



ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report January 30, 2023

The Illinois Senate convened very briefly for session in Springfield last week before adjourning early to try to beat the incoming snowstorm. The Illinois House returns to session on Tuesday, January 31. The Senate does not return until Tuesday, February 7.

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

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

KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE 103RD ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 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

MORE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS ANNOUNCED

Senate Democrats have published their leadership team for the 103rd General Assembly:

- Senator **Kimberly Lightford** - Majority Leader
- Senator **Bill Cunningham** - President Pro Tempore
- Senator **Mattie Hunter** - Assistant Majority Leader
- Senator **Linda Holmes** - Assistant Majority Leader
- Senator **David Koehler** - Assistant Majority Leader
- Senator **Laura Murphy** - Assistant Majority Leader
- Senator **Omar Aquino** - Majority Caucus Chair
- Senator **Julie Morrison** - Majority Caucus Whip
- Senator **Napoleon Harris III** - Majority Caucus Whip
- Senator **Cristina Castro** - Majority Caucus Whip
- Senator **Elgie Sims Jr.** - Majority Caucus Appropriations Leader

House Republican Leader **Tony McCombie** has announced the House Republicans' budget team, naming Deputy Leader **Norine Hammond** (Macomb) as Chief Budgeteer for the caucus. Rep. **Amy Elik** (Alton) will be elevated to Deputy Budgeteer. They join Democratic Speaker Pro Tempore **Jehan Gordon-Booth** (Peoria) and Leader **Robyn Gabel** (Evanston).

EXECUTIVE DEPARTURES AND APPOINTMENTS

Illinois Deputy Governor **Christian Mitchell**, who has overseen environment, infrastructure, and public safety issues since the beginning of Gov. JB Pritzker's first term, is leaving the Governor's office at the beginning of March.

Gov. Pritzker has announced the following re-appointments in his administration: **Marc Smith** will continue to serve as Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. **John Kim** will continue to serve as Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. **Jane Flanagan** will continue to serve as the Director of the Illinois Department of Labor. **Dana Popish Severinghaus** will continue to serve as the Director of the Department of Insurance. **Theresa Eagleson** will continue to serve as Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

ILLINOIS PAYS OFF REMAINING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION DEBT

Illinois has paid off its remaining debt to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund that was placed under major stress by COVID-19-related economic struggles. The \$1.36 billion balance was paid after a deal was reached between the state, the business community, the labor community, and legislators through the agreed bill process. The legislation appropriating the funds also included a \$450 million infusion into the Trust Fund to shore it up against future economic downturns.

\$13 MILLION ANNOUNCED FOR ILLINOIS WORKS PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM EXPANSION

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has awarded \$13 million to 30 recipients to expand the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, which creates a qualified talent pipeline of diverse candidates in construction and the building trades. The program's second year expands access to the program across the state and will serve up to 1,400 pre-apprentices – a 40% increase from the program's inaugural year. Participants of the program attend tuition-free and receive a stipend and other supportive, barrier reduction services to help enter the construction industry. Upon completion of the program, pre-apprentices receive industry aligned certifications which will prepare and qualify them to continue to a registered apprenticeship program in one of the trades.

MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE ACTION PLAN WEB EVENT

The Illinois Supreme Court's Mental Health Task Force will host a web event on Thursday, February 2, from 12:15-1 PM. Information is available at illinoiscourts.gov or by contacting Scott Block, Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, at sblock@illinoiscourts.gov or 312-793-1876.

\$113.8 MILLION RELEASED IN DOWNSTATE TRANSIT GRANTS

As part of the ongoing Rebuild Illinois infrastructure initiative, the Illinois Department of Transportation announced another round of funding for downstate public transit providers totaling \$113.8 million. With this

latest round of funding, the state has provided \$337.8 million total in competitive transit grants. The funding is being awarded to 32 transit systems to support a total of 44 projects in areas including St. Clair County, the Champaign-Urbana region, Rock Island County, and Sangamon County.

SOS SETTLES WITH CARVANA

Illinois Secretary of State **Alexi Giannoulis** has entered into a settlement agreement with online used-car retailer Carvana, which admitted to violating Illinois law and agreed to abide by new restrictions aimed at protecting consumers. Illinois began investigating Carvana's practices in February 2022 after customers alleged it was issuing out-of-state temporary registration permits and for failing to transfer titles in a timely manner as required by the state's vehicle code. Illinois was the first state in the nation to suspend Carvana's license in May 2022.

SECRETARY OF STATE REJECTED NEARLY 400 VANITY PLATES IN 2022

The Illinois Secretary of State's office rejected nearly 400 vanity plates in 2022 for containing lewd language. SOS Giannoulis said that 54,236 vanity plates were requested last year; 383 were rejected for being offensive or difficult to read. Among those rejected include PEEPEE, GOTPOOP, SUCKER, KISSASH, SUKIT, BITEU, DUCKYOU, COKAIN, HAILNO, WHTHFUK and WMWWWMMW.

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

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