

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

March 20, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois House of Representatives held committee meetings last week, while the Senate worked in district. Both chambers will convene in Springfield from Tuesday through Friday this week to finalize bills in committees in the second chamber. There are only three weeks remaining before the Friday, April 8 adjournment.

Some significant issues to be addressed include:

- Gov. JB Pritzker's proposal to freeze the current **state motor fuel tax** or alternative ideas to decrease the state's sales tax on gas. Motor Fuel Tax funds are used for infrastructure projects. Labor unions are arguing against freezing the MFT due to the loss in capital project funding.
- The **Illinois Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund** is nearly \$4.5 billion in debt due to the large number of unemployment filers during the pandemic. The state could use federal American Rescue Plan Act money to pay back the debt, but Democrats are hopeful that the federal government will offer help or forgiveness of some of the debt.
- **Hospital and nursing home assessments for federal Medicaid funding**
- House Speaker Welch had said that the House will work on a **crime reduction package**, but there are no specifics yet.
- **Energy bill trailer legislation**
- **Fiscal Year 2023 state budget**

IN-PERSON SENATE HEARINGS

Senate President Don Harmon announced Friday that all Senate committees (except for Senate Executive Appointments) will be going in-person this week only. Face masks are strongly encouraged but not required. A negative COVID-19 PCR or SHIELD testing will be required for all senators, staff, lobbyists, and members of the public visiting the Statehouse within the prior 72 hours. Lobbyists and members of the public will be given wristbands upon checking into the State Capitol.

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- March 25: House & Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

*****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.***

FY 23 BUDGET UPDATE

Last week the House and Senate appropriations committees continued examining agency budget requests. The House and Senate will now begin the process of identifying and prioritizing changes that they would like to see in the Governor's introduced budget. Once those areas are identified, budget

negotiators will work to reconcile the priorities between the two chambers, with the goal of approving a final FY23 budget prior to the April 8 adjournment deadline.

House Majority Leader Greg Harris (D-Chicago) noted that the war in Ukraine is already having negative impacts on the state's economy, and budget makers must keep an eye on its fiscal implications for the budget. Harris said that we are seeing an increase in gas prices and major drops in the stock market, which will have significant effects on capital gains taxes and corporate income taxes. Sales taxes are beginning to "soften," as consumers are forced to make spending choices.

Leader Harris also noted that there are several requests being made for allocations of the state's remaining \$3.5 billion in ARPA funds. Legislators are wrestling with how much of those funds the state should keep in reserve. At present, the state is targeting \$2 billion in ARPA funding for the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, although that figure could change if negotiators find other funding solutions for the shortfall. Leader Harris said that budget makers are receiving worthy requests from numerous sectors such as hotels, the hospitality industry, healthcare providers, arts, culture, museums, other business groups, and affordable housing groups. He summed up the process by saying, "I think the first step is we have to see how much we're going to appropriate to the unemployment insurance trust fund, and then look at all the other different options, and there's going to have to be some judgments made."

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

The House Executive Committee has advanced legislation to address the shortfall in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund in [Senate Bill 2803](#) (Holmes/Harris). It is critical that the issue be resolved as six more interest rate hikes have been forecast for 2022. Parties continue to negotiate via the Agreed Bill Process. Leader Harris said last week that the \$2 billion appropriation in SB 2803 represents 25% of the state's total ARPA funds, which is consistent with how other states are allocating their federal funds. Negotiators are focusing on how to address the fund's remaining \$2.5 billion shortfall, including exploring the option of bonding out the remaining portion of that debt and perhaps exploring other state revenue sources. The end goal is to restore a surplus in the fund.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Candidate filing for the 2022 election season ended on Monday, March 14. A total of 740 candidates filed petitions to run for their party's nomination to state and federal offices in the June 28 primary election. Candidates will now face potential challenges to their petitions. Challenges must be filed within five business days from the close of the filing period. The State Board of Elections will certify candidates with valid petitions on Thursday, April 21.

[Click HERE to view the full list of 2022 Primary Candidates](#)

Noteworthy federal races include:

- **U.S. Senate** -- U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D) is unopposed in the primary, while eight Republicans filed by March 14. Mundelein attorney Kathy Salvi, wife of former State Rep. Al Salvi (R-Mundelein), was among those filing on the last day; she is likely the frontrunner to take on incumbent Sen. Duckworth in November.

- **1st Congressional District** -- The crowded Democratic field contains 20 candidates to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush. The most notable are state Sen. Jacqueline Collins (D-Chicago), Chicago Ald. Pat Dowell, and Jonathan Jackson, the son of Rev. Jesse Jackson. Five Republicans filed in this district, which Joe Biden won by 42 percentage points in 2020.
- **3rd Congressional District** -- This primary will be heavily contested between Chicago Ald. Gilbert Villegas and state Rep. Delia Ramirez (D-Chicago). Three other Democrats have filed to run in the newly-formed open district.
- **6th Congressional District** -- Both U.S. Reps. Sean Casten and Marie Newman have filed in the Democratic primary. Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau is probably the best known of the six Republicans who filed.
- **11th Congressional District** -- Seven Republicans have filed to challenge Democrat incumbent U.S. Rep. Bill Foster, including Catalina Lauf and Cassandra Tanner Miller.
- **17th Congressional District** Six Democrats and two Republicans have filed to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos. Republican Esther Joy King is the favorite in her primary. The Democratic primary could be a tight race between former state Rep. Litesa Wallace, Rockford councilmember Jonathan Logemann, and former TV meteorologist Eric Sorensen.
- “We Are The People Illinois” recruited several candidates to file petitions in the Republican primary. The group supports former President Trump and his assertions of election fraud.

In state legislative races, Republicans were more active in recruiting candidates in even predominantly Democrat districts. Several incumbents from both parties have primary challenges.

Illinois Senate races of note:

- **1st Senate** – Sen. Tony Munoz’s future son-in-law Javier Loera Cervantes filed to run in the primary “against” him. Munoz (D-Chicago) has confirmed that he is retiring.
- **2nd Senate** – Sen. Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) has three Democratic opponents: Humboldt Park Advisory Council President Jacqueline Baez, Wilmer Maldonado, and Wilson Vazquez.
- **10th Senate** – Chicago police officer Erin Jones filed to run against Sen. Rob Martwick (D-Chicago). Jones has the support of the Fraternal Order of Police.
- **11th Senate** – Retiring Sen. Steve Landek (D-Bridgeview) appears to be doing the same thing as Sen. Munoz with his chief of staff, Lyons Township Trustee Mike Porfirio.
- **12th Senate** – Javier Yañez filed to run against Sen. Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago). Yañez is Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez’s chief of staff and is formerly allied with U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia (D-4th Congressional District), who supports Villanueva.
- **16th Senate** – Three Democrats filed to run in this open seat contest to replace Sen. Jacqueline Collins: Willie Preston, Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry’s chief of staff La’Mont Williams, and attorney and WVON Radio host Kimberley Egonmwan.
- **23rd Senate** – Former state Rep. Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst) will challenge Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs) in the general election.
- **27th Senate** – Republicans Joshua Alvarado and Bill Robertson are competing for the chance to challenge Sen. Ann Gillespie (D-Arlington Heights) in November.
- **31st Senate** – Rep. Sam Yingling (D-Grayslake) and former Democrat Rep. Mary Edly-Allen filed in the open seat vacated by Sen. Melinda Bush (D-Grayslake).

- **35th Senate** – Winnebago County Republican Party Chair Eli Nicolosi has filed against Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Cherry Valley).
- **37th Senate** – Sen. Win Stoller (R-East Peoria) will face Brett Nicklaus in the GOP primary.
- **48th Senate** – Appointed Sen. Doris Turner (D-Springfield) was expected to face appointed Rep. Sandy Hamilton (R-Springfield) in the general. Hamilton filed her petitions, but so did Republican Bill Eddington, who ran as a write-in aldermanic candidate a few years ago.
- **54th Senate** – Sen. Steve McClure (R-Springfield) will be up against Republican Don Debolt, a CPA and occasional columnist for the Effingham Daily News.
- **57th Senate** – Sen. Chris Belt (D-East St. Louis) will face Barbara Fulton-Henderson in the primary. Fulton-Henderson ran for East St. Louis city council several years ago.

Illinois House races of note:

- **4th House** – Attorney Lilian Jiménez is the choice of the Chuy Garcia organization to replace Rep. Delia Ramirez in this open seat, but two others have filed: Manuel Jimenez and Hector Villafuerte.
- **6th House** – Rep. Sonya Harper (D-Chicago) faces a primary challenge from two other Democrats: Chicago police officer Carolyn Crump and Steven Williams.
- **12th House** – Rep. Margaret Croke (D-Chicago) faces a primary challenge from Abigail Nichols.
- **13th House** – Six Democrats and two Republicans have filed to run in retiring House Majority Leader Harris' district. Democrats include Joe Struck, Andy Peters, Becky Levin, Eileen Dordek, Hoan Huynh, and Sergio Mojica.
- **16th House** – Kevin Olickal and Naema Abraham both filed to run in the Democratic primary against Rep. Denyse Wang Stoneback (D-Skokie). Olickal ran two years ago.
- **19th House** – Realtor-backed Tina Wallace and Chicago 911 dispatcher Keith Thornton have filed to challenge Rep. Lindsey LaPointe (D-Chicago).
- **21st House** – Rep. Michael Zalewski (D-Riverside) will face Abdelnasser Rashid, a Harvard graduate who ran for Cook County Board in 2018 and has ties to Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi. Zalewski last faced a contested race in 2010.
- **25th House** – Rep. Curtis Tarver (D-Chicago) will be up against consultant Josef Michael Carr, founder of Fathers for the Future Foundation.
- **27th House** – Jasimone Ward, a mental health professional, filed against Rep. Justin Slaughter (D-Chicago).
- **28th House** – Rep. Bob Rita (D-Blue Island) will face Paris Walker Thomas, who ran as a write-in candidate against him two years ago.
- **29th House** – Rep. Thaddeus Jones (D-Calumet City) will face Calumet City Ald. Monet Wilson. Jones is also mayor of Calumet City.
- **30th House** – Rep. Will Davis (D-Homewood) will face Alton Bradley.
- **32nd House** – Appointed Rep. Cyril Nichols (D-Chicago) picked up two primary opponents: Safaa Zazour, a Bridgeview attorney and CAIR activist, and perennial candidate Bobby Joe Johnson.
- **34th House** – Two Republicans, Frederick Walls and Rebecca Harms, are vying in the GOP primary for the chance to challenge Rep. Nick Smith (R-Chicago).
- **35th House** – Former 19th Ward aldermanic candidate David Dewar filed to challenge Rep. Fran Hurley (D-Chicago).

- **39th House** – Rep. Will Guzzardi (D-Chicago) will face canned wine entrepreneur BJ McCaslin and police officer Maria Nodal.
- **51st House** – Democrats Nabeela Syed and Chelsea Barnes are competing in the June primary for the chance to challenge Rep. Chris Bos (R-Lake Zurich) in November.
- **66th House** – Two Republicans, Arin Thrower and Connie Cain, are competing in the GOP primary to challenge Rep. Suzanne Ness (D-Carpentersville).
- **71st House** – Matthew Rauschert is challenging Rep. Dan Swanson (R- Woodhull) in the GOP primary.
- **72nd House** – A third Democrat (Thurgood Brooks) has filed to run in this vacant Quad Cities-area Democratic district against Gregg Johnson and Jeffrey Deppe.
- **75th House** – Jed Davis is challenging Rep. David Welter (R-Morris) in the GOP primary.
- **77th House** – Triton College trustee Norma Hernandez is challenging Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Northlake) in the Democratic primary.
- **83rd House** – Democrats Matt Hanson and Arad Boxenbaum are vying for the chance to challenge Rep. Keith Wheeler (R-North Aurora) in November.
- **86th House** – Scott Greene, Dinora Ruiz, and James Lanham are running in the GOP primary to face off against Rep. Larry Walsh, Jr. (D-Joliet).
- **89th House** – Rep. Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) will face off against retired law enforcement officer Victoria Onorato in the Republican primary.
- **90th House** – Former Rep. John Cabello (R-Machesney Park) will face Operators Union Local 150-backed Mark Szula in the GOP primary.
- **91st House** – This is a newly created open seat that leans slightly Democratic. Two Democrats have filed, Karla Bailey-Smith and Sharon Chung. There are also two Republicans who will face off in the primary: GOP-backed Scott Preston and James Fisher.
- **93rd House** – Travis Weaver, son of former Sen. Chuck Weaver (R-Peoria), is challenging Rep. Mark Luft (R-Pekin) in the GOP primary.
- **95th House** – Rep. Tim Butler (R-Springfield) will face Republican Kent Gray, who has run for several offices and was disqualified from the 15th Congressional District ballot in 2020.
- **98th House** – Rep. Natalie Manley (D-Joliet) will be up against Barry Haywood, an activist with Warehouse Workers for Justice.
- **105th House** – Mike Kirkton, Dennis Tipsword, Donald Rients, and Kyle Ham all filed as Republicans in this open seat GOP district.
- **112th House** – There will be a Republican primary to challenge Rep. Katie Stuart (D-Edwardsville). The House Republicans are with Joe Hackler, the Illinois Republican Party spokesperson. He will face Jennifer Korte.
- **117th House** – Ron Ellis is challenging Rep. Patrick Windhorst (R-Harrisburg) in the GOP primary.
- **118th House** – John A. Logan College trustee Aaron Smith is challenging Rep. Paul Jacobs (R-Carbondale) in the GOP primary.

CORPORATE BOARD DIVERSITY

A new amendment to [House Bill 989](#) (co-sponsored by House Speaker Chris Welch, D-Westchester) adds penalties up to \$100,000 for the first violation to the state’s corporate board reporting requirements. Current law requires all publicly held corporations to report the gender, sexual orientation, and race or ethnicity of all directors. The amendment could be considered by a House Committee on short notice.

STATE DISINVESTMENT IN RUSSIA

Legislative leaders have announced that the General Assembly will be advancing legislation to remove Russian assets from the state's pension system and prohibit contracting with Russian companies.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING ESTABLISHED AT ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has approved a new College of Engineering at Illinois State University that is designed to help close long-standing gaps in enrollment, retention, and graduation of underrepresented and underserved students in the engineering field. Once established, the College of Engineering will include the Department of Electrical Engineering, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and three degree programs in electrical, mechanical, and general engineering. University officials are targeting fall 2025 for enrollment of the first class of an estimated 130 students, rising to reach 520 students by the fourth year.

IEPA COMPLETES STATEWIDE SAMPLING FOR PFAS IN DRINKING WATER

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has completed its statewide sampling to investigate the prevalence and occurrence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in finished drinking water at all community water systems in the state. Illinois PFAS detections were found to be similar to other Midwest states. Of the 1,017 systems sampled, 126 (or 12.4%) had confirmed PFAS detections. Of the 126 systems that had confirmed PFAS detections, 68 (or 53.9%) of the systems' detections are below the IEPA's health advisory guidance levels.

AMERICAN OIL RESOLUTION

[House Resolution 718](#) (Davidsmeyer) urges the President to take measures that ensure long-term American energy leadership, security, and progress, including policies that result in the continued operation of existing oil and natural gas pipelines, the construction of new oil and gas pipelines, the resumption of consistent, credible federal lease sales, and the immediate preparation of the new five-year Program to guide future offshore leasing. The resolution now has 38 cosponsors, all Republican. House leadership will not call the resolution, but it will definitely be a campaign issue.

PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION TO PROPOSE NEW APPROACH TO CANNABIS DISPENSARY APPLICATIONS

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is filing rules to simplify the cannabis dispensary license application process, remove barriers for social equity applicants, and expand opportunities targeted to the communities most impacted by the failed war on drugs. IDFPR is required by the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act to issue at least 50 new adult use cannabis dispensary licenses by the end of 2022.

PUSH FOR REFORM TO THE BIOMETRIC INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

A group of business associations (including the Illinois Manufacturers Association, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce) are urging Gov. Pritzker to support a pair of House and Senate bills that will change the state's Biometric Information Privacy Act, which they say is outdated and is being used to extort businesses for financial gain. Biometric data is the personal information that can be gleaned from someone's electronic devices. Proponents say that [HB 4692](#) and [SB 3874](#) will provide a solution for businesses without sacrificing privacy rights.

LOCAL CYBERSECURITY CONTACTS

The House Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT Committee has unanimously approved [SB 3939](#) (Sims/Robinson), which requires a local government official or employee to be chosen to act as the primary point of contact for local cybersecurity issues. The Illinois Secretary of Innovation and Technology is required to establish a cybersecurity liaison program to advise and assist units of local government concerning cybersecurity issues. The legislation further establishes cybersecurity training for employees of counties and municipalities. Finally, the bill prohibits state agencies from purchasing any products that, due to cybersecurity risks, are prohibited for purchase by federal agencies pursuant to a United States Department of Homeland Security Binding Operational Directive. SB 3939 is now pending before the full House.

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

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