

## ICCTA's Summer 2021 Special Session Update

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By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

**\*\*\*Please see [ICCTA's BILL LIST](#) for the status of community-college-related legislation\*\*\***

*The Illinois General Assembly convened a marathon one-day **special session** on Tuesday, August 31 in accordance with a joint proclamation issued by House Speaker Welch and Senate President Harmon. House and Senate Democrats successfully passed adjustments to **legislative maps** following the release of U.S. Census Bureau data in August. While the subject matter was not included in the Special Session proclamation, lawmakers reconvened in regular session to consider a negotiated **clean energy proposal**, but ultimately failed to strike a final deal. A map of new Congressional districts is still being drafted. The fall Veto Session is currently scheduled for October 19-21 and 26-28, but legislators could return within the next two weeks to make another attempt at getting the energy bill across the finish line.*

### **REDISTRICTING**

Democrats in both the House and Senate passed [Senate Bill 927](#) along party lines after several hours of testimony in both chambers. Republicans accused the majority of putting on a public façade of interest in community input while drawing maps behind closed doors. A final version of the maps was introduced as an amendment shortly before the floor debate began. House Redistricting Chair Lisa Hernandez (D-Chicago) defended the process and argued that the amended maps reflect the changing diversity of the state. A federal court will soon hold a hearing on the new maps to determine whether they are constitutional.

The amended Senate maps are available [HERE](#). The amended House maps are available [HERE](#).

House members drawn into the same districts include:

- Conroy (D) & Mazzochi (R)
- Grant (R) & Lewis (R)
- Bos (R) & Morrison (R)
- Frese (R) & Davidsmeyer (R)
- Bourne (R) & Murphy (R)
- Caulkins (R) & Halbrook (R) -- Caulkins has indicated that he plans to move to an open district
- Niemberg (R) & Miller (R)

GOP Reps. Tony McCombie and Andrew Chesney were drawn into the same district in the House map passed in May, but now they are in separate districts, as are GOP Reps. Dan Ugaste and Keith Wheeler. Chesney may, however, face off against former GOP Rep. John Cabello, who has announced his interest in returning to public office.

Senate members drawn into the same districts include:

- Plummer (R) & Bailey (R) -- Bailey is running for Governor
- Cullerton (D) & Glowiak (D)

## **CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION**

Sen. Michael Hastings (D-Frankfort) filed a 980-page energy bill on Monday, potentially 24 hours before a Senate vote. Initially, unions and nuclear advocates were supportive of the bill, but environmental groups continued to proceed with reservations or downright opposition. Governor JB Pritzker then came out against the proposal, and Speaker Welch was unwilling to call a bill that would be vetoed by the Governor. Hastings then introduced several amendments to [House Bill 3666](#) throughout the day but could not reach consensus. Ultimately, the Senate voted 39-16-02 to pass an amended version of [SB 18](#), the new vehicle bill for omnibus energy legislation. SB 18 continues to target 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, supports the Byron and Dresden nuclear plants, scraps the formula rate-making system, and requires the closure of municipally-owned coal-powered generators in Springfield and the Metro East area by 2045, among many other provisions.

SB 18 now heads to the House for further consideration. Senate President Don Harmon said the legislation will likely see further negotiations and improvements “in a matter of days.” The House left Springfield before voting on the bill, and any amendments to the bill will need to be approved by the Senate. Action must be taken sooner rather than later to prevent the workers at the Byron and Dresden nuclear plants from losing their jobs.

In a statement from Gov. Pritzker’s office, the governor cited several concerns, including issues around labor, rollover solar, and displaced energy workers. The Governor’s Office also noted that any provisions of the bill that might be found to be unconstitutional could prevent other provisions – such as subsidies for nuclear power facilities -- from taking effect.

It now is up to Pritzker and House Speaker Welch to amend the Senate-passed bill, pass it, and send it back to the Senate for concurrence. Nothing yet is settled. It is unclear when the measure will advance, but possibly within the next two weeks.

## **OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

While energy talks were going on, the Senate convened out of special session and into general session to consider bills vetoed or amendatorily vetoed by the governor – namely to give members not directly involved in the energy negotiations something to do:

- The House failed to gather enough votes to accept an amendatory veto on **ethics legislation** ([SB 539](#)). The Governor had sent back SB 539 to the General Assembly for a technical change concerning the Office of the Executive Inspector General. The motion to accept the amendatory veto failed by a vote of 59-35-00, but this is a renewable motion, so House members can still accept the AV when they come back to town in October.
- The House and Senate both overrode the Governor’s veto of the **Medicaid managed care carve out** for ambulances ([HB 684](#)). The Pritzker administration noted that the bill will cost the Medicaid program another \$5-6 million annually. The override votes were nearly unanimous.

- The General Assembly also approved the Governor's amendatory veto to correct an effective date on [SB 967](#), an **omnibus maternal health** bill. The bill is now state law.
- Both houses also passed a bill regarding **unemployment insurance** in [SB 2065](#).

### **FALL VETO SESSION**

State lawmakers are scheduled to return to Springfield for the fall 2021 veto session on the following dates:

- October 19 – 21
- October 26 - 28

*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](http://www.communitycolleges.org)

