



Illinois Community College Trustees Association

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

February 3, 2025

The Illinois General Assembly will reconvene from February 4-6, 2025. With the bill filing deadline approaching on February 7, a significant influx of new proposals is expected. To date, approximately 1,500 Senate bills and 2,500 House bills have been filed, with many more still pending in the drafting bureau. In the Senate, committee hearings are underway to review pending legislation. The House has not yet assigned bills to committees, leaving House committee meetings unscheduled for this week. We will continue to monitor developments closely and provide updates as the session progresses.

*****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

POSSIBLE IMPACT OF FEDERAL CUTS FOR ILLINOIS

Gov. **JB Pritzker** has directed state agencies to report on potential impacts of President **Donald Trump's** attempted federal funding cuts for Illinois. The list below are items identified as areas of concern that the state will continue to monitor:

❖ Access Issues for Federal Funding Portals

Despite official information from the federal government stating that programs that provide assistance directly to individuals will not be impacted, state agencies and partner organizations reported issues accessing payment systems throughout the day on January 28. Illinois officials experienced issues with the following systems:

- **Payment Management System portal** operated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services were down for at least part of the day for following programs:
 - Medicaid and ACA expansion populations

- Home-delivered and congregate meal sites for seniors,
- Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (disaster recovery and mitigation programs)
- Childcare and Head Start programs
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families
- Vaccinations and disease surveillance
- **Electronic Line of Credit Control System portal** operated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
 - Rental assistance programs for people who are homeless and/or have disabilities.

❖ Resources for Illinois Families and Children

- **Medicaid:**
 - Provides health care to 3.3 million low-income Illinoisans including children.
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant:**
 - Supports childcare for low-income families for 140,000 children in over 80,000 households.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program:**
 - Assists 300,000+ low-income households annually with energy bills.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families:**
 - Provides cash assistance and work support for 75,000 low-income residents.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid ReHousing:**
 - Provides housing support for approximately 2,600 families and 9,000 Illinoisans.
- **Child Welfare Programs:**
 - Support for foster care services, adoption services, guardianship and reimbursement for residential placements, impacting 20,000 children in care statewide.
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program:**
 - Provides meals to children enrolled at participating daycare centers, as well as older individuals with disabilities at adult day centers, providing 1,000,000+ meals to Illinoisans per year.

❖ Support for Older Illinoisans

- **Administration for Community Living programs, including:**
 - Nutrition programs - 13 million meals served in 2024
 - Supportive Services (e.g., transportation, in-home care)
 - Family Caregiver Support Programs – 16,000+ caregivers in Illinois
- **Senior Health Insurance Program:**
 - Provides support to older Illinoisans with enrolling in healthcare. SHIP provided counseling to 103,000 beneficiaries in FY24.
- **Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers:**
 - Helps low-income Medicare beneficiaries enroll in cost saving benefits, which supports 74,000 Illinoisans.

❖ Critical Public Health Services for Illinoisans:

- **Maternal and Child Health Services (Title V):**
 - Provides funding to improve the health of mothers and children through initiatives like prenatal care and infant screenings.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Programs:**
 - Funds mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services, including opioid response initiatives.
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers:**
 - Funds health care for underserved populations, including preventive and primary care services.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grants support programs for:**
 - Immunizations
 - Disease surveillance (e.g., HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis)

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program:**
 - Provides essential medical care and services for individuals with HIV/AIDS.
- **Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant:**
 - Funds state-level public health initiatives, including chronic disease prevention and health promotion.

❖ Support for Illinoisians with Disabilities

- **Section 811 Housing:**
 - Provides housing support and services for persons with disabilities.
- **The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities:**
 - State agency that advocates for policy changes to promote choice, independence, productivity, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.
- **Employment Supports for Disabled Workers:**
 - Funding includes pre-employment transition services, supported employment programs, job training activities, and vocational rehabilitation programs.
- **Respite Support for Families:**
 - Funding for emergency respite support for individuals with disabilities benefiting more than 1,100 families.

❖ Economic Development for Illinois Communities

- **Community Development Block Grant:**
 - Provides grants to communities to expand housing and other economic development efforts.
- **Community Services Block Grant:**
 - Provides funding to combat poverty through local programs like job training and housing assistance.
- **State Small Business Credit Initiative:**
 - Provides funding to help small businesses access low-interest loans, venture capital and other financing.
- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title 1 Funding:**
 - Funds programs and resources to provide job search, education, and training activities to help jobseekers and our workforce.

❖ Infrastructure:

- **Broadband Equity Access and Deployment:**
 - Access to significant federal funds for broadband expansion.
- **Federal formula funding for transportation infrastructure:**
 - Includes highway, transit, and aeronautics programs and projects
- **Federal discretionary grants funded under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act, including:**
 - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program
 - Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program
 - Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant
 - Airport Improvement Grants
 - Port Infrastructure Grants
 - Grants to Amtrak to improve passenger rail
 - Rail Safety Grants

❖ Agriculture

- **Meat and Poultry Inspections:**
 - Provides risk oversight the entire meat and poultry supply chain. IDOA receives reimbursement from the federal government for up to half of its inspection activities.

❖ Disaster Mitigation:

- **Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Programs:** Five state disaster programs are federally funded and would be unable to proceed:
 - Public assistance and individual assistance
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
 - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance
 - Pre-disaster Mitigation

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CHALLENGE ALLEGED GERRYMANDERING IN COURT

House Republican Leader **Tony McCombie** (R-Savana) has announced a lawsuit against the Illinois State Board of Elections over alleged illegal gerrymandering. McCombie criticized the state's current district map as "unethical and illegal" and for being in violation of the Illinois Constitution's requirements for compactness and fair elections. Additionally, Rep. **Ryan Spain** (R-Peoria) filed [House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 5](#), a constitutional amendment proposal for fair districting reform.

MADIGAN TRIAL CONTINUES

As of February 1, the federal corruption trial of former Illinois House Speaker **Michael Madigan** has reached a critical juncture. After more than three months of testimony and arguments, a 12-person jury began deliberations on January 29. Madigan faces a 23-count indictment, including charges of racketeering conspiracy, bribery, wire fraud, and attempted extortion. His longtime confidant, **Michael McClain**, is also on trial, facing six counts related to the alleged corruption schemes.

SEN. MCCONCHIE RESIGNS

State Sen. **Dan McConchie** (R-Hawthorn Woods) has announced his resignation after serving nearly nine years in the Illinois Senate, effective February 2. Interest in the seat is already building. Rep. **Martin McLaughlin** (R-Barrington Hills) has announced his interest in filling the 26th District Senate seat. McLaughlin has served in the 52nd House District since 2021. He has also served as the village president of Barrington Hills from 2013-2021. Another interested candidate is **Joe Salvi**, the son of Illinois GOP Chair **Kathy Salvi** and former State Representative **Al Salvi**, a partner in the Salvi family law firm, and endorsed for the seat by McConchie.

Also interested in running for the seat next year is **Maria Peterson**, who lost to McLaughlin in the race for his House seat by a mere 47 votes in November. Peterson also came within 400 votes of beating McConchie in 2022. **Rep. Nabeela Syed** (D-Palatine) is also said to be interested.

IDOC EXPANDS CADET TRAINING TO ADDRESS STAFFING SHORTAGES

The Illinois Department of Corrections has partnered with John A. Logan College and Elementary School District 54 to train cadets and fill vacancies in correctional facilities across the state. Cadets who will train at JALC will be prepared for jobs at Big Muddy River, Centralia, Pinckneyville, Menard, Shawnee and Vienna Correctional Centers. Cadets who train with Elementary School District 54 will be employed at Joliet Treatment Center, Joliet Inpatient Treatment Center, Kewanee Life Skills Re-Entry Center, Pontiac and Sheridan Correctional Centers. These partnerships, developed with AFSCME Council 31, will serve as a temporary solution while the Decatur Training Academy remains the primary hub. IDOC expects the initiative to increase training capacity by up to 300 percent, strengthening the correctional workforce and supporting local communities.

NEW UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP OFFERS COLLEGE CREDIT TO ISP ACADEMY GRADUATES

Illinois State Police cadets can now earn college credits toward a bachelor's degree through a new partnership with Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and Western Illinois University. This initiative recognizes ISP Academy training and provides over 150 credit hours in various fields. Additionally, ISP reached an agreement with American Public University System to offer 39 credit hours toward a criminal justice degree.

NEW TAX CREDITS AND FREE FILING OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR ILLINOISANS

Economic Security Illinois is encouraging residents to take advantage of new and expanded tax credits this year, including the state's first-ever Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. The CTC, created in last year's state budget, provides up to \$300 for eligible families with children under 12. Additionally, Illinoisans are urged to use the IRS Direct File program, a free online filing system that could save taxpayers an estimated \$725 million in fees and extra credits. State officials also recommend using MyTax Illinois to file state returns easily.

GET COVERED ILLINOIS SEES RECORD ENROLLMENT SURGE

Illinois set a record for health insurance enrollment, with nearly 466,000 residents signing up for Get Covered Illinois Marketplace plans during the 2025 Open Enrollment Period -- a 17% increase from last year. The state's Navigator Program received \$6.5 million in grants to assist with enrollment. State officials credited the program's success to dedicated Navigator partners who helped more families access affordable, quality health coverage.

CHICAGO TRANSIT RIDERSHIP HITS POST-PANDEMIC HIGHS, BUT BUDGET SHORTFALLS LOOM

Public transit ridership in the Chicago region reached its highest level since the pandemic, with 361 million trips taken in 2024, an 11% increase from 2023, according to the Regional Transit Authority. The Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace all reported ridership gains, with Pace seeing the largest increase at 13%. Despite this growth, the RTA warns of financial challenges. A \$770 million budget shortfall could lead to service cuts of up to 40% by 2026 without additional state funding. The Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act ([Senate Bill 5/House Bill 1833](#)) has been proposed to restructure transit agencies and address funding issues.

ILLINOIS AWARDS \$31 MILLION FOR INDUSTRIAL SITE READINESS

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has announced \$31 million in Regional Site Readiness Program grants to support infrastructure and development at 24 sites statewide. The program includes Planning Grants for site assessments and Capital Ready Grants for infrastructure improvements, enhancing Illinois' ability to attract industrial investment and job growth. Awardees include cities across Illinois, with funds supporting road, water, sewer, and energy infrastructure to make sites business ready.

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

