



ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report March 20, 2023

Only the Illinois House of Representatives was in session last week to finish the first of two weeks of Third Reading votes. The House deadline to pass legislation out of the House chamber is this Friday, March 24. The Senate stayed in-district last week and will return this week to begin their two weeks of Third Reading votes. The Senate's deadline for bills to pass legislation out of the Senate chamber is Friday, March 31. Both chambers break for Spring Break from April 3-14.

*****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

- March 24: Deadline – Third Reading of House bills in the House
- March 31: Deadline – Third Reading of Senate bills in the Senate
- April 3-14: SPRING BREAK
- 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 2: Illinois Community College Caucus reception
- May 3: ICCTA Lobby Day
- May 11: Deadline – Third Reading House bills in the Senate
- May 12: Deadline – Third Reading Senate bills in the House
- May 19: Adjournment

PRITZKER TALKS REVENUE AND POTENTIAL TAX CUTS

With two months to go before the legislature adjourns and current-year revenues continuing to smash expectations, Gov. JB Pritzker said that he and legislative leaders are considering tax cuts. His comments came one week after the legislature's nonpartisan Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, or COGFA, increased its revenue estimates by about \$1 billion for the current and upcoming budget years combined.

"I would like to see – as we feel comfortable with these new revenues coming in and their stability; and I think we're seeing a few years in a row now of the stability of that revenue – that we should be talking about whether there are tax cuts that we can implement," he said at an unrelated news conference at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. The governor did not say whether tax cuts would be permanent, or which taxes he and lawmakers are considering cutting. Tax cuts were one of several potential uses of excess revenues the governor said that he would like to consider. Others include contributions to the state's "rainy day" fund and added payments beyond required amounts to the state's pension system.

ILLINOIS EARNS CREDIT UPGRADE FROM MOODY'S INVESTOR SERVICE

Illinois received another credit upgrade from a "Baa1" to an "A3" rating from Moody's Investor Service, the second upgrade in 2023 and the eighth upgrade in the past two years. In addition to upgrading the state's General Obligation bonds to "stable outlook," the agency also upgraded its Build Illinois sales tax bonds to "A3" from "Baa3."

Moody's said that Illinois' improving governance was a key consideration in the action: "We consider improving governance to be a key consideration in this action." Illinois, it said, is "displaying improved management of its budget by making conservative revenue assumptions and applying surplus revenue towards the payment of debt and growth in reserves."

PRITZKER SIGNS BILL GUARANTEEING FIVE DAYS PAID LEAVE FOR ALL WORKERS

Beginning in 2024, nearly all individuals working in Illinois will be eligible to take five days paid leave from their jobs to tend to personal matters. The [Paid Leave for All Workers Act](#) (P.A. 102-1143) allows workers to earn one hour of paid leave per 40 hours worked, up to a total of 40 hours. Employees would be allowed to access their paid leave after 90 days on the job. Workers would be allowed to use the paid time off for any reason, and the law makes it illegal for employers to interfere with or restrain. The law does not apply to independent contractors, employees in Chicago and Cook County who already have access to a paid leave policy, and employees who have a collective bargaining agreement in the construction sector and parcel delivery industry.

PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT MEDICAID COVERAGE

The Pritzker administration is launching a public awareness initiative to ensure Illinoisans retain their health insurance coverage when pandemic-era protections end and Medicaid eligibility verifications resume. The primary goal of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' public awareness effort, coined [Ready to Renew](#), is to help Medicaid customers who remain eligible ensure their coverage continues without disruption. Medicaid customers have not been asked to renew their Medicaid coverage since March 2020. When continuous enrollment ends, the Department must resume annual Medicaid eligibility verifications, also known as "redeterminations." HFS is urging healthcare providers and community organizations to help Medicaid customers get ready to renew their coverage.

AG RELEASES ANNUAL 2022 PUBLIC ACCESS REPORT

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul released the Illinois Public Access Counselor's 2022 annual Public Access Report, which examines state's compliance with the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. In [the report](#), Raoul highlighted the work of the counselor and the Public Access Bureau to educate individuals about their rights and the responsibilities of public bodies.

In 2022, the PAC received over 3,300 requests for assistance from members of the public and media seeking access to records or public meetings, averaging over 280 requests per month. Most of these requests were resolved informally or through determination letters. However, the PAC issued 14 binding opinions, including eight addressing FOIA issues and six addressing OMA issues. The PAC also received approximately 450 informal written inquiries related to convening public meetings and responding to information requests.

COMED TRIAL UNDERWAY

Former House Speaker Michael Madigan is not on trial in this case, but he is a primary focus of the prosecution. Jurors have been told that they will hear over 100 recordings of conversations as federal prosecutors lay out their case. The four defendants are Mike McClain, an ex-ComEd lobbyist; former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore; ex-ComEd lobbyist John Hooker; and Jay Doherty, a lobbyist and consultant who formerly led the City Club of Chicago. All four have pleaded not guilty to bribery conspiracy and other charges alleging they covered up illegal payments on ComEd's books.

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

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