

#### KEY 2025 SESSION DATES FOR THE 104<sup>TH</sup> ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*The deadline to request a bill is Friday, January 24. The Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau has implemented a black out period during which it will not accept requests for bills or amendments, beginning at 5 PM on January 24 through noon on February 7.*

- January 24: Deadline – House & Senate LRB Requests  
*LRB black out period begins until 2/7*
- February 7: Deadline – Introduction of House & Senate Bills  
*LRB amendment requests begin*
- February 19: Governor’s State of the State/Budget Address
- March 21: Deadline – House & Senate Bills Out of Committee of Origin
- April 12: Deadline – House & Senate Third Reading Deadline
- May 7: **ICCTA LOBBY DAY**
- May 9: Deadline – House Bills out of Senate Committee & Senate Bills out of House Committee
- May 23: Deadline – Third Reading Deadline for House Bills in Senate & Senate Bills in House
- May 31: Adjournment

#### JANUARY 2025 LAME DUCK SESSION UPDATE

Lawmakers returned to Springfield for the lame duck session on Saturday afternoon, January 4, and continued through Tuesday, January 7. They will return to Springfield when session resumes on January 25.

During lame duck, the Illinois General Assembly contemplated a range of issues, from public safety and children’s welfare to education, employment, and privacy. Several significant bills were passed and now await Governor JB Pritzker’s signature, including:

1. **House Bill 4144** (Syed, Villanueva): Known as Karina’s Law, this legislation prohibits individuals charged with domestic violence from possessing firearms or firearm parts.
2. **HB 4781** (Evans, Hunter): The KIND Act prioritizes placing foster children with relatives or close family friends and ensures federal funding mechanisms for kinship placements.
3. **HB 4412** (Vella, Cappel): Allows childcare facilities to use third-party vendors for employee and volunteer fingerprint collections.
4. **HB 5164** (Olickal, Villivalam): Eliminates the requirement to publish name changes in newspapers.
5. **HB 5373** (Cassidy, Fine): Updates the Illinois Controlled Substances Act to define chronic pain and protect privacy in prescription monitoring programs.
6. **HB 297** (Davis, Preston): Revises the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act to improve procedures for resolving collective bargaining impasses.
7. **Senate Bill 457** (Villivalam, Olickal): Requires schools, the University of Illinois Hospital, and the Department of Corrections to provide halal and kosher meal options.
8. **HB 2840** (Chung, Faraci): Simplifies hiring processes for youth in seasonal recreation and sports jobs.

9. **SB 2655** (Sims, Slaughter): Expands Freedom of Information Act exemptions to protect sensitive information from public release.
10. **SB 3180** (Castro, Croke): Safeguards employees from retaliation under the One Day Rest in Seven Act.

On January 8, lawmakers gathered to welcome the newly elected members of the 104th General Assembly. The Senate met in its newly renovated chamber, bidding farewell to the Howlett Building it called home for the past two years. The House convened at the University of Illinois Springfield in the Sangamon Auditorium.

Senators nominated Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) as Senate president and John Curran (R-Downers Grove) as Senate minority leader. The House of Representatives, which is now composed of 78 Democrats and 40 Republicans, also celebrated its newest members. Emanuel “Chris” Welch (D-Hillside) was re-elected as House speaker, and Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) was re-elected as House minority leader.

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES APPROVED

According to rules adopted in both chambers, committees were approved for the 104th General Assembly. The House has announced its committee chairs, listed [HERE](#) (with special note that Rep. Dan Swanson, chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee, is a Republican). Senate committee assignments and leadership announcements are expected over the coming weeks.

### HOUSE LEADERSHIP TEAMS ANNOUNCED

#### House Democratic Leadership

Speaker Welch has announced his leadership team for the 104th General Assembly:

- **Majority Leader** – Rep. Robyn Gabel
- **Speaker Pro-Tempore and Co-Budgeteer** – Rep. Kam Buckner
- **Deputy Majority Leaders** - Rep. Robert ‘Bob’ Rita and Rep. Elizabeth ‘Lisa’ Hernandez
- **Assistant Majority Leader and Co-Budgeteer** - Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado, and Rep. Will Guzzardi\*
- **Assistant Majority Leaders** – Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth, Rep. Jay Hoffman, and Rep. Camille Lilly, Rep. Dagmara ‘Dee’ Avelar, Rep. Ann Williams\*, Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.\*, Rep. Curtis J. Tarver II\*, and Rep. Maurice West II\*
- **Majority Conference Chair** – Rep. Theresa Mah
- **Majority Officer/Sergeant at Arms** – Rep. Nicholas Smith
- **Assistant Majority Leader and Floor Whip** - Rep. Katie Stuart\*, Rep. Bob Morgan\*, and Rep. Edgar Gonzalez, Jr.\*

\* Denotes non-stipend leadership positions

Welch also announced the chair of several sub-caucuses in the House Democratic Caucus:

- **Asian Caucus Chair** - Rep. Janet Yang Rohr
- **Black Caucus Chair** - Justin Slaughter
- **Latinx Caucus Chair** - Norma Hernandez
- **Moderate Caucus Chair** - Terra Costa Howard
- **Women’s Caucus** - TBD

Staffing Note: Speaker Welch announced near the end of December that his chief of staff, Tiffany Moy, was leaving. Shortly thereafter, three more top staffers — legislative director Kylie Kelly, chief counsel Kendra Piercy and spokeswoman Jaclyn Driscoll — announced their resignations.

#### House Republican Leadership

Minority Leader McCombie has also announced her leadership team for the 104th General Assembly:

- **Deputy Minority Leaders:** Rep. Norine Hammond and Rep. Ryan Spain

- **Assistant Minority Leaders:** Rep. CD Davidsmeyer, Rep. John Cabello, Rep. Dan Ugaste, Rep. Patrick Windhorst, Rep. Brad Stephens, Rep. Jackie Haas, and Rep. Amy Elik
- **Conference Chair:** Rep. Jeff Keicher

### **MADIGAN TRIAL CONTINUES**

In a significant development during the ongoing corruption trial of former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, the defendant himself took the witness stand to testify in his own defense. Madigan, who faces 23 counts including bribery, racketeering, and wire fraud, provided testimony over several days. He addressed allegations that he used his political influence for personal gain, intertwining his roles as House Speaker, head of the state's Democratic Party, and his private tax firm. He also denied any quid pro quo arrangements, asserting that his actions were part of standard political operations and not intended for personal enrichment. Madigan's decision to testify is considered a high-risk move that could extend the trial into late January, as the prosecution will have an opportunity to cross-examine him. His testimony is expected to continue for several more days, after which the defense will conclude its case.

### **DELTA-8 REGULATION BILL FAILS TO ADVANCE**

HB 4293 (Buckner, Lightford) failed to advance out of the Illinois House during lame duck session. The bill aimed to place sales and marketing regulations on intoxicating CBD substances. Gov. Pritzker threw his support behind the bill out of concern that the unregulated intoxicating hemp market will continue to expand without any regulations guiding production or sale of these products, leaving consumers at risk. At a press conference, Pritzker asserted he is “looking at all the options” the executive branch gives him to bypass the legislature in creating regulations.

### **LEGISLATIVE FOCUS ON CLEAN ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION REFORMS**

During the lame duck session, lawmakers and environmental advocates convened at the State Capitol to push for legislation aimed at transforming Illinois' transportation and energy sectors:

1. **Clean and Equitable Transportation Act (HB 5829/SB 3936)**
  - Sponsored by Rep. Eva-Dine Delgado and Sen. Ram Villivalam, this bill promotes public transit and reduces pollution from personal vehicles.
  - Delgado emphasized its potential to improve public health and tackle climate challenges, while Villivalam described it as a vision for sustainable and equitable transportation.
2. **Renewable Energy Legislation (SB 3637)**
  - Introduced by Sen. Bill Cunningham, this bill sets new regulatory frameworks for municipal and cooperative electric utilities, aiming to enhance state control over energy grids. Cunningham called for bold action to address regulatory challenges.
3. **Water Quality Monitoring (SB 727) – Passed Both Houses**
  - Recently passed legislation, spearheaded by Sen. Mike Simmons, requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to monitor community water supplies for 1,4-Dioxane, a harmful chemical, ensuring environmental and public safety.

These bills, some of which will need to be re-filed in the 104th General Assembly and receive new bill numbers, collectively reflect a legislative push for cleaner air, safer streets, sustainable transit, and robust environmental safeguards.

### **REMINDER TO EMPLOYERS ABOUT SALARY TRANSPARENCY LAW**

IDOL has issued a [press release](#) reminding employers and those seeking employment that, effective January 1, 2025, employers with 15 or more employees must include pay scale and benefit information in job postings. In 2023, Gov. Pritzker signed P.A. 103-0539 into law, amending the Equal Pay Act of 2003.

## **IDOL WAREHOUSE SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT**

On December 19, the Illinois Department of Labor's Warehouse Safety Task Force released its [final report](#). Formed after a 2021 tornado killed six workers at an Amazon warehouse in Edwardsville, the task force has issued recommendations to enhance safety measures for Illinois warehouse workers during severe weather events. Key highlights include:

1. Require site-specific emergency response plans tailored to individual warehouses, following OSHA guidelines.
2. Address gaps in safety training due to multiple employers operating within a single warehouse.
3. Amend the International Building Code to mandate tornado shelters in warehouses, depending on size and occupancy.
4. Promote retrofitting existing warehouses with FEMA-compliant safe rooms.
5. Partner with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System to allocate funds for tornado risks.
6. Highlight facilities like the Parsons Manufacturing Plant in Roanoke as examples of effective severe weather preparedness.

## **ENERGY ADVOCACY GROUPS SCRUTINIZE NICOR GAS'S RATE HIKE**

Nicor Gas, the largest gas utility in Illinois, has filed a \$309 million rate hike proposal with the Illinois Commerce Commission. If approved, this would create a 9% annual increase for customers. Illinois PIRG opposes the increase, pointing out that this would increase Nicor Gas's authorized profit rate from 9.51% to 10.35%, a \$112 million increase. The Citizens Utility Board also urged the ICC to reject the plan.

## **ILLINOIS SECURES \$114M IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO EXPAND EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Gov. Pritzker announced a major win for Illinois in advancing electric vehicle infrastructure, with the state securing \$114 million in federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the largest award nationwide. This funding, coupled with \$39 million in state funds, will significantly expand EV charging accessibility across the state, including Chicagoland, Springfield, Metro East, and the Quad Cities. The state funds, allocated through the Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, will support the construction of 1,476 charging stations at 242 locations, prioritizing Equity Investment Eligible Communities.

## **IDPH APPROVES MEDICAL CANNABIS TREATMENT FOR FOUR HEALTH CONDITIONS**

After consideration from the Medical Cannabis Advisory Board, the Illinois Department of Public Health has approved the addition of four new conditions to the list of medical issues that may be treated with medical cannabis: endometriosis, ovarian cysts, uterine fibroids, and female orgasmic disorder. These additions mark the first time that the list has been changed since 2019. Now, 56 conditions can be treated with medical cannabis in Illinois.

## **ILLINOIS ISSUES FIRST REPORT ON SICKLE CELL GENE AND CELL THERAPY**

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services released its inaugural report addressing innovative payment models for sickle cell disease treatments and other high-cost therapies, following the directives of Executive Order 2024-01. The report provides recommendations to improve financing and equitable access to these transformative treatments, which often exceed \$1 million per patient.

The report also supports Illinois' participation in the new federal Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model, with an initial focus on sickle cell disease. This collaboration aims to implement outcome-based agreements with manufacturers to reduce costs and enhance care quality. Acting HFS Director Elizabeth Whitehorn reaffirmed the goal of promoting healthcare equity, noting that collaboration with federal and state partners will ensure

Medicaid patients can access cutting-edge therapies regardless of their backgrounds. This initiative represents a significant step forward in tackling the challenges of rare disease care and advancing Illinois' healthcare innovation goals.

### **ILLINOIS TO RECEIVE \$17M FOR MATERNAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE**

Illinois has been selected to participate in the Transforming Maternal Health Model, a new federal initiative aimed at improving maternal health outcomes through a more comprehensive, whole-person approach to care. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will provide \$17 million over the next 10 years to help Illinois Medicaid enhance maternal care, addressing physical health, mental health, and social needs throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care.

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

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