



ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report December 5, 2022

The Illinois General Assembly was previously in session on November 15 and 16, where the focus was on electing caucus leadership and continuing negotiations on modifications to the SAFE-T Act set to become effective on January 1, 2023. Lawmakers returned for session November 29 – December 1 to act on a few other issues needing resolution before the end of the calendar year.

Legislators successfully sent to the Governor a bipartisan agreement on paying back the borrowed funds for the unemployment insurance trust fund ([Senate Bill 1698](#)); changes to the SAFE-T Act ([House Bill 1095](#)); an omnibus TIF extension bill ([SB 1595](#)); a sunset extension package ([HB 2406](#)); a revenue omnibus bill that will, among other things, prevent student loan forgiveness from taxation and boost electric vehicle incentives ([HB 5189](#)); and a Secretary of State package ([HB 5049](#)).

Several actions passed one chamber of the other and may be considered in the other chamber during the upcoming “lame duck” session in January. A few of those issues include a clean unemployment insurance appropriations bill ([SB 2801](#)), a hospital tax credit sunset extension ([SB 2951](#)), a government administrative package ([HB 1587](#)), a healthcare omnibus bill ([HB 4846](#)), and procurement reform ([HB 4285](#)).

Other issues expected to be addressed during lame duck session include a measure to ban the sale of assault weapons (just filed as [HB 5855](#)). Other working groups formed late summer, including the group working to address concerns about the future of reproductive health, continue their work. Those proposals should be released in the coming weeks.

KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Lame Duck Session:** Members will return to Springfield for the lame duck session **January 4-7**.
- **Swearing-In Sessions:** Monday, **January 9**, is the inauguration for the five state executive officers. The members of the 103rd General Assembly will convene at noon on Wednesday, **January 11**, for their inauguration. Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis will swear in the Senate, and soon-to-be Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas will swear in the House of Representatives.
- **Spring 2023 Session:** The new Illinois General Assembly calendar for the Senate (link [HERE](#)) shows lawmakers adjourning a week earlier than usual on Friday, **May 19** (no Memorial Day legislative session). The House has not yet released its calendar for 2023.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

House Democrats voted unanimously to retain Emanuel “Chris” Welch as speaker. Newly elected members, who officially start legislative work in January, were in Springfield for freshmen orientation during the last week of the fall veto session.

State Rep. **Lakesia Collins** becomes the new chair of the Illinois House Legislative Black Caucus after Rep. **Kam Buckner**, the current chair, finished his term. Buckner is also running for mayor of Chicago. In a statement, Buckner called the last two years “an inflection point” for Illinois “as we dealt with issues surrounding the pandemics of Covid, injustice and disinvestment.”

SEN. BARICKMAN ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

State Sen. **Jason Barickman** (R-Bloomington) plans to resign from the Illinois Senate next month. He has served in the Illinois General Assembly for more than a decade, winning election to the House in 2011 before moving over to the Senate in 2013. In announcing his decision on December 5, Barickman cited his desire to spend more time with his family. His replacement will be appointed via weighted vote by the district's 12 Republican county chairs. They have 30 days to decide once Barickman's resignation takes effect on January 10.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AGREEMENT

General Assembly leaders, the Governor's office, labor interests, and the business community have reached a bipartisan agreement to pay off the remaining \$1.36 billion unemployment insurance loan balance, replenish the fund for the future, and protect benefits for working families. The agreement will contribute more than \$1.8 billion in state funds to the unemployment insurance trust fund, which includes payment of the remaining federal loan balance borrowed under Title XII of the Social Security Act. The remaining \$450 million will be placed into the trust fund from state funds as an interest-free loan. As the loan is repaid over the next 10 years, funds will be deposited directly into the state's rainy-day fund.

SB 1698 is expected to be signed quickly by Governor JB Pritzker. That quick action is necessary to allow adequate time for the Illinois Department of Employment Security to prepare and deliver 2023 employer tax calculations. IDES indicated that it will be mailing the 2023 tax calculations during the first week of January.

The financial portion of the agreement is embodied in SB 2801, which was approved by the Senate. The House will be taking up the measure when it returns for a lame duck session scheduled to start on January 4.

SAFE-T ACT TRAILER BILL HEADS TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

A trailer bill to the controversial SAFE-T Act that is set to end the cash bail system passed on party lines through the Illinois Senate and House and is heading to the Governor's desk. HB 1095 passed the Senate 38-17 and the House 71-40. No Republicans supported the bill.

Among the changes to the bill are an expanded list of offenses for which a judge can order pre-trial detention and what they can consider when deciding whether an individual can be deemed a flight risk or a threat to public safety. It also clarifies that the changes will apply only to crimes charged after January 1, 2023. Those detained before January can apply to be released under the new provisions under a tiered system that gives preference to those detained who are not flight risks or considered a threat to public safety.

REP. MAZZOCHI AWAITS APPELLATE COURT RULING, DISCOVERY RECOUNT

When the legal deadline for counting late-arriving mail-in ballots passed last Tuesday, November 29, Rep. Deanne Mazzochi (R-Elmhurst) trailed Democratic challenger Jenn Ladisch Douglass by 343 votes. Mazzochi (a former College of DuPage board chair) says that she is waiting for a 3rd District Appellate Court ruling on a temporary restraining order approved by a circuit judge and upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court while it

awaited an Appellate Court ruling. Mazzochi alleges that the DuPage County Clerk was verifying signatures on mail-in ballot envelopes with the signatures on their application for the ballot, instead of verifying signatures based on voter registrations. She is awaiting the Appellate Court ruling for more direction on outstanding ballots and is beginning the process for asking for a discovery recount, the first step in asking a judge for a full recount.

SOS-ELECT GIANNOULIAS TRANSITION

Alexi Giannoulis, the Democratic Secretary of State-elect, has pulled together a huge transition team in an effort to transform the office that has been led for more than 20 years by retiring Secretary of State Jesse White. Giannoulis (a former chair of the Illinois Community College Board) has pulled together nine transition committees, which comprise a total of 125 members from across the state and from various industries -- including his former opponent, State Rep. **Dan Brady**. See the [full list here](#).

State Rep. **Bob Morgan** is leading the Driver Facilities and Road Safety Committee. Brady heads up the Organ and Tissue Donations Committee and serves on the Road Safety panel. Former state Rep. **Carol Ronen** is leading Voter Rights and Registration. Tech entrepreneur **Howard Tullman** heads up Technology Enhancements. Illinois Environmental Council's **Jennifer Walling** leads Environmental Initiatives. Highland Park Library's **Heidi Smith** heads up Library Enhancements. Broadhaven Capital's **John Simpson** leads Securities Division Policies. Velez Global Enterprises' **Letty Velez** heads up Business Services.

CHICAGO MAYOR'S RACE

Candidates in the competitive Chicago mayor's race had to file their petitions by November 28. A total of 11 candidates, including incumbent Mayor **Lori Lightfoot**, filed petition signatures to run. Ald. **Raymond Lopez** dropped out of the race before the filing deadline and is instead seeking reelection to the Chicago City Council. The deadline to object to signatures of opponents is Monday, December 5. The election is February 28, but if a candidate does not win at least half of the vote, the top two candidates compete in a runoff on April 4.

ALD. BURKE WON'T SEEK RE-ELECTION TO CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL

After more than 50 years on the Chicago City Council, Ald. **Ed Burke** will not run for reelection next year. Burke, who is Chicago's longest serving alderman, was indicted in 2019 on 14 counts including bribery, attempted extortion, and racketeering.

ILLINOIS DRIVER'S LICENSE EXTENSIONS HAVE ENDED

If you have an expired Illinois driver's license or ID card, it's officially time to renew. As a result of the COVID pandemic, the Illinois Secretary of State's office extended the renewal period for licenses and IDs, allowing extra time for residents to legally use expired cards. However, on December 1, that extended grace period came to an end. Although there is a grace period, driving with an expired driver's license can result in a hefty fine, or even a misdemeanor depending on the length of time that has gone by. Separately, the federal deadline to get a REAL ID has been extended two years to May 3, 2025.

ICCB PROVIDES MORE THAN \$9 MILLION TO ADDRESS EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PROGRAMMING EQUITY

The Illinois Community College Board has granted over \$9 million to 55 organizations, including 36 community colleges throughout the state, to help address education and unemployment gaps. The funding will be used to help minority and low-income students as well as individuals with disabilities remove barriers to completing their education and career goals through the Innovative Bridge and Transition Grant program. These initiatives improve student transitions to and through postsecondary education and into employment, support transitions for individuals with disabilities, and scale programs that promote equity and diversity among those served.

SECRETARY OF STATE AWARDS \$5.6 MILLION IN ADULT LITERACY GRANTS

Illinois has awarded over \$5.6 million in grants to over 100 local projects to promote adult literacy in the state. In addition to helping adults who read below the ninth-grade level or speak English at a beginning level, these programs also help adults learn English as a new language. Organizations receiving grants include those that train volunteer tutors, businesses that are looking to help provide onsite instruction to employees, and various other organizations, such as child-at-risk agencies, public libraries, correctional facilities, domestic violence shelters, and local schools.

SEIU PUSHES CHICAGO CANDIDATES TO BACK \$25 MINIMUM WAGE

SEIU, the big union expected to play a major role in upcoming city of Chicago elections, is asking candidates seeking its endorsement to take a position on a \$25 minimum wage. Other issues raised in the SEIU candidate questionnaire include whether sports stadiums and convention centers should have to reach labor-peace agreements if they receive city funds; whether the city of Chicago ought to restore health insurance for retirees; and whether charter schools need tighter regulation. Chicago's minimum wage is now \$15.40 an hour. It will rise automatically with inflation but is not expected to get close to \$25 for many years.

GOV. PRITZKER NAMES ERIN JOHNSON TO CANNABIS OVERSIGHT POSITION

Gov. Pritzker Monday has appointed **Erin Johnson** as the state's next Cannabis Regulation Oversight Officer, taking over for outgoing CROO **Danielle Perry**. Johnson previously worked as an Associate Corporate Counsel at Amazon, Chief of Staff at the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Associate General Counsel and Chief Diversity Officer in the office of former Gov. Bruce Rauner, and Litigation Associate at SmithAmundsen law firm. The CROO is a part of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and is responsible for coordinating state agencies on the regulation and taxation of cannabis sales in the state. Before becoming official, Johnson's appointment must be confirmed by the Illinois Senate.

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

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