



---

## ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report March 6, 2023

---

*Only the Illinois House of Representatives was in session last week. The Senate remained in district due to the consolidated primary/municipal election on February 28. The House continued holding committee hearings last week, but still did not move a lot of legislation.*

*Both chambers will convene in Springfield this week to consider a significant number of bills ahead of the deadline to pass legislation out of committee on March 10. While we expect numerous extension letters to be filed in the Senate, House Speaker Welch has said that he does not intend to grant any extension requests. There are also no agreed-bill lists in the House – so it will be a long and very busy week.*

**\*\*\*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 103<sup>RD</sup> ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 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 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 11: Deadline – Third Reading House bills in the Senate
- May 12: Deadline – Third Reading Senate bills in the House
- May 19: Adjournment

### CHICAGO MAYORAL PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Former Chicago Public Schools CEO **Paul Vallas**, who secured 34% of the February 28 primary vote, and Cook County Commissioner **Brandon Johnson**, who received 20%, will now compete for mayor of Chicago in the April 4 consolidated election. Though Vote By Mail ballots postmarked by February 28 and other provisional ballots still need to be fully counted, their momentum paired with concessions from most of the other candidates, including incumbent **Mayor Lori Lightfoot**, solidified a head-to-head matchup between the two in April. By the end of the night, the mayor sat in third place with 17% of the vote. Former Secretary of State **Jesse White** has already endorsed Vallas, and Ald. **Walter Burnett Jr.**, a veteran Black alderman who backed Lightfoot, will also back Vallas.

## **GOV. PRITZKER JOINS “NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD”**

Gov. JB Pritzker is joining Democratic governors, senators “and other political stars” to travel and speak on behalf of President Joe Biden during his expected 2024 reelection campaign. News of the committee is part of the president’s likely reelection bid, which he is expected to announce in April.

## **NEW TEACHER PIPELINE INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS SHORTAGES**

The state’s proposed Teacher Pipeline Grant Program will direct \$70 million per year over the next three years to the 170 school districts with the greatest need to fill teaching positions. The program will allow districts maximum flexibility to use the funds in innovative, creative, and evidenced-based ways, such as offering signing bonuses, housing stipends, down-payment assistance, or loan repayments; paying tuition and fees or providing residencies or apprenticeships; and sustaining current teachers by providing materials, supplies, coaching, and school culture supports. The Illinois State Board of Education will also utilize \$6 million in federal funds to procure a multimedia advertising and marketing firm to develop and implement a statewide teacher recruitment campaign.

## **PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITIES AND THE CHAN ZUCKERBERG INITIATIVE**

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago have been selected by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to launch the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub Chicago, a new biomedical research hub that will bring together leading scientific and technology institutions to study human tissue with the goal of creating new, groundbreaking therapeutics. Selected through a highly-competitive year-long application process, the Illinois team was chosen out of more than 60 applicants. The application was supported by Gov. Pritzker, who committed \$25 million in capital funds to provide support to CZ Biohub Chicago.

## **MENDOZA URGES SUPPORT OF FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER FAMILY COMPENSATION BILL**

Illinois Comptroller **Susana Mendoza** has announced her support for legislation that would create a continuing line of appropriation to ensure that families of first responders who die while on duty receive timely compensation. The Line of Duty Compensation Act provides benefits to the families of law enforcement, firemen, paramedics, and other first responders when they are killed on duty. Currently, those benefits are contingent upon an annual appropriation, meaning the fund can run dry before the end of a fiscal year. [House Bill 3388](#) (Vella) and [Senate Bill 217](#) (Belt) would ensure that families are compensated in a timely manner by making the line of appropriation ongoing. The legislation would also increase the amount of time that families have to apply for the payments.

## **MORE THAN \$500,000 AVAILABLE IN CROP BLOCK GRANTS**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has announced that applications are now open for more than \$544,000 in grants to be distributed over the next three years as part of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program in the Farm Bill. The grants are available to non-profits, local governments, trade associations, and colleges and universities. Eligible projects must pertain to issues including food safety, specialty crop conservation and environmental outcomes, disease and pest control, the development of new specialty crops, etc. Applications are due by end of day on Thursday, March 23.

## **STATE LAUNCHES PUBLIC WEBSITE FOR AFRICAN DESCENT-CITIZENS REPARATIONS COMMISSION**

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services has launched a new public website intended to educate the public about the long-term disinvestment and impacts of slavery in North America and explain the goals of the [African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission](#). The ADCRC's website explains the goals of the commission: to recommend measures that "ensure equity, equality, and parity for African American descendants of slavery." The commission will be studying longstanding inequities that remain as a result of slavery, developing a vocational center for people of African descent, and creating Illinois Slavery Era Disclosure legislation.

## **CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR HEALTH INITIATIVE LAUNCHED**

The children's behavioral health system in Illinois lacks a single centralized entry-point for parents, making it more difficult for parents to find care for their kids, according to a comprehensive new report. The Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative has sought to develop a collaborative, multiagency plan to improve services for children in need. A pilot program that offered a prototype portal for stakeholders seeking services for the children with the greatest needs saw a 41% success rate in connecting children with necessary services. One of the largest challenges remains a significant workforce shortage.

## **IDPH BEGINS CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIRAL HEPATITIS**

The Illinois Hepatitis Coalition held its first meeting on Tuesday, February 28, bringing together clinicians, researchers, and community stakeholders interested in stopping the spread of viral hepatitis. Funded by a \$1.5 million federal grant, the coalition will develop an equity-driven strategic plan to end the epidemic of Hepatitis B and C.

## **BUSINESS GROUPS ARGUE BIPA REFORMS NEEDED TO STEM FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS**

Representatives from the manufacturing, health care, hospitality, logistics, and technology sectors held a press conference to highlight the urgent need for reforms to the state's Biometric Information Privacy Act. They are seeking to prevent a new influx of frivolous lawsuits – at least 1,500 – and allow for innovative technologies following recent state Supreme Court decisions that they say have left businesses legally and financially vulnerable. The business groups said that the law, which was passed in 2008, has been expanded by judicial interpretation to allow each instance where an individual's biometric data is used without written consent to be considered a violation of BIPA, punishable by up to \$5,000 per violation. A 2019 Illinois Supreme Court decision found plaintiffs need not demonstrate any personal harm to file a claim.

## **MEDICAID COVERAGE UPDATE**

Anywhere from about 384,000 to 700,000 people in Illinois are expected to lose their Medicaid health coverage this year, as federal protections put in place during the pandemic fade. Though some of those people will gain coverage elsewhere, others will find themselves suddenly uninsured, and unable to pay for doctor visits and medications.

## FUNDS FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORIES

The Lead Service Line Inventory Grant Program offers grants to local government units, ranging from \$20,000 - \$50,000, to fund the creation of a complete lead service line inventory. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency expects to award a total of \$5,000,000 with this round and anticipates distributing this amount across 100-250 grant awards. Applications will be accepted through 1 PM on Tuesday, April 25.

*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](http://www.communitycolleges.org)

