



ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report December 16, 2022

The 102nd General Assembly is scheduled to convene in its final days of **Lame Duck session** on Wednesday, January 4 through Saturday, January 7, and Tuesday, January 10. Legislation with an immediate effect date requires passage by a simple majority during the Lame Duck session.

The 103rd General Assembly will be sworn into office at noon on Wednesday, January 11, with Constitutional Officers sworn in Monday, January 9. The new 2023 Illinois General Assembly calendar for the [House](#) and [Senate](#) show lawmakers will adjourn a week earlier than usual on **May 19** — no Memorial Day legislative session. The Governor will deliver a combined **Budget and State of the State Address** on February 15.

KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE 103RD ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- January 11: Inauguration of the 103rd 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

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE: SENATOR SCOTT BENNETT

State Senator **Scott Bennett** (D-Champaign), 45, passed away on Friday, December 9, surrounded by his wife, family and loved ones from complications of a large brain tumor. A member of the Senate since 2015, he had served as chair of the Senate’s Higher Education and Agriculture committees. Bennett is remembered as the guy who knew how to lighten a mood while getting things done for his constituents and all Illinoisans.

LEGISLATIVE RESIGNATIONS

Sen. **Jason Barickman** (R-Bloomington) announced his retirement from the Illinois Senate effective at the end of his current term, which expires on January 10, 2023. Barickman leaves the Senate after 12 years of service. In a statement, he announced his retirement now “to give the Republican Party leadership in my district time

to fill this vacancy so that a new Senator can be seated at the inauguration of the new 103rd General Assembly in January 2023.” State Rep. and former ICCTA president Tom Bennett (R-Pontiac) has expressed interest in being appointed to the seat.

State Rep. **Keith Sommer** (R-Morton) submitted his resignation on December 1, a move that could pave the way for his successor to take office early. The likely scenario is that state Rep.-elect **Bill Hauter** (R-Morton) will be appointed to serve the remainder of Sommer’s term, which would give him seniority over his fellow freshman legislators.

State Rep. **Delia Ramirez** (D-Chicago) has resigned her House post ahead of her inauguration as Illinois’ 3rd Congressional District representative. State Rep.-elect **Lilian Jimenez** won the 4th House district in November and will likely be appointed.

State Rep. **Tim Butler** (R-Springfield) also submitted his resignation, effective December 31, to accept a position with the Illinois Railroad Association. The local Republican party has not yet selected his replacement.

In addition, State Rep. **Deb Conroy** (D-Villa Park) has resigned from office, as she takes over as chair of the DuPage County Board. State Rep.-elect **Diane Blair-Sherlock** was appointed to Conroy’s seat on December 7.

GUN SAFETY REFORM PACKAGE UNVEILED

The House Democrats’ working group on firearm safety and violence has filed [House Bill 5855](#) (Morgan). The Protecting Illinois Communities Act would ban assault weapons; prevent the sale of high-capacity automatic rounds; require the registration of certain firearms; set up a strike team to combat illegal gun trafficking; and remove the ability of individuals under the age of 21 to own firearms if not used for hunting or military use. The House is holding subject matter hearings on the proposal. According to Gov. JB Pritzker, “Whether it happens during the lame-duck session [in early January] or regular session ... it’s important that we do it as fast as possible, there’s no doubt. I just want to be clear that our aim is to get it done in the first half of the year.” Two subject matter hearings have already been held, with the next hearing scheduled for December 20.

OTHER POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES DURING LAME DUCK SESSION

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.

Gov. Pritzker will also ask the General Assembly to pass legislation giving his administration a “deal-closing fund” -- as much as \$1 billion in discretionary state spending to provide economic incentives to businesses locating or expanding in Illinois. Legislation would double the EDGE credit to 50 percent for underserved areas and increase the physical size of enterprise zones, in addition to the expansions already made to electric vehicle manufacturing tax credits.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS CERTIFIES 2022 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

On December 5, the Illinois State Board of Elections announced the certification of the 2022 General Election results. According to ISBE, more than 4.1 million voters cast ballots for a total of 51.06% turnout, the fourth lowest midterm turnout in the state in 40 years. More than 39% of the total ballots were cast before Election Day, with 18% cast by mail and 21% cast in person. The board confirmed that the constitutional amendment

securing the rights of workers to organize and collectively bargain passed with 51.42% “yes” votes of all ballots cast.

NEW STATE LAWS TAKE EFFECT

More than 180 new laws go into effect on January 1, 2023, including:

❖ **Illinois' Minimum Wage Will Increase on January 1, 2023**

Effective January 1, the statewide Illinois minimum wage will rise to \$13 per hour for non-tipped employees ages 18 and over. The \$1 increase is part of legislation signed by Gov. Pritzker in 2019 to establish a statewide \$15 minimum wage by 2025. Tipped workers may be paid 60% of the hourly minimum wage, or \$7.80, so long as they receive the difference in tips. Chicago and Cook County have a higher wage than the Illinois minimum wage.

❖ **Updates to One Day Rest in Seven Act**

The One Day Rest in Seven Act gives workers the right to a day of rest every workweek and breaks for meals or rest during daily work shifts. Changes to ODRISA under [Public Act 102-828](#) and [P.A. 102-1012](#) taking effect on January 1 include:

- *New meal and rest break requirements:* Requires employees be given a 20-minute break if working a 12-hour shift or longer, and at least 24 consecutive hours of rest in every consecutive 7-day period, clarifying the day of rest requirements for workers whose schedules do not align with a Sunday to Saturday calendar week.
- *Notice posting requirements:* All employers covered by ODRISA must post a notice at the workplace notifying employees of their rights under the Act. The Illinois Department of Labor will provide this notice on its website for employers to download and post.

❖ **New Smoke Detector Rules**

Beginning January 1, the state's Smoke Detector Act will be changed to state that any smoke detectors must have a "self-contained, non-removable, long term battery." The change was approved in 2017, but did not take effect until January 1, 2023. It applies to "residents that are still using alarms with removable batteries or alarms that are not hardwired." The change does not apply to devices which use a low-power radio frequency wireless communication signal, Wi-Fi, or any other wireless local networking capability.

❖ **Changes to the Family Bereavement Leave Act**

Illinois employers must provide up to 10 workdays of unpaid leave to workers who may miss work because of one of the following events: a miscarriage; an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or assisted reproductive technology procedure; a failed adoption match or adoption that is not finalized because it was contested by another party; a failed surrogacy agreement; a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility; or a stillbirth.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE

Secretary of State-elect Alexi Giannoulias named his campaign manager Hanah Jubeh and political strategist Scott Burnham as deputy secretaries of state in his new administration.

Among Giannoulias' top priorities is eliminating the "time tax" state residents pay to access simple government services. His agenda, which is still under review by a transition team, prioritizes developing digital licenses and state IDs that can be accessed by smartphones to cut costs and wait times, instituting two-year vehicle stickers, and implementing electronic car titles.

REVENUE GROWTH BOOSTS STATE BUDGET OUTLOOK

State budget analysts reported that they are raising their revenue estimate for the current fiscal year by \$4.9 billion over the assumed revenue levels. Revenue manager Eric Noggle, writing in the monthly report of the legislature's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, said that the upward revision was prompted by the strong overall performance of November's (tax) receipts, which increased by \$277 million. "Through the first five months of the fiscal year, overall general-funds receipts are up an amazing \$1.945 billion. Even when excluding the \$620 million growth from federal (coronavirus aid), the general funds base growth of \$1.325 billion is just as impressive," Noggle said.

GOVERNOR EXTENDS DISASTER DECLARATION THROUGH JANUARY 6

On December 8, Gov. Pritzker signed a new Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation regarding COVID-19, extending the statewide disaster declaration through Friday, January 6, 2023. Additionally, the Governor signed [Executive Order 2022-23](#), which extends previous executive orders. With the signing of a new disaster proclamation, public meetings may continue to be held remotely, in accordance with [P.A. 101-0640](#), if certain requirements are met.

PENSION DEBT GROWS TO \$139.7 BILLION

Illinois' unfunded pension liability grew by \$9.8 billion, or 7.5%, in the fiscal year that ended June 30, due in large part to market losses in a volatile economy. The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported that the total unfunded liability in the state's five pension funds reached \$139.7 billion, leaving them with a funded ratio of just 44.1%. All five of the pension funds continue to pay out benefits to eligible retirees on a timely basis.

\$40 MILLION FOR ENERGY TRANSITION COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Gov. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity have launched the [Energy Transition Community Grant Program](#), an initiative under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that provides funding to communities undergoing a significant energy transition. Based on criteria in CEJA, 22 areas have been identified as eligible to apply for the funding through the program. The program funds are designed to meet the needs of individual localities to address the economic and social impacts of plant closures and can be used on a variety of initiatives and investments, including workforce investments, housing support, business attraction efforts, and much more.

REAL ID DEADLINE AGAIN EXTENDED

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline an additional two years, from May 3, 2023, to May 7, 2025. With this extension, current standard Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports for domestic air travel until May 7, 2025.

NEW 730 AREA CODE COMING TO SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Commerce Commission announced a new area code is coming to southern Illinois. The new 730 area code will “overlay” the existing 618 area code to address the depletion of prefixes available for assignment within the region. The first prefix in the new area code will not be introduced until after July 7.

IDVA PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with the National Veterans Legal Services Program to provide access to free legal representation for Illinois veterans and their families in cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The partnership will allow veterans who have had disability claims denied by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have free legal representation when they file an appeal in the CAVC.

STATE RECEIVES \$350 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Illinois small businesses will have the opportunity to apply for over \$350 million in launch and growth funds as part of the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s State Small Business Credit Initiative. The funds will be distributed through four programs: the state’s existing Advantage Illinois program that provides loans to small business, a new Advantage Illinois loan guarantee program that will support businesses that have struggled to receive loans, a new venture capital program that will support emerging technologies and industries, and a Climate Bank Finance program that will support businesses working in the clean energy space. The SSBCI was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

NCSL CEO PREVIEWS ‘HOT’ ISSUES FOR STATE LEGISLATURES IN 2023

Tim Storey, CEO of the National Conference of State Legislatures, recently shared the organization's forecast for trending issues and themes among state legislatures in 2023. Workforce, labor, and employment issues were number one on Storey's list of "hot" topics heading into the new year. Based on conversations he has held with state legislative leaders, he said he has never heard such "unanimity" among states about what their top priority will be.

Additionally, he called education the "big bear in the room," saying that he expects states to focus on mitigating students' pandemic learning loss. Education, he said, is also another workforce issue in 2023 due to the shortage of teachers and other school staff.

The last issue states are "addressing seemingly across the board," Storey said, is behavioral and mental health issues. Coming out of the pandemic, Storey said that there is a huge amount of concern for this issue as it ties into education and public safety.

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

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