



Illinois Community College Trustees Association

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY

END-OF-SESSION REPORT

June 9, 2025

The Illinois General Assembly wrapped up its spring 2025 session in the early hours of June 1, passing a \$55.1 billion budget but leaving several high-profile bills unresolved. While lawmakers addressed key issues in education, public safety, healthcare, and energy, the session was defined just as much by what did NOT pass. Key proposals on community college baccalaureate degrees, energy reform, public transit reform, higher education transformation, an economic development package, and in-class cell phone bans all stalled. Controversial topics like structural pension changes and comprehensive ethics reform were largely avoided. All in all, while lawmakers made progress on a handful of issues, the session leaned more toward caution on policies — a reflection of the tough budget realities shaping the agenda this year.

Lawmakers may revisit these topics in the fall veto session, especially as federal funding uncertainties continue to impact state fiscal planning. Veto Session dates have not yet been announced. Below is a comprehensive overview of the session's key outcomes.

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

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

Fiscal Year 2026 BUDGET – [Senate Bill 2510](#)

The FY26 budget package provides for \$55.1 billion in spending from the state's General Revenue Fund. The budget package made \$193 million in operational reductions and government efficiencies, and \$330 million in reductions from the elimination of the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults program. A new BRIDGE Fund (Budget Reserve for Immediate Disbursements and Governmental Emergencies) was established with \$100 million in reserves to be used for emergencies, creating contingency funds for short-term needs and revenue gaps. Unlike prior years, no appropriations were made to the Rainy Day Fund. Supplemental appropriations for FY25 totaling \$2.5 billion were included in the bill, with half dedicated to the hospital assessment program pending federal CMS approval. Gov. JB Pritzker referred to this achievement as his 7th straight balanced state budget.

Education Investments

Early Childhood:

- \$748 million for Smart Start Early Childhood Block Grants, expanding access to preschool, birth-to-three programs, and family support.
- \$21.7 million to launch a dedicated Department of Early Childhood, streamlining services from multiple agencies.
- \$777 million for the Child Care Assistance Program will be able to assist families across the state in affording care.

K–12 Education:

- \$307 million increase to the Evidence-Based Funding formula, boosting equitable support for school districts.
- \$10 million increase – for a total of \$35 million – to after-school programs.

Higher Education:

- \$10 million increase to Monetary Award Program (MAP)— for a total of over \$721 million.
 - MAP funding will see an 80% increase since 2019.
 - In FY26, a projected 151,000 students benefit from MAP -- up from 126,864 in 2019.
 - The maximum award size has increased from \$4,869 to \$8,604.
- \$50 million to AIM High – providing merit-based awards to undergraduate students.
- \$44 million increase for flexible operating funding for public universities (\$35 million) and community colleges (\$9 million).

Health & Human Services

Medicaid & Healthcare Access:

- Expanded funding supported in part by tobacco tax revenue.
- \$120 million for safety-net hospitals.
- \$25 million for the new Prescription Drug Affordability Fund, which launches a Pharmacy Benefit Management oversight program to control drug prices.
- \$15 million for the Medical Debt Relief Program. To date, the program has provided over \$100 million in debt relief for more than 100,000 Illinoisans.

Home and Disability Services:

- \$0.75/hour rate increase for home healthcare workers in the Community Care Program.
- \$0.80/hour rate increase for direct service providers assisting individuals with disabilities.

Mental Health & Substance Use Services:

- Funding continues for treatment access and prevention programs.
- Increased support for the 9-8-8 mental health crisis line infrastructure through a higher tax on telecommunications.

Public Safety & Violence Prevention

State Police & Emergency Services:

- Funds two new Illinois State Police cadet classes—100 new troopers—to maintain public safety staffing.
- Ongoing upgrades to the 911 emergency response system.

Violence Reduction:

- A total of \$7.1 billion is being sent to enhance public safety.
- \$46 million to sustain community-based violence prevention initiatives initially funded by federal COVID-relief.
- \$7.5 million for the Not-for-Profit Security Grant Program, supporting vulnerable institutions.

Economic Development & Infrastructure

Workforce Development:

- Investments in training and apprenticeship pipelines, especially for critical sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, and construction.
- Includes \$55.5 million in new funding to support the following programs such as the Fast Track Grant Program (\$7.5 million), Food Insecurity Grant Program (\$5 million), Employer Training and Investment Program (ETIP) (\$17 million), and the Leverage for Federal Programs Grant Program (\$5 million).

Site Readiness & Business Growth:

- \$500 million for Surplus to Success and DCEO Site Readiness Initiatives, positioning Illinois for future business attraction and expansion.

Small Business Support:

- Maintains support for technical assistance programs, access to capital, and growth services.

Fiscal Resilience & Risk Management

Emergency Preparedness Reserve Fund:

- \$100 million set aside to protect against future uncertainty, particularly potential federal funding disruptions.

Pension & Debt Commitments:

- Full pension contributions continue, supporting long-term funding goals.
- No new borrowing; the state maintains a focus on credit stability and reducing legacy debt.
- Create a new reserve fund for Social Security Wage Base for State Tier II members. The FY26 budget sets aside \$75 million for this reserve, investing the amounts expected to be necessary to cover the estimated first-year costs of adjusting SSWB for State Tier II members until legislation is enacted.

State Employee Health Cost Savings:

- \$100 million in savings negotiated through healthcare agreements with public employee unions.

NEW CAPITAL

- \$500 million to the Illinois Department of Central Management Services and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the new Surplus to Success program to prepare idle state properties for successful economic development and for investment in site readiness grants to local governments for economic development.
- \$6.2 billion for new Illinois Department of Transportation construction projects, including \$4.5 billion for road and bridge construction.
- \$300 million to the Capital Development Board for demolition and deferred maintenance projects at state facilities.
- \$60 million for Department of Natural Resources to continue improvements of Adeline Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park.
- \$35 million for IDNR's Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grants.
- \$75 million for DCEO's prime sites business development programs.
- \$50 million for the Rebuild Illinois Enterprise Grant Program.
- \$50 million for the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program.
- \$30 million for Tech Innovation Hubs.
- \$24 million for Manufacturing Training Academies.

REVENUE – [House Bill 2755](#)

To generate the revenue necessary to support investments and hedge against federal funding risks, the General Assembly adopted several targeted tax changes and compliance updates:

- Tobacco & Vape Tax: Increased from 36% to 45% of the wholesale price, generating funds to support Medicaid.
- Sports Wagering Tax: Tiered structure introduced:
 - \$0.25 per wager for the first 20 million wagers;
 - \$0.50 per wager beyond that threshold.
- Hotel Operators' Occupation Tax: Now applied to short-term rentals to ensure tax parity.
- Telecommunications Tax Increase: Designed to fund the 9-8-8 crisis line, supporting statewide mental health and suicide prevention services.
 - Increases the tax from 7% to 8.65%.
- Corporate Income Tax Reform:
 - Implement the *Finnigan Rule*, replacing the *Joyce Rule*, to ensure corporations operating in multiple states pay more accurate income tax in Illinois. Under *Finnigan*, an entire corporate group is essentially treated as one taxpayer – meaning all sales into the state, thus more of their income, can be taxed.
 - Ensures out-of-state sellers with \$100,000+ in Illinois sales must collect and remit Illinois sales tax, even without a physical presence.

- Expands the Illinois Retail Act to servicemen for equitable tax treatment.
- Eliminates the 200-transaction threshold for economic nexus, streamlining enforcement.
- Implements a 15% tax rate on sales lacking sufficient documentation.
- Allows service providers to file on behalf of qualifying Illinois-based retailers.
- Tax Amnesty Program: One-time opportunity for taxpayers to resolve back taxes without penalties.
- Motor Fuel Sales Tax Timing Adjustment: Delays final payment to the Road Fund, aiding short-term cash flow.
- New BRIDGE Fund: Created as a safeguard, allowing the Governor to address unexpected revenue shortfalls or federal delays with supplemental state funding.
- *The Budget Implementation bill (BIMP) -- [House Bill 1075](#) -- contains \$100 million in fund sweeps.

The Revenue omnibus also included several tax benefits aimed at increasing jobs and the economy, including an extension of the Illinois Film Tax credit, the Affordable Housing Special Assessment Program, and more.

BONDING – [House Bill 3374](#)

Increases the state's General Obligation Bond limit by \$875 million, and the state's Build Illinois Bond limit by \$740.3 million.

- \$200 million for pension buyouts
- \$675 million for capital facilities
- \$132 million for public infrastructure
- \$546 million for economic development
- \$61.7 million for school districts and health care facilities

MAJOR INITIATIVES: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS

Artificial Intelligence

The session began with more than a dozen AI-related bills, but most of them were not considered. Four relevant bills passed:

1. [House Bill 1806](#) establishes regulations for the use of AI in counseling and therapy.
2. [House Bill 1859](#) requires that community college courses in Illinois be taught by faculty and prohibits AI from being the sole instructor.
3. [House Bill 3178](#) made changes to the Digital Voice and Likeness Protection Act to clarify terms of acceptable use and when digital replica agreements are unenforceable.
4. [House Bill 2690](#) amends Illinois laws to redefine definitions of child sexual abuse material, including such materials prepared using AI.

Cryptocurrency & Digital Asset Regulation

Together, two bills make Illinois the first Midwest state to implement comprehensive oversight for cryptocurrency and digital asset businesses:

- [Senate Bill 1797](#) – Digital Assets and Consumer Protection Act: This bill creates a regulatory framework for digital asset businesses in Illinois. It requires entities such as digital asset exchanges to register with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and establishes consumer protections similar to those used in traditional financial services.
- [Senate Bill 2319](#) – Virtual Currency Kiosk Consumer Protection Act: This bill targets consumer protection at cryptocurrency kiosks. It mandates that kiosk operators: (1) Register with IDFP; (2) Provide regular reports on kiosk locations; (3) Offer full refunds to scam victims who are new customers. It also caps transaction fees and imposes limits on daily transactions for new users.

Hospital Assessment Program

[House Bill 2771](#), which passed both chambers, updates Illinois' Hospital Assessment Program through an agreement between hospitals, the Pritzker administration, and the legislature. The plan boosts hospital Medicaid reimbursements by \$1.47 billion -- a 65% average increase in net state-directed payments. Funding is targeted to

hospitals serving high volumes of Medicaid patients, rural Critical Access Hospitals, and specialty providers like behavioral health and pediatric care.

The legislation maintains the current distribution structure across hospital classes, preserving alignment with existing federal requirements. If approved by CMS, the increased payments will be supported by a \$982 million increase in the hospital provider tax, plus a \$99 million state "scrape" to help manage Medicaid cash flow. The bill also allows the state to offer repayment plans for hospitals behind on assessment payments, helping meet federal uniformity standards while accounting for hospitals' financial constraints.

Interchange Fee

[House Bill 742](#) extended the implementation of the Interchange Fee Prohibition Act from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2026. The Illinois Interchange Fee Prohibition Act aims to restrict interchange fees on the portion of credit and debit card transactions related to taxes and gratuities.

Medicaid Omnibus

[Senate Bill 2437](#) is a slimmed-down Medicaid reform package passed in response to federal funding uncertainty. It directs the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to adopt formal doula reimbursement policies and expands Medicaid eligibility to noncitizen survivors of human trafficking, torture, and other serious crimes. The bill creates a Certified Family Health Aide Program, allowing family caregivers to receive training and certification to provide in-home care. It also requires quarterly reports on prior authorization restrictions for mental health drugs and mandates reviews of reimbursement rates for services like private duty nursing and long-term ECG monitoring. Additional provisions include revised nursing home staffing policies to address workforce shortages and expanded flexibility for rural hospitals to operate across county lines. Proposals for dental rate hikes and a healthcare worker loan repayment program were excluded due to cost but may be revisited.

Pensions

Two key pension bills advanced this session. [House Bill 3657](#) creates parity for Chicago police and fire Tier 2 members to mirror the benefits downstate police and fire have had since the 2020 consolidation. The bill does not retroactively change any employee contributions or diminish any survivor's benefits:

- Increases the pensionable salary cap to \$141,408 with an annual increase of either 3% or the annual percentage increase in the CPI — whichever is greater — starting July 1, 2025.
- Introduces a more favorable final average salary calculation option for Chicago police (48 of last 60 months); firefighters already had this.
- Adds a 54% surviving spouse annuity and introduces a 12% dependent child benefit — a first for Tier 2 participants.

[House Bill 3193](#) is a comprehensive pension omnibus bill that incorporates numerous technical and administrative updates across multiple Illinois public retirement systems, many of which have been requested over several legislative sessions. The bill addresses a wide range of issues, from retirement benefit timing and service credit transfers to occupational disability coverage and pension system governance.

Prescription Drug Affordability & Pharmacy Protections

[House Bill 1697](#) is an initiative from the Governor's office to lower prescription drug costs and increase transparency in how pharmacy benefit managers operate. PBMs act as intermediaries between drug manufacturers, insurers, and pharmacies, but their practices have often driven up prices and limited patient access. HB 1697 bans "spread pricing," requiring PBMs to pass the full value of drug payments to pharmacies, and ensures all manufacturer rebates are returned to patients, insurers, or employers. It also prohibits PBMs from steering patients to preferred pharmacies, such as their own mail-order services.

To support independent pharmacies, particularly in underserved areas, the bill imposes a \$15 per-covered-life fee on PBMs to fund a new grant program. It also restricts PBMs from unfairly labeling medications as "specialty

drugs” to limit access. Finally, HB 1697 requires annual PBM reporting to the Department of Insurance, which will share the data with a university for analysis and public reporting. The Department is now authorized to regulate PBM practices across both public and private insurance plans.

Prior Authorization Package

[House Bill 3019](#) prohibits prior authorization for outpatient and partial hospitalization for mental health and substance abuse disorders. It requires insurance to cover transportation, food, and lodging for patients who need to travel to receive care if their plan doesn’t have sufficient services locally. The bill also amends how the 80/20 medical loss ratio should be allocated.

Toxic Torts

It took two different bills to get this passed, but on the final day both chambers passed [Senate Bill 328](#) to change Illinois from a ‘specific jurisdiction’ state to a ‘general jurisdiction’ state related to toxic tort claims, making any company simply registered to do business here subject to lawsuits in Illinois courts. This proposal is rooted in the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision *Mallory v. Norfolk Southern Railway Co.*, which opened the door for states to adopt so-called ‘consent-by-registration’ laws. The bill is an initiative of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and opposed by a wide coalition of groups.

MAJOR INITIATIVES: DID NOT PASS

Numerous high-profile bills failed to cross the finish line. Some measures stalled due to political disagreements, while others faced opposition from stakeholders or lacked sufficient support. These unresolved issues are expected to resurface during the fall veto session or in future legislative sessions.

Community College Baccalaureate: [Senate Bill 1988](#) (Katz-Muhl – advanced to the House floor but was not called for a vote) would allow Illinois community colleges to offer limited four-year baccalaureate degree programs. This was introduced this session as a priority initiative of the Governor’s Office. After extensive negotiations involving community colleges, public universities, independent colleges, and legislative staff, agreement was reached on revised language that included new guardrails around program duplication, collaboration, regional caps, and oversight. Despite consensus among key stakeholders -- including public universities, who agreed to remain neutral -- the bill was never called for a vote in either chamber.

Public University Funding Formula: [Senate Bill 13](#) / [House Bill 1581](#) (Ligthford/Ammons) proposed a significant overhaul of Illinois’ public university funding by introducing a needs-based formula akin to the Evidence-Based Funding model used in K-12 education. The goal of the plan would be to inject approximately \$1.7 billion into higher education over the next 10 to 15 years, prioritizing institutions that are currently underfunded. Each university’s “adequacy target” would be assessed against its existing resources to determine funding allocations. The proposal met resistance from the University of Illinois System. University officials argued that, despite enrolling over half of the state’s public university students and a significant portion of Pell Grant recipients, the U of I System would receive only 28% of new funds under the proposed formula.

Tier 2 Pension Reform: [Senate Bill 1937](#) (Hoffman – was not called for a vote in either Chamber) sought to address long-standing concerns about Illinois’ Tier 2 pension system. The proposal was backed by the *We Are One Illinois* union coalition, which had spent over a year developing the framework. Despite a significant push from labor, and assurances from unions that the plan would be credit-neutral and fiscally responsible, SB 1937 was not called for a vote before the end of session.

The bill would have improved Tier 2 benefits for public employees by adjusting the cost-of-living increase to a flat 3%, modifying the retirement age and final average salary calculation, and raising the pensionable salary cap to align with the Social Security wage base—an effort aimed at resolving the federal “Safe Harbor” issue that puts Tier 2 pensions at risk of noncompliance. The bill also proposed structural funding reforms, including changes to the state’s pension payment ramp and a plan to reach 90% funding by 2045 and 100% by 2049. It also expanded

eligibility for enhanced retirement benefits to additional categories of public safety workers and authorized deferred retirement option plans (DROPs) for police and firefighters.

340B Pharmacy Program Expansion: [House Bill 2371](#) (Koehler/Moeller – passed the Senate but was not called for a vote in the House) would prohibit pharmaceutical manufacturers from limiting the number, location, or type of contract pharmacies used by hospitals participating in the federal 340B drug pricing program. The bill passed the Senate on May 31 but was not called for a vote in the House.

Cannabis & Hemp Reforms: [Senate Bill 90](#) (Ford – advanced to the House floor but was not called for a vote) that includes a variety of reforms, including permitting every dispensary to sell to medical patients, allowing agencies to waive fees and financial assistance for social equity licensees experiencing financial hardship, and permits drive thru and curbside pickup for all dispensaries. The House Democrats did not have the votes to move a bill without hemp reform. For the fifth year in a row, the General Assembly did not pass any regulatory reforms proposed by the cannabis industry or any of the regulations on intoxicating hemp during this spring session.

Cell Phone Ban in Schools: [Senate Bill 2427](#) (Castro/Mussman) – passed the Senate but was not called for a vote in the House) would have banned cell phones during instructional time. The legislation was introduced in response to growing concerns from educators and parents about the impact of constant device use on student learning, attention spans, and mental health. However, the bill never advanced to a full vote in either chamber, with some lawmakers citing concerns about implementation, local control, and the role of school districts in crafting their own policies.

Economic Development Package: [Senate Bill 2008](#) (Stadelman/Hoffman – passed the House but was not called for a vote in the Senate) spearheaded by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, sought to update the state's economic development tools with the AIM Illinois Tax Credit Act, EDGE Program enhancements, REV program modernization, MICRO Program update, Illinois Firm Tax Credit enhancements and STAR Bonds expansion. The bill passed the House on May 31 but was not called for a vote in the Senate.

Election Omnibus: [House Bill 1832](#) (Cunningham – was not called for a vote in either Chamber) a wide-ranging elections omnibus bill introduced on the final day of session incorporated numerous administrative, procedural, and accessibility focused updates to Illinois election law. The bill was not called for a vote in either chamber. None of the proposed reforms were particularly time sensitive.

Energy Omnibus: [Senate Bill 40](#) (Cunningham/Hoffman – was not called for a vote in either Chamber) aimed to address surging summer electric bills, particularly for Ameren customers facing increases of 18-22%, and to enhance the state's clean energy infrastructure. Key provisions included incentives for renewable energy development, expansion of energy storage solutions, and measures to manage the increasing electricity demand from data centers. The legislation also sought to bolster grid reliability and maintain Illinois' climate commitments. However, disagreements among environmental groups, labor unions, and business interests over certain provisions, such as requirements for large energy consumers to invest in renewable generation, contributed to the bill's stagnation.

FOIA/OMA Reforms: The House approved a package of changes to the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act on the final night of session, but the Senate did not have a chance to consider the bill. [Senate Bill 243](#) (Porfirio/Didech) addresses township official training, prohibits public bodies from holding meetings on an election day, requires electronic FOIA requests to appear within the body of the email (vs. an attachment or link), expands FOIA exemptions for security sensitive documents, allows public bodies to verify the authenticity of the requestor, and allows active duty service members to participate in meetings virtually.

Home Schooling Bill: [House Bill 2827](#) (Costa Howard) – advanced to the House floor but was not called for a vote) would have required parents and guardians who homeschool their children to formally notify their local school district and regularly report student progress. Supporters argued it was aimed at protecting vulnerable children

who might otherwise fall through the cracks without any oversight. However, the bill sparked strong opposition from homeschooling advocates, who rallied in Springfield and criticized the measure as overregulation that unfairly targeted families outside the public school system.

Junk Fee Ban Act: [Senate Bill 1486](#) (Aquino/Morgan – passed the Senate but was not called for a vote in the House) would have enhanced pricing transparency and eliminate hidden fees across various industries. The legislation aimed to require businesses to disclose the full price of goods and services upfront, including any mandatory fees, to prevent consumers from encountering unexpected charges at checkout. Targeted sectors included hotels, restaurants, food delivery services, live entertainment, and independent contractors. The Illinois Attorney General was empowered to enforce violations under the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act. After more than a year of negotiations, the AG required the opportunity to continue to work on the bill.

Medical Aid in Dying: [Senate Bill 1950](#) (Holmes/Gabel) – passed the House but was not called for a vote in the Senate) would allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to live the option to request, obtain and take medication — should they choose — to die peacefully in their sleep if their suffering becomes unbearable. No healthcare provider or entity would be required to participate. The bill passed the House but was not called for a vote in the Senate.

Procurement: A procurement omnibus package did not pass this session, neither did [HB 3574](#) providing a procurement preference for data centers located within an opportunity zone, or a bill that requires resellers to get certification from a manufacturer that they'll provide the same price to all vendors.

Public Transit Governance & Fiscal Cliff: [House Bill 3438](#) (Villivalam/Delgado - passed the Senate but was not called for a vote in the House) proposed the creation of the Northern Illinois Transit Authority to replace the existing Regional Transportation Authority and consolidate oversight of the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace under a single regional agency. The bill outlined a new 20-member board structure, regional coordination responsibilities, and a mandate to implement unified service standards and fare systems, with a strong focus on equity, sustainability, and transit-oriented development. It also included provisions for fare reform, safety measures, zero-emission fleet requirements, and new revenue sources such as a climate impact fee and expanded regional taxes.

To address the fiscal cliff, revenue included in various versions of HB 3438 was a \$1.50 Retail Delivery Climate Impact Fee that would be added to all retail delivery services (e.g. Amazon deliveries, DoorDash deliveries); an imposition of a \$0.03 per kilowatt hour of electric vehicle power distributed by an electric vehicle power provider; a 10% tax on each rideshare ride; an additional \$0.50 surcharge for using the Tollway; and a real estate transfer tax of \$1.50 per \$500.

The House proposal, which did not include revenues to address the fiscal cliff, was filed on [Senate Bill 2111](#).

OTHER BILLS: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS

A total of 432 bills was sent to the Governor for his consideration. Below are some highlights:

Education & Technology

- [House Bill 1859](#): Prohibits community colleges from using artificial intelligence as the sole method of instruction, ensuring human instructors remain central to teaching. AI tools may still be used to augment instruction.
- [House Bill 3247](#): Prohibits public schools from denying students access to education based on their or their parents' immigration status.
- [House Bill 3522](#): Creates the Public University Direct Admission Program Act to establish a one-stop-shop for students, allowing eligible high schoolers to receive direct admission to public universities based on their

academic performance.

- [Senate Bill 1958](#): Strengthens the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act by requiring state universities and community colleges to facilitate credit transfers through formal articulation agreements. It encourages early coordination between institutions and allows students to declare transfer intentions when applying to a community college. It mandates universities to report transfer outcomes.
- [House Bill 3709](#): Requires every public institution of higher education to provide students with access to health care professionals to prescribe contraception and medication abortion.
- [House Bill 2967](#): Updates the Dual Credit Quality Act to enhance coordination between high schools and community colleges. School districts must try to partner with their local community college before contracting with other institutions and cannot partner with out-of-state institutions without justifying the decision to the ICCB. The bill sets standards for course review, instructor qualifications, and adds an appeals process for disapproved courses. A statewide study on the law's impact is due in 2030.

Energy & Environment

- [Senate Bill 1723](#): Prohibits carbon sequestration activities in facilities that intersect with a sole-source aquifer, aiming to protect vital drinking water supplies. It defines key terms like "sole-source aquifer" and "injection," and clarifies the Illinois EPA still retains the authority to deny sequestration permits. The bill also establishes the Mahomet Aquifer Advisory Study Commission, tasked with studying the aquifer's protection, which will be supported by the University of Illinois and the Prairie Research Institute.
- [Senate Bill 1697](#): Prohibits the construction of CO2 pipelines when surface conditions would damage farming operations and ensures landowners can pursue financial or land restoration compensation for any damages incurred.
- [House Bill 2419](#): Amends local siting rules to require hearings about major trash facilities are accessible to non-native English speakers and allows for a vehicle emission study.
- [Senate Bill 1859](#): Establishes Illinois' first Climate Displacement Task Force to examine the human impact of climate change.

Gaming

- [House Bill 2947](#): Eliminates the requirement that non-gaming personnel must obtain a license from the Gaming Board.
- [House Bill 1505](#): Makes horse racing clean up changes and establishes restrictions for advertising for video gaming.
- [Senate Bill 100](#): Allows the Gaming Board law enforcement personnel to keep their Board ID cards.

One gaming bill that did not pass either chamber includes [Senate Bill 1473](#) (Joyce) which would grant Hawthorne Race Track until December 31, 2025 to develop their proposed racino, permit a new harness track in Macon County, and increase Fairmount's off-track betting (OTB) licenses to 18.

Healthcare

- [Senate Bill 1602](#): The legislation amending the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act (SASETA) is the result of more than a year of collaboration between the Attorney General's office, hospitals, and other stakeholders. It includes important changes to reduce unnecessary transfer burdens, clarify reimbursement procedures for transfer hospitals, and strengthen support for survivors receiving follow-up care.
- [House Bill 1431](#): Several legislative proposals were introduced this session seeking to ban hospital facility fees. HB 1431, as amended, does not ban these fees but instead requires hospitals to adopt a policy informing patients that they may be subject to a facility fee. The policy must outline how patients will be notified, explain which services and operating expenses are typically covered by the fee, state the reason for charging it, and provide contact information for patients seeking additional details.
- [Senate Bill 593](#): Creates a Health Care Workforce Task Force. The Task Force will unite stakeholders from the General Assembly, state agencies, healthcare providers, labor, and education to develop actionable, long-term solutions to Illinois' most urgent healthcare workforce challenges.

- [House Bill 3637](#): Protects Illinois medical providers who prescribe drugs that have lost FDA approval after January 1, 2025, as long as those drugs are still recommended by the World Health Organization. It prevents such drugs from being classified as "adulterated" under state law, shielding providers from penalties or license loss for prescribing them. While the bill doesn't address coverage requirements, current Medicaid policy only covers FDA-approved drugs. The bill is part of a broader movement in Democratic-led states to enact "shield laws" that guard against federal or interstate actions—often in contexts like abortion (mifepristone) or vaccine access.

Public Health & Food Safety

- [Senate Bill 1288](#): Requires food handlers to undergo training on food allergies, including celiac disease, to improve allergy awareness and prevent cross-contamination in restaurants. The training will cover symptoms and allergens like gluten, nuts, and dairy.
- [Senate Bill 291](#): Establishes the One Health Commission within the Illinois Department of Public Health to enhance communication and collaboration among physicians, veterinarians, scientists, and state agencies on public health issues, particularly zoonotic diseases.
- [House Bill 2409](#): Beginning January 1, 2026, any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, organization, distributor, etc., of firefighting agents or firefighting equipment that sells firefighting personal protective equipment containing PFAS shall provide written notice to the purchaser at the time of sale which shall state: (i) that the firefighting personal protective equipment contains PFAS chemicals; and (ii) the reason PFAS chemicals are added to the equipment.
- [House Bill 2456](#): Provides that a third-party restaurant reservation service shall not list, advertise, promote, or sell reservations for a food service establishment without a written agreement. Provides that any person who violates a provision of the Act shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation. Provides for a private right of action.

Public Safety

- [Senate Bill 1953](#): This bill was introduced in response to the 2024 fatal police shooting of Sonya Massey by a Sangamon County sheriff's deputy with a troubled work history. It prohibits law enforcement agencies from making a final offer of employment to a candidate unless the applicant signs a waiver authorizing full disclosure of employment records from all prior law enforcement employers.
- [House Bill 3363](#): Proposes the establishment of a statewide Office of the State Public Defender and an independent State Public Defender Commission in Illinois. This initiative aims to address longstanding disparities in public defense services across the state's 102 counties, particularly in under-resourced rural areas.
- [Senate Bill 8](#): Requires owners to properly store their firearm in safe storage if within the property there is a (i) minor(s) without the lawful permission of the minor's parent, guardian, or person having charge of the minor, (ii) an at-risk person, or (iii) anyone ineligible to hold a FOID card.
- [House Bill 1373](#): Requires law enforcement to use a tracing system to determine how and from whom the person gained possession of the firearm and to determine prior ownership of the firearm.

Transportation

- [Senate Bill 191](#): Mandates that all school buses manufactured after 2031 for K-12 schools be equipped with lap-and-shoulder seat belts. The bill does not require enforcement of seatbelt usage but ensures future buses are better equipped for safety.
- [House Bill 1226](#): Updates driver's license renewal requirements by removing mandatory driving tests for individuals aged 79 to 86. Under the bill, only drivers 87 and older must take an annual driving test. Drivers aged 79 to 86 would instead take a vision test and, if applicable, a written test in cases of driving violations.
- [House Bill 3094](#): Exempts from the Transportation Benefits Program Act any employer in the construction industry that has a collective bargaining agreement.

Workplace

- [House Bill 2987](#): Requires warehouses and distribution companies to have tornado safety plans and addresses some of the recommendations of the Warehouse Safety Task Force.
- [House Bill 3200](#): This is an omnibus unemployment insurance bill making numerous changes, including to recovery for individuals who are determined to not be eligible for those benefit
- [House Bill 3638](#): Amends the Workplace Transparency Act to provide that no contract, agreement, clause, covenant, waiver, or other document shall prohibit, prevent, or otherwise restrict an employee, prospective employee, or former employee from engaging in concerted activity to address work-related issues. Limits settlement or termination agreements that include promises of confidentiality related to alleged unlawful employment practices to no more than 7 years.
- [Senate Bill 1976](#): The bill seeks to codify many of the Biden Administration's workplace regulations, including its 2024 independent-contracting rule, in the event the Trump administration rolls back or modifies federal rules.

Workplace Rights: Maternal Health

- [Senate Bill 212](#): Paid Breaks for Breastfeeding Mothers – This bill mandates employers provide nursing mothers with a 30-minute paid break to pump breast milk or breastfeed during the workday, for up to one year after childbirth. Employers cannot require employees to use existing paid leave for this purpose.
- [House Bill 2688](#): Expanded Access to Home Births – This legislation allows certified nurse midwives—licensed advanced practice registered nurses with graduate degrees in midwifery—to assist with home births under a collaborative agreement with a physician. In areas designated as maternity care deserts, these agreements can be established even if local physicians do not offer home birth services.
- [House Bill 2517](#): Anti-Bias Training for Obstetric Care Providers – To combat racial disparities in maternal health outcomes, this bill requires obstetric care providers to complete one hour of anti-bias training prior to renewing their state licenses, starting in July 2026. Completion of this training can count toward existing continuing education requirements.
- [House Bill 2978](#): Creates the Family Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) Leave Act to provide an employee of an employer to take unpaid leave while any child of the employee is a patient in a neonatal intensive care unit. For employees with 16-50 employees, the employee may use up to 10 days. For those with more than 50 employees, the employee may use 20 days.

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

