



Illinois Community College Trustees Association

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

January 29, 2025

The Illinois General Assembly has returned to Springfield this week. Not much official action is expected to occur, as both chambers continue to organize lawmakers for their committee assignments. Only two Senate committees are scheduled to occur: Judiciary and Education. The General Assembly continues to focus on introducing new bills, although we are still in the early stages of this process.

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

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

KEY 2025 SESSION DATES FOR THE 104TH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau has implemented a black-out period during which it will not accept lawmakers' requests for bills or amendments, beginning at 5 PM on January 24 through noon on February 7.

- February 7: Deadline – Introduction of House & Senate Bills
LRB amendment requests begin
- February 19: Governor's State of the State/Budget Address
- March 21: Deadline – House & Senate Bills Out of Committee of Origin
- April 12: Deadline – House & Senate Third Reading Deadline
- May 7: **ICCTA LOBBY DAY**
- May 9: Deadline – House Bills out of Senate Committee & Senate Bills out of House Committee
- May 23: Deadline – Third Reading Deadline for House Bills in Senate & Senate Bills in House
- May 31: Adjournment

IBHE RECOMMENDS 4% HIGHER ED BUDGET INCREASE FOR FY 2026

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is recommending a \$108.8 million (4%) increase in higher education funding for Fiscal Year 2026 to support its equity-driven "A Thriving Illinois" strategic plan. Key highlights include:

- \$50 million increase for the Monetary Award Program, targeting \$1 billion in funding within 10 years
- \$24.7 million (2%) increase in funding for public universities
- \$7.2 million (2%) increase for community colleges, adult education, and career training
- \$15 million for scholarships to upskill the early childhood workforce
- \$4 million for the community college PATH program to advance healthcare careers
- \$3.5 million for a new Center for Basic Needs at the Illinois Community College Board
- \$1.8 million increase for the state's direct college admissions program

IBHE's full FY26 recommended budget can be accessed [here](#). The budget now moves to Gov. **JB Pritzker** and the General Assembly for consideration.

WIU ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATIVE FURLOUGHS

Western Illinois University is implementing a furlough program for 89 administrative employees who are not part of a bargaining unit. The plan is part of efforts to work toward long-term financial sustainability. This step will save the university nearly \$500,000.

ILLINOIS SCHOOLS RESPOND TO IMMIGRATION POLICY CHANGES

The Illinois State Board of Education is encouraging local school districts to adopt clear policies spelling out how and when their staff should cooperate with federal immigration officials carrying out enforcement actions or seeking information from school officials. The “non-regulatory guidance” on immigration enforcement actions was issued January 22, two days after President Donald Trump was inaugurated for his second term in the White House. Changes in federal immigration enforcement now allow actions in previously protected spaces like schools.

ILLINOIS EXPANDS PRESCHOOL ACCESS WITH 5,150 NEW SEATS

Gov. Pritzker has announced 5,150 new preschool seats for FY25 through the Smart Start Illinois initiative. This effort aims to serve 80% of low-income 3- and 4-year-olds statewide, bringing the total new seats created under his administration to 11,000.

MADIGAN TRIAL CONTINUES

In the past week, the federal corruption trial of former Illinois House Speaker **Michael Madigan** has progressed significantly. The prosecution delivered their closing argument and Madigan’s defense team began their closing argument last Friday afternoon, bringing the trial closer to a conclusion. Trial resumed on Monday, with Madigan’s defense team picking up where they left off on Friday. As the trial concludes – three months after it began – the jury is expected to begin deliberations this week.

SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

Gov. Pritzker has announced a \$10 million initiative through the Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment to support small businesses in Illinois. The Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program aims to assist businesses owned by historically underrepresented groups and those with fewer than 10 employees. The funding is intended to facilitate sustainable growth, enhance efficiency, and promote job creation and retention through capital improvements. Eligible projects include planning, land and building acquisition, site improvements, and the purchase of durable equipment. This initiative underscores the state's commitment to fostering equitable economic development and providing resources to small businesses that need them most.

NEXT ROUND OF EV REBATES FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has announced the opening of the next round of funding for the Illinois Electric Vehicle Rebate Program. Eligible residents can receive a \$4,000 rebate for the purchase of an electric passenger vehicle or a \$1,500 rebate for an electric motorcycle. Applicants must submit their rebate applications within 90 days of vehicle purchase and before the application window closes on April 30. Low-income purchasers will receive priority in the review and award process.

STELLANTIS PLEDGES TO REOPEN BELVIDERE ASSEMBLY PLANT IN 2027

After more than a year of deliberations between Stellantis and the United Automobile Workers, a deal has been reached that will reopen the Belvidere Assembly Plant through a \$1.2 billion investment. This investment will bring back 1,500 jobs to the area. The reopening of the plant is expected to happen in 2027, where a new midsize truck will be manufactured.

Stellantis also committed to building the next generation Dodge Durango at the Detroit Assembly Complex, reversed plans to move production of the GME-T4 EVO engine out of the country, and pledged to increase component production at the Toledo Machining Plant. The union has agreed to settle its grievances concerning the Dodge Durango as part of the negotiations.

IDFPR ADDS FOUR LICENSURE TYPES TO CORE ONLINE SYSTEM

Four additional professions are available for licensure with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's Comprehensive Online Regulatory Environment. The online licensing system will now offer the following license types: (1) Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA); (2) Licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst (LABA); (3) Behavior Analyst Continuing Education Sponsor; and (4) Licensed Certified Professional Midwife.

INVESTMENTS IN FORTUNE BRANDS INNOVATIONS

A collaboration between Fortune Brands Innovations and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has led to significant investments in the company's expanded global headquarters in Deerfield. Supported by an Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) agreement, this initiative aims to create at least 400 new full-time jobs, with the facility accommodating over 1,000 associates by the end of 2027. Fortune Brands Innovations, known for its home products and security solutions, will consolidate its U.S. divisional headquarters into this single location to foster innovation and growth. The decision underscores Illinois' strong professional labor force and dynamic business ecosystem.

ILLINOIS LAUNCHES \$7 MILLION TECH INCUBATOR GRANT PROGRAM

DCEO has announced \$7 million in funding for the Tech Incubator Enhancement Grants Program. This initiative aims to modernize and expand startup incubators, fostering innovation in key industries like life sciences, AI, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$3 million, with applications open until March 17. The program supports incubators in underserved areas and strengthens Illinois' technology network to drive future economic growth. For more information and application details, visit the DCEO website.

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

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