



## ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report January 23, 2023

Both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly were in-district last week. The Senate will return to Springfield on January 24, while the House of Representatives will return on January 31. Bills are now being filed, and committees and committee membership will be announced in the coming days.

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

**It is vital that we know your positions so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.\*\*\***

### MORE LEADERSHIP / COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senate President Don Harmon has released the names of his full **Senate Democrat** leadership team:

- Majority Leader: Sen. **Kimberly A. Lightford**
- President Pro Tempore: Sen. **Bill Cunningham**
- Assistant Majority Leaders: Sens. **Mattie Hunter, Linda Holmes, David Koehler, Laura M. Murphy**
- Majority Caucus Chair: Sen. **Omar Aquino**
- Majority Caucus Whips: Sens. **Julie Morrison, Napoleon B. Harris, Iii, Cristina Castro**
- Majority Caucus Appropriations Leader: Sen. **Elgie R. Sims Jr.**

Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch has announced **House committees** (43 in all) and their respective chairs. There are only 40 members of the House GOP caucus:

#### House Committee

Appropriations – Elementary and Secondary Education  
Appropriations – General Services  
Appropriations – Health and Human Services  
Appropriations – Higher Education  
Appropriations – Public Safety  
Adoption and Child Welfare  
Agriculture and Conservation  
Childcare Access and Early Childhood Education  
Cities and Villages  
Consumer Protection  
Counties and Townships  
Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT  
Economic Opportunity and Equity  
Elem/Sec Education: Admin, Licensing and Charters  
Elem/Sec Education: School Curriculum & Policies  
Energy and Environment  
Ethics and Elections  
Executive

#### Chair

Rep. **William Davis**  
Rep. **Fred Crespo**  
Rep. **Camille Lilly**  
Rep. **La Shawn Ford**  
Rep. **Rita Mayfield**  
Rep. **Terra Costa Howard**  
Rep. **Sonya Harper**  
Rep. **Joyce Mason**  
Rep. **Anthony DeLuca**  
Rep. **Debbie Meyers-Martin**  
Rep. **Curtis Tarver**  
Rep. **Lamont Robinson**  
Rep. **Edgar Gonzalez, Jr.**  
Rep. **Sue Scherer**  
Rep. **Michelle Mussman**  
Rep. **Ann Williams**  
Rep. **Maurice West**  
Rep. **Robert Rita**

Financial Institutions and Licensing	Rep. <b>Margaret Croke</b>
Gaming	Rep. <b>Daniel Didech</b>
Health Care Licenses	Rep. <b>Bob Morgan</b>
Health Care Availability and Access	Rep. <b>Lakesia Collins</b>
Higher Education	Rep. <b>Katie Stuart</b>
Housing	Rep. <b>Will Guzzardi</b>
Human Services	Rep. <b>Anna Moeller</b>
Immigration and Human Rights	Rep. <b>Eva-Dina Delgado</b>
Insurance	Rep. <b>Thaddeus Jones</b>
Judiciary - Civil	Rep. <b>Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz</b>
Judiciary - Criminal	Rep. <b>Justin Slaughter</b>
Labor and Commerce	Rep. <b>Marcus Evans, Jr.</b>
Mental Health	Rep. <b>Lindsey LaPointe</b>
Personnel and Pensions	Rep. <b>Stephanie Kifowit</b>
Police and Fire	Rep. <b>Frances Ann Hurley</b>
Prescription Drug Affordability	Rep. <b>Jawaharial Williams</b>
Public Health	Rep. <b>Anne Stava-Murray</b>
Public Utilities	Rep. <b>Lawrence Walsh Jr.</b>
Restorative Justice	Rep. <b>Kelly Cassidy</b>
Revenue and Finance	Rep. <b>Kelly Burke</b>
Small Business, Tech Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Rep. <b>Carol Ammons</b>
State Government Administration	Rep. <b>Mark Walker</b>
Transportation: Rail Systems, Roads and Bridges	Rep. <b>Martin Moylan</b>
Transportation: Vehicle Safety	Rep. <b>Jaime Andrade, Jr.</b>
Veterans' Affairs	Rep. <b>Lance Yednock</b>

### **IBHE APPROVES FY24 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has approved a Fiscal Year 2024 budget recommendation that increases funding to support the equity-driven higher education strategic plan adopted in June 2021. The \$2.5 billion proposal would reflect a 7.7% (\$180 million) increase for general funds. Highlights include:

- \$50 million increase for the Monetary Award Program
- \$86.3 million (7.5%) increase for public universities – distributed through an equity lens
- \$24.9 million (7.5%) increase for community colleges
- \$4.1 million (7.5%) increase for adult education and career and technical education
- \$2.8 million increase to the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship program
- \$1.5 million (7.5%) increase for the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
- \$0.53 million for the Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program
- \$3.2 million for a new Dual Credit Grants program
- \$5.2 million for new Non-Credit Workforce Training Grants

### **INCOME TAX PROPOSALS INTRODUCED**

Sen. **Robert Martwick** (D-Chicago) indicated that he will reintroduce a constitutional amendment to impose a **graduated income tax** in Illinois. Voters rejected a similar constitutional amendment in November 2020. Martwick plans to target new revenues generated by the tax to property tax relief and pension debt.

In addition, legislators in Illinois and other states are working to introduce "**wealth taxes**" that aim to generate revenue. The *Washington Post* reported that legislators in 4 states, including Illinois, will introduce a tax on wealthy people's holdings, or so-called "mark-to-market" taxes on their unrealized capital gains. Rep. **Will Guzzardi** (D-Chicago) will sponsor the package in the House, and Sen. **Robert Peters** (D-Chicago) will sponsor in the Senate.

### JCAR MEMBERSHIP

The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules is welcoming new member Sen. **Cristina Castro**, D-Elgin. Castro was chosen by the Senate Democratic caucus to replace Senate President Harmon. Democratic Reps. **Eva Dina Delgado** of Chicago and **Dave Vella** of Loves Park have also been appointed. They replace former Representative and now Senator, Mike Halpin (D-Rock Island), and Rep. Fran Hurley (D-Chicago). The terms for former Republican members Rep. Keith Wheeler and Rep. Tom Demmer have expired, but their replacements have not yet been named.

### KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE 103<sup>RD</sup> 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

### CAMPAIGN FUNDS

House Speaker Welch has reported raising \$14.2 million for his personal campaign committee in 2022. Senate President Harmon reported raising about \$11.9 million during the same period. Then-House Republican Leader **Jim Durkin** reported raising \$4.5 million in 2022, less than a third of Welch's total. Then-Senate Republican Leader **Dan McConchie** reported raising \$5.2 million, about 44 percent of Harmon's total.

### SECRETARY OF STATE AGENDA

Secretary of State **Alexi Giannoulias** is pledging to modernize the state agency with technology, issue digital driver's licenses and IDs, and develop strategies to streamline the customer experience. He will hold a statewide listening tour for the public at driver's services facilities, libraries, and voter registration sites. His new administration will also audit SOS facilities to see what improvements should be made. The full transition report is available [HERE](#).

## UPDATES ON NEW ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

After passage and signing of Illinois' new ban on assault weapons, at least 30 of the state's 102 county sheriffs released letters saying that they will not enforce the new law requiring owners of existing assault weapons to register their weapons with the state. Several state and federal lawsuits have been filed, arguing that the new law is unconstitutional. A judge in Effingham County issued a Temporary Restraining Order on January 20, suspending the new law for the 860-plus individuals who sued the state. The Illinois Attorney General's office has already filed a notice of appeal.

## NEW STATE WATER PLAN

The [Illinois State Water Plan](#) has now been updated for the first time since 1984. The report was prepared by members of the Illinois State Water Plan Task Force and highlights 13 key water issues. It also recommends necessary changes and strategic plan with 147 actionable and measurable recommendations for future inclusive and equitable state water resources development.

## UTILITIES REQUEST RATE HIKES

People's Gas is asking the Illinois Commerce Commission to approve a \$402 million rate hike, the utility's largest increase request. Chicago residents could see their monthly natural gas bill rise by an average of \$11.83 next year if approved.

ComEd also filed for a four-year, \$1.47 billion rate increase to bolster its grid for the demands of electric vehicles, electrification, and climate change. If approved by state regulators, ComEd customers will pay an average of \$17 per month more for delivery charges by 2027. The ICC will review the rate and grid plans and is expected to issue a decision by December.

## REPORT PREDICTS BILLIONS IN MOTOR FUEL TAX REVENUE LOSSES IF STATE MEETS EV GOALS

A new report from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute is warning of a potential steep decline in transportation revenue as the process of electrification accelerates. The primary issue is motor fuel taxes, which will see a significant drop as more electric vehicles make their way to the road and fewer people fill their cars with gas. Since motor fuel taxes make up the backbone of state funding for road and bridge projects, ILEP (which has strong ties to organized labor) warns that new revenue sources will have to be identified to ensure that the state's 10-year capital improvements plan remains on track.

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

### **Illinois Community College Trustees Association**

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