



Illinois Community College Trustees Association

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

June 17, 2025

VETO SESSION DATES

The Illinois House and Senate have released dates to convene for veto session in October. The dates include **Oct. 14-16** and **Oct. 28-30**. Beginning July 1, the Illinois General Assembly website (ilga.gov) will be modified to incorporate the beta site that has been in testing for more than six months.

FY 2026 BUDGET

Gov. JB Pritzker has signed the state's Fiscal Year 2026 budget into law, after reducing the appropriations bill by \$161 million due to a couple of drafting errors. He also signed the FY26 budget implementation legislation, the FY26 revenue omnibus legislation, the FY26 bond authorization legislation, the Medicaid omnibus legislation (Senate Bill 2437), modifications to the Hospital Assessment program (including provisions for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to collect unpaid assessments from delinquent hospital providers — House Bill 2771), the sunset extension omnibus legislation (SB 2437), and the legislation delaying the effective date of the Interchange Fee Prohibition Act until July 1, 2026.

Gov. Pritzker said that this is the seventh consecutive balanced budget he has signed, continuing core investments in education, health care and infrastructure. Since Pritzker took office in 2020, the state has received nine credit upgrades and built its Rainy Day Fund to record levels. Another \$161 million will be added to the fund this year, which will have \$2.5 billion by next June.

*****Please review [ICCTA's BILL LIST](#).**

It is vital that we know your positions so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.***

FORMER SPEAKER MADIGAN SENTENCED TO 7½ YEARS FOR CORRUPTION

Michael Madigan, the longtime Illinois House Speaker, was sentenced to 7½ years in federal prison and fined \$2.5 million for his role in a bribery and racketeering scheme involving Commonwealth Edison. The judge cited Madigan's perjury and lack of remorse in handing down the sentence.

FORMER STATE SEN. EMIL JONES III FACES NEW BRIBERY TRIAL

Federal prosecutors have announced they will retry former Illinois State Senator Emil Jones III on bribery and related charges after a mistrial was declared last month. Jones is accused of accepting a \$5,000 bribe from a red-light camera company executive in exchange for legislative support and allegedly lying to the FBI. Jones, the son of former Senate President Emil Jones Jr., has pleaded not guilty.

CHARLES ISBELL NAMED UIUC CHANCELLOR

Charles Lee Isbell, Jr. has been selected as the next chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and will also serve as vice president of the University of Illinois System. Currently provost at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a longtime Georgia Tech leader, Isbell is recognized for his innovative leadership in higher education and technology. Pending Board of Trustees confirmation, he will begin as chancellor-designate on July 16 and officially assume the role on August 1.

PRITZKER DEFENDS ILLINOIS' IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Gov. Pritzker testified before a U.S. House committee this week, defending Illinois' immigration policies amid criticism from Republicans over the state's sanctuary status. He emphasized that Illinois complies with criminal warrants and that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility. The hearing was tense at times, with Pritzker calling it a "political circus" and pushing back against claims that the state enables crime.

ILLINOIS CRACKS DOWN ON CROSS-STATE LICENSE PLATE DATA SHARING

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias has launched an investigation after discovering that a suburban police department in Mount Prospect violated a 2023 law by sharing automated license plate reader data with a Texas sheriff. The sheriff used the data to search for a woman who had a self-managed abortion —a data collection action explicitly prohibited under Illinois law. In response, he directed Flock Safety, the provider of the ALPR system, to block 62 external agencies from accessing Illinois data and will implement an audit system to ensure compliance.

LAWSUIT BLOCKS TRUMP ELECTION EXECUTIVE ORDER

A federal court in Massachusetts has issued a preliminary injunction blocking portions of President Donald Trump's executive order pertaining to the administration of elections. Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul was the co-lead in the litigation.

IDFPR ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL LICENSURE APPLICATIONS

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has announced 21 additional professions are available for licensure through the Comprehensive Online Regulatory Environment. CORE now offers license applications in multiple fields, including athletic training, audiology, cosmetology, massage therapy, contracting, and more. The announcement marks the IDFPR's completion of CORE's Phase 2.1. The full implementation of CORE is expected to be completed in August 2026.

IGB CHAIRMAN SCHMADEKE BIDS FAREWELL

Illinois Gaming Board chair Charles Schmadeke presided over his final meeting on Thursday ahead of his term ending July 1. During the meeting, the board approved numerous licenses across casino, video gaming, and sports wagering sectors. A new rule was also adopted to streamline licensing for video gaming technicians and terminal handlers seeking sales agent licenses, improving efficiency without compromising integrity.

PANKOW APPOINTED FIRST FEMALE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Gov. Pritzker has appointed Michele L. Pankow as Illinois State Fire Marshal, making her the first woman in state history to hold the role. With over 32 years of experience in the Illinois fire service, Pankow most recently served as Rockford's fire chief and previously held key leadership roles in training, EMS, operations, and disaster coordination. Pending Senate confirmation, she will begin her new role in mid-July. Pankow is a recognized leader in public safety and was honored with the American Red Cross Disaster Services Hero Award during the COVID-19 pandemic.

INVESTMENT IN RUSH AND LURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

Gov. Pritzker recently announced a new partnership between the Illinois Department of Public Health, Rush University Medical Center, and Lurie Children's Hospital to establish Elite Special Pathogen Treatment Centers in Chicago. The hospitals will receive a combined \$1.5 million to upgrade their readiness for treating high-consequence pathogens such as Ebola, Lassa fever, and pneumonic plague. This initiative marks Illinois' first such designation, addressing the lack of a federal Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center in the state.

MEDICAID ROLLS INCREASE

Illinois Medicaid managed care rolls increased 0.1% to 2,444,284 in April. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and CountyCare Health Plan (Cook County) saw minimal increases, while the other three state plans saw slight decreases in enrollment.

ILLINOIS AWARDS \$23M IN CLEAN ENERGY GRANTS

The state of Illinois has awarded \$23 million in Equitable Energy Future Grants to 27 recipients, supporting clean energy development in underserved Illinois communities. The grants, part of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, provide seed funding to equity-eligible contractors and nonprofits working on renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. In addition, a new \$25.5 million round of funding has been launched, with applications open through December 31, 2025. Eligible applicants include equity-focused businesses, nonprofits, and CEJA workforce program participants.

SPORTS BETTING FEES INCREASE

Beginning September 1, DraftKings will follow FanDuel's lead and impose a \$0.50 per bet transaction fee for online bets. This is in response to a new per-bet fee established by the Illinois General Assembly as part of the FY26 budget.

HFS DATA BREACH

The Department of Healthcare and Family Services announced a data breach impacting 933 individuals based on a phishing scam back in February. All of the impacted individuals were notified and offered free credit monitoring.

HEMP STUDY RELEASED

A new policy report published by the University of Illinois System's Institute of Government and Public Affairs sheds light on the explosion of hemp-derived THC products and growing concerns over their safety, legality and impact on public health. The report highlights how these products, which are often just as potent as state-regulated cannabis, are being sold without oversight. Due to loopholes in federal law, hemp-derived THC is widely available in convenience stores, gas stations and online retailers with no age restrictions and little to no quality control.

RAOUL WARNS OF RISKS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

AG Raoul joined 19 other attorneys general in testifying to the American Medical Association about the risk to healthcare providers who are required to complete in-person board certification testing in states that have criminalized or penalized reproductive or gender-affirming healthcare. As one example, the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists requires OB/GYNs seeking board certification to complete in-person testing in Texas, where such providers could face legal or physical risks. The attorneys general are calling for relocating testing to non-restrictive states and shifting to remote testing.

META PARTNERS WITH ILLINOIS NUCLEAR PLANT FOR LONG-TERM AI POWER NEEDS

Meta signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Constellation Energy's Clinton Clean Energy Center in downstate Illinois to supply electricity for its AI-driven data centers. The deal ensures the operation of the smaller Clinton reactor, boosting its output by 30 MW — enough to power hundreds of thousands of homes — and supports 1,100 local jobs while generating approximately \$13.5 million annually in tax revenue. This agreement positions Meta alongside Amazon, Google, and Microsoft in investing in nuclear energy to meet the surging demands of artificial intelligence infrastructure. As AI continues to drive a spike in electricity consumption, nuclear power presents a reliable, low-carbon alternative to fossil fuels.

NEW CHICAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL AIMS TO TACKLE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE

Chicago's first new medical school in nearly a century is set to open in the West Loop in late 2025. Housed in a renovated 247,000-square-foot former Tyson Foods building, the school will begin with a class of 85 students and grow to graduate up to 170 annually. With \$48 million in construction costs and a projected \$1 billion economic impact over 10 years, the school is positioned to address the region's growing need for physicians.

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR ILLINOIS MAIL-IN BALLOT CASE

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear U.S. Rep. Mike Bost's appeal challenging Illinois' policy of counting mail-in ballots received up to 14 days after Election Day. Lower courts dismissed the case for lack of legal standing, but the high court has agreed to review it later this year. Legal experts say a definitive ruling is unlikely, as the justices may again focus on standing rather than the merits of the policy itself.

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

