

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

March 8, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

We are now past the 3rd reading deadline in both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly. The House convened last week and passed House Bills on the floor prior to its 3rd reading deadline on March 4. While some extensions have been granted, the number of active bills has greatly decreased. Both the House and Senate return to Springfield this week to begin committee work on bills passed to the second chamber. The next deadline is to pass legislation out of the second chamber by March 25.

The statewide indoor mask mandate has been lifted. [Executive Order 2022-06](#) lifts the mask requirement in most indoor settings, and [Executive Order 2202-07](#) lifts the school exclusion requirements as well as extending previous executive orders. Gov. **JB Pritzker** has also signed a new [Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation](#) extending the statewide declaration through April 2, 2022.

While the Secretary of State's office has altered the rules to make masks optional in the Capitol, those rules do not apply to the areas controlled by the General Assembly and Executive officers. The Senate is going mask-optional as of today (Tuesday, March 8). The House will vote on a rules change today and is expected to follow suit. Organized large group gatherings are still not allowed.

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

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

FORMER SPEAKER MADIGAN INDICTED

Former House Speaker **Michael Madigan** has been formally accused of operating a criminal enterprise meant to benefit Madigan and his allies politically and financially. A federal indictment has charged him with 22 counts of conspiracy racketeering, interstate facilities in aid of bribery, wire fraud, and attempted extortion. Former state representative and Madigan confidant **Mike McClain** also faces charges in the indictment.

John Lausch, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, said that Madigan required companies (such as electric utility Commonwealth Edison) to pay his associates without requiring them to perform viable work for the company. Lausch described many of the jobs for Madigan associates were "low show or no show." The indictment also alleges that Madigan used his power in Springfield to siphon business to his law firm. Federal prosecutors explained that they received most of their information from wiretaps. AT&T is also under investigation for lobbying work tied to Madigan.

ILLINOIS 60 BY 2025 NETWORK REBRANDS AS ILLINOIS EDUCATION AND CAREER SUCCESS NETWORK

The Illinois 60 by 25 Network has relaunched as the [Illinois Education and Career Success Network \(Success Network\)](#). The name change comes as Illinois strives to further advance equitable postsecondary access and attainment. Back in 2009, the Illinois P-20 Council established a goal for the

state to increase the number of adults with college degrees and high-quality postsecondary credentials to 60% by 2025. Currently 55% of Illinois residents have a high-quality college degree or postsecondary credential (according to the [Lumina Foundation's Stronger Nation report](#)). While Illinois is on track to reach 60% postsecondary attainment by 2025, outcomes remain inequitable across demographic groups. Lawmakers have urged the P-20 Council to update the state's 60 by 25 goal to include equity-focused targets aimed at closing institutional racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Kathy Salvi, a longtime GOP activist and 2006 candidate for Congress from Lake County, is jumping in the race for U.S. Senate. If Salvi wins the primary, she would face incumbent Sen. **Tammy Duckworth**.

State Sen. **Jacqueline Collins**, D-Chicago, is jumping into the crowded Democratic primary to replace U.S. Rep. **Bobby Rush**, opening up her state senate seat. Collins, a state senator since 2003, is one of 17 Democrats registered with the Federal Election Commission for the 1st Congressional District seat that Rush will vacate next year after 15 terms.

Candidates began filing their nominating petitions for the June 28 primary election on Monday, March 7. The deadline to file completed petitions is Monday, March 14. A real-time listing of candidate filings is available on the Illinois State Board of Elections' website [HERE](#).

COVID UPDATE

ICU hospitalizations for COVID-19 are down by more than a third from last week. On Friday, state health officials reported 843 COVID-19 patients were being treated in Illinois hospitals, down 26% from a week ago. Of those hospitalized, 153 are in intensive care. That is 35% less than a week ago, according to Illinois Department of Public Health records.

DR. EZIKE LEAVING IDPH

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. **Ngozi Ezike** is stepping down as head of the Illinois Department of Public Health. IDPH assistant director **Amaal Tokars** will serve as interim director when Ezike leaves on March 14.

ILLINOIS EXPECTS \$760 MILLION FROM OPIOID SETTLEMENT

Illinois Attorney General **Kwame Raoul** says that the state is expected to receive \$760 million as part of a settlement with pharmaceutical distributors sued for their role in the opioid crisis. Illinois' share of the \$26 billion opioid settlement agreement is the result of three years of talks. The majority of the state's award will be used for programs aimed at prevention and recovery from opioid addiction. Raoul's office said that nearly all Illinois counties have signed onto the agreement, along with 104 municipalities.

FLANAGAN APPOINTED ACTING LABOR DIRECTOR

Gov. Pritzker has appointed labor and employment attorney **Jane Flanagan** as the new acting director of the Illinois Department of Labor, effective March 2. Former director **Michael Kleinik** retired last month after decades in public service. Flanagan previously served as deputy general counsel and deputy chief compliance officer in the Governor's office.

ILLINOIS JOINS TIKTOK INVESTIGATION

Attorney General Raoul has joined a bipartisan nationwide investigation into TikTok “for providing and promoting its social media platform to children and young adults despite its use being associated with physical and mental health harms.” The investigation will examine whether the company “engaged in conduct in violation of state consumer protection laws that put the public at risk.”

2022 STATE FAIR GRANDSTAND LINEUP ANNOUNCED

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has announced the first six acts scheduled to perform on the Illinois Lottery Grandstand stage during the August 11-21 Illinois State Fair. Tickets go on sale Friday, March 11:

- Friday, August 12: Sam Hunt
- Sunday, August 14: Brooks & Dunn
- Wednesday, August 17: TLC & Shaggy
- Thursday, August 18: Jon Pardi with Lainey Wilson and Chapel Hart
- Saturday, August 20: Disturbed with Nita Strauss
- Sunday, August 21: Sammy Hagar & The Circle

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

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