



ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report January 17, 2023

It was an eventful week in Springfield.

The lame duck legislative session ended late Tuesday, January 10, with the passage of high-profile legislation. Illinois Democrats are claiming victories on gun control and reproductive rights. They also passed a supplemental appropriation bill for the current fiscal year, paid leave for private employees, an economic development package (including a deal closure fund for the Governor), clean energy changes, an omnibus healthcare package, and other measures.

LAME DUCK LEGISLATION

Governor JB Pritzker has signed the **Protect Illinois Communities Act**, banning the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois, effective immediately. [House Bill 5471](#) also caps sales of high-capacity ammunition magazines, bans “switches” that convert legal handguns into assault weapons and extends the ability of courts to prevent dangerous individuals from possessing a gun through firearm restraining orders. The new law also requires existing owners of semi-automatic rifles to register their ownership.

Gov. Pritzker also signed a plan designed to **safeguard Illinois abortion providers and patients** from legal attacks from GOP-controlled states with abortion bans that seek to block patients from coming here for the procedure. Illinois’ plan also requires health insurers to cover abortion-inducing medication, HIV-prevention drugs, and hormone-therapy medicines used by people transitioning from one gender to another. The Governor has pledged to sign the legislation.

Also, in the waning hours of the 102nd General Assembly, both chambers passed an initiative granting workers five days of **paid leave** per year. The final bill was a compromise that had the backing of key labor and business groups. The measure would take effect January 1, 2024.

Earlier in the week, before the constitutional officers took the oath of office, Gov. Pritzker signed [Senate Bill 1720](#), the second **FY 2023 Budget Implementation Act (BIMP)**. The bill includes **pay raises** for legislators to \$85,000 per year annually, up from just over \$73,345 – a nearly 16% increase to their base salary, as well as increases for constitutional officers and state agency heads. The bill also allows for a \$400 million **business incentive fund** sought by the governor, which is intended to help keep the state competitive in its attempts to draw in more economic development. Other provisions include:

- Establishes Hospital Pandemic Recovery Stabilization Payments and directs the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to disburse \$460 million in emergency stabilization payments for hospitals due to increased staffing and operational costs;
- Authorizes grants, subject to appropriation, to units of local government and public institutions of higher education to hire and retain law enforcement officers;

- Requires the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to seek federal reimbursements for administrative costs associated with the provision of independent legal representation to foster children and their parents;
- Requires the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to create a program to award grants to local chambers of commerce;
- Provides for General Revenue Fund transfers to the Budget Stabilization Fund (\$850 million) and the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund (\$72 million). Increases the cap on the Budget Stabilization Fund from 5% to 7.5% of total general funds estimated for the fiscal year; and
- Eliminates the provision that limits the salaries of agency directors at 85% of the Governor's annual salary.

Lawmakers also approved an **FY23 supplemental appropriation bill**, HB 969. As amended, [HB 969](#) appropriates \$530 million GRF, \$3.6 billion other state funds, and \$78.8 million in federal funds. Some of the highlights include:

- \$10 million GRF to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations for the implementation and administration of a new licensing system for licensed professionals;
- \$43 million in COVID relief funding to independent safety-net hospitals;
- \$850 million GRF for the state's Rainy-Day Fund;
- \$500 million to DCEO from the Large Business Attraction Fund for the Invest in Illinois Program (\$400 million was transferred in the FY23 BIMP);
- \$162 million GRF to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Department of Human Services for costs associated with asylum seekers and \$20 million to the City of Chicago;
- \$12.5 million for developmentally disabled for frontline workers;
- \$25 million GRF for state-operated facilities at DHS;
- \$100 million GRF to the Illinois Department of Information Technology for the Technology Management Revolving Fund;
- \$40 million in CURES/COVID funding to DHS for grants and loans to support permanent supportive housing and emergency shelter;
- \$20 million in CURES/COVID funding to DHS for grants, loans, and expenses associated with the Opening Doors Program;
- Makes several smaller appropriations for supportive housing, housing for homeless persons and homeless youth, and emergency shelters; and
- \$3.12 billion (\$196 million in GRF) for healthcare and MCO costs intended to maximize federal Medicaid match.

[SB 1836](#) corrects an unintended consequence of the **nurse staffing agency** legislation, [HB 4666](#) (PA 102-946). Under the new law, international nurse staffing agencies are no longer able to assign foreign nurses to hospitals in Illinois. SB 1836 makes changes to allow foreign-born nurses, working in cooperation with their international staffing agencies, to once again practice in Illinois hospitals. SB 1836 passed both houses and now heads to the Governor's desk.

[HB 4412](#) makes several **clean energy changes** including: (1) reforming citing requirements for wind and solar; (2) creating a mechanism for financial relief for electrical rate payers in the MISO region (subject to appropriation); (3) cleans up Climate Works HUB language; and (4) makes changes to the hiring of the Director of the Illinois Power Authority. HB 4412 also heads to the Governor's desk.

[SB 2951](#) was approved by both chambers and contains various **economic development** legislation: (1) creates the Invest in Illinois Act, which includes specifications for the Governor’s \$1 billion “closing fund” that will be used to attract large employers; (2) makes renewable energy manufacturers eligible for credits under the Reimagining Electric Vehicles Act and provides that agreements under the Act may be renewed for an additional 15-year period; (3) exempts businesses certified under the REV Act or the MICRO Act from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Maintenance Fee and the Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax Act; (4) creates a \$1.50/gallon Sustainable Aviation Fuel purchase credit; and (5) prohibits state economic incentives if the Chicago Bears move their stadium to Arlington Heights.

MORE RETIREMENTS / NEW MEMBERS

Illinois House Republican Leader **Jim Durkin** announced his retirement from the General Assembly just before the convening of the 103rd General Assembly. Shortly after the November 8 election, Durkin announced that he would not seek another term as House GOP leader, and his decision to resign his seat had been expected. Durkin’s successor representing the 82nd House district will be selected by local Republican township officials, and that suburban Cook County district is expected to be a “Tier One” race in 2024.

State Sen **Patricia Van Pelt**, a Democrat from Chicago’s West Side, will step down from the state Senate at the end of the month.

Tom Bennett, an Illinois House Republican, has been chosen for the Senate seat vacated by **Jason Barickman**. A former Parkland trustee and ICCTA president, Bennett is the uncle of the late Sen. **Scott Bennett**, who died last month. Bennett’s appointment to the Senate opens up the 106th House District seat. Local party leaders have one month to select his replacement.

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS

Gov. Pritzker was sworn in to his second term on Monday, January 9, laying out proposals for free college, preschool, and childcare as his top priorities. Pritzker also proposed permanent tax relief (but did not lay out any details) and plans to enshrine abortion rights in the Illinois constitution. He will present a budget to the General Assembly next month that may provide more specifics.

On Wednesday, January 11, the new 103rd General Assembly was formally inaugurated with a record 78 Democrats in the House, compared with 40 Republicans, while a 40-19 Democratic majority was sworn into the Senate. In the Senate, **16 new senators** were sworn-in, and **24 new representatives** took the oath of office – with two House vacancies yet to be filled. Several veteran lawmakers in both parties departed due to resignation or election losses.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP TEAMS ANNOUNCED

House Speaker Chris Welch released his full **House Democrat** leadership team:

- Rep. **Robyn Gabel** – Majority Leader
- Rep. **Jehan Gordon-Booth** – Speaker Pro Tempore / Chief Budgeteer
- Rep. **Mary E. Flowers** – Deputy Majority Leader / Dean of the Caucus
- Rep. **Elizabeth Hernandez** – Deputy Majority Leader
- Rep. **Jay Hoffman** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Rep. **Natalie Manley** – Assistant Majority Leader

- Rep. **Kam Buckner** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Rep. **Aaron Ortiz** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Rep. **Barbara Hernandez** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Rep. **Marcus Evans** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Rep. **Bob Rita** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Rep. **Kelly Burke** – Assistant Majority Leader
- Rep. **Theresa Mah** – Majority Conference Chair
- Rep. **Nick Smith** – Majority Officer / Sergeant at Arms

Welch also released the following list of caucus whips:

- Rep. **Lakesia Collins** – Black Caucus Whip
- Rep. **Edgar Gonzalez** – Latinx Caucus Whip
- Rep. **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz** – Asian American Caucus Whip
- Rep. **Frances Ann Hurley** – Mod Caucus Whip
- Rep. **Lawrence Walsh Jr.** – Downstate Caucus Whip
- Rep. **Will Guzzardi** – Progressive Caucus Whip
- Rep. **Anne Stava-Murray** – Women’s Caucus Whip
- Rep. **Nabeela Syed** – Freshman Caucus Whip
- Rep. **Maurice West** – Assistant Floor Whip
- Rep. **Ann Williams** – Assistant Floor Whip
- Rep. **Katie Stuart** – Assistant Floor Whip
- Rep. **Bob Morgan** – Assistant Floor Whip

Speaker Welch also announced chairs for three committees. These committees will be chaired by Assistant Majority Leaders, who will serve in their leadership capacities on an uncompensated basis:

- Executive Committee – Leader **Bob Rita**
- Labor & Commerce Committee – Leader **Marcus Evans, Jr.**
- Revenue & Finance Committee – Leader **Kelly Burke**

Over the next several days, the Speaker will be reaching out to eligible committee chairs (members who are in at least their third term) to continue discussions about priorities and preferences for committee assignments.

Newly elected **House Republican** Leader Tony McCombie has also announced her leadership team:

- Rep. **Norine Hammond** - Deputy Leader
- Rep. **Ryan Spain** - Deputy Leader
- Rep. **Jeff Keicher** - Conference Chair
- Rep. **C.D. Davidsmeyer** - Assistant Republican Leader
- Rep. **John Cabello** - Assistant Republican Leader
- Rep. **Bradley Stephens** - Assistant Republican Leader
- Rep. **Charles Meier** - Assistant Republican Leader
- Rep. **Jackie Haas** - Assistant Republican Leader
- Rep. **Michael Marron** - Assistant Republican Leader
- Rep. **Patrick Windhorst** - Republican Floor Leader

Members of newly elected **Senate Republican** Leader John Curran’s leadership team include:

- Senator **Sue Rezin** – Deputy Leader

- Senator **Neil Anderson** – Caucus Chair
- Senator **Terri Bryant** – Assistant Republican Leader
- Senator **Dale Fowler** – Assistant Republican Leader
- Senator **Steve McClure** – Assistant Republican Leader
- Senator **Jason Plummer** – Assistant Republican Leader
- Senator **Sally Turner** – Republican Caucus Whip
- Senator **Jil Tracy** – Republican Caucus Whip

KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE 103RD ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- January 27: Deadline – Senate Legislative Reference Bureau requests
- February 3: Deadline – House LRB requests
- February 10: Deadline – Introduction of Senate bills in the Senate
- February 15: Governor’s State of the State / Budget Address
- February 17: Deadline – Introduction of House Bills in the House
- February 28: Consolidated primary election
- March 10: Deadline – Senate bills out of Senate committee / House bills out of House committee
- March 24: Deadline – Third Reading of House bills in the House
- March 31: Deadline – Third Reading of Senate bills in the Senate
- April 4: Consolidated Election (including community college trustee elections)
- April 28: Deadline – House bills out of Senate committee / Senate bills out of House committee
- May 11: Deadline – Third Reading House bills in the Senate
- May 12: Deadline – Third Reading Senate bills in the House
- May 19: Adjournment

PARKLAND TRUSTEE APPOINTED TO ICCB

Gov. Pritzker has appointed Parkland College trustee **Dr. Maureen Banks** to serve on the Illinois Community College Board, filling the unexpired term of **James Ayers** (also a Parkland trustee). Banks was elected to the Parkland board in April 2021 and currently serves as co-chair of ICCTA’s Future of Work Special Committee. After a 33-year career at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she retired in 2022 as Director of Safety and Compliance. Banks also serves on the Quincy University Board of Trustees, the Champaign Rotary Board, and the Carle Illinois College of Medicine Institutional Review Board. She received a Bachelor of Sciences from Western Illinois University, a Master of Sciences from the University of Iowa, and completed her PhD in human resources education at the University of Illinois.

ISBE PROVIDES FUTURE EDUCATORS GRANTS

The Illinois State Board of Education is providing more than 10,000 grants to students who aspire to be future educators to allow them to get a head-start on teacher preparation while helping schools address statewide shortages. There are currently 10,805 students involved in the Education Career Pathway Program, which ISBE says contributed to a 41% increase in enrollment in teacher training programs from 2017 to 2021. Schools are still reporting 2,139 unfilled teacher positions as of 2021.

IBHE AWARDS NURSING SCHOOL GRANTS, NURSE EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIPS

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has awarded 11 nursing school grants, totaling \$750,000, and 40 nurse educator fellowships, totaling \$400,000, for FY23. That is an increase of seven more grants and 20 more fellowships than in FY 2022. The grants are awarded to colleges and universities to help increase the number of registered nurses with high-quality credentials in the state. The fellowships help retain qualified nursing educators at those higher education institutions. Each fellowship amounts to \$10,000 in salary supplements for faculty. The grants vary in size, with the largest amount awarded being \$100,000.

TRIAL DATE SET IN MADIGAN RACKETEERING CASE

A federal judge has set a trial date of April 1, 2024, for former Illinois House Speaker **Michael Madigan** and longtime confidant **Michael McClain** on racketeering charges alleging that they conspired to leverage Madigan's elected office and political power for personal gain.

SECRETARY OF STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER

New Illinois Secretary of State **Alexi Giannoulias** signed a wide-ranging Executive Ethics Order shortly after taking office on January 9. The order upgrades and improves transparency, codifies key procedures in the office's internal policy manual, enhances protections afforded to victims of sexual harassment or threats of violence, and simplifies the public's ability to submit complaints to the SOS Inspector General's office.

PRITZKER SPEAKING AT DAVOS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Gov. Pritzker will be in Davos, Switzerland this week for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting. He will participate in four events: a panel on the American Legislative Landscape, a panel on new energy, a governor's policy meeting on industry infrastructure, and a roundtable on the COP28 climate change conference. He also plans to highlight Illinois policy and initiatives, including the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, the REV Act, and the Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan, as well as recent work on gun violence and reproductive health.

NEW DIRECTORS FOR CMS, DCEO; NEW TEMPORARY DIRECTORS FOR IDCS AND DOIT

The Governor's office recently announced the following agency appointments: **Raven DeV Vaughn** will serve as Director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services. **Kristin Richards** will serve as Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. **Ray Marchiori** will serve as Temporary Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security. **Brandon Ragle** will serve as Temporary Secretary of the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology.

ONLINE COVID-19 TRACKER

The Discovery Partners Institute and the Illinois Department of Public Health have announced a new website (<https://iwss.uillinois.edu>) that tracks the levels of COVID-19 in wastewater samples in Chicago and other cities across the state. The interactive online tool builds on the statistics posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID Data Tracker website and provides more Illinois-specific data in easy-to-understand charts.

STERIGENICS SETTLEMENT

Sterigenics will pay \$408 million to settle more than 870 lawsuits alleging that its Willowbrook facility exposed residents to ethylene oxide gas and caused illnesses. The settlement came about after the jury hit the company with a \$363 million verdict for a Willowbrook cancer survivor.

QUARTZ HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION FINED

The Illinois Department of Insurance has fined Quartz Health Insurance Corporation \$500,000 for violating the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. MHPAEA is the federal law requiring health insurance plans to have equivalent levels of coverage for mental health and substance use disorder care as for medical or surgical care, and Illinois law further expands upon those requirements.

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

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