

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

January 18, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

Citing the continuous rise in COVID cases, the Illinois House and Senate will not be meeting in person this week and will continue remote committee work. The Senate was not scheduled to be in session the final week in January, so it will not be returning until February at the earliest. The House could return the final week of January, but that appears unlikely. Nominating petitions for Illinois' primary election began circulating Thursday, January 13. Since all 177 members of the Illinois General Assembly are on the ballot, they will want to use this time to circulate petitions in their districts. While coronavirus may be the primary reason for the decision to go remote, the beginning of campaign season is certainly another.

Legislative committee meetings can still be viewed online and will include testimony from the public. These meetings can be viewed on the General Assembly website at www.ilga.gov.

*****Please review [ICCTA's BILL LIST](#).**

Due to the virtual committee process, it is vital that we know your positions so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.***

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- January 21: Senate Bill Introduction Deadline
- January 28: House Bill Introduction Deadline
- February 2: Governor's State of the State/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 & Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Signs are growing for a "statewide slate of GOP candidates" that will be backed by the party's big funders. The biggest news occurred yesterday with the announcement that Aurora Mayor **Richard Irvin** will run for governor with running mate State Rep. **Avery Bourne** (R-Morrisonville). Other candidates affiliated with the rumored slate include State Rep. **Tom Demmer** for treasurer; McHenry County Auditor **Shannon Teresi** for comptroller; former prosecutor **John Milhiser** for secretary of state; and international trade lawyer **Steve Kim** for attorney general. These candidates are not the only

Republicans running for statewide offices, but by teaming up they hope to have an advantage securing a statewide seat (or seats) that are now controlled by Democrats.

Former state Sen. **Paul Schimpf**, a Republican candidate for governor, has named **Carolyn Schofield** as his lieutenant governor running mate. Schofield is a McHenry County board member and has run unsuccessfully for the Illinois House. Republican business owner **Gary Rabine**, meanwhile, has selected former Cook County GOP Chair **Aaron Del Mar** as his running mate.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois is running a candidate for secretary of state. His name is **Jesse White**, and he is not related to the current officeholder.

State Sen. **Jacqueline Collins** (D-Chicago) has started to gather signatures for Illinois's 1st Congressional seat but will also pass out petitions for the state Senate seat she currently holds.

State Rep. **Deb Conroy** (D-Villa Park) will not seek re-election to the state House and instead will campaign for chair of the DuPage County Board. Conroy, now in her fifth term, serves as Women's Caucus Whip and is an advocate on mental health legislation.

State Rep. **Tom Morrison** (R-Palatine) decided not to run for re-election. Morrison has represented the 54th district for the past 12 years.

State Sen. **Brian Stewart** (R-Freeport) announced he will not seek re-election. Upon the conclusion of this term, he will have served almost 50 years in public service and said it is time to begin a new chapter. Rep. **Andrew Chesney** (R-Freeport) has announced that he is running for Sen. Stewart's seat, and former GOP state Rep. **John Cabello** plans to announce that he is running for the district being vacated by Chesney.

COVID UPDATE

On January 7, Gov. **JB Pritzker** signed a new [Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation](#), extending the COVID-related statewide declaration through Sunday, February 6. He also signed [Executive Order 2022-01](#) to extend previous executive orders. With the signing of a new disaster proclamation, public meetings may continue to be held remotely, in accordance with [Public Act 101-0640](#), if certain requirements are met. Any COVID-19-related executive orders not extended by EO 2022-01 have expired and are no longer in effect.

Illinois has reduced [quarantine time for schools](#) from 10 to 5 days to align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidelines.

PRITZKER ANNOUNCES MEASURES TO REDUCE BURDEN ON HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The Omicron strain driving the current surge in COVID-19 cases has placed a significant burden on health care workers and institutions. On January 12, Gov. Pritzker said that out-of-state health care workers can now continue to work in Illinois during the ongoing public health emergency with expanded permission allowing them to treat all patients, not just those diagnosed with COVID-19. Additionally,

doctors trained in other countries may now assist physicians licensed here, and out-of-state providers may now provide telehealth services to Illinoisans.

SOS DEPARTMENTS AND DRIVER SERVICES FACILITIES REMAIN CLOSED

Out of an abundance of caution and due to the continued high numbers of new COVID-19 cases statewide, all Secretary of State departments – including Driver Services facilities – will resume conducting in-person transactions on Monday, January 24. Driver Services facilities operating on a Tuesday – Saturday schedule will reopen on Tuesday, January 25. Consumers may visit www.ilsos.gov for online services.

LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL NOW VACANT

The position of Legislative Inspector General is now open after former inspector Carol Pope officially resigned Thursday, January 6. In July 2021, Pope announced that she would resign by the end of the year, saying that she found the LIG office to be a “paper tiger” that had no real power to police the General Assembly or its members.

16 COLLEGES NAMED IN FINANCIAL-AID LAWSUIT

A class-action lawsuit claims a group of college presidents set up admissions policies that limited options for needy students and shrank their aid packages at top schools, including Northwestern University, Notre Dame University, and the University of Chicago.

RECORD MONTH FOR SPORTS WAGER TAXES

Sportsbooks in the state won nearly \$80 million in November 2021, yielding a record \$12.7 million in state and local taxes -- Illinois' most lucrative month since sports betting launched. Gross revenue rose 112% to a record \$78.2 million in November, from \$37 million in November 2020 and the state's previous high of \$49.9 million in March. On March 5, state law will allow remote registration for sportsbook gamblers. Illinois currently requires in-person registration, which has been in place after Gov. Pritzker allowed an executive order to lapse last April.

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

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

401 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 200 • Springfield, IL 62701 • 217-528-2858 • www.communitycolleges.org

