmacy partners. Overall, the state expects to receive about 500,000 doses next week; there are about 1.1 million children between ages 5-11 in Illinois. More than 2,200 locations have volunteered to administer the shots, including more than 700 pharmacies, 700 pediatric and family medicine practices, and 200 hospitals. IDPH is also overseeing outreach to 756 elementary school districts across the state to offer parent-approved vaccination clinics on school grounds.

ANOTHER UNION VACCINE AGREEMENT

The state of Illinois has entered into the largest union agreement yet regarding vaccines for 7,800 state employees represented by AFSCME within the departments of Human Services and Veterans’ Affairs. Nearly 10,000 state workers are now covered under union vaccine agreements. In addition to the announced agreements, the state and AFSCME have reached an impasse at the bargaining table for employees at the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice. The next steps for those bargaining units are as follows:

- For roughly 10,300 security employees at the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice, the state and the union will submit to interest arbitration.

- For an additional 1,900 non-security employees at those two departments, the state has informed AFSCME that it will implement the following terms: employees must get their first shot by October 26 and their second shot by November 30. This is in accordance with state law.

GOVERNOR AND TOP STAFF TO ATTEND UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN GLASGOW

The Governor and top staff will arrive in London, England on November 2 and spend two days meeting with business leaders to discuss economic development opportunities and prospects for investment within the state's burgeoning green economy. On November 5, the Illinois delegation will attend the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland. According to a press release from the Governor's office, the Governor will share how Illinois is becoming the leading state in the Midwest on climate action and clean energy.

For more information on state legislative and public policy issues, please contact:

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