

It was a fast-paced week at the State Capitol as lawmakers in both chambers worked to meet the critical “crossover” deadline on Friday, April 11. By that date, House bills had to be passed and sent to the Senate, and Senate bills needed to move to the House. Legislators put in long hours to advance their proposals, ensuring that the other chamber still has time to review and act on them.

*If a bill does not pass its chamber of origin by the crossover deadline, it is typically considered dead for the session UNLESS it gets an extension or is reintroduced in a different form (e.g., as an amendment to another bill). As of the deadline, **the House passed 379 bills** over to the Senate, and **the Senate passed 205 bills** over to the House.*

Lawmakers have now returned to their home districts for spring break. The House will take one week off and return on April 22, and the Senate will take two weeks off and return on April 29. After the break, serious budget negotiations will start to take center stage, with the process accelerating after April revenue reports provide a clearer fiscal outlook. While appropriations committee hearings are already underway, final budget decisions will take shape in the final weeks of the session.

*****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

- **Week of April 14** – Spring Break – NO session
- **Week of April 21** – House ONLY in session
- **Week of April 28 through Adjournment** – BOTH chambers in session
 - **May 7: ICCTA LOBBY DAY**
 - **May 9** – Committee Deadline (House & Senate)
 - **May 23** – Third Reading Deadline (House & Senate)
- **May 31** – Adjournment

ILLINOIS UNIVERSITIES REPORT SUDDEN VISA REVOCATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Universities across Illinois are reporting that the federal government is unexpectedly revoking the visas of international students. At the University of Chicago, seven students had both their visas and SEVIS status terminated. Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville confirmed eight affected students, while Northern Illinois University reported five, and SIU-Carbondale acknowledged one case. The unexplained revocations have left students in limbo and campuses working quickly to provide support amid widespread uncertainty.

SENATE PENSION COMMITTEE REVIEWS GOVERNOR'S REFORM IDEAS

At an April 3 hearing of the Illinois Senate Pension Committee, Budget Director Alexis Sturm presented Gov. JB Pritzker's updated proposal to reform Illinois' public pension system. The governor's plan aims to shift the state's pension funding goal from 90% to 100% by 2048, with a phased approach that includes a three-year extension of the current amortization schedule. The proposal builds on recent investment gains and prior savings of \$700 million above Fiscal Year 2022 and FY23 levels, projecting taxpayer savings of \$2.4 billion by FY25. The state would also begin redirecting half of its 2003 pension bond repayment revenues toward pension contributions, starting

in FY33. Importantly, the plan includes adjustments to the Tier 2 wage cap to align with the Social Security wage base, helping to address equity and compliance concerns. Committee members raised questions on legal reviews, bond payment strategies, and potential re-amortization, with Chair Robert Martwick and others commending the administration for its proactive and fiscally responsible approach.

ILLINOIS AWARDS \$19 MILLION TO EXPAND PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has awarded over \$19 million to 38 organizations through the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program, aiming to serve 1,900 community members statewide. The program, launched in 2021, is designed to prepare diverse candidates for careers in the construction and building trades by helping them gain entry into registered apprenticeship programs. This latest round of funding supports both new and returning providers who will offer tuition-free training, stipends, and support services to participants. Graduates earn industry-recognized certifications and transition into apprenticeships, paving the way to lifelong careers in skilled trades.

SEN. EMIL JONES III ON TRIAL

State Sen. Emil Jones III, a Democrat from Chicago and son of former Illinois Senate President Emil Jones Jr., is currently on trial in federal court facing charges of bribery and making false statements to the FBI. The trial, which began last week, stems from a 2022 indictment alleging that Jones accepted bribes from red-light camera executive Omar Maani in exchange for legislative favors.

PRITZKER CALLED TO TESTIFY ON IMMIGRATION POLICIES

U.S. House Oversight Chair James Comer (R-Ky.) has formally requested Gov. Pritzker, along with New York's Kathy Hochul and Minnesota's Tim Walz, to testify before Congress on their handling of immigration. Comer alleges that the governors' policies have encouraged illegal immigration and burdened federal resources. Pritzker, who has been vocal in advocating for federal support for migrants in Illinois, has not yet publicly responded. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson testified before a Congressional committee last month on the same topic.

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT DISMISSES GOP CHALLENGE TO LEGISLATIVE MAPS

On April 9, the Illinois Supreme Court dismissed a lawsuit filed by House Republican Leader Tony McCombie and individual voters challenging the legislative maps drawn in 2021. The court ruled that the plaintiffs had waited too long to file their case, stating that such arguments could have been presented years earlier. The lawsuit alleged that the maps were gerrymandered to favor Democrats and lacked the compactness required by the state constitution. The plaintiffs sought to have the current legislative map rejected and a special master appointed to redraw the districts. However, the court found the delay in filing unpersuasive and declined to hear the case.

ILLINOIS AND UK SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT

Gov. Pritzker has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Kingdom to strengthen trade ties and promote collaboration in energy, technology, and life sciences. The agreement aims to deepen an already strong economic relationship — UK companies employ over 100,000 people in Illinois, and exports to the UK support an additional 26,000 jobs. With over \$2.6 billion in exports to the UK in 2024, Illinois leaders say the partnership will drive mutual growth, encourage innovation in advanced manufacturing, and support job creation amid global economic uncertainty.

RAOUL, COALITION FILES AMICUS BRIEF OPPOSING DISMISSAL OF NLRB'S WILCOX

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul leads a coalition of 23 attorneys general in filing an amicus brief against President Donald Trump's decision to remove Gwynne Wilcox from the National Labor Relations Board. The removal of Wilcox would leave the board with only two members. In January, Wilcox filed a lawsuit against the

Trump administration to block the order, arguing that the president does not have the power to remove her in the middle of her five-year term. A federal judge blocked the dismissal, and the Trump administration appealed the decision. The coalition argues that the attempt to dismantle the board would undermine protections for workers and destabilize federal labor law. Furthermore, the coalition argues that allowing the president to remove NLRB members would undercut the agency's role as a nonpartisan, expert panel.

RAOUL, STATES SUE TO BLOCK TRUMP ORDER DEFUNDING LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

Raoul also joined a coalition of 21 attorneys general in suing to block a Trump administration executive order aimed at dismantling the Institute of Museum and Library Services and other federal agencies. The order has already led to staff cuts and halted grants critical to libraries and museums, particularly in underserved areas. The lawsuit argues the move is unconstitutional, as Congress — not the president — has the authority to create and fund federal agencies.

ILLINOIS JOINS \$335M OPIOID SETTLEMENT WITH MYLAN

A bipartisan coalition of 14 state attorneys general (including Illinois AG Raoul) have announced a \$335 million settlement with Mylan Inc. over its alleged role in the opioid crisis. The company was accused of misleadingly marketing its opioids — especially fentanyl patches — as less prone to abuse, despite evidence to the contrary. The settlement, if approved, will be paid over nine years, with Illinois receiving over \$9 million for opioid abatement efforts.

ILLINOIS MARKS 60 YEARS OF MEDICAID

April is Medicaid Awareness Month, and Illinois is celebrating the 60th anniversary of Medicaid — a program that now covers 3.4 million residents, or one in four Illinoisans. Gov. Pritzker and Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton recently highlighted the program's role in supporting working families, seniors, and rural healthcare providers, while warning of potential federal threats to its funding. According to the Pritzker administration, Illinois has led the nation in expanding access and improving care through initiatives like postpartum coverage extensions, behavioral health innovations, and maternal health programs. With over \$20 billion invested last year and more than \$117 billion in economic impact, Medicaid remains a cornerstone of healthcare in Illinois.

BRANDON RAGLE APPOINTED SECRETARY OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Gov. Pritzker has officially appointed Brandon Ragle as Secretary of the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology. With over 20 years of experience, Ragle had been serving as interim Secretary following the departure of Sanjay Gupta. He previously held roles as Deputy Secretary and Deputy Chief Information Officer from 2023 to 2025.

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

