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## ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report November 13, 2023

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*Illinois legislators convened in Springfield for the final week of the fall 2024 veto session last week. They acted on several major initiatives – and left without addressing some others. Both chambers adjourned until **January 16, 2024**, and released calendars for the 2024 Spring Session (click here for the [House](#) calendar and [Senate](#) calendar).*

### BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS DURING VETO SESSION

- [Senate Bill 382](#) (Edly-Allen/Gong-Gershowitz): Deepfake trailer bill to clarify definitions in the Civil Remedies for Nonconsensual Dissemination of Private Sexual Images Act
- [SB 384](#) (Feigenholtz/Moeller): Electric Vehicle Charging Act trailer bill to clarify provisions related to EV-capable parking space requirements and residential requirements
- [SB 385](#) (Belt/Hoffman): Restricts units of local government from enforcing any ordinance that would restrict development of an inoperable state facility conveyed to the unit of local government for recreational purpose
- [SB 584](#) (Cunningham/Didech): Three minor gaming changes
- [SB 690](#) (Castro/Didech): Validates certain tax levies for community mental health boards to ensure local referenda previously passed are effective
- [SB 696](#) (Aquino/Huyhn): Omnibus TIF extension bill
- [SB 765](#) (Harris/Jones): Amends the Farm Mutual Insurance Company Act to provide for catastrophic reinsurance limits
- [SB 950](#) (Bryant/Friess): Quit claim Illinois Department of Corrections property
- [SB 1559](#) (Ford/Lightford): Implements a two-year moratorium on issuing new cannabis transporter licenses. License holders will also have a two-year holiday from paying annual fees.
- [SB 1629](#) (Martwick/Kifowit): Modifies final average salary calculations for Tier 2 Chicago fire fighters
- [SB 1699](#) (Walsh/Cunningham): Energy Omnibus legislation passed in the spring ([House Bill 3445](#)) without the ROFR language amendatorily vetoed by the Governor
- [SB 1769](#) (Ventura/Hoffman): Creates the Government Zero-Emission Vehicle Act
- [SB 1956](#) (Slaughter/Martwick): Grants an annual 3% non-compounded COLA to all Tier 1 Chicago Police retirees who reach age 55 with 20 years of service, effectively removing a birthdate restriction on eligibility
- [SB 1988](#) (Castro/Burke): Clarifies property tax assessment appeal timeline
- [HB 351](#) (Harmon/Tarver): Clarifies what information notaries public must retain for purposes of petitions
- [HB 1358](#) (Glowiak Hilton/Burke): Sunset extension bill
- [HB 2104](#) (Villivalam/Delgado): Adds water safety instruction with respect to safety education for students enrolled in pre-K through 6th grade

- [HB 2394](#) (Glowiak Hilton/Morgan): Expedites the process to enable the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to procure new software to speed up the licensing process for all industries across the state; and enables IDFPD to extend expiration dates or renewal periods if the secretary finds operational need to do so or if it would avoid hardship on a profession's licensees
- [HB 2473](#) (Rezin/Yednock): Ends the moratorium on construction of new nuclear energy plants in the state and addresses concerns that Gov. JB Pritzker had with a similar bill ([SB 76](#)) that he vetoed
- [HB 3641](#) (Joyce/Burke): State government omnibus bill, including an extension for the equal pay provisions for day and temporary labor to April 1, 2024
- The General Assembly also voted to accept the amendatory veto on [HB 2878](#) (Hoffman/Castro), an omnibus procurement bill that, among many other things, would have authorized public-private partnerships for local transportation projects, which the Governor vetoed out of the bill.

### MAJOR ISSUES NOT PASSED DURING VETO SESSION

- House Speaker Chris Welch held to an internal rule to require 71 Democratic votes before calling a vote on a bill that would extend the controversial **Invest in Kids** scholarship program, but Democrats were nowhere near that level of support for the plan. Invest in Kids is a scholarship program where low-income kids are sent to private schools using tax-deductible donations to a charity. About 9,500 kids are taking part in the program this year. The program will expire on December 31, 2023.
- An agreement could not be reached on a bill to alter the plan to transition **Chicago Public Schools** from an appointed to an elected school board. Both the House and the Senate passed alternative proposals – neither of which garnered the support of the other chamber. The General Assembly still has until April 1, 2024, to pass a new map for CPS.
- The Senate did not consider legislation passed by the House to enable **legislative staff to unionize**.
- The Senate did not consider the **omnibus property tax legislation** ([SB 2315](#)) passed by the House, which removed language amendatorily vetoed by the Governor out of [HB 2507](#).
- Rather than calling the veto on [HB 3643](#), a bill to create **school options for halal and kosher foods**, the Senate sponsor passed new language on [SB 457](#) over to the House, which did not call the bill for a vote.
- The Senate sponsor for vetoed [SB 1515](#) filed alternative language on [SB 508](#) to add restrictions on the use of the **E-verify system** to ensure privacy for workers. SB 508 passed the Senate but was not called for a vote in the House.

### KEY 2024 SESSION DATES FOR THE 103<sup>RD</sup> ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- January 16: First Session Day for the 2nd year of the 103rd General Assembly
- January 19: Deadline – House & Senate Requests to the Legislative Reference Bureau
- February 9: Deadline – Introduction of House & Senate Bills
- February 21: Governor's State of the State/Budget Address
- March 10: Deadline – Senate Bills out of Senate Committee
- March 19: Primary Election
- April 5: Deadline – House Bills out of House Committee
- April 12: Deadline – Third Reading Senate Bills in the Senate
- April 19: Deadline – Third Reading House Bills in the House
- May 3: Deadline – House Bills out of Senate Committee & Senate Bills out of House Committee

- May 17: Deadline – Third Reading House Bills in Senate & Senate Bills in House
- May 24: Adjournment
- May 25-31: *Contingent Session Days for the Budget*

### **CANDIDATE PETITION FILING PERIOD**

November 27 is the first day for potential candidates to file nominating petitions for the March 19, 2024, primary election. December 4 is the last day. Candidates have until December 11 to challenge each other's petitions.

### **STATE RECEIVES CREDIT UPGRADE FROM FITCH RATINGS**

All three major ratings agencies now rate Illinois in the "A" category after Fitch Ratings upgraded the state's bond rating from "BBB+" to "A-" on November 7. The upgrade is the ninth that the state has received in just over two years. Credit upgrades generally make it cheaper for the state to borrow money, playing a major role in investors' assessment of risk in buying state bonds. Fitch Ratings cited prudent use of revenue surpluses to the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and Rainy-Day Fund as a reason for the upgrade. It also noted the state's efforts to pay down outstanding debts and eliminate its bill backlog. In addition, Fitch said that the Fiscal Year 2024 state budget supports a continued stable fiscal path.

### **LOU SANDOVAL CHOSEN TO HEAD ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Lou Sandoval has been named president and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce after a national search by the organization's board of directors. Sandoval currently serves as president and managing partner of the Halo Advisory Group, working with early-stage, growth companies and Fortune 500 clients. He succeeds longtime Chamber president Todd Maisch, who died earlier this year.

### **IDVA MONITORING INCREASED COVID-19 LEVELS AT MANTENO VETERANS HOME**

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs announced November 8 that it is monitoring increased COVID-19 cases at the Manteno Veterans Home. A total of 19 residents and 11 staff tested positive and were experiencing mild symptoms. None have been hospitalized.

### **NEW FERMILAB QUANTUM RESEARCH LAB OPENS**

Fermilab opened a new Superconducting Quantum Materials and System Centers Garage in Batavia. The garage is one of five U.S. Department of Energy National Quantum Information Science Research Centers. As one of the largest quantum research facilities in the world, it will bring together experts from across the world to collaborate on quantum technology projects. The 6,800-acre campus will serve as the home for a collaboration of over 50 counties and a consortium of 90 research facilities, including the University of Chicago. The Pritzker administration has invested \$200 million in the Chicago Quantum Exchange through the Rebuild Illinois capital plan. Illinois is the only state in the nation to house two National Quantum Labs. Fermilab and the Argonne National Laboratory were each selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to receive a \$115 million grant as part of the federal program.

## **NEW GRANT TO FUND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS IN AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERN**

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency announced that the Residential Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program – previously known as the Low-Income Residential Energy Efficiency Program or LIREE -- has up to \$5,000,000 in funding available for energy efficiency upgrades at single family or duplex residential properties. The Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program will benefit residents receiving housing assistance from a state or federal housing assistance program located in areas of environmental justice concern. Eligible applicants include public housing authorities, units of local government (municipalities, counties, or townships), or nonprofit organizations. Examples of eligible projects include window replacement, heating and cooling equipment retrofits, and lighting upgrades. Total project costs may range from \$25,000 - \$500,000, with a match requirement subject to total funding request.

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

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