

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

June 18, 2021

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned this week **without passing an omnibus energy bill**, as was originally planned. Senate President Don Harmon says that an agreement is close. Lawmakers are expected to **return later this summer** to continue working toward passage.

In addition, both the House and Senate announced that they will return to Springfield for **Veto Session** the final two weeks of October:

- October 19-21
- October 26-28

BILLS PASSED ON FOID, BUDGET, ELECTED CHICAGO SCHOOL BOARD

Instead of an energy bill, the House accepted a bill already passed by the Senate – [House Bill 562](#) (Koehler/Hoffman) – that makes changes to **fix the Firearm Owner’s Identification card system**. The bill aims to address the state’s mounting backlog of FOID renewal applications and new applications while encouraging gun safety through increased fingerprinting and background checks. The bill requires all gun sales, including private sales, to include federal background checks; creates an electronic version of the FOID card that will be easier for the Illinois State Police to process; sets an incentive for firearm owners to submit fingerprints to gain access to automatic renewals; and creates of a law enforcement task force that will seek out firearms carried by individuals with revoked FOID cards. The House also voted to concur with Senate amendments on [HB 1092](#) (Gillespie/Stoneback), which would expand the pool of individuals who can ask a judge to apply a **firearm restraining order** upon someone who they fear may hurt themselves or others.

[House Resolution 391](#), approved with a vote of 66-45, allows **House remote participation for floor votes** under certain circumstances and for a limited period of time (from June 16 until the first day of the Fall Veto Session). The Senate adopted and has been using similar rules since January. This resolution was essential because the House Democrats needed a supermajority of 71 votes to accept Governor Pritzker’s amendatory veto of [Senate Bill 2800 \(the Fiscal Year 2022 budget\)](#), which mistakenly failed to include immediate effective dates upon first passage – meaning sections of the budget would not be approved for spending until July 1, 2022. Both the House and Senate subsequently accepted the Governor’s amendatory veto.

In other business, both chambers also approved clerical changes to [HB 1738](#) (Hastings/Walsh), which re-enacts the **Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act**. The legislation extending the sunset of telecommunication statutes ([Public Act 102-9](#)) inadvertently neglected to extend this Act. The House also voted to approve, among other legislation, [HB 2643](#) (Holmes/Hoffman), which provides amnesty for individuals who were **overpaid unemployment insurance** during the COVID-19 pandemic, and [HB 2908](#) (Martwick/Ramirez), which phases in a fully **elected school board** for Chicago Public Schools over successive elections in 2024 and 2026. Those bills will soon head to Gov. Pritzker’s desk for final approval.

JUNETEENTH OFFICIALLY A STATE HOLIDAY

Gov. Pritzker has signed [HB 3922](#), which declares Juneteenth as a formal state holiday. Juneteenth has also been declared a federal holiday. To commemorate the abolition of slavery throughout the United States in 1865, Juneteenth will be recognized as National Freedom Day in Illinois. It will be a paid holiday for state workers and public education professionals when June 19 falls on a weekday.

REDISTRICTING LAWSUITS

Two lawsuits have been filed to block the use of a redistricting plan Democrats pushed through the General Assembly. House and Senate Republicans filed one last week, and the second suit was filed by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or MALDEF, a group that represents Latin American communities. The suits are similar, alleging the use of American Community Survey population estimates, rather than actual census data, will produce districts of unequal size, in violation of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment equal protection clause. In addition to requesting the new maps be found unconstitutional, the suits seek an injunction blocking election officials from certifying candidate petitions or conducting future elections using the new maps and for an order directing lawmakers to draw new maps using official census data in order to comply with the Constitution's "one person, one vote" requirement.

CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS

The Senate has confirmed the following gubernatorial appointments to state departments, boards and commissions:

- INGER BURNETT-ZEIGLER: Commissioner of the Concealed Carry Licensing Review Board
- UMANG S. PATEL: Illinois State Medical Disciplinary Board
- SREENIVAS G. REDDY: Illinois State Medical Disciplinary Board
- THOMAS M. BENNETT: Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
- TIMOTHY E. DREA: Workers' Compensation Advisory Board
- MARC SMITH: Director of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- IAN LINNABARY: State Board of Elections
- C. MCCROY ROSSMILLER: State Board of Elections
- RICK S. TERVEN SR.: State Board of Elections
- CASANDRA WATSON: State Board of Elections

DEPUTY GOVERNOR STEPPING DOWN

Dan Hynes, the Deputy Governor of Budget and Economy, is stepping down from his position in the administration following the approval of the FY22 budget this week. Former State Sen. **Andy Manar**, who joined the administration as a senior advisor in January, will take his place.

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

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