

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

January 24, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

Several hundred Senate bills were filed last week prior to the Senate's January 21 filing deadline. The House deadline is this Friday, January 28.

The Illinois General Assembly remains adjourned until the call of the presiding officers in both chambers, with in-person session canceled last week and this week. The House will convene virtual committee hearings this week, while the Senate will be out as previously scheduled. Provided that COVID cases continue on a downward trend, all lawmakers are likely to return next week for the Governor's February 2 State of the State/Budget Address. Action at the committee level will increase in the coming weeks as more legislation is introduced and assigned to committees for consideration. Committee meetings can still be viewed online and will include testimony from the public. These meetings can be viewed on the legislature's website at www.ilga.gov.

It is also expected that State Senators will draw their terms for the next decade on February 2. The Illinois Constitution requires staggered elections for senators, who will serve two four-year terms and one two-year term in each decade. House members are elected every two years.

*****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 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

PRITZKER VETOES HB 2778

Gov. J.B. Pritzker vetoed legislation Monday that would have guaranteed COVID-19-related sick leave for K-12 and higher education employees, while signaling support for a "compromise" plan that would limit compensation to only those who are fully vaccinated. The Governor and leaders of the state's two largest teacher unions have been huddling for weeks, with the unions urging Pritzker to sign [House Bill](#)

[2778](#) after it passed with strong bipartisan support last October. ICCTA and the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents joined other school management groups in opposing the legislation.

STATE FISCAL OUTLOOK

Illinois Comptroller **Susana Mendoza** will now provide a weekly report of five key fiscal items: the state's bill backlog (currently \$4.3 billion), bill payment cycle (averaging 13 days), rainy day fund (nearing \$20 million), unfunded pension liabilities (\$129 billion), and aggregate funded ratio of pension liabilities (46.5%). A highlight is that the bill backlog has shrunk nearly 75%, down from \$16.7 billion during the worst of the 2015-2017 budget impasse to less than \$4.4 billion as of Tuesday, January 18.

VACCINE MANDATE

Following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Biden vaccine requirement, the Illinois Department of Labor will likely retract [administrative rules](#) that require vaccines for public and private employers with more than 100 employees. The Department issued the following on its website: *The Illinois Department of Labor is aware of the United States Supreme Court decision that was released on January 13, 2022 staying the Federal OSHA COVID-19 vaccination and testing emergency temporary standard. Because IL OSHA's preemptory rule incorporates the federal standard, IL OSHA will similarly stay enforcement of its rule while it monitors federal litigation and determines next steps.*

HOUSE SPEAKER PRIORITIES

House Speaker **Chris Welch** has created a House Budget Negotiation Team comprised of State Reps. **Will Davis**, **Elizabeth Hernandez**, **Mike Zalewski**, and **Robyn Gabel**, who will closely assist Majority Leader and Chief Budgeteer **Greg Harris** this legislative session.

In addition to passing the state's Fiscal Year 2023 budget, Speaker Welch indicated last week that he is also working on legislation to address carjacking, organized retail theft, and other crime-related issues. Last year, the General Assembly approved the elimination of cash bail beginning in 2023.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Petition circulation for the 2022 election began on Thursday, January 13. Signatures are due March 14.

Aurora Mayor **Richard Irvin** has announced his campaign for governor, running as a Republican alongside Assistant House Republican Leader **Avery Bourne**. Irvin is a U.S. Army veteran who earned his law degree from Northern Illinois University. He practiced as an assistant state's attorney for Cook County before becoming a prosecutor for the Kane County state's attorney. He was elected to Aurora City Council in 2007 and became the first African American mayor of the city in 2017. The 29-year-old Bourne was first elected to the Illinois House in 2015, becoming the youngest member to join the General Assembly, where she quickly rose into leadership.

Irvin joins a crowded race for the Republican nomination, running against Sen. **Darren Bailey** (R-Louisville), businessmen **Gary Rabine** and **Jesse Sullivan**, and former state senator **Paul Schimpf**, among others.

Gov. Pritzker recently made a \$90 million contribution to his gubernatorial campaign, on top of a \$35 million donation last spring. The latest amount comes as Richard Irvin announced his candidacy with the rumored backing of Citadel Securities' **Ken Griffin**, who has a net worth of around \$27 billion and has promised to go "all in" to support an opponent to Gov. Pritzker.

Former State Rep. and Illinois Director of Natural Resources director **Wayne Rosenthal**, who had previously announced a run for State Senate against incumbent Sen. **Steve McClure**, instead announced that he is running for his old seat. Rep. Avery Bourne cannot seek her House seat and the Lt. Governor position at the same time, so Rosenthal will run for the new 108th district. Fittingly, Bourne replaced Rosenthal in the House in 2015. Rosenthal currently serves as a trustee on the Lincoln Land Community College board.

Other recent campaign announcements:

- Former La Salle County State's Attorney **Karen Donnelly** is running in the 105th House District to replace State Rep. **Dan Brady**, who is running for Secretary of State. Donnelly will face Livingston County Board Member **Mike Kirkton** in the Republican primary.
- Democrat **Lilian Jimenez** is seeking election to the 4th House District, which is being vacated by State Rep. **Delia Ramirez**, who is running for Congress.
- Republican Attorney Michele Hunter announced her candidacy in the new 54th House District represented by State Rep. **Tom Morrison**, who is not running for reelection. Arlington Heights Trustee **Mary Beth Canty** is the sole Democratic candidate in that race.
- State Rep. **Michael Robert Walters** is running in the 55th House District against incumbent Democratic Rep. **Marty Moylan**.
- Democrat **Anthony Ortiz** filed paperwork with the State Board of Elections to run in the 43rd House District, currently represented by State Rep. **Anna Moeller**.
- Republican **Scott Greene** also filed paperwork to be a candidate in the district represented by Democratic State Rep. **Larry Walsh**.
- **Kenneth Yerkes** intends to seek the Republican nomination against longtime Democratic Rep. **Mary Flowers**.
- **Dr. Bill Hauter**, an emergency physician and anesthesiologist from Morton, says that he will run for an open Illinois House seat that includes much of the district now represented by retiring State Rep. **Keith Sommer** – the re-drawn 87th.

COVID UPDATES

COVID cases and hospitalizations are falling, but Illinois just suffered the third-worst daily COVID death toll of the pandemic. On average, 109 Illinoisans die each day, with the vast majority unvaccinated.

HEALTH MANDATE COVERAGE

The Illinois Department of Insurance issued a bulletin last week listing requirements for new state health mandates signed into law after the 2021 spring legislative session. Company Bulletin #2022-01 can be found [here](#).

NEW STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS DIRECTOR

Bernadette Matthews has been named executive director of the Illinois State Board of Elections. She served as assistant executive director since 2017 and has been acting executive director since April 2021.

JOINT ANALYSIS CENTER CREATED

[Executive Order 2022-02](#) establishes the Illinois Joint Analysis Center within the Department of Military Affairs. The Center is a collaborative effort involving government, private-sector, military, research, and academic stakeholders that provides an information-sharing network to enhance the state's cybersecurity.

NEW 464 AREA CODE

With new telephone numbers in Chicago's southern suburbs in high demand, the Illinois Commerce Commission has approved the implementation of a new 464 area code to overlay the existing 708 area code region. Starting on Friday, January 21, customers in the 708 region may be assigned a number in the new 464 area code when they request new service or an additional line. The 464 area code will co-exist everywhere in this region with the 708 area code.

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

