



## ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report January 8, 2023

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*Both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly returned to the State Capitol last week for a lame duck session scheduled from January 4 through 7 and on January 10. The Illinois Senate adjourned on Friday, January 6, and intends to re-convene Sunday, January 8 at 5 PM to continue work on many issues, including reproductive rights and firearm legislation. The House adjourned after midnight on Friday and will reconvene on Tuesday, January 10. It does not appear that there is consensus yet between the chambers on these high-profile bills. The inauguration for the Governor and other statewide constitutional officers is Monday, January 9, and the inauguration for members of the 103rd General Assembly is Wednesday, January 11.*

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

### LAME DUCK LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

- ❖ **Healthcare Omnibus:** [House Bill 240](#) passed the Senate and is pending for concurrence in the House. Some of the provisions include: creation of state authorization for rural hospitals to operate under a new federal care delivery model as Rural Emergency Hospitals; allows applications for licensure as an applied behavioral analyst subject to IDFPR rule; and makes changes to the ARPA payments for ground ambulance providers.
- ❖ **Reproductive Health:** [Senate Bill 1534](#) has been sent to the Senate for concurrence. In response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the Illinois House approved SB 1534 by a vote of 67-41, which creates the Patient and Provider Protection Act. The

legislation is designed to protect the licenses of health care professionals who provide abortion care and expand access to reproductive health and gender-affirming medications and procedures.

- NOTE: The Senate is expected to send a different version of this bill to the House for its concurrence. Advocates acknowledge there is “more work to be done” on matters too complex to finalize during the lame duck session.

- ❖ **Mandatory Paid Time Off:** [House Floor Amendment #3 to SB 208](#) would require all employers to provide 7 paid days off to employees. That amendment was not assigned for consideration and will likely appear again in the 103rd General Assembly.
- ❖ **FY 2022 Budget:** The Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a subject matter hearing on the FY23 supplemental appropriation bill, [HB 969](#) (Harris/Harmon), on Sunday at 3:30 PM. Amendments were still being filed Friday afternoon.
- ❖ Prior to adjourning Friday, the Senate filed **budget implementation** language as [Senate Floor Amendment #1 to HB 5052](#). SFA #1 has not been assigned for consideration at this time. Action is expected when the Senate returns on Sunday. Some of the key provisions include:
  - Creates the Warehouse Safety Standards Task Force Act to study warehouse safety standards.
  - Grants emergency rulemaking powers to the Department of Human Rights to implement a grant program to eradicate hate crimes and bias incidents and to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement a local chamber of commerce recovery grant program.
  - Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to seek federal reimbursements for administrative costs associated with the provision of independent legal representation to foster children, and their parents. Units of local government and public and private agencies may apply for and receive federal or State funds from the Department in accordance with the purposes of the amendatory Act.
  - Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to create a program to award grants to local chambers of commerce.
  - Makes changes concerning the distribution of lottery proceeds.
  - Repeals a provision that provided for a transfer of funds from the Statewide 9-1-1 Fund to the Statewide 9-8-8 Trust Fund.
  - Provides for transfers from the General Revenue Fund to the Budget Stabilization Fund, the Large Business Attraction Fund, and the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund. Increases the cap on the Budget Stabilization Fund from 5% to 7.5% of total general funds estimated for the fiscal year.
  - Provides \$460,000,000 in emergency stabilization payments to hospitals.
  - Contains trailer language to [HB 4285](#) to restore the small purchase limit in the Procurement Code to \$100,000.
- ❖ The House also filed **budget implementation** language as [HFA #3 to SB 1720](#) and passed the language over to the Senate right before it adjourned. The bill includes many of the items included in the Senate version, but adds **pay raises** for agency directors, constitutional officers (although Gov. JB Pritzker does not take a salary), and members of the General Assembly. The House passed the bill 63-35, with 20 members not voting.

- ❖ **Clean Energy:** The Senate Executive Committee approved [SFA # 1 to HB 4412](#), which makes several clean energy changes, including: (1) reforming citing requirements for wind and solar; (2) creating a mechanism for financial relief for electrical rate payers in the MISO region (subject to appropriation); (3) makes changes to Climate Works HUB language; (4) makes changes to public school carbon free assessments program; and (5) makes changes to the hiring of the director of the Illinois Power Authority. SFA # 2 and SFA # 3 have been filed and are pending before the full Senate.
  
- ❖ **Gun Control:** The Illinois House approved legislation, by a vote of 64-43, in response to the July 4, 2022 shootings and gun violence in Highland Park. As amended, [SB 2226](#) immediately bans the sale of assault weapons and prevents sales of large-capacity magazines that hold more than 12 rounds. The bill grandfathers existing gun owners who have their weapon properly registered. Exemptions to the firearm purchase provisions are included for active-duty law enforcement and retirees who have served in law enforcement for over 10 years. The legislation extends the duration of firearm restraining orders from six months to a year. The final bill did NOT raise the minimum age to purchase a firearm.
  - NOTE: SB 2226 passed the House is now pending in the Senate on concurrence. Gov. Pritzker, who supports the legislation and was on the House floor during its passage, said that he looks forward to working with the Senate to pass the legislation as quickly as possible.
  
- ❖ **Bills That Passed Both Chambers:** The following bills passed both chambers last week and will be sent to the Governor for his consideration:
  - [HB 1859](#) is an initiative of the **Cook County Forest Preserve District** that allows the district to make a full actuarial payment into its pension system.
  - [HB 3878](#), as amended, increases the revenue source for the Illinois Housing Development Authority's **Rental Support Program**. It creates the Illinois Rental Housing Support Program Funding Allocation Task Force, which will study and make recommendations regarding the equitable distribution of rental housing support funds throughout Illinois.
  - [HB 4228](#) makes several changes to the **Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act** including removing school districts from the Act and allowing certain highway commissioners and townships to form a joint committee.
  - [HB 4285](#), as amended, makes various **procurement** changes. Trailer language to restore the purchasing threshold to \$100,000 is in [HB 5052](#).
  - [HB 5542](#) makes changes to the **Illinois Joining Forces Foundation** per their request.
  - [SB 1794](#), as amended, represents a reform of the **municipal utility audit process** in Illinois.
  - [HB 9](#) allows individuals to change their gender on their **birth certificates** to the gender of their choice.
  - [HB 45](#) makes changes concerning the **verification of voter signatures**, provides each political party, candidate and qualified civic organization are entitled to have present one poll watcher for each panel of election judges at each place where vote by mail voters' ballots are processed, and makes changes to judicial districts.
  
- ❖ **Other Legislation Under Consideration:** Several bills remain active in the process currently including:
  - [SB 2801](#) contains appropriations necessary to implement the agreement to repay the balance in the **Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund**. The bill passed the House Executive Committee and is pending before the full House.

- [HB 5061](#) is a trailer bill to the Regional Water Commission legislation passed last year that allows for the building a **new pipeline** to supply water for Joliet and the surrounding areas. HB 5061 passed the Senate and is in the House on the Order of Concurrence.
- [HB 2369](#) represents a trailer bill to the **Veteran's Assistance Commission Act** and is in the House on the Order of Concurrence.

### STACY BENNETT TO FINISH HUSBAND'S TERM

Sen. Scott Bennett's widow, **Dr. Stacy Bennett**, was sworn in to finish the final few weeks of his current term. Dr. Bennett (who is a research associate in the Office of Community College Research and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) will not seek the appointment to the two-year term that begins at noon, January 11. Nine applicants were vying for the late Senator's two-year term in the 103rd General Assembly. City of Champaign Township Assessor **Paul Faraci** was ultimately chosen for the appointment over **Rep. Carol Ammons** (D-Urbana) and Champaign County Democratic Chair **Mike Ingram**.

### OTHER NEW LAWMAKERS

- ❖ **Jason Huffman**, a Menard County sheriff's deputy, was appointed to the 87th District for the remaining term of Rep. **Tim Butler**, who resigned to work with the Illinois Railroad Association. The seat will go to **Mike Coffey** of Springfield, manager of Springfield restaurant Saputo's and owner of restaurant Papa Frank's, in the 103rd General Assembly.
- ❖ **Terry Hall** was appointed to fill out the remainder of Senator **Melinda Bush**'s term in the 102nd General Assembly. **Mary Edly-Allen**, who won election in November, will be sworn into office to replace Bush in the 103rd General Assembly.
- ❖ **Bill Hauter** was sworn in to replace Rep. **Keith Sommer**, who resigned at the end of the year. Sommer did not seek reelection in 2022. Hauter was elected in November to serve in the 103rd General Assembly.

### GEN Z JOINS THE 103<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly will be sworn into session at noon on Wednesday, January 11. Among the new members are **Nabeela Syed** and **Brad Fritts** – both just 23 years old – who will be sworn in as state representatives, marking the advent of Gen Z into the legislature. Syed is a Democrat and Fritts is a Republican.

### PRITZKER ON HIS 2<sup>ND</sup> TERM AGENDA

In recent interviews, Gov. Pritzker has said that he intends to make improving education, from early childhood through college, and expanding access to childcare major priorities of the coming term. That includes proposals to make public colleges tuition-free for students whose families earn at or below the median income and to raise the income cutoff for families to qualify state childcare assistance. He also wants to expand the availability of childcare statewide and of mental health and substance abuse treatment, particularly downstate. The Governor will formally announce his policy and spending priorities in his upcoming combined State of the State and Budget Address on February 15.

## ILBC LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCED

The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus has selected its incoming leadership team for the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Rep. **Carol Ammons** will serve as chair, Sen. **Adriane Johnson** will serve as treasurer, Rep. **Debbie Meyers-Martin** will serve as secretary, and Rep. **Will Davis** will serve as sergeant at arms. Rep. **Lakesia Collins** will chair the House Black Caucus, with Sen. **Robert Peters** as Senate Black Caucus chair.

## PRITZKER ANNOUNCED SECOND-TERM TRANSITIONS

Gov. Pritzker has announced a series of administrative changes as he begins his second term in office.

- ❖ Illinois Department of Natural Resources director Colleen Callahan will step down from her position on January 16.
- ❖ Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity director Sylvia Garcia will step down from her position on January 16.
- ❖ Illinois Central Management Services director Anthony Pascente will step down from his position on January 20.
- ❖ Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology secretary Jennifer Ricker will step down from her position at the end of the term.

The administration will announce their successors in the coming weeks.

## ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE RENAMED

A new law has removed a long-standing stigma for people who earn an Illinois High School Equivalency Certificate. Starting January 1, 2023, that certificate has been renamed the State of Illinois High School Diploma to more accurately reflect the equal value of that diploma and traditional diplomas earned at high schools across Illinois. The change will help Illinois graduates establish reciprocity with educational requirements in other states.

## FALL FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT UP 5 PERCENT AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Freshman enrollment at Illinois public universities was up by 5% for the fall semester compared to last year, breaking with national trends that saw a 2.4% decrease, the Illinois Board of Higher Education announced. Nine out of the state's 12 public institutions reported an increase. The state also outpaced national trends in African-American and Latino freshman enrollment, increasing by 12.9% this fall compared to a national decrease of 0.7%. While freshman enrollment was up, overall enrollment was still down 1.3% in Illinois year-over-year, compared to a 1.6% nationally.

## PRE-TRIAL FAIRNESS ACT ON HOLD

The Illinois Supreme Court has issued a hold on the Illinois Pre-Trial Fairness Act until further notice, leaving cash bail still in effect. This comes after a Kankakee County judge ruled parts of the Act unconstitutional last week. The court's decision means that every county in the state must maintain a cash bail system until further

notice. The Act was supposed to go into effect on January 1 and eliminate cash bail. The Supreme Court's decision was to maintain consistency in trial procedures across the state until the legal challenges are settled. Other portions of the SAFE-T Act, including new requirements for body cameras and police training, still went into effect. The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments about the constitutionality of the SAFE-T Act's elimination of cash bail in March.

### **REIMAGINING ELECTRIC VEHICLES ACT AMENDED**

Gov. Pritzker has signed an amendment to the Reimagining Electric Vehicles in Illinois Act, further incentivizing EV production across the state. The new incentives will support existing Illinois automakers seeking to transform their current plants into EV production plants, bolster the state's entire EV ecosystem by giving manufacturers the ability to ramp up production of EV parts, and provide those manufacturers with additional flexibility in determining which incentives work best for them as the market evolves. Specifically, the tax credit available to Illinois automakers that retain employees as they transition to EV production is increased to 75% of their income tax at the statewide level and 100% of their income tax if they operate in an Underserved or Energy Transition Area.

### **EMPLOYMENT LAWS POSTER UPDATED FOR 2023**

The Illinois Department of Labor has released the 2023 version of the "Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws" Poster. This poster is required to be displayed in the workplace. The poster is available in [English](#), [Polish](#) and [Spanish](#) on IDOL's website, along with a summary of posting requirements and the full text of each law.

### **PRITZKER SIGNS BILL DIVESTING STATE FUNDS FROM RUSSIAN INVESTMENTS**

State pension funds will be completely divested from Russian and Belarussian banks and investments under legislation signed by Gov. Pritzker. [HB 1293](#) will affect less than .0005% of state funds. The divestment is intended to show continued support for Ukraine in the ongoing conflict against Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. Illinois continues to accept Ukrainian refugees displaced by the conflict. Last year 70,000 Ukrainian refugees came to the United States.

### **ILLINOIS CYBER SECURITY COMMISSION EO EXTENDED**

Gov. Pritzker has extended the Illinois Cyber Security Commission's executive order to support a strong coordination effort across all levels of government to enhance cyber security. The Commission will continue working to develop recommendations for protecting valuable information by identifying and disrupting cyber-attacks, developing cross-sector and community training exercises for critical infrastructure partners, and supporting regional critical infrastructure cyber response teams.

### **NEXT CANNABIS DISPENSARY LICENSE LOTTERY SET FOR JANUARY**

The state of Illinois will begin accepting applications for the next round of cannabis dispensary licenses beginning this month. The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation will make 55 licenses available to be distributed across the state's 17 Bureau of Labor Statistics regions. Applications will be accepted from January 30, 2023, through February 14, 2023.

## **VETERANS' GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED**

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs announced the first quarter of FY23 Veterans' Grant Recipients of nearly \$350,000 awarded to organizations that provide vital services to veterans, including homelessness, and post-traumatic stress treatment, health insurance costs, long-term care, disability benefits, and employment and employment training. The grant is funded by the Winter Winnings Illinois Lottery ticket.

## **RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR ADULT USE CANNABIS SALES**

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has reported 2022 set adult use cannabis sales records in all categories. This includes number of items sold, sales totals to Illinois and out-of-state residents, and sales total by month. For the year, Illinois adult use cannabis dispensaries sold \$1,552,324,820.37 worth of product, an increase of more than 12% from 2021 and 131% from 2020, the first-year cannabis sales were first legally allowed in Illinois. There are currently 113 adult use cannabis dispensaries in Illinois, including the first three social equity dispensaries that opened their doors in 2022. These figures do not include taxes collected, which are reported by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS**

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot is asking the Illinois General Assembly for \$54 million to help fund emergency services for asylum-seeking individuals and migrants. The Pritzker administration announced that state funds will no longer be able to support city migrant service efforts as of February 1. To date, the State has offered nearly \$120 million toward the effort.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER GRANTS**

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is requesting proposals for grants for Community Healing Resource Centers. Grants will be made with Trauma Recovery and Community Healing Resource Center FY23 funds. A total of \$1,900,000 in funding in Trauma Recovery and Community Healing Resource Center funds is available through this solicitation for use over a period of four months.

## **SECRETARY OF STATE-ELECT GIANNOULIAS ANNOUNCES KEY STAFF**

Secretary of State-Elect Alexi Giannoulias has announced the appointment of the following staff members: Kathleen Nelson, Chief of Staff; Sheleda Doss, Chief Deputy/Downstate Operations; Aileen Kim, Chief Deputy/Public Programs; Aimee Pine, Chief Deputy/Administrative Operations; Lashaunna D. Sims-Davis (Shaunna), Chief Deputy/External Affairs; and Vanessa Uribe, Chief Deputy/Driver's-Vehicles Services.

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

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