

ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

January 24, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

Several hundred Senate bills were filed last week prior to the Senate's January 21 filing deadline. The House deadline is this Friday, January 28.

The Illinois General Assembly remains adjourned until the call of the presiding officers in both chambers, with in-person session canceled last week and this week. The House will convene virtual committee hearings this week, while the Senate will be out as previously scheduled. Provided that COVID cases continue on a downward trend, all lawmakers are likely to return next week for the Governor's February 2 State of the State/Budget Address. Action at the committee level will increase in the coming weeks as more legislation is introduced and assigned to committees for consideration. Committee meetings can still be viewed online and will include testimony from the public. These meetings can be viewed on the legislature's website at www.ilga.gov.

It is also expected that State Senators will draw their terms for the next decade on February 2. The Illinois Constitution requires staggered elections for senators, who will serve two four-year terms and one two-year term in each decade. House members are elected every two years.

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***** LEGISLATION SWITCHES CHAMBERS *****

- March 25: House & Senate Committee Deadline
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PRITZKER VETOES HB 2778

Gov. J.B. Pritzker vetoed legislation Monday that would have guaranteed COVID-19-related sick leave for K-12 and higher education employees, while signaling support for a "compromise" plan that would limit compensation to only those who are fully vaccinated. The Governor and leaders of the state's two largest teacher unions have been huddling for weeks, with the unions urging Pritzker to sign [House Bill](#)

[2778](#) after it passed with strong bipartisan support last October. ICCTA and the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents joined other school management groups in opposing the legislation.

STATE FISCAL OUTLOOK

Illinois Comptroller **Susana Mendoza** will now provide a weekly report of five key fiscal items: the state's bill backlog (currently \$4.3 billion), bill payment cycle (averaging 13 days), rainy day fund (nearing \$20 million), unfunded pension liabilities (\$129 billion), and aggregate funded ratio of pension liabilities (46.5%). A highlight is that the bill backlog has shrunk nearly 75%, down from \$16.7 billion during the worst of the 2015-2017 budget impasse to less than \$4.4 billion as of Tuesday, January 18.

VACCINE MANDATE

Following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Biden vaccine requirement, the Illinois Department of Labor will likely retract [administrative rules](#) that require vaccines for public and private employers with more than 100 employees. The Department issued the following on its website: *The Illinois Department of Labor is aware of the United States Supreme Court decision that was released on January 13, 2022 staying the Federal OSHA COVID-19 vaccination and testing emergency temporary standard. Because IL OSHA's preemptory rule incorporates the federal standard, IL OSHA will similarly stay enforcement of its rule while it monitors federal litigation and determines next steps.*

HOUSE SPEAKER PRIORITIES

House Speaker **Chris Welch** has created a House Budget Negotiation Team comprised of State Reps. **Will Davis**, **Elizabeth Hernandez**, **Mike Zalewski**, and **Robyn Gabel**, who will closely assist Majority Leader and Chief Budgeteer **Greg Harris** this legislative session.

In addition to passing the state's Fiscal Year 2023 budget, Speaker Welch indicated last week that he is also working on legislation to address carjacking, organized retail theft, and other crime-related issues. Last year, the General Assembly approved the elimination of cash bail beginning in 2023.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Petition circulation for the 2022 election began on Thursday, January 13. Signatures are due March 14.

Aurora Mayor **Richard Irvin** has announced his campaign for governor, running as a Republican alongside Assistant House Republican Leader **Avery Bourne**. Irvin is a U.S. Army veteran who earned his law degree from Northern Illinois University. He practiced as an assistant state's attorney for Cook County before becoming a prosecutor for the Kane County state's attorney. He was elected to Aurora City Council in 2007 and became the first African American mayor of the city in 2017. The 29-year-old Bourne was first elected to the Illinois House in 2015, becoming the youngest member to join the General Assembly, where she quickly rose into leadership.

Irvin joins a crowded race for the Republican nomination, running against Sen. **Darren Bailey** (R-Louisville), businessmen **Gary Rabine** and **Jesse Sullivan**, and former state senator **Paul Schimpf**, among others.

Gov. Pritzker recently made a \$90 million contribution to his gubernatorial campaign, on top of a \$35 million donation last spring. The latest amount comes as Richard Irvin announced his candidacy with the rumored backing of Citadel Securities' **Ken Griffin**, who has a net worth of around \$27 billion and has promised to go "all in" to support an opponent to Gov. Pritzker.

Former State Rep. and Illinois Director of Natural Resources director **Wayne Rosenthal**, who had previously announced a run for State Senate against incumbent Sen. **Steve McClure**, instead announced that he is running for his old seat. Rep. Avery Bourne cannot seek her House seat and the Lt. Governor position at the same time, so Rosenthal will run for the new 108th district. Fittingly, Bourne replaced Rosenthal in the House in 2015. Rosenthal currently serves as a trustee on the Lincoln Land Community College board.

Other recent campaign announcements:

- Former La Salle County State's Attorney **Karen Donnelly** is running in the 105th House District to replace State Rep. **Dan Brady**, who is running for Secretary of State. Donnelly will face Livingston County Board Member **Mike Kirkton** in the Republican primary.
- Democrat **Lilian Jimenez** is seeking election to the 4th House District, which is being vacated by State Rep. **Delia Ramirez**, who is running for Congress.
- Republican Attorney Michele Hunter announced her candidacy in the new 54th House District represented by State Rep. **Tom Morrison**, who is not running for reelection. Arlington Heights Trustee **Mary Beth Canty** is the sole Democratic candidate in that race.
- State Rep. **Michael Robert Walters** is running in the 55th House District against incumbent Democratic Rep. **Marty Moylan**.
- Democrat **Anthony Ortiz** filed paperwork with the State Board of Elections to run in the 43rd House District, currently represented by State Rep. **Anna Moeller**.
- Republican **Scott Greene** also filed paperwork to be a candidate in the district represented by Democratic State Rep. **Larry Walsh**.
- **Kenneth Yerkes** intends to seek the Republican nomination against longtime Democratic Rep. **Mary Flowers**.
- **Dr. Bill Hauter**, an emergency physician and anesthesiologist from Morton, says that he will run for an open Illinois House seat that includes much of the district now represented by retiring State Rep. **Keith Sommer** – the re-drawn 87th.

COVID UPDATES

COVID cases and hospitalizations are falling, but Illinois just suffered the third-worst daily COVID death toll of the pandemic. On average, 109 Illinoisans die each day, with the vast majority unvaccinated.

HEALTH MANDATE COVERAGE

The Illinois Department of Insurance issued a bulletin last week listing requirements for new state health mandates signed into law after the 2021 spring legislative session. Company Bulletin #2022-01 can be found [here](#).

NEW STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS DIRECTOR

Bernadette Matthews has been named executive director of the Illinois State Board of Elections. She served as assistant executive director since 2017 and has been acting executive director since April 2021.

JOINT ANALYSIS CENTER CREATED

[Executive Order 2022-02](#) establishes the Illinois Joint Analysis Center within the Department of Military Affairs. The Center is a collaborative effort involving government, private-sector, military, research, and academic stakeholders that provides an information-sharing network to enhance the state's cybersecurity.

NEW 464 AREA CODE

With new telephone numbers in Chicago's southern suburbs in high demand, the Illinois Commerce Commission has approved the implementation of a new 464 area code to overlay the existing 708 area code region. Starting on Friday, January 21, customers in the 708 region may be assigned a number in the new 464 area code when they request new service or an additional line. The 464 area code will co-exist everywhere in this region with the 708 area code.

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

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January 18, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

Citing the continuous rise in COVID cases, the Illinois House and Senate will not be meeting in person this week and will continue remote committee work. The Senate was not scheduled to be in session the final week in January, so it will not be returning until February at the earliest. The House could return the final week of January, but that appears unlikely. Nominating petitions for Illinois' primary election began circulating Thursday, January 13. Since all 177 members of the Illinois General Assembly are on the ballot, they will want to use this time to circulate petitions in their districts. While coronavirus may be the primary reason for the decision to go remote, the beginning of campaign season is certainly another.

Legislative committee meetings can still be viewed online and will include testimony from the public. These meetings can be viewed on the General Assembly website at www.ilga.gov.

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2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Signs are growing for a "statewide slate of GOP candidates" that will be backed by the party's big funders. The biggest news occurred yesterday with the announcement that Aurora Mayor **Richard Irvin** will run for governor with running mate State Rep. **Avery Bourne** (R-Morrisonville). Other candidates affiliated with the rumored slate include State Rep. **Tom Demmer** for treasurer; McHenry County Auditor **Shannon Teresi** for comptroller; former prosecutor **John Milhiser** for secretary of state; and international trade lawyer **Steve Kim** for attorney general. These candidates are not the only

Republicans running for statewide offices, but by teaming up they hope to have an advantage securing a statewide seat (or seats) that are now controlled by Democrats.

Former state Sen. **Paul Schimpf**, a Republican candidate for governor, has named **Carolyn Schofield** as his lieutenant governor running mate. Schofield is a McHenry County board member and has run unsuccessfully for the Illinois House. Republican business owner **Gary Rabine**, meanwhile, has selected former Cook County GOP Chair **Aaron Del Mar** as his running mate.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois is running a candidate for secretary of state. His name is **Jesse White**, and he is not related to the current officeholder.

State Sen. **Jacqueline Collins** (D-Chicago) has started to gather signatures for Illinois's 1st Congressional seat but will also pass out petitions for the state Senate seat she currently holds.

State Rep. **Deb Conroy** (D-Villa Park) will not seek re-election to the state House and instead will campaign for chair of the DuPage County Board. Conroy, now in her fifth term, serves as Women's Caucus Whip and is an advocate on mental health legislation.

State Rep. **Tom Morrison** (R-Palatine) decided not to run for re-election. Morrison has represented the 54th district for the past 12 years.

State Sen. **Brian Stewart** (R-Freeport) announced he will not seek re-election. Upon the conclusion of this term, he will have served almost 50 years in public service and said it is time to begin a new chapter. Rep. **Andrew Chesney** (R-Freeport) has announced that he is running for Sen. Stewart's seat, and former GOP state Rep. **John Cabello** plans to announce that he is running for the district being vacated by Chesney.

COVID UPDATE

On January 7, Gov. **JB Pritzker** signed a new [Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation](#), extending the COVID-related statewide declaration through Sunday, February 6. He also signed [Executive Order 2022-01](#) to extend previous executive orders. With the signing of a new disaster proclamation, public meetings may continue to be held remotely, in accordance with [Public Act 101-0640](#), if certain requirements are met. Any COVID-19-related executive orders not extended by EO 2022-01 have expired and are no longer in effect.

Illinois has reduced [quarantine time for schools](#) from 10 to 5 days to align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidelines.

PRITZKER ANNOUNCES MEASURES TO REDUCE BURDEN ON HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The Omicron strain driving the current surge in COVID-19 cases has placed a significant burden on health care workers and institutions. On January 12, Gov. Pritzker said that out-of-state health care workers can now continue to work in Illinois during the ongoing public health emergency with expanded permission allowing them to treat all patients, not just those diagnosed with COVID-19. Additionally,

doctors trained in other countries may now assist physicians licensed here, and out-of-state providers may now provide telehealth services to Illinoisans.

SOS DEPARTMENTS AND DRIVER SERVICES FACILITIES REMAIN CLOSED

Out of an abundance of caution and due to the continued high numbers of new COVID-19 cases statewide, all Secretary of State departments – including Driver Services facilities – will resume conducting in-person transactions on Monday, January 24. Driver Services facilities operating on a Tuesday – Saturday schedule will reopen on Tuesday, January 25. Consumers may visit www.ilsos.gov for online services.

LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL NOW VACANT

The position of Legislative Inspector General is now open after former inspector Carol Pope officially resigned Thursday, January 6. In July 2021, Pope announced that she would resign by the end of the year, saying that she found the LIG office to be a “paper tiger” that had no real power to police the General Assembly or its members.

16 COLLEGES NAMED IN FINANCIAL-AID LAWSUIT

A class-action lawsuit claims a group of college presidents set up admissions policies that limited options for needy students and shrank their aid packages at top schools, including Northwestern University, Notre Dame University, and the University of Chicago.

RECORD MONTH FOR SPORTS WAGER TAXES

Sportsbooks in the state won nearly \$80 million in November 2021, yielding a record \$12.7 million in state and local taxes -- Illinois' most lucrative month since sports betting launched. Gross revenue rose 112% to a record \$78.2 million in November, from \$37 million in November 2020 and the state's previous high of \$49.9 million in March. On March 5, state law will allow remote registration for sportsbook gamblers. Illinois currently requires in-person registration, which has been in place after Gov. Pritzker allowed an executive order to lapse last April.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

January 31, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

Gov. **JB Pritzker** is scheduled to deliver his combined State of the State and Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Address to a joint session of the Illinois House and Senate on February 2. His speech was delivered virtually last year but will be held in person this year, although the chamber will remain closed to the public. The Governor is expected to propose a “maintenance” budget, with little new General Revenue Fund spending, but may create additional programs for education, property owners, and middle-class individuals impacted by COVID.

There has been little legislative action in January, as lawmakers only met one day in person and have only held a handful of committee meetings. The latest COVID surge has largely kept legislators in their district, and the late June primary has forced them to focus on circulating petitions during a time traditionally focused on filing bills, holding stakeholder meetings, and introducing legislation in committees. Legislative leaders, however, say that they are prepared to get back to work in February.

January 21 was the deadline to file substantive bills in the Senate, and January 28 was the deadline to file substantive bills in the House. Since January, the Senate filed over 1,000 bills, and the House filed closer to 1,500. The short amount of time to adopt a budget and address any necessary legislation will be unprecedented.

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2022 Campaign Updates

Petition circulation for the 2022 general primary election began on Thursday, January 13, with signatures due March 14.

Jonathan Jackson has filed paperwork to run in the Democratic primary for the Congressional 1st district seat being vacated by Rep. Bobby Rush. His father is civil rights activist **Rev. Jesse Jackson**. This race already includes 16 declared candidates, including Chicago Ald. **Pat Dowell**.

Kendall County Board Chairman **Scott Gryder** of Oswego announced a challenge to U.S. Rep. **Lauren Underwood** (D-Naperville) in the new 14th Congressional district. Gryder faces former radio talk show host **Mike Koolidge**, Kendall County GOP Chairman **Jim Marter**, and small business owner **Jack Lombardi** in the GOP primary. Gryder would likely be considered by donors as the most “competitive” candidate against Underwood in November.

In the Congressional 13th District, **David Palmer**, a Democrat from Champaign, is running against **Nikki Budzinski** of Springfield in the June 28 primary. Budzinski is the strong favorite in this district drawn to favor a Democrat. **Jesse Reising**, a Republican from Decatur, and Republican **Regan Deering**, also from Decatur, entered the race last week.

In General Assembly candidate announcements:

- Triton College Trustee **Norma Hernandez** will challenge Rep. **Kathleen Willis** (D-Addison) in the Democrat primary. Hernandez has the support of U.S. Rep. **Chuy Garcia**.
- **Tina Wallace**, a Chicago real estate professional, will challenge Rep. **Lindsey LaPointe** (D-Chicago) in the Democratic primary.
- Republican **Stefanie Hood** will challenge Rep. **Terra Costa Howard** (D-Glen Ellyn). Hood ran against then-Senate President **John Cullerton** in 2014.
- Former state Rep. **John Cabello** (R-Machesney Park) will be challenged in the primary by Operating Engineers Local 150 Business Agent **Mark Szula**. Szula is the village president of Roscoe, which is near Rockford.
- Rep. **Mark Luft** (R-Pekin) will face **Travis Weaver** in the Republican primary. Luft is the son of former Sen. **Dick Luft**, and Weaver is the son of former Sen. **Chuck Weaver**.
- House Republicans are backing **Peter Pettorini** for the open seat created when Rep. **Sam Yingling** (D-Grayslake) decided to run for retiring Sen. **Melinda Bush's** (D-Grayslake) seat. **Laura Dias** and **Tom Maillard** are competing for the Democratic nomination.
- The House GOP is also supporting **Rory Welch** against Rep. **Jonathan Carroll** (D-Northbrook).
- The 47th Ward Democrats have endorsed **Eileen Dordek** in the crowded Democratic primary to replace retiring House Majority Leader **Greg Harris**. About a third of the district's vote comes out of that ward.

COVID UPDATES

Gov. Pritzker and the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health are cautiously optimistic that the latest COVID-19 surge has peaked. While hospitalizations are down 15.2% over the past week, the Governor cautioned that medical staff remain overwhelmed with the sheer volume of patients they are treating. IDPH also reported an additional 843 deaths last week, up again from 746 a week ago.

Chicago also appears to have peaked. The city's COVID-19 test positivity peaked at 19.6% on January 1 and dropped to 12.6% on January 18^h, which is the lowest rate since December 28. Hospitalizations have not yet begun to drop, but they have plateaued.

ILLINOIS UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN IN DECEMBER

Illinois' jobless rate fell 0.4% to 5.4% in December 2021. The Illinois Department of Employment Security reports that nonfarm payrolls increased by 22,800 in December; gains included 9,400 jobs in the professional and business services sector; 8,500 jobs in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector; and 2,200 jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector. Losses of 1,800, 300, and 100 jobs were seen in the financial activities, educational and health services, and government sectors, respectively. The state's preliminary unemployment rate remains 1.4% higher than the national rate of 3.9%.

JUDGE GRANTS RESTRAINING ORDER TO STOP JUDICIAL REDISTRICTING

Earlier this month, Gov. Pritzker signed a law that splits the current 3rd Judicial Circuit — which includes Madison and Bond counties — into new subcircuits. Madison County's state's attorney filed a lawsuit to try to stop that plan. According to the lawsuit, the requirement "poses an undue burden on Madison County Administration in terms of the time, manpower and resources it will take to implement for the 2022 elections." Changes to other circuit maps do not go into effect until 2024, but Madison County's map goes into effect this year with no explanation for the "differential treatment," the suit says. A Sangamon County judge granted a temporary restraining order halting the implementation of the new judicial subcircuits in Madison County.

PRITZKER APPOINTS FORMER COMMISSIONER TO ICC

Gov. Pritzker has appointed **Ann McCabe**, a former member of the Illinois Commerce Commission, to rejoin the regulatory body for a five-year term. McCabe previously served from March 2012 to January 2017. Since leaving ICC, McCabe worked as a U.S. Program Manager and Principal at the Regulatory Assistance Project, a non-profit that assists energy and environmental regulators. McCabe has over 25 years of experience in the energy and environmental policy sectors.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

February 8, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

Both the Illinois House and Senate canceled in-person session last week due to a major snowstorm in central Illinois. The House canceled all three of its scheduled session days. The Senate convened on Tuesday, February 1, at 12 PM, but quickly sent members home so they were not traveling in inclement weather. Otherwise, lawmakers have not met in person since the first week of January. Committees continued to meet remotely throughout the week, and legislative leaders announced that they do not intend to postpone any deadlines.

The Senate returns to in-person session today (Tuesday, February 8). The House is not scheduled to be in session this week, although committees continue to meet virtually. February 10 is the deadline to pass substantive Senate bills out of Senate committees. February 18 is the deadline to pass substantive House bills out of House committees.

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GOVERNOR'S FY23 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Despite the canceled session, Gov. **JB Pritzker** still delivered a combined State of the State and Budget Address from the Old State Capitol that was streamed out to the public. Under the Governor's Fiscal Year 2023 proposal, total expenditures amount to \$112.5 billion from all funds, including \$45.4 billion in General Revenue Funds, with a projected \$1.7 billion budget surplus. His stated goal with this budget is to pay down old bills, control spending, and grow the economy. If the General Assembly passes his proposal, Illinoisans will see temporary tax relief when purchasing groceries and gasoline, homeowners will get a bit of a property tax break, and health care workers will not have to pay licensing fees. In addition, in move not seen since 1994, the Governor is proposing to pay more money into the state's pension systems than the statutorily required contribution. The Pritzker administration hopes to achieve another credit rating upgrade with this budget.

Here are some highlights from the Governor's FY 23 budget proposal:

Family Relief Plan

- \$475 million in property tax rebates, with a one-time rebate payment to homeowners of 5% of property taxes paid, up to \$300 for those eligible for a state income tax credit
- \$360 million by freezing the state's tax on groceries
- \$135 million by freezing the planned gas tax increase, which will not jeopardize any planned projects

Fiscal Responsibility

- Additional \$500 million paid directly to the Pension Stabilization Fund, reducing long-term liabilities by \$1.8 billion
- Adds nearly \$900 million to the state's Rainy Day Fund over FY22 and FY23
- Eliminates the \$898 million owed for state employee health insurance

Education

- \$350 million increase for Evidence Based Funding for K-12 schools
- \$96 million increase for transportation and special education
- \$54 million increase for Early Childhood Education
- \$300 million to Strengthen and Grow Childcare Grants
- 5% increase for community colleges and state universities
- Increase Monetary Award Program funding to \$600 million (a one-year \$122 million increase), which increases the maximum award to 50% of tuition at public universities and expands eligibility to students enrolled in short-term certificate programs
- Pays off the \$230 million unfunded liability for the College Illinois! pre-paid tuition program
- Increases funding for minority teacher scholarships
- Includes \$2 million in additional funding for Agricultural Education

Healthcare

- Waives licensing fees for nearly 470,000 frontline healthcare workers
- \$180 million to preserve and expand the healthcare workforce through Medicaid providers, focusing on underserved and rural areas
- \$140 million to mental health care providers through rate enhancements
- \$70 million to 9-8-8 call centers and crisis response services for mental health issues
- \$25 million to expand the pipeline of nurses through the Illinois Community College Board

Small Businesses and Employers

- One-year waiver of retail liquor license fees to aid restaurants, bars, and liquor license holders
- \$38 million to Employer Training and Investment Program to assist with workforce and employee training efforts
- \$5 million to develop minority entrepreneurship programs and support small, minority-owned businesses
- \$35 million in new capital appropriations to Rebuild Main Streets and Downtown Commercial Corridors to promote new investment and bring jobs to communities

Public Safety & Violence Prevention

- Over \$800 million for violence prevention appropriations, which will more than triple State violence prevention funding since FY19. Includes appropriations for Reimagine Public Safety and R3 grants
- 300 new state troopers, the single largest investment in state history to expand cadet classes
- \$50 million increase directly from cannabis revenues to support communities harmed by violence, excessive incarceration and economic disinvestment
- \$20 million to support Gang Crime Witness Protection Program
- \$20 million for non-profits for security investments to prepare for hate crimes
- \$5.4 million for increased staffing and equipment at new forensic lab in Decatur, after expanding state forensic capacity in Chicago and Joliet

Human Services

- \$2 billion for services for people with developmental disabilities, including implementation of the second phase of Guidehouse recommendations
- \$250 million to hire additional DCFS staff, increase rates for private partners and create new residential capacity

Click here to review the [Budget in Brief](#) and the complete FY23 [Budget Book](#).

Capital Plan

The proposed FY23 budget includes \$46.5 billion in total capital appropriations. Among the recipients will be the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for its Drinking Water and Wastewater program (\$1.2 billion) as well as its lead service line replacement loan and grant funds (\$565 million). The proposed capital budget also includes \$195 million in capital repatriations from the Rebuild Illinois fund initiatives, including Transportation Electrification, the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities Program, and the Unsewered Communities Construction Grant Program. Click here to review the [Capital Budget](#).

As with other gubernatorial legislative priorities, the budget must secure the approval of the General Assembly, where Democrats hold a supermajority in both chambers. House Majority Leader and Chief Budgeteer **Greg Harris** (D-Chicago) has filed 77 appropriation bills that will serve as the basis for the FY23 operating budget. The budget review process will get underway as House and Senate Budget committees review it at the agency level. Legislative committees will also review revenue projections. The budget process will be on the fast track this year, due to the legislature's early adjournment deadline of April 8.

JUDGE VOIDS GOVERNOR'S K-12 MASK AND COVID TESTING MANDATE

A 7th Judicial Circuit Court judge has granted a temporary restraining order that reduces K-12 schools' ability to require masks and vaccinations for students, faculty, and staff. Judge **Raylene Grischow's** February 4 order was the result of several lawsuits brought by Greenville attorney **Thomas DeVore** on behalf of several hundred parents and teachers from around the state. It also voided emergency rules from the Illinois State Board of Education and from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Judge Grischow's order blocks the nearly 170 school districts named in DeVore's lawsuits from enforcing mask requirements and exclusion rules for students and staff as well as vaccination and testing

requirements for school staff without "due process." It also voided emergency rules from ISBE requiring regular testing or proof of vaccination from school staff, as well as rules from IDPH outlining a school's obligation to "exclude" students from school who have confirmed cases of COVID-19 or are a "close contact" to someone with COVID-19.

Community colleges and state universities are not included in the DeVore lawsuits or Judge Grischow's ruling.

Illinois Attorney General **Kwame Raoul** and the Pritzker administration have already asked the Fourth District Appellate Court to set aside Judge Grischow's order. The case could ultimately wind up before the Illinois Supreme Court.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Petition circulation for the 2022 primary election began on Thursday, January 13. Signatures are due March 14.

Fundraising while state lawmakers are in session is now illegal. Traditionally, Mondays (the day before the legislative session begins each week) were left open for fundraising. The [new law](#) says that lawmakers "may not hold a political fundraising function on any day the legislature is in session or the day immediately prior to such day." The law also applies to executive branch officeholders *and* candidates running for those positions. Fundraising is now prohibited anywhere in the state, not just Springfield.

Ken Griffin, Chicago billionaire and CEO of the giant hedge fund Citadel, has donated \$10 million to the GOP Congressional Leadership Fund, the House Republican super PAC, which raised \$65.5 million in 2021.

GOP candidate for Governor **Jesse Sullivan** has selected **Kathleen Murphy** as his running mate. Murphy was the director of communication and spokesperson **for Jeanne Ives'** 2018 primary race for Illinois Governor against **Bruce Rauner**.

Jonathan Jackson makes it official and will campaign for retiring U.S. Rep. **Bobby Rush's** 1st Congressional District seat.

In state legislative campaign news:

- Assistant House Minority Leader **Keith Wheeler** will run for re-election in the 83rd House District. Since the new 83rd has trended Democratic during the Trump years, Wheeler reportedly thought about running for Senate if GOP Sen. **Sue Rezin** decided to try and move up. He also considered running against fellow GOP Rep. **David Welter**, who was given a far more Republican-friendly district. Last week, Rezin announced that she will run for re-election and forgo a Lt. Governor bid with Jesse Sullivan.
- Tazewell County Treasurer **Mary Burress** (R-Pekin), unsuccessful candidate against Sen. **Dave Koehler** (D-Peoria) in 2020, announced that she is running for the open seat created when Rep. **Keith Sommer** (R-Mackinaw) announced his retirement.

- Republican **Arin Thrower**, a former producer of the Golf Channel in Florida, announced her bid to run against first-year Rep. **Suzanne Ness** (D-Crystal Lake). Thrower has House GOP backing.
- Republican **Ashley Hunsaker**, CEO of HTS Coatings LLC, announced her bid against Assistant Majority Leader **Jay Hoffman**. Hunsaker also has House GOP support.
- Democrat **Cindy Cunningham** will challenge Rep. **Mike Marron** (R-Fithian) for a third time in 2022. She previously lost to him in 2018 and 2020.
- State Rep. **Lindsey LaPointe** will face a primary challenge from real estate broker **Tina Wallace** and 911 dispatcher **Keith Thronton, Jr.**
- Republican **Peter Pettorini** will run in the open 62nd District created when Rep. **Sam Yingling** decided to run for the State Senate. **Laura Dias** and **Tom Maillard** are competing for the Democratic nomination.
- Republican **Rory Welch** announced he will challenge Rep. **Jonathan Carroll** (D-Northbrook).

STATE RECEIPTS UP \$2.6 BILLION

Good news from the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability's [January COGFA Report](#): "Through the first seven months of FY 2022, overall base receipts are up a remarkable \$2.639 billion. As mentioned in previous monthly briefings, what makes this growth so impressive is that the revenue totals of FY 2022 are compared to FY 2021 receipts that benefitted from last year's final payment delay, valued at approximately \$1.3 billion. Despite this occurrence, net personal income tax revenues have risen \$560 million and net corporate income tax revenues have increased \$818 million. Net sales tax also continues its phenomenal year, now up \$754 million through January. All other sources are trailing last year's levels by a combined \$96 million."

IDOL DIRECTOR KLEINIK RETIRING

Illinois Department of Labor Director **Michael Kleinik** has announced his retirement. Kleinik was appointed by the Governor in January 2019 and confirmed by the Senate in May 2019. He has worked in public service since 1979, when he served as Bond County Deputy Sheriff. Kleinik previously worked as chief of staff for IDOL and as executive director for the Medical Cannabis Alliance of Illinois.

BOOST ACA OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Illinois Department of Insurance announced that 32,000 more Illinoisans signed up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act exchange this year than in 2021. A total of 323,427 Illinoisans purchased plans through the exchange this year. The open enrollment period was extended by 30 days from the previous deadline of December 15, 2021, to January 15, 2022. Even without the extended enrollment period, the state saw 19,274 additional enrollments compared to last year.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

February 15, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois Senate returned to meeting in person last week as it worked toward its February 10 Senate committee deadline. A few dozen bills have received deadline extensions, but we are starting to get a better picture of the legislation that the Senate will take up this spring.

The House continues with remote committee work this week. Hundreds of new bills have been assigned to committees for hearings. The House deadline for House bills to pass out of House committees is this Friday, February 18.

Both the House and Senate will return to Springfield this week for in-person work, although committee action remains virtual.

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

Due to the virtual committee process, it is vital that we know your positions so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.***

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- February 18: House Committee Deadline
- February 25: Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- March 4: House 3rd Reading Deadline

***** LEGISLATION SWITCHES CHAMBERS *****

- March 25: House & Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Petition circulation for the 2022 election began on Thursday, January 13, with signatures due March 14. Of course, the individuals filing paperwork to run for office are not “official” candidates until they file their petitions to get on the ballot next month.

- Rep. **Sandy Hamilton** (R-Springfield), newly appointed to the 99th House district vacated by Rep. **Mike Murphy**, announced that she will run for Senate against appointed Sen. **Doris Turner** (D-Springfield) in the 48th Senate district this fall.
- Republican **Jennifer Sanalitro** will run for the vacant 48th House District. Sanalitro is a sales executive at a packaging company.
- Democrat East Alton Mayor **Joe Silkwood** will challenge Rep. **Amy Elik** (R-Alton) in the new 111th District in northern Madison County.

- Sen. **Win Stoller** (R-Peoria) will be challenged in a primary by insurance business owner **Brett Nicklaus** from Dixon.
- Democrat **Mary Morgan** of Island Lake, who works in the Wauconda School District, has filed paperwork to challenge Rep. **Marty McLaughlin** (R-Barrington Hills) in the redrawn 52nd House district.
- Democrat McLean County Board member and professional classical musician **Sharon Chung** will run for state representative in the 91st District. Chung is also an adjunct professor at Millikin University. She will likely face **Karla Bailey Smith** in the primary. Normal Town Council member **Scott Preston**, a Republican, announced his bid for the 91st last month. Current House members representing the Bloomington-Normal area have already announced that they will not seek re-election: Rep. **Dan Brady** is running for Secretary of State, and Rep. **Keith Sommer** is retiring at the end of his term.
- Republican **Jack Vrett**, a licensed attorney and Army veteran, launched his campaign for the 53rd House District, which is currently represented by Rep. **Mark Walker** (D-Arlington Heights).
- Democrat Plainfield Village Trustee **Harry Benton** announced another House bid yesterday. Benton lost to Republican Rep. **Mark Batinick** in 2020 but Batinick is not running again. So far, at least two Republicans are hoping to replace him: **Michelle Smith** and **Thomas McCullagh**. McCullagh was defeated by Democratic Sen. **Meg Loughran Cappel** in 2020; Smith is the Plainfield Township Clerk and a business owner.
- Bartlett Mayor **Kevin Wallace**, a Republican, announced his campaign for the 49th House district, a seat currently held by first-year Rep. **Maura Hirschauer** (D-Batavia).

COVID UPDATE

The decline in the state's COVID-19 hospitalizations has been faster than at any point in the pandemic – nearly a 25% drop over the last week. Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. **Ngozi Ezike** has said that 89% of those hospitalizations are in unvaccinated individuals. Approximately 75% of the state's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, putting Illinois at the top of Midwestern states.

STATEWIDE INDOOR MASK REQUIREMENT EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28 – WITH EXCEPTIONS

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decline, Illinoisans can resume activities without wearing a mask indoors on February 28 except where required by federal, state, or local laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Federal requirements, in effect through at least March 18, include all transportation systems such as airports, planes, trains, and buses, and in high-risk settings including healthcare facilities and congregate care (prisons, shelters, etc). Masking requirements will also continue to apply in all daycare settings. The state intends to continue masking requirements in P-12 schools subject to pending litigation, which impacts a number of schools.

Chicago and Cook County will also lift restrictions, following the statewide mask mandate lift.

LEGISLATION FILED TO ADDRESS ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT

The Illinois Retail Merchants Association, in partnership with Attorney General Kwame Raoul, have announced a sweeping proposal to combat organized retail crime, prevent illicit trade, and provide retailers additional tools to protect the safety of employees and customers. According to the press release: "The proposal calls for the creation of the Organized Retail Crime Act, providing the emphasis and

focus required to combat this dangerous form of retail theft, which is usually performed by criminal groups with the goal of reselling stolen items to fund illicit activities. Those participating in smash and grab robberies as well as the looting of supply chain vehicles could be prosecuted for organized retail crime. Prosecutors would be given wider discretion to bring charges regardless of where the crime takes place. For instance, if the conspiracy, theft, and selling all occurred in different jurisdictions, each jurisdiction would have the ability to prosecute the whole crime.”

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE PROPOSES FUNDING INCREASE, PERMANENT REMOTE MEETINGS

The Illinois Municipal League is seeking increased state funding dedicated to local governments and the permanent ability to hold remote meetings beyond the scope of COVID-19 emergency orders. IML has proposed would like to see an operating budget passed that includes an increase in the share of state income tax revenue that goes to the Local Government Distributive Fund (which local governments use for services and public works projects). IML would like to see 10% of income tax revenues go to the LGDF; currently just about 6% of funds go to the LGDF. Additionally, IML wants to enable local governments to continue holding remote meetings, which are currently only possible thanks to COVID-19 public safety orders ([Senate Bill 482](#)).

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

State Rep. **Sonya Harper** (D) recently held a stakeholder meeting to discuss the environmental justice communities bill, [HB 4093](#). The business community was represented, along with the environmental groups, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Attorney General and Governor offices. HB 4093 is a high priority for the environmental groups. The Illinois Environmental Council will work with EPA on revisions with new language next week.

\$75 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ABANDONED MINE CLEANUP

Illinois will receive more than \$75 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Interior this year to boost efforts to clean up abandoned coal mines throughout the state. The federal money will be directed to projects where environmental hazards associated with abandoned mines have been detected, including issues such as acid mine drainage, clogged streams, and pollution. Currently, Illinois has 590 unfunded mine reclamation projects in its inventory with an estimated cost of at least \$156 million.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

February 28, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois General Assembly convened in Springfield last week. The Senate spent considerable time debating bills on 3rd reading ahead of its February 25 deadline. With some exceptions (there are always exceptions), the Senate has sent most of the legislation it will consider this session over to the House. While the Senate is not meeting this week, the House will return to Springfield to consider bills ahead of its 3rd reading deadline on Friday, March 4.

Both chambers continue to conduct appropriations hearings as they work to put together a state budget for Fiscal Year 2023. This session is moving very quickly – only six weeks remain before the scheduled adjournment on April 8.

The Secretary of State's office has announced that as of Monday, February 28, the public will not be required to wear masks when entering the State Capitol. That will not apply to offices and spaces controlled by the General Assembly and executive officers. Other areas (such as the area around the rail on the 3rd Floor of the State Capitol) will be mask optional. Organized large-group gatherings are still not allowed. The same rules will apply to the Stratton Building.

State Senator **Tom Cullerton** (D-Villa Park) resigned this week, effective immediately. Cullerton was indicted in 2019 on federal charges alleging that he took more than \$250,000 from the Teamsters Union without performing any work. He will plead guilty at his plea hearing set for March 8.

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

**Due to the virtual committee process, it is vital that we know your positions
so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.*****

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- March 4: House 3rd Reading Deadline

***** LEGISLATION SWITCHES CHAMBERS *****

- March 25: House & Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

COVID UPDATE

Both hospitalizations and daily averages of new cases continue to decrease throughout the state, with a positivity rate dropping to 2.5%, the lowest since November 5, 2021. Approximately 71% of eligible Illinoisans are fully vaccinated.

The Governor's indoor mask mandate will expire on February 28, except for healthcare facilities and congregate living facilities. The Illinois Supreme Court vacated a lower court's temporary restraining order of the state's school mask mandate on February 25; the appeal had been rendered moot since there is no emergency rule in place anymore. Gov. Pritzker then announced that, because the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommend that masks are needed only in areas of high transmission, **the state of Illinois will remove the school mask mandate, effective February 28.** The original case has been remanded back to the 7th Circuit Court.

Mayor **Lori Lightfoot** also announced that the city of Chicago will lift its indoor mask mandate and proof of vaccination requirement for businesses on February 28, the same day that the statewide indoor mask mandate is being lifted. Individual businesses will still have the option of requiring masks or proof of vaccination on their own.

STATE REVENUES \$4.6 BILLION HIGHER THAN PROJECTED

The Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accounting reports that state revenues are \$4.6 billion higher for the current fiscal year than previously projected, namely because spending on goods (which Illinois taxes rather than services) grew during the pandemic and because the budget was bolstered with federal stimulus funds. COGFA expects incoming revenues to reach \$48.5 billion by June 30, up from the \$44.4 billion previously predicted.

This adjustment reflects COGFA's updated revenue forecast, but it is 'only' \$695 million higher than the Illinois Office of Management and Budget's revised revenue forecast from the beginning of February. The Governor is proposing that the additional revenue be directed to pay off delayed bills accruing unnecessary interest costs; invest in pensions; build up the Budget Stabilization Fund; and cover one-time tax-relief rebates.

FY23 STATE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN

Gov. Pritzker's proposed FY 23 budget and unexpectedly high tax receipts have inspired some confidence in the state's upcoming budget, but nothing is guaranteed. House Chief Budgeteer **Greg Harris** (D-Chicago) held a conference with reporters on February 24 to explain the House's approach to the Governor's proposed budget and the House's own priorities. Despite higher-than-expected revenues, Harris said that the Democrats will play it safe given the unpredictability of COVID-19.

Among the budget highlights that Harris detailed on Thursday:

- Paying down \$3.2 billion borrowed from the municipal liquidity fund for cash flow during the height of the pandemic;
- Putting \$800 million into the state's "rainy day fund," last drained to maintain social services during the budget impasse under former Gov. **Bruce Rauner**;
- \$250 million in violence prevention strategies, on top of new investments in state police and crime lab services; and
- \$130 million for mental and substance use treatment, highlighting the increased suicide and drug abuse rates seen during the pandemic.

Harris said that Democrats are still determining how best to use federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars. A major potential use of the funds is to pay down the state's \$4.2 billion deficit in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

COMPTROLLER CALLS FOR REPEAL OF PROMPT PAYMENT ACT

Illinois Comptroller **Susana Mendoza** is calling for the repeal of a law that imposes 12% interest whenever the state is 60 days late paying its bills, along with a program that allows private investors to purchase the debt owed to vendors and collect the interest penalty. Speaking to a Senate budget committee on February 22, Comptroller Mendoza said that the state is nearly caught up on its bill backlog and that those two programs are no longer needed.

HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARING ON ELECTION PROPOSALS

The House Ethics and Elections Committee held a subject matter hearing on several proposals last Tuesday. Lawmakers are proposing several pieces of legislation aimed at clarifying details about the election process and bolstering the ability to vote. Proposals discussed include initiatives to facilitate nursing home voting during declared disasters ([House Bill 4853](#)); notify election authorities about objections to petitions ([HB 4852](#)); allow for precinct redistricting ([HB 4854](#)); allow electronic signatures on ballot petitions ([HB 4966](#)); randomize ballot name order in some elections ([HB 4467](#)); remove the requirement that an election judge initial the ballot ([HB 4775](#)); and make Election Day a permanent state holiday ([HB 4858](#)).

IDOL HELPING BUSINESS COMPLIANCE WITH EQUAL PAY ACT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Illinois Department of Labor is incrementally notifying large businesses regarding compliance with Illinois Equal Pay Act reporting requirements. The registration deadline for the second tier of businesses is June 22.

In 2021, the Illinois General Assembly passed and Governor Pritzker signed legislation updating the Equal Pay Act of 2003, requiring private businesses with 100 or more employees in the state of Illinois to report certain payroll information to IDOL ([Public Act 101-656](#) and [PA 102-36](#)). Each business will receive no less than 120 days advance notice of its registration deadline, although some businesses may not receive their assigned registration date for over a year. Public employers are exempt from these new reporting requirements. Questions can be sent to Robert Parrilli at Robert.Parrilli@illinois.gov or Nancy Hernandez at Nancy.Hernandez@illinois.gov.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Petition circulation for the 2022 election began on January 13, with signatures due March 14. As a reminder, individuals filing paperwork to run for office are not "official" candidates until they file their petitions to get on the ballot next month. There are 120 days remaining until the June 28 primary election.

Days after retiring Illinois Secretary of State **Jesse White** backed **Anna Valencia** to succeed him, Governor **JB Pritzker** announced that he also endorsed Valencia over the other candidates in the Democrat primary: **Alexi Giannoulis** and **David Moore**.

Southern Illinois attorney **Tom DeVore**, who has become the face of legal challenges to Gov. Pritzker's pandemic executive orders and school mask mandate, is circulating petitions to run for Attorney General, not the Illinois Appellate Court.

OTHER LEGISLATION OF NOTE

Senate Bill 3120: Family Bereavement Act passed out of the Senate Labor Committee by a vote of 12-2-0. This bill provides that all employees shall be entitled to use a maximum of 2 weeks (10 work days) of unpaid bereavement leave to be absent from work due to (i) a miscarriage; (ii) an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure; (iii) a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party; (iv) a failed surrogacy agreement; (v) a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility; or (vi) a stillbirth. Provides that the employer may not require that the employee identify which category of event the leave pertains to as a condition of exercising rights under the Act.

SB 3609: Vehicle Registration Discount passed out of the Senate by a vote of 53-0-0. This bill provides that the registration fee for cars and small trucks shall be reduced by \$25 if the vehicle is manufactured in Illinois, and the application for registration is made no more than one year after the month in which the vehicle was manufactured.

SB 2912: Public Works/Engineer passed out of the Senate by a vote of 39-10-0. This bill, as amended, provides that at least one employee in the public works department shall be a certified registered professional engineer or hold a degree in engineering from an accredited institution of higher learning.

Environmental justice: Illinois environmental groups held a lobby day and rally last week, urging legislators to pass bills pushing for more restrictions impacting environmental justice communities. Bills include **HB 4093/SB 2906** (Environmental Justice Act); **HB 4358/SB 3073** (protecting communities with aging power plants); **SB 828** (voting rights); and **HB 4390/SB 3866** (fixes to the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act). The Illinois Environmental Council filed an amendment to **HB 4093** on Friday. Proponents will attempt to pass the bill in the House before the March 4 deadline. They had previously committed to holding the bill until an agreement was reached between the various interest groups.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

March 8, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

We are now past the 3rd reading deadline in both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly. The House convened last week and passed House Bills on the floor prior to its 3rd reading deadline on March 4. While some extensions have been granted, the number of active bills has greatly decreased. Both the House and Senate return to Springfield this week to begin committee work on bills passed to the second chamber. The next deadline is to pass legislation out of the second chamber by March 25.

The statewide indoor mask mandate has been lifted. [Executive Order 2022-06](#) lifts the mask requirement in most indoor settings, and [Executive Order 2202-07](#) lifts the school exclusion requirements as well as extending previous executive orders. Gov. **JB Pritzker** has also signed a new [Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation](#) extending the statewide declaration through April 2, 2022.

While the Secretary of State's office has altered the rules to make masks optional in the Capitol, those rules do not apply to the areas controlled by the General Assembly and Executive officers. The Senate is going mask-optional as of today (Tuesday, March 8). The House will vote on a rules change today and is expected to follow suit. Organized large group gatherings are still not allowed.

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- March 25: House & Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

FORMER SPEAKER MADIGAN INDICTED

Former House Speaker **Michael Madigan** has been formally accused of operating a criminal enterprise meant to benefit Madigan and his allies politically and financially. A federal indictment has charged him with 22 counts of conspiracy racketeering, interstate facilities in aid of bribery, wire fraud, and attempted extortion. Former state representative and Madigan confidant **Mike McClain** also faces charges in the indictment.

John Lausch, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, said that Madigan required companies (such as electric utility Commonwealth Edison) to pay his associates without requiring them to perform viable work for the company. Lausch described many of the jobs for Madigan associates were "low show or no show." The indictment also alleges that Madigan used his power in Springfield to siphon business to his law firm. Federal prosecutors explained that they received most of their information from wiretaps. AT&T is also under investigation for lobbying work tied to Madigan.

ILLINOIS 60 BY 2025 NETWORK REBRANDS AS ILLINOIS EDUCATION AND CAREER SUCCESS NETWORK

The Illinois 60 by 25 Network has relaunched as the [Illinois Education and Career Success Network \(Success Network\)](#). The name change comes as Illinois strives to further advance equitable postsecondary access and attainment. Back in 2009, the Illinois P-20 Council established a goal for the

state to increase the number of adults with college degrees and high-quality postsecondary credentials to 60% by 2025. Currently 55% of Illinois residents have a high-quality college degree or postsecondary credential (according to the [Lumina Foundation's Stronger Nation report](#)). While Illinois is on track to reach 60% postsecondary attainment by 2025, outcomes remain inequitable across demographic groups. Lawmakers have urged the P-20 Council to update the state's 60 by 25 goal to include equity-focused targets aimed at closing institutional racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Kathy Salvi, a longtime GOP activist and 2006 candidate for Congress from Lake County, is jumping in the race for U.S. Senate. If Salvi wins the primary, she would face incumbent Sen. **Tammy Duckworth**.

State Sen. **Jacqueline Collins**, D-Chicago, is jumping into the crowded Democratic primary to replace U.S. Rep. **Bobby Rush**, opening up her state senate seat. Collins, a state senator since 2003, is one of 17 Democrats registered with the Federal Election Commission for the 1st Congressional District seat that Rush will vacate next year after 15 terms.

Candidates began filing their nominating petitions for the June 28 primary election on Monday, March 7. The deadline to file completed petitions is Monday, March 14. A real-time listing of candidate filings is available on the Illinois State Board of Elections' website [HERE](#).

COVID UPDATE

ICU hospitalizations for COVID-19 are down by more than a third from last week. On Friday, state health officials reported 843 COVID-19 patients were being treated in Illinois hospitals, down 26% from a week ago. Of those hospitalized, 153 are in intensive care. That is 35% less than a week ago, according to Illinois Department of Public Health records.

DR. EZIKE LEAVING IDPH

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. **Ngozi Ezike** is stepping down as head of the Illinois Department of Public Health. IDPH assistant director **Amaal Tokars** will serve as interim director when Ezike leaves on March 14.

ILLINOIS EXPECTS \$760 MILLION FROM OPIOID SETTLEMENT

Illinois Attorney General **Kwame Raoul** says that the state is expected to receive \$760 million as part of a settlement with pharmaceutical distributors sued for their role in the opioid crisis. Illinois' share of the \$26 billion opioid settlement agreement is the result of three years of talks. The majority of the state's award will be used for programs aimed at prevention and recovery from opioid addiction. Raoul's office said that nearly all Illinois counties have signed onto the agreement, along with 104 municipalities.

FLANAGAN APPOINTED ACTING LABOR DIRECTOR

Gov. Pritzker has appointed labor and employment attorney **Jane Flanagan** as the new acting director of the Illinois Department of Labor, effective March 2. Former director **Michael Kleinik** retired last month after decades in public service. Flanagan previously served as deputy general counsel and deputy chief compliance officer in the Governor's office.

ILLINOIS JOINS TIKTOK INVESTIGATION

Attorney General Raoul has joined a bipartisan nationwide investigation into TikTok “for providing and promoting its social media platform to children and young adults despite its use being associated with physical and mental health harms.” The investigation will examine whether the company “engaged in conduct in violation of state consumer protection laws that put the public at risk.”

2022 STATE FAIR GRANDSTAND LINEUP ANNOUNCED

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has announced the first six acts scheduled to perform on the Illinois Lottery Grandstand stage during the August 11-21 Illinois State Fair. Tickets go on sale Friday, March 11:

- Friday, August 12: Sam Hunt
- Sunday, August 14: Brooks & Dunn
- Wednesday, August 17: TLC & Shaggy
- Thursday, August 18: Jon Pardi with Lainey Wilson and Chapel Hart
- Saturday, August 20: Disturbed with Nita Strauss
- Sunday, August 21: Sammy Hagar & The Circle

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

March 14, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois General Assembly convened last week, focusing on appropriations hearings and committee hearings for bills in the second chamber. The Senate will work in district this week with virtual hearings, while the House will meet in person at the State Capitol. The deadline for passing bills from the second chamber committees is Friday, March 25.

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

Due to the virtual committee process, it is vital that we know your positions so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.***

CHANGES TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN THE CAPITOL

Both the House and Senate have changed their rules to allow masks to be optional. The Senate will still require testing for access to the chamber, including the galleries (which will be open at 50% capacity). Senate elevators will remain locked for all but staff and members, and the area outside the chambers where lobbyists congregate will also remain closed. Appointments to meet with members are no longer required but “strongly encouraged.”

The House plans to hold some in-person committee hearings this week in Room 114, which is equipped for remote participation. Both chambers will continue the practice of remote hearings.

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- March 25: House & Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The 2022 election season is officially underway for Illinois congressional, legislative, state, and county offices. Candidates have until 5 PM today (March 14) to formally file their petitions to get their names on the June 28 primary ballot.

- Former Democratic state Rep. **Diane Pappas** was appointed to replace former Sen. **Tom Cullerton**, who resigned last week ahead of his guilty plea to federal embezzlement charges. The one-term legislator lost in 2020 to Rep. **Seth Lewis**, who is now running for Senate in a different district. Sen. **Suzy Glowiak Hilton** was mapped into the 23rd District with Sen. Cullerton, so Pappas will not likely run there. She could, however, challenge Lewis for Senate.
- Chicago police detective **Erin Jones** announced that she is seeking to challenge state Sen. **Robert Martwick** in the 10th Senate District’s Democratic primary.
- A total of 16 Democrats have filed so far to replace U.S. Rep. **Bobby Rush** in the Chicago-area 1st Congressional District. Most notable are state Sen. **Jacqueline Collins** (D-Chicago), Chicago Ald. **Pat Dowell**, and **Jonathan Jackson**, son of Rev. **Jesse Jackson**.

- **Willie Preston** has filed to run for the 16th Senate District seat vacated by Sen. Collins. Preston is a former community activist who runs two small businesses (construction and landscaping) and is backed by Chicago Ald. **Howard Brookins**.

ILLINOIS GAS TAX PROPOSALS

In 2019, the state gas taxes totaled 31 cents per gallon. They are now 63 cents, in addition to the 19-cent federal gas tax. Gov. **JB Pritzker** has suggested freezing the annual gas tax increase for one year. However, gas tax revenues are used to fund infrastructure projects. Chicago Mayor **Lori Lightfoot** has also stated that she is considering reducing or eliminating the city's 8-cent gas tax.

BILL PROPOSES \$2 BILLION IN ARPA DOLLARS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

The Senate voted 33 to 15 on March 10 to allocate \$2 billion in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to shore up at least part of the \$4.5 billion deficit in Illinois' Unemployment Trust Fund. Sen. **Linda Holmes** (D-Aurora) said that [Senate Bill 2803](#) was passed in order to meet bill deadlines, while an agreed bill negotiating process continues with labor union and business stakeholders. Holmes also said that \$2 billion will not be the final number. Republicans criticized the move, arguing that Illinois should use more of its ARPA funds to completely wipe out the deficit.

DRIVER'S LICENSE AND ID CARD EXPIRATION DATES EXTENDED UNTIL JULY 31

Illinois Secretary of State **Jesse White** announced that expiration dates for driver's licenses, ID cards, and learner's permits are being extended until July 31, 2022. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses and CDL learner's permits. The previous extension was set to end on March 31.

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION RULE FOR SPORTS BETTING ENDS

Illinois has permanently eliminated the in-person registration requirement for sports betting, which had been waived for 10 months during the COVID pandemic. This opens up the floodgates for DraftKings, FanDuel, and other online sportsbooks to compete for Illinois customers.

MORE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING RELEASED

The Illinois Department of Transportation has announced a fifth \$250 million installment for the Rebuild Illinois capital program for counties, municipalities, and townships to address local transportation needs. Rebuild Illinois is providing a total of \$1.5 billion spread out in six installments to advance local projects.

RISE GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is investing \$3.5 million to accelerate local economic initiatives through the Research in Illinois to Spur Economic Development program. The state will offer competitive RISE grants to local governments and economic development organizations for new regional or local plans to promote economic recovery from the pandemic. The program is funded through ARPA money. The [application for grants](#) is now open through May 9.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CALL FOR STATE DIVESTMENT FROM RUSSIA

Illinois House Republicans want to pass bills that would restrict the state's investment in Russian assets in retaliation for that country's ongoing invasion of Ukraine and the bombing of its cities:

- [House Bill 5702](#) and [HB5703](#) (Demmer) would allocate \$20 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Illinois Department of Human Services to assist with Ukrainian refugee resettlement.
- [HB5704](#) (Durkin) would prohibit investment of state public funds in any entity based in or tied to Russia.
- [HB5705](#) (Durkin) would require the Illinois Investment Policy Board to identify companies based in Russia and add them to the list of companies restricted from state pension fund investment.

HOTELS SEEK ARPA FUNDING TO ATTRACT, RETAIN STAFF

While COVID-19 cases and hospitalization remain low, the tourism industry has yet to fully recover. The hospitality sector is requesting support from the state to hire and retain employees to staff hotels once travelers come back. Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association president **Michael Jacobson** appeared alongside Sen. **Sara Feigenholtz** (D-Chicago) and Rep. **Kam Buckner** (D-Chicago) at a press conference to detail the proposed Hotel Jobs Recovery Act. The legislative package would distribute \$250 million of ARPA funds as one-time grants to every hotel in the state. Under the proposal, hotels would receive a grant equal to \$1,500 per room. The legislation, introduced as [HB5690](#) (Harris) and [SB4184](#) (Sims), stipulates that 80% of the funds be spent on payroll costs, including wages and benefits for employees.

ASSYRIAN CAUCUS AIMS TO ADVANCE INTERESTS OF UNDERSERVED DIASPORA

Legislators from the House and Senate announced the formation of a new caucus that hopes to advance issues facing an often misunderstood and overlooked group: Assyrian Americans. Assyrians are an ethnic group based in present day Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey. Their state existed first as a territory in the 21st century BC and eventually as an empire from the 14th century BC to the 7th century BC. During World War I, Christian Assyrians faced genocide committed by the Ottomans and other groups. This genocide took place alongside the Armenian genocide.

Sen. Ram **Villivalam** (D-Chicago), co-chair of the caucus, said that there are roughly 80,000 Assyrians living in Illinois, as well as 21 Assyrian civic organizations and 13 churches. Rep. **Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz** will serve as the other co-chair. The caucus hopes to pass [SJR 21](#) (Villivalam), which would make Illinois the fourth state to recognize the Assyrian genocide.

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

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

March 20, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois House of Representatives held committee meetings last week, while the Senate worked in district. Both chambers will convene in Springfield from Tuesday through Friday this week to finalize bills in committees in the second chamber. There are only three weeks remaining before the Friday, April 8 adjournment.

Some significant issues to be addressed include:

- Gov. JB Pritzker's proposal to freeze the current **state motor fuel tax** or alternative ideas to decrease the state's sales tax on gas. Motor Fuel Tax funds are used for infrastructure projects. Labor unions are arguing against freezing the MFT due to the loss in capital project funding.
- The **Illinois Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund** is nearly \$4.5 billion in debt due to the large number of unemployment filers during the pandemic. The state could use federal American Rescue Plan Act money to pay back the debt, but Democrats are hopeful that the federal government will offer help or forgiveness of some of the debt.
- **Hospital and nursing home assessments for federal Medicaid funding**
- House Speaker Welch had said that the House will work on a **crime reduction package**, but there are no specifics yet.
- **Energy bill trailer legislation**
- **Fiscal Year 2023 state budget**

IN-PERSON SENATE HEARINGS

Senate President Don Harmon announced Friday that all Senate committees (except for Senate Executive Appointments) will be going in-person this week only. Face masks are strongly encouraged but not required. A negative COVID-19 PCR or SHIELD testing will be required for all senators, staff, lobbyists, and members of the public visiting the Statehouse within the prior 72 hours. Lobbyists and members of the public will be given wristbands upon checking into the State Capitol.

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- March 25: House & Senate Committee Deadline
- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

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

Due to the virtual committee process, it is vital that we know your positions so that legislation does not slip through unopposed.***

FY 23 BUDGET UPDATE

Last week the House and Senate appropriations committees continued examining agency budget requests. The House and Senate will now begin the process of identifying and prioritizing changes that they would like to see in the Governor's introduced budget. Once those areas are identified, budget

negotiators will work to reconcile the priorities between the two chambers, with the goal of approving a final FY23 budget prior to the April 8 adjournment deadline.

House Majority Leader Greg Harris (D-Chicago) noted that the war in Ukraine is already having negative impacts on the state's economy, and budget makers must keep an eye on its fiscal implications for the budget. Harris said that we are seeing an increase in gas prices and major drops in the stock market, which will have significant effects on capital gains taxes and corporate income taxes. Sales taxes are beginning to "soften," as consumers are forced to make spending choices.

Leader Harris also noted that there are several requests being made for allocations of the state's remaining \$3.5 billion in ARPA funds. Legislators are wrestling with how much of those funds the state should keep in reserve. At present, the state is targeting \$2 billion in ARPA funding for the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, although that figure could change if negotiators find other funding solutions for the shortfall. Leader Harris said that budget makers are receiving worthy requests from numerous sectors such as hotels, the hospitality industry, healthcare providers, arts, culture, museums, other business groups, and affordable housing groups. He summed up the process by saying, "I think the first step is we have to see how much we're going to appropriate to the unemployment insurance trust fund, and then look at all the other different options, and there's going to have to be some judgments made."

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

The House Executive Committee has advanced legislation to address the shortfall in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund in [Senate Bill 2803](#) (Holmes/Harris). It is critical that the issue be resolved as six more interest rate hikes have been forecast for 2022. Parties continue to negotiate via the Agreed Bill Process. Leader Harris said last week that the \$2 billion appropriation in SB 2803 represents 25% of the state's total ARPA funds, which is consistent with how other states are allocating their federal funds. Negotiators are focusing on how to address the fund's remaining \$2.5 billion shortfall, including exploring the option of bonding out the remaining portion of that debt and perhaps exploring other state revenue sources. The end goal is to restore a surplus in the fund.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Candidate filing for the 2022 election season ended on Monday, March 14. A total of 740 candidates filed petitions to run for their party's nomination to state and federal offices in the June 28 primary election. Candidates will now face potential challenges to their petitions. Challenges must be filed within five business days from the close of the filing period. The State Board of Elections will certify candidates with valid petitions on Thursday, April 21.

[Click HERE to view the full list of 2022 Primary Candidates](#)

Noteworthy federal races include:

- **U.S. Senate** -- U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D) is unopposed in the primary, while eight Republicans filed by March 14. Mundelein attorney Kathy Salvi, wife of former State Rep. Al Salvi (R-Mundelein), was among those filing on the last day; she is likely the frontrunner to take on incumbent Sen. Duckworth in November.

- **1st Congressional District** -- The crowded Democratic field contains 20 candidates to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush. The most notable are state Sen. Jacqueline Collins (D-Chicago), Chicago Ald. Pat Dowell, and Jonathan Jackson, the son of Rev. Jesse Jackson. Five Republicans filed in this district, which Joe Biden won by 42 percentage points in 2020.
- **3rd Congressional District** -- This primary will be heavily contested between Chicago Ald. Gilbert Villegas and state Rep. Delia Ramirez (D-Chicago). Three other Democrats have filed to run in the newly-formed open district.
- **6th Congressional District** -- Both U.S. Reps. Sean Casten and Marie Newman have filed in the Democratic primary. Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau is probably the best known of the six Republicans who filed.
- **11th Congressional District** -- Seven Republicans have filed to challenge Democrat incumbent U.S. Rep. Bill Foster, including Catalina Lauf and Cassandra Tanner Miller.
- **17th Congressional District** Six Democrats and two Republicans have filed to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos. Republican Esther Joy King is the favorite in her primary. The Democratic primary could be a tight race between former state Rep. Litesa Wallace, Rockford councilmember Jonathan Logemann, and former TV meteorologist Eric Sorensen.
- “We Are The People Illinois” recruited several candidates to file petitions in the Republican primary. The group supports former President Trump and his assertions of election fraud.

In state legislative races, Republicans were more active in recruiting candidates in even predominantly Democrat districts. Several incumbents from both parties have primary challenges.

Illinois Senate races of note:

- **1st Senate** – Sen. Tony Munoz’s future son-in-law Javier Loera Cervantes filed to run in the primary “against” him. Munoz (D-Chicago) has confirmed that he is retiring.
- **2nd Senate** – Sen. Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) has three Democratic opponents: Humboldt Park Advisory Council President Jacqueline Baez, Wilmer Maldonado, and Wilson Vazquez.
- **10th Senate** – Chicago police officer Erin Jones filed to run against Sen. Rob Martwick (D-Chicago). Jones has the support of the Fraternal Order of Police.
- **11th Senate** – Retiring Sen. Steve Landek (D-Bridgeview) appears to be doing the same thing as Sen. Munoz with his chief of staff, Lyons Township Trustee Mike Porfirio.
- **12th Senate** – Javier Yañez filed to run against Sen. Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago). Yañez is Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez’s chief of staff and is formerly allied with U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia (D-4th Congressional District), who supports Villanueva.
- **16th Senate** – Three Democrats filed to run in this open seat contest to replace Sen. Jacqueline Collins: Willie Preston, Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry’s chief of staff La’Mont Williams, and attorney and WVON Radio host Kimberley Egonmwan.
- **23rd Senate** – Former state Rep. Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst) will challenge Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs) in the general election.
- **27th Senate** – Republicans Joshua Alvarado and Bill Robertson are competing for the chance to challenge Sen. Ann Gillespie (D-Arlington Heights) in November.
- **31st Senate** – Rep. Sam Yingling (D-Grayslake) and former Democrat Rep. Mary Edly-Allen filed in the open seat vacated by Sen. Melinda Bush (D-Grayslake).

- **35th Senate** – Winnebago County Republican Party Chair Eli Nicolosi has filed against Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Cherry Valley).
- **37th Senate** – Sen. Win Stoller (R-East Peoria) will face Brett Nicklaus in the GOP primary.
- **48th Senate** – Appointed Sen. Doris Turner (D-Springfield) was expected to face appointed Rep. Sandy Hamilton (R-Springfield) in the general. Hamilton filed her petitions, but so did Republican Bill Eddington, who ran as a write-in aldermanic candidate a few years ago.
- **54th Senate** – Sen. Steve McClure (R-Springfield) will be up against Republican Don Debolt, a CPA and occasional columnist for the Effingham Daily News.
- **57th Senate** – Sen. Chris Belt (D-East St. Louis) will face Barbara Fulton-Henderson in the primary. Fulton-Henderson ran for East St. Louis city council several years ago.

Illinois House races of note:

- **4th House** – Attorney Lilian Jiménez is the choice of the Chuy Garcia organization to replace Rep. Delia Ramirez in this open seat, but two others have filed: Manuel Jimenez and Hector Villafuerte.
- **6th House** – Rep. Sonya Harper (D-Chicago) faces a primary challenge from two other Democrats: Chicago police officer Carolyn Crump and Steven Williams.
- **12th House** – Rep. Margaret Croke (D-Chicago) faces a primary challenge from Abigail Nichols.
- **13th House** – Six Democrats and two Republicans have filed to run in retiring House Majority Leader Harris' district. Democrats include Joe Struck, Andy Peters, Becky Levin, Eileen Dordek, Hoan Huynh, and Sergio Mojica.
- **16th House** – Kevin Olickal and Naema Abraham both filed to run in the Democratic primary against Rep. Denyse Wang Stoneback (D-Skokie). Olickal ran two years ago.
- **19th House** – Realtor-backed Tina Wallace and Chicago 911 dispatcher Keith Thornton have filed to challenge Rep. Lindsey LaPointe (D-Chicago).
- **21st House** – Rep. Michael Zalewski (D-Riverside) will face Abdelnasser Rashid, a Harvard graduate who ran for Cook County Board in 2018 and has ties to Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi. Zalewski last faced a contested race in 2010.
- **25th House** – Rep. Curtis Tarver (D-Chicago) will be up against consultant Josef Michael Carr, founder of Fathers for the Future Foundation.
- **27th House** – Jasimone Ward, a mental health professional, filed against Rep. Justin Slaughter (D-Chicago).
- **28th House** – Rep. Bob Rita (D-Blue Island) will face Paris Walker Thomas, who ran as a write-in candidate against him two years ago.
- **29th House** – Rep. Thaddeus Jones (D-Calumet City) will face Calumet City Ald. Monet Wilson. Jones is also mayor of Calumet City.
- **30th House** – Rep. Will Davis (D-Homewood) will face Alton Bradley.
- **32nd House** – Appointed Rep. Cyril Nichols (D-Chicago) picked up two primary opponents: Safaa Zarzour, a Bridgeview attorney and CAIR activist, and perennial candidate Bobby Joe Johnson.
- **34th House** – Two Republicans, Frederick Walls and Rebecca Harms, are vying in the GOP primary for the chance to challenge Rep. Nick Smith (R-Chicago).
- **35th House** – Former 19th Ward aldermanic candidate David Dewar filed to challenge Rep. Fran Hurley (D-Chicago).

- **39th House** – Rep. Will Guzzardi (D-Chicago) will face canned wine entrepreneur BJ McCaslin and police officer Maria Nodal.
- **51st House** – Democrats Nabeela Syed and Chelsea Barnes are competing in the June primary for the chance to challenge Rep. Chris Bos (R-Lake Zurich) in November.
- **66th House** – Two Republicans, Arin Thrower and Connie Cain, are competing in the GOP primary to challenge Rep. Suzanne Ness (D-Carpentersville).
- **71st House** – Matthew Rauschert is challenging Rep. Dan Swanson (R-Woodhull) in the GOP primary.
- **72nd House** – A third Democrat (Thurgood Brooks) has filed to run in this vacant Quad Cities-area Democratic district against Gregg Johnson and Jeffrey Deppe.
- **75th House** – Jed Davis is challenging Rep. David Welter (R-Morris) in the GOP primary.
- **77th House** – Triton College trustee Norma Hernandez is challenging Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Northlake) in the Democratic primary.
- **83rd House** – Democrats Matt Hanson and Arad Boxenbaum are vying for the chance to challenge Rep. Keith Wheeler (R-North Aurora) in November.
- **86th House** – Scott Greene, Dinora Ruiz, and James Lanham are running in the GOP primary to face off against Rep. Larry Walsh, Jr. (D-Joliet).
- **89th House** – Rep. Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) will face off against retired law enforcement officer Victoria Onorato in the Republican primary.
- **90th House** – Former Rep. John Cabello (R-Machesney Park) will face Operators Union Local 150-backed Mark Szula in the GOP primary.
- **91st House** – This is a newly created open seat that leans slightly Democratic. Two Democrats have filed, Karla Bailey-Smith and Sharon Chung. There are also two Republicans who will face off in the primary: GOP-backed Scott Preston and James Fisher.
- **93rd House** – Travis Weaver, son of former Sen. Chuck Weaver (R-Peoria), is challenging Rep. Mark Luft (R-Pekin) in the GOP primary.
- **95th House** – Rep. Tim Butler (R-Springfield) will face Republican Kent Gray, who has run for several offices and was disqualified from the 15th Congressional District ballot in 2020.
- **98th House** – Rep. Natalie Manley (D-Joliet) will be up against Barry Haywood, an activist with Warehouse Workers for Justice.
- **105th House** – Mike Kirkton, Dennis Tipsword, Donald Rients, and Kyle Ham all filed as Republicans in this open seat GOP district.
- **112th House** – There will be a Republican primary to challenge Rep. Katie Stuart (D-Edwardsville). The House Republicans are with Joe Hackler, the Illinois Republican Party spokesperson. He will face Jennifer Korte.
- **117th House** – Ron Ellis is challenging Rep. Patrick Windhorst (R-Harrisburg) in the GOP primary.
- **118th House** – John A. Logan College trustee Aaron Smith is challenging Rep. Paul Jacobs (R-Carbondale) in the GOP primary.

CORPORATE BOARD DIVERSITY

A new amendment to [House Bill 989](#) (co-sponsored by House Speaker Chris Welch, D-Westchester) adds penalties up to \$100,000 for the first violation to the state's corporate board reporting requirements. Current law requires all publicly held corporations to report the gender, sexual orientation, and race or ethnicity of all directors. The amendment could be considered by a House Committee on short notice.

STATE DISINVESTMENT IN RUSSIA

Legislative leaders have announced that the General Assembly will be advancing legislation to remove Russian assets from the state's pension system and prohibit contracting with Russian companies.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING ESTABLISHED AT ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has approved a new College of Engineering at Illinois State University that is designed to help close long-standing gaps in enrollment, retention, and graduation of underrepresented and underserved students in the engineering field. Once established, the College of Engineering will include the Department of Electrical Engineering, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and three degree programs in electrical, mechanical, and general engineering. University officials are targeting fall 2025 for enrollment of the first class of an estimated 130 students, rising to reach 520 students by the fourth year.

IEPA COMPLETES STATEWIDE SAMPLING FOR PFAS IN DRINKING WATER

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has completed its statewide sampling to investigate the prevalence and occurrence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in finished drinking water at all community water systems in the state. Illinois PFAS detections were found to be similar to other Midwest states. Of the 1,017 systems sampled, 126 (or 12.4%) had confirmed PFAS detections. Of the 126 systems that had confirmed PFAS detections, 68 (or 53.9%) of the systems' detections are below the IEPA's health advisory guidance levels.

AMERICAN OIL RESOLUTION

[House Resolution 718](#) (Davidsmeyer) urges the President to take measures that ensure long-term American energy leadership, security, and progress, including policies that result in the continued operation of existing oil and natural gas pipelines, the construction of new oil and gas pipelines, the resumption of consistent, credible federal lease sales, and the immediate preparation of the new five-year Program to guide future offshore leasing. The resolution now has 38 cosponsors, all Republican. House leadership will not call the resolution, but it will definitely be a campaign issue.

PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION TO PROPOSE NEW APPROACH TO CANNABIS DISPENSARY APPLICATIONS

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is filing rules to simplify the cannabis dispensary license application process, remove barriers for social equity applicants, and expand opportunities targeted to the communities most impacted by the failed war on drugs. IDFPR is required by the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act to issue at least 50 new adult use cannabis dispensary licenses by the end of 2022.

PUSH FOR REFORM TO THE BIOMETRIC INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

A group of business associations (including the Illinois Manufacturers Association, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce) are urging Gov. Pritzker to support a pair of House and Senate bills that will change the state's Biometric Information Privacy Act, which they say is outdated and is being used to extort businesses for financial gain. Biometric data is the personal information that can be gleaned from someone's electronic devices. Proponents say that [HB 4692](#) and [SB 3874](#) will provide a solution for businesses without sacrificing privacy rights.

LOCAL CYBERSECURITY CONTACTS

The House Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT Committee has unanimously approved [SB 3939](#) (Sims/Robinson), which requires a local government official or employee to be chosen to act as the primary point of contact for local cybersecurity issues. The Illinois Secretary of Innovation and Technology is required to establish a cybersecurity liaison program to advise and assist units of local government concerning cybersecurity issues. The legislation further establishes cybersecurity training for employees of counties and municipalities. Finally, the bill prohibits state agencies from purchasing any products that, due to cybersecurity risks, are prohibited for purchase by federal agencies pursuant to a United States Department of Homeland Security Binding Operational Directive. SB 3939 is now pending before the full House.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

March 30, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois House and Senate were both back in Springfield last week, meeting the March 25 deadline for bills moving out of committees in the second chamber. We now have less than two weeks of session remaining before the scheduled adjournment on April 8. Lawmakers returned Monday for 12 consecutive days of session. Both chambers maintain they will adjourn on time, as legislators want to be back in district campaigning for the June 28 primary election.

Significant issues to be addressed before the end of session include:

- Motor fuel or state sales tax on gasoline – Gov. JB Pritzker has said that he is open to decreasing the state's 39-cent sales tax rate on gasoline, rather than a motor fuel tax rate freeze
- Hospital and nursing home assessments for federal Medicaid funding
- Crime reduction package
- Modifications to the 2021 energy reform bill
- Fiscal Year 2023 state budget

As a reminder, all Senate committees are now in-person only. Face masks are strongly encouraged but not required. A negative COVID-19 PCR (not rapid) or SHIELD testing is required for all senators, staff, lobbyists, and members of the public visiting the Statehouse within the prior 72 hours. Lobbyists and members of the public will be given wristbands upon checking into to the State Capitol.

2022 KEY SESSION DATES

- April 1: House & Senate 3rd Reading Deadline
- April 8: Adjournment

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

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

\$2.7 BILLION UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND DEBT IS PAID OFF

Both the House and Senate voted to adopt, and the Governor signed into law, a plan to use \$2.7 billion in federal COVID-19 relief funds to cover part of the state's \$4.5 billion debt in its Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. Lawmakers passed the bill along party lines, with Republicans arguing that the state should use more of the federal dollars to fully cover the debt. Federal rules require states that plan to use American Rescue Plan Act money for their Unemployment Insurance Trust Funds to have legislation enacted and necessary paperwork filed by April 1.

[Senate Bill 2803](#) makes a variety of other FY22 supplemental appropriations to cover other obligations:

- Pays off \$230 million in unfunded liabilities in the College Illinois! pre-paid tuition program
- Pays off nearly \$900 million in debt for state employee health insurance
- Makes an extra payment of \$300 million to the state's pension funds, reducing \$1 billion in pension liabilities

Discussions continue with business and labor interests on addressing the remaining \$1.8 billion in UIT debt. House Majority Leader Greg Harris (D-Chicago) noted that negotiators will most likely explore a combination of premium and benefit “adjustments” and bonded borrowing, which could signal that employers will have to make higher contributions in the future.

2022 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Petition filing wrapped up last week. The window to challenge petitions passed on March 21, with 138 challenges filed. The Illinois State Board of Elections will certify official candidates by April 21.

Candidates facing petition challenges include:

- All three Democrats who hope to succeed Sen. Jacqueline Collins (D-Chicago)
- Rep. Sonya Harper (D-Chicago) as well as both of her primary opponents
- Sen. Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) and her opponents
- Rep. Justin Slaughter (D-Chicago) and his primary opponent
- Sen. Rob Martwick (D-Chicago) and his opponent, the Chicago Fraternal Order of Police-backed Erin Jones
- Javier Loera Cervantes, future son-in-law of retiring Sen. Tony Munoz (D-Chicago)
- Both of Rep. Will Guzzardi's (D-Chicago) primary opponents are facing residency/petition challenges
- All three of Sen. Omar Aquino's (D-Chicago) primary opponents are facing challenges

Currently 78 of the 118 House races (66%) have contested primaries and/or general elections, meaning that almost one-third of House candidates will not have a challenger. Of the 59 Illinois Senate seats, only 29 have a contested race. Each of the 17 Congressional districts have at least two candidates in the primary or general election.

FORMER STATE REP. EDDIE ACEVEDO SENTENCED

A federal judge has issued a six-month prison sentence to former state Rep. Eddie Acevedo. Acevedo pleaded guilty to tax evasion in December, admitting that he failed as a self-employed consultant to keep sufficient accounting records and shorted the government by \$37,380 in taxes for 2015, 2017 and 2018. He was also ordered to pay that amount in restitution.

IDHS AWARDS \$4 MILLION IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKER TRAINING

The Illinois Department of Human Services will award \$4 million in grant funding to support the Certified Recovery Support Specialist Success program. The CRSS Success program will prepare students for entry-level positions as behavioral health workers, specifically in the areas of mental health and substance use recovery. Students in the program will receive full funding that assists with tuition, textbook costs, application fees, childcare, and transportation. The program will provide post-secondary education for up to 600 individuals with lived experience of mental health and/or substance use recovery to enter the behavioral health workforce.

Interested students can apply for the program at the following colleges and universities:

- College of DuPage
- Elgin Community College

- Governor's State University
- Heartland Community College
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Malcolm X College
- Northern Illinois University
- Rincon/New Hope School of Counseling
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
- University of Saint Francis

STATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OFFICER APPOINTED

Gov. Pritzker has appointed David Jones as the state's first Chief Behavioral Health Officer. Jones currently serves as director of DHS's division of substance use prevention and recovery. He will oversee and coordinate behavioral health services throughout the state, including an Opioid Overdose Action Plan. The Governor also named Dana Weiner as director of the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative, aimed at streamlining state social service efforts for children and families.

LEGISLATION PROPOSED TO EXPAND EITC, CHILD TAX CREDIT

Dozens of advocates, lawmakers, and supporters gathered in Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago on Monday to rally support for legislation that would expand Illinois' earned-income tax credit and create a new child tax credit for families with children. Sen. Omar Aquino (D-Chicago), sponsor of [SB 3774](#), said that his bill and its House counterpart [HB 4920](#) (sponsored by Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana) would directly benefit 40% of Illinois residents while costing less than 1% of the state's overall budget. The bills would expand the pool of those eligible for the EITC to include young adults ages 18-24, older adults aged 65-plus, and those individuals who file with an individual taxpayer identification number as opposed to a social security number. It would also increase the credit amount from an 18 percent to 25 percent match of the federal EITC over three years.

PRITZKER ESTABLISHES CYBER SECURITY COMMISSION

Gov. Pritzker has announced the creation of a state commission focused on identifying and disrupting attacks on state digital infrastructure. The Illinois Cyber Security Commission will consult multiple state agencies, including the Illinois Department of Emergency Management, the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology, and the Illinois State Police, in order to protect the state from online threats.

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF IL FINED BY STATE

The state has officially stepped into a dispute involving the insurance company Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois and healthcare provider Springfield Clinic. The Illinois Department of Insurance has fined BCBS \$339,000, alleging that BCBS failed to appropriately report a "material change" to its network of medical service providers. After BCBS failed to reach a new contract with Springfield Clinic, the company stopped covering services there in July 2021 for members with HMO plans and on Nov. 17, 2021 for members with PPO plans.

NETWORK ADEQUACY BILL

[HB 5729](#) makes further changes to the Network Adequacy and Transparency law passed in 2018. Rep. Scherer (D-Decatur) filed the new bill in response to the ongoing network contract negotiations between BCBS and Springfield Clinic. The bill requires health insurance providers to audit the entire provider directory every 90 days, include specific information on providers' location and contact information;

establishes minimum ratios of providers to beneficiaries for network plans; creates a Network Adequacy Advisory Council; and authorizes the Department of Insurance to adopt emergency rules implementing federal standards for provider ratios, time and distance, or appointment wait times.

In a related matter, the Department of Insurance was called before the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules last week to discuss why it had not previously promulgated rules on the Network Adequacy law.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BILL

The Illinois Environmental Council is drafting an amendment to [HB 4093](#) to remove the \$200,000 fee associated with permits in environmental justice areas and all requirements associated with local siting. The IEC is adding the amendment after consulting with the Senate President's office and in hopes of keeping the bill moving this session. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency believes that removal of the fees is "problematic" for implementation. Business leaders have presented several recommendations for the bill but have not received feedback from the proponents.

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

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

April 3, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

The Illinois General Assembly convened in Springfield last week and was scheduled to remain in session for 12 consecutive days until adjournment. The House canceled its scheduled session for Saturday, April 2, however, and will reconvene on Sunday, April 3. The Senate went home for the weekend and will reconvene on Monday, April 4. Both chambers maintain that they will be done with their work by the scheduled adjournment date of Friday, April 8.

Significant issues to be addressed before the end of session include:

- Decreases in the state motor fuel tax or sales tax on gasoline
- Assessments for federal Medicaid funding for hospitals and nursing homes
- Crime reduction package
- Trailer bill to the 2021 energy reform bill
- Procurement reform
- Fiscal Year 2023 state budget

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

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

APRIL IS ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

Happy Illinois Community College Month! At ICCTA's request, Gov. JB Pritzker has issued a [proclamation declaring April 2022 as Illinois Community College Month](#) "in honor of the Illinois Community College System and the significant contribution these institutions are making to the strength, vitality, and prosperity of our state." Community college advocates are observing the month with social media posts using the hashtags **#CCMonth** and **#4everystudent4every community**.

PAID PANDEMIC LEAVE FOR EDUCATORS PASSES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Gov. Pritzker is expected to sign a bill providing pandemic-related paid leave for fully vaccinated education personnel. [House Bill 1167](#) is an updated version of a previous bill that would have guaranteed paid administrative and sick leave to all K-12 and higher education employees, regardless of vaccination status. The bill passed the General Assembly in October 2021 with strong bipartisan support, but the Governor ultimately vetoed the measure, arguing that only those who are fully vaccinated should receive the benefits. If signed into law, the updated legislation would also restore any sick leave days used earlier this school year to vaccinated employees. The paid leave would be retroactive and extend to those caring for family members or loved ones stricken with the coronavirus. The vaccination requirement was the primary reason for opposition to the amended HB1167 this spring.

LAWMAKERS PASS BAN ON WITHHOLDING COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS

[Senate Bill 3032](#) (the Student Debt Assistance Act) prohibits higher education institutions from refusing to provide copies of student transcripts either to a current or former student or that student's current or prospective employer. The proposed change comes as the Biden administration is considering limited changes to federal guidelines that have long encouraged colleges and universities to withhold transcripts

from anyone who is delinquent on repaying certain student loans. The bill passed the House and heads to the Senate for concurrence on a small technical amendment. A similar bill is pending in the Senate ([HB 4243](#)) that would prohibit public high schools from withholding a student's grades, transcripts, or diploma because of an unpaid balance in the student's school account.

SENATE BILLS TACKLE COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY THROUGH TEXTBOOKS, TAX CREDITS

Senate Democrats have detailed three pieces of legislation that they say would be significant steps toward making college more affordable in Illinois. At a Statehouse press conference, Sens. Scott Bennett (D-Champaign), Laura Murphy (D-Des Plaines), and Laura Fine (D-Glenview) outlined their proposals, which they say will also help keep students in Illinois. The legislators noted that students who graduate from an in-state college are much more likely to stay and work in the state permanently. The three bills, however, are not moving this session:

- [SB 3856](#) (Bennett) would require all Illinois colleges and universities to provide Illinois high school graduates with free textbook rentals. Bennett said that this legislation is meant to bring stakeholders to the table to begin a discussion on the cost of textbooks and coursework materials. He also said that while he hopes the bill passes by the end of the year, he does not expect it to move before the General Assembly adjourns this month. In addition, Bennett said that the current model of making moderate revisions to textbooks every year or two and charging full price to students is unsustainable.
- [SB 1145](#) (Murphy) would provide up to a \$1,000 tax credit to families who are not eligible for Monetary Award Program grants if their student attends an Illinois university or community college. Murphy described the bill as a "bridge" that is targeted at helping middle-class families.
- [SB 819](#) (Fine) would allow students to use leftover MAP grant funds on books, supplies, and electronics. It would also allow them to spend excess funds on room and board, which would help address the growing problem of student homelessness and housing insecurity.

ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT CRIME BILL

The Illinois Retail Merchants Association and the Illinois Attorney General have collaborated to create a comprehensive legislative package to address organized retail crime. The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Oak Brook Terrace), would treat smash-and-grab theft as organized retail crime, giving prosecutors greater authority to issue charges. The goal is to deter theft of retail merchandise by people or in association with others with the intent to re-sell the stolen goods.

CRIME PREVENTION PACKAGE INTRODUCED

Proposals filed late last week are requesting nearly \$240 million in funding increases for crime prevention and intervention initiatives, such as early childhood education and after-school programs. The package also includes grants for establishing anonymous tip lines across the state to help solve crimes, as well as expanding a witness protection program for those involved in bringing violent criminals to justice. In addition, a bipartisan Crime Reduction Task Force (comprised of legislators, law enforcement and legal and criminal justice professionals, and crime victims and witnesses) would develop a plan of action to reduce crime across the state and report its findings to the General Assembly and the Governor.

GAS TAX PROPOSALS

We have not yet seen language to lower any gas sales tax or motor fuel tax in the FY23 budget; it will likely be included in a last-minute budget implementation bill. However, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has announced that the city will provide \$150 prepaid gas cards for 50,000 drivers in Chicago and \$50 prepaid transit gift cards for 100,000 riders. The program will cost a total of \$12.5 million.

SENATE DEMOCRATS PROPOSE TAX BREAKS

On Friday, April 1, Senate Democrats unveiled a legislative plan to refund \$1.8 billion to Illinois taxpayers as part of inflation relief that they say has been made possible by improving state finances. Much of the package (included in amendments to [SB 1150](#)) is in addition to tax breaks that Governor JB Pritzker laid out in his FY23 budget proposal, but many of the tax breaks are temporary.

Under the Senate Democrats' plan, the state would provide relief checks valued at \$100 per person and \$50 per child to state taxpayers making up to \$250,000 individually, or up to \$500,000 jointly. A household of four could see a \$300 check. The relief checks would likely come in late summer or early fall. Lawmakers estimated that more than 97 percent of state taxpayers would receive a check of some amount. The plan also wipes out for six months the state sales tax on groceries; stops a gasoline tax increase; provides property tax relief checks of up to \$300 that would be mailed to taxpayers; includes expanded economic aid for lower-income workers and increased tax credits for teachers and volunteer first responders; and halts the state sales tax on clothing, shoes and school supplies for 10 days in August to give consumers an economic boost for back-to-school shopping. As proposed, the sales tax would be lifted from August 5 to August 14.

RAINY DAY FUND

State Comptroller Susana Mendoza's [Fiscal Focus magazine](#) recently defended Gov. Pritzker's proposal to put \$800 million in the state's "rainy day fund." [HB 4118](#) would require the state to make automatic deposits into the fund whenever certain financial conditions are met.

Officially known as the Budget Stabilization Fund, it was created in 2001 as a reserve so that the state could pay its bills in a timely manner, especially during regular months of the year when revenues are lower than other months. The goal was to maintain a reserve equal to 5 percent of the state's annual revenues. Current law, however, requires deposits into the fund only when the state's general revenue estimates increase by 4 percent or more over the prior year, something Comptroller Mendoza said has not happened since the fund was created. Instead, transfers into the fund have been made only when the General Assembly makes a one-time appropriation in the budget.

COMPTROLLER RE-NAMES BILL BACKLOG 'ACCOUNTS PAYABLE' AFTER FINAL LOAN PAYMENT

Illinois has made its final short-term borrowing payment of \$297 million on the loans it took out to maintain operations during the 2015-2017 budget impasse, Comptroller Mendoza announced last week. As a result, the state has eliminated its bill backlog and is up to date paying its monthly expenses. The final payment comes months ahead of the June 30 deadline set by the legislature. The Comptroller notes that the payoff is in addition to the \$3.9 billion borrowed from and repaid to the federal government during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HEALTH INSURANCE NETWORK ADEQUACY

Following a subject matter hearing to discuss the ongoing contract negotiations between Springfield Clinic and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Rep. Sue Scherer (D-Decatur) filed an amendment to [HB 1463](#) mirroring most of the language in her [HB 5729](#). The amendment removes the previous language regarding the Illinois Department of Insurance's authority to share findings with the Governor's office and the creation of a separate advisory council on network adequacy requirements. We expect HB 1463 to be heard in committee soon. The Department of Insurance had said they would file proposed rules on the 2017 network adequacy law last week, but we have yet to see them.

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Governor-appointed Illinois Prisoner Review Board determines whether offenders should be released from Illinois Department of Corrections custody and what the terms of their release should be. The board has seen heavy Republican scrutiny in the past year as the Senate repeatedly delayed confirmation hearings for several Pritzker appointees. One PRB member has resigned, and another was rejected by the Senate by a vote of 15-31 (13 Senators did not vote). The board has become a proxy for the larger political battle in Illinois over how to address crime heading into this year's elections.

ELECTRIC GRID RELIABILITY TASK FORCE

The Senate has advanced a measure ([SB 1104](#)) to create a task force to study electric grid reliability in light of the 2021 passage of the energy regulatory overhaul bill known as the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. The unpaid, 33-member Illinois Regional Generation Reliability Task Force would examine the effect of state laws, including the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, on energy prices as well as grid reliability. It would also study ways to deploy new technologies and "improve" the power supply mix, among other tasks. It would report to the General Assembly by February 1, 2023, and each year thereafter.

SB 1104 passed 32-15 in a bipartisan vote, although several Democrats voted against the measure. It still needs approval in the House. Labor unions were among some of the prominent backers of the bill, while the Illinois Sierra Club opposed the measure because they disagreed with the taskforce makeup.

NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT BAN

A House committee has begun preliminary conversations about lifting the state's 1987 ban on new nuclear power developments in Illinois. Rep. Mark Walker (D-Arlington Heights) said that the cap was put in place at a time when the dangers of carbon emissions were not as clear as they are today. Nuclear energy does not emit carbon. Having the option to consider new nuclear developments, whether they are micro-reactors or large utility-scale plants, would be good to have as the state seeks to be carbon free by 2050. The discussion at the committee level was on a subject matter basis, meaning any decision to lift the cap would come at a future date.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BILL

The Illinois Environmental Council is drafting an amendment to [HB 4093](#) that would remove the \$200,000 fee associated with permits in EJ areas and also remove all requirements associated with local siting. The IEC is adding the amendment after consulting with the Senate President's office and in hopes of keeping the bill moving this session. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency believes that removal of the fees is "problematic" for implementation. The business coalition has presented several recommendations for

the bill but has not received feedback from the proponents. HB 4093 has been returned to the Senate Assignments Committee, indicating that it will not move forward this session. It will assuredly return for consideration in either the fall 2022 veto session or next spring.

STATE PROVIDING \$309 MILLION MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

The Illinois Housing Development Authority has announced that the Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund will open on April 11 to help homeowners who have fallen behind on mortgage payments and related housing expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible households will be able to apply for up to \$30,000 in free assistance to pay past due mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, and delinquent homeowner and/or condo association fees. ILHAF is funded by \$309 million in federal funds allocated to the state by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

'FERTILITY FRAUD' BILL TARGETS REPRODUCTIVE MALPRACTICE

Newly filed legislation in the Senate aims to punish fertility and assisted reproductive health professionals who take advantage of families and substitute their own genetic material in order to achieve conception.

THOMPSON CENTER SALES AGREEMENT

Gov. Pritzker has announced that the state has finalized a purchase sales agreement for the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago with JRTC Holdings, LLC., stating that "not only saving taxpayers \$800 million but also adding vitality to Chicago's LaSalle Street corridor by honoring the original design through a modern lens." The financial closing and transfer of title on the property is anticipated to be completed in summer 2022. The state and JRTC Holdings are working together to finalize the floor plans and interior design.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy END OF SESSION Report

April 13, 2022

The Illinois General Assembly finished an unusually accelerated and highly charged spring session in the early morning hours of Saturday, April 9. This is far earlier than the usual May 31 adjournment and was capped by passing a \$45.6 billion state budget, the highest spending amount for state funds in any Illinois budget.

House Speaker Chris Welch (D), Senate President Don Harmon (D), and Senate Republican Leader Dan McConchie (R) all completed their second year as caucus leaders. Lawmakers worked through bills as the Omicron variant of COVID-19 surged in January and February. However, as the surge diminished, Republicans called on House Democrat leadership to lift the mask mandate for members on the House floor and called for in-person committee meetings. After several partisan debates, the State Capitol eventually largely opened to lobbyists and media, in-person meetings resumed, and mask mandates were relaxed. Election-year politics made crime/law enforcement and inflation top issues among lawmakers.

Members of the General Assembly filed nearly 10,000 bills during the two years of the 2021-2022 session. Legislators eventually passed more than 400 bills to the Governor's desk for his consideration this summer. The legislature also passed a state budget, funding for local capital projects, a package aimed at providing residents relief from inflation and property taxes, reforms to crack down on crime (including carjacking and smash- and-grabs), authorization for more expressway cameras, hospital assessment reform, nursing home rate reform, ghost gun bans, and new multi-year safe gun storage campaign. One major item still to resolve is the remaining \$1.8 billion shortfall in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The General Assembly did fund a majority of that shortfall and voted to delay automatic changes that would have reduced worker benefits and raised employer taxes; however, they will have to deal with this issue in the fall.

Lawmakers will now focus on in-district work and the 2022 campaign cycle before convening again for the Fall 2022 Veto Session. Both chambers adjourned to the call of the chair and not to a specific date. It is anticipated that session will also be called to order in early January 2023 for a "lame duck" session before inauguration of the new General Assembly and Governor.

It is believed that the Democrat-lead General Assembly will take up more controversial issues after the November 8 general election. Depending on the outcome of the election, we expect an active veto session in the fall and early January. Bills held during the spring 2022 session can still be considered prior to the new General Assembly's inauguration in January.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 STATE BUDGET

Incoming state revenues are \$4.6 billion higher for the current fiscal year than previously projected. This is primarily due to spending on goods rather than services, as expenditures on goods grew during the pandemic and the budget was bolstered with federal stimulus funds. In addition to the still-available federal American Rescue Plan Act funds, Democrat leaders had a surplus of state funds to allocate this year, compared to previous budgets where difficult spending decisions were needed.

The following budget allocations are of special interest to community colleges:

- A FY22 supplemental 5% increase for community colleges, which is also included in the FY23 budget
- A 5% increase in funding for Adult Education and Career & Technical Education programs

- A \$122 million increase in Monetary Award Program funding, including expansion of MAP grants for students seeking short-term credentials and certificates
- An increase in the maximum MAP grant award from \$6,468 to \$8,508
- \$47.4 million for the following new initiatives:
 - \$5.0 million for City of Chicago Career & Technical Education
 - \$5.9 million for the facility operations of Southwestern Illinois College - Belleville campus
 - \$25.0 million for the Pipeline for Advancement of the Healthcare (PATH) Workforce program to help train new nurses, lab techs, EMTs and other high-demand health care positions
 - \$5.0 million for College Bridge grants
 - \$5.0 million for Trade School programs
- \$1.9 million for new community college capital projects and a \$979 million re-appropriation of prior year capital projects

Other provisions of the FY23 state budget (outlined in [House Bill 900](#)) include:

- Funds 330 new state troopers and a new Forensic Lab in Decatur. A new program called the Reimagine Public Safety Act will receive \$236 million, with the goal of reducing crime. Within that program, \$124 million is allocated for law enforcement grants; \$48 million for carjacking prevention; \$50 million for domestic violence programs; and \$12 million for a witness protection program and anonymous tip line
- Deposits \$1 billion in the state's long-dry rainy day fund
- Pays another \$200 million into the state public pension funds deficit, in addition to the required \$9.6 billion payment
- Increases K-12 education by \$510 million, including \$350.2 million for the evidence-based school funding formula. Early childhood education will receive an increase of \$54 million, with smaller increases allocated for agricultural education, school transportation, and special education

[Senate Bill 157](#) is an omnibus revenue bill, which includes a variety of inflation- and tax-relief proposals:

- Suspends the 1% percent sales tax on groceries for one year, beginning July 1, 2022. The suspension will save consumers an estimated \$400 million; local governments will still receive tax revenue supplemented by state funds
- Freezes the Motor Fuel Tax at 39 cents/gallon until January 1. The tax will then increase 2.2 cents in 2023, saving consumers an estimated \$70 million. Retailers must also place a sign on each gas pump highlighting the tax relief
- Permanently expands the state Earned Income Tax Credit to 20% of the federal credit, up from 18%, and expands eligibility to persons 18-25 and 65 or older
- Doubles property tax rebates up to \$300
- Sends \$50 checks per individual directly to taxpayers this fall for households earning less than \$200,000 individually or \$400,000 jointly and \$100 per child up to three children (an estimated 90% of Illinois families)
- Suspends the state sales tax on back-to-school supplies and clothing for August 5-14, 2022, saving consumers an estimated \$50 million)
- Makes a one-time payment of \$100 million to the Local Government Distributive Fund
- Provides a 5-year extension of the sales tax exemption on mining, coal, and aggregate equipment
- Provides a biodiesel incentive

In Public Act 102-0696 ([SB 2803](#)), the Governor and lawmakers allocated \$2.7 billion in ARPA dollars to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. This fund had been \$4.5 billion in debt after the large number of

claims during the pandemic. Discussions continue regarding how to repay the remaining \$1.8 billion and are focused on employer tax increases, reductions in worker benefits, and the continuation of “speed bumps.” These “speed bumps” are a combination of tax hikes on employers and benefits cuts for workers placed into law and set to take effect in the future as a means of forcing both sides to the bargaining table. These conversations have stalled. [SB 157](#) moves these speed bumps from July 2022 to December 2022 to allow negotiations to continue and to move the deadline past the November election.

P.A. 102-696 also appropriates \$230 million to pay off the unfunded liabilities in the College Illinois! prepaid tuition program, funds \$900 million in debt for the state employee health insurance program, and pays another \$300 million to the state’s pension funds.

[HB 4700](#) is the Budget Implementation Bill, which allows for mechanisms to implement the budget. Notable provisions include:

- Creates the Climate Jobs Institute at the University of Illinois to study decarbonizing Illinois’ economy
- Creates the Office of Opioid Settlement Administration within the Illinois Department of Human Services
- Establishes a salaried position for the Electric Vehicle Coordinator
- Creates a statewide 9-8-8 Hotline Trust Fund for a suicide prevention and mental health crisis system
- Allows Nursing Education Scholarships to be awarded to students at approved institutions that are not required to meet the definition of “institution of higher learning”
- Increases Medicaid rates for specialized mental health rehabilitation facilities by 5% to incentivize reduced room occupancy. Medicaid rates for supportive living services must be 54.3% of the average total nursing services per diem rate for geographic areas; increases reimbursements for substance use disorder treatment providers and facilities; reimburses for medical forensic services to sexual assault survivors
- Waives licensure fees for healthcare workers for FY 22-24 but allows individuals to benefit from waiver only once
- Uses COVID Relief Funds to increase pay for frontline workers at nursing home facilities and ground ambulance service providers
- Mandates DHFS to create a Managed Primary Care Demonstration Project to provide primary care services for preventative care in underserved communities with a health care organization
- Provides energy assistance payments for installation of energy conservation measures, health and safety measures, weatherization activities, and renewable energy retrofits
- Increases sheriffs’ salaries to at least 80% of the State’s Attorney’s salary

BILLS OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

PASSED BOTH HOUSES

[P.A. 102-0697](#) (HB 1167) requires school districts, public universities, and community colleges to pay educational support personnel and contractors during any school closure and provides **paid administrative leave to vaccinated employees** for purposes related to COVID-19.

[House Bill 1175](#) (Buckner-D) makes changes to **student-athlete endorsements**.

[House Bill 3296](#) (Ness-D) allows school districts to implement **College and Career Pathway Endorsements** with higher education institutions.

[House Bill 4201](#) (West-D) requires public universities and community colleges to designate a **benefits navigator** to assist students.

[House Bill 4292](#) (Morgan-D) authorizes an additional \$1 million to the **pension buyout program** and extends the program two years to June 30, 2026.

[House Bill 4724](#) (Burke-D) allows universities and community colleges to **extend credit to students** to purchase textbooks and school supplies.

[House Bill 4798](#) (Stava-Murray-D) as amended allows Illinois teaching candidate students with 90 credit hours to obtain **substitute teacher licenses**.

[House Bill 5464](#) (Stuart-D) is an **Illinois Board of Higher Education initiative** for several administrative changes to statute.

[Senate Bill 3032](#) (Fine-D) requires public and private institutions to provide official **academic transcripts** to employers even though the student owes a debt to the institution.

[Senate Bill 3149](#) (Villanueva-D) requires institutions of higher education to share information about **child care assistance programs** with MAP-eligible students.

BILLS HELD

[House Bill 49](#) (West-D) prohibits **for-profit colleges** or universities from receiving grants, including Monetary Award Program grants.

[House Bill 1170](#) (Meyers-Martin-D) as amended allows school districts and universities to create **career and technical education centers** with grants from the Illinois State Board of Education.

[House Bill 2827](#) (Caulkins-R) provides MAP grants to students enrolled in **dual credit classes**.

[House Bill 3220](#) (Tarver-D) requires public universities to require vendors that fail to comply with a **BEP utilization plan** to return all funds paid to the vendor.

[House Bill 4247](#) (B. Hernandez-D) requires public universities to make **emergency contraception** available in a vending machine; the bill was amended to exempt community colleges from the mandate.

[House Bill 4265](#) (Hernandez-D) requires public universities and community colleges to offer students an option to select “**non-binary**” on all documents for gender identification.

[House Bill 4361](#) (Conroy-D) establishes a **minimum salary for instructors** of at least \$1,333.33 per credit hour taught.

[House Bill 4676](#) (Conroy-D) requires institutions of higher education to admit one **previously incarcerated returning resident** annually into a program that will lead them to be a licensed behavioral healthcare professional

[House Bill 5116](#) (Nichols-D) requires student athletes to undergo **sudden cardiac death screening** before participating in sports.

[House Bill 5208](#) (Gonzalez-D) allows a **noncitizen graduate** student without a visa to be eligible for state financial aid.

[House Bill 5315](#) (Stuart-D) class posting notifications and free parking for adjunct professors

[House Bill 5424](#) (Ford-D) appropriates \$19 million to public colleges for **mental health** initiatives.

[House Bill 5473](#) (Slaughter-D) requires each institution of higher education to reserve at least one enrollment for a former incarcerated students. The bill prohibits any institution from considering **criminal history information** during admission decision-making.

[Senate Bill 819](#) (Fine-D) as amended expands **MAP grant payments** to cover room and board and coursework materials, rather than just tuition and fees.

[Senate Bill 3856](#) (Bennett-D) requires all public universities and community colleges to make **coursework materials free** to Illinois students.

OTHER NOTABLE BILLS

PASSED BOTH HOUSES

[House Bill 4292](#) (Morgan-D) will extend the **pension buyout** program for state employees. Participants can receive an accelerated benefit payment instead of any pension benefit. The State Employees' Retirement System has paid out about \$250 million to employees that have chosen the buyout.

[House Bill 4666](#) (Hoffman-D) strengthens laws to eliminate predatory practices by nurse staffing agencies, including more transparency into the contracting process, requirement agencies pay 100% of hourly wage to the employees, and prevents agencies from recruiting employees on a provider's campus – the goal of the legislation is to address the **nursing shortage**.

[House Bill 5412](#) (Evans-D) places liability of **subcontractor wage debt** onto primary contractor.

[House Bill 4600](#) (Evans-D) is a trailer to House Bill 5412 regarding debt owed by subcontractor and mandates a task force to study ways to reduce **cost of insurance in the private and public construction industry**.

[House Bill 4604](#) (Evans-D) imposes \$10,000 penalty per intentional specified **OSHA violation**. Employees cannot discriminate against employees who report potential violations.

[Senate Bill 645](#) (Hastings-D) ensures the rights under the Employee Sick Leave Act serve as the minimum standard in a negotiated collective agreement for **sick leave benefits**.

[Senate Bill 1099](#) (J Collins-D) allows and sets parameters on **"lawsuit lending"** contracts – which is a growing trend allowing lenders to make loans to claimants in exchange for a portion of the potential legal recovery.

[Senate Bill 1975](#) (Martwick-D) is an **omnibus property tax** bill with changes to the aggregate extension limit, general homestead exemptions, senior citizens homestead exemption, and homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities.

BILLS HELD

[House Bill 989](#) (Delgado-D) adds penalties up to \$100,000 for the first violation to the current **corporate board reporting requirements**. Current law requires all publicly held corporations to report the gender, sexual orientation, and race or ethnicity of all directors.

[House Bill 1811](#) (Andrade-D) prohibits use of zip codes or races in **predictive data analyses** for hiring or credit.

[House Bill 1293](#) (LaPointe-D) prohibits state **investments in Russian securities** and Russian domiciled businesses.

[House Bill 3215](#) (Slaughter-D) creates a pilot program for wage subsidies to employers hiring **formerly incarcerated employees**.

[House Bill 3220](#) (Tarver-D) defines “good faith effort” and uniform standard of contract goals for **business enterprise program procurement** goals.

[House Bill 3453](#) (Williams-D) creates a new **Geolocation Privacy Protection** Act and prohibits private entities from disclosing geolocation information without consent, making it an unlawful practice to do so.

[House Bill 3530](#) (Ammons-D) restricts employers’ discipline processes and ability to **discharge employees** while authorizing recovery of damages for wrongfully discharged employees.

[House Bill 4116](#) (Morgan-D) prohibits employers from refusing to hire an individual based on **drug test** indicating presence of THC and from adverse action for employees violating drug policies unless the cannabis level exceeds the DUI provisions. A new amendment defines “safety sensitive position” as working around heavy machinery in a manufacturing facility. The legislation passed the House 61-41-1 but was held in the Senate over continued concerns. Employers may still utilize drug testing and have a zero tolerance policy.

[House Bill 4156](#) (Croke-D) attaches civil liability to any manufacturer, importer, or dealer of a firearm for bodily injury or death caused by **unlawful discharge**.

[House Bill 5243](#) (Wheeler-R) creates an **affirmative defense** for entities with written cybersecurity programs.

[House Bill 5543](#) (Gonzalez-D) with House Amendment 1 allows the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to require a business to agree to terms ensuring the business is a **good corporate citizen** to receive development assistance.

2022 CAMPAIGN FOCUS

As predicted, the upcoming campaign season impacted almost every action by the General Assembly this session and contributed to the politically charged Capitol environment. Illinois courts eventually approved the newly drawn districts in legislative maps, and candidates filed petitions to be placed on the ballot. The State Board of Elections will certify final candidates in primary elections on April 21.

All 118 state representatives, all 59 state senators, all 17 members of Congress, 1 U.S. senator, and all state constitutional officers, including the Governor, must run for election in 2022. There are also two

open Illinois Supreme Court seats and two retention seats. The primary election is delayed until June 28; the general election will be held on Tuesday, November 8.

Currently, 78 of the 118 House races (66%) have contested primaries and/or general elections. Of the 59 Illinois Senate seats, only 29 face contested races. Each of the 17 Congressional districts have at least two candidates in the primary or general election.

A constitutional amendment referendum will also appear on the general ballot asking voters to grant all Illinois workers a “fundamental right” to organize a union with collective bargaining and remove any possibility of a “right to work” law. Former Republican Governor Bruce Rauner had prioritized, and failed, in passing a right to work law in Illinois.

During the 2022 session, the General Assembly passed legislation to limit influences from outside funding. [HB 716](#) prohibits self-funders and independent expenditure committees from accepting more than \$500,000 from any single person or entity. Additionally, both chambers passed a bill to require the State Board of Elections to provide a remote accessible vote by mail system for voters with print disabilities ([SB 829](#)).

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

2022 ILLINOIS PRIMARY ELECTION

June 29, 2022

The Illinois Primary Election is over, and voters have selected their party nominees for every statewide office, one U.S. Senate seat, two seats on the Illinois Supreme Court, all 17 of Illinois' representatives in Congress, every state senator and representative in the General Assembly, and scores of county and judicial offices.

The shift of the primary election from its usual March date to June 28 created a new set of complications for election officials and candidates trying to get people to the polls. It is the latest that Illinois has held a primary since at least the Great Depression — delayed over three months because the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau numbers needed for redistricting were late — and was less than a week before the July 4 holiday.

There are fascinating races on both the Democratic and Republican tickets. With low voter turnout, there were some interesting and unexpected results.

STATEWIDE OFFICE – BIG PRIMARY WINNERS

Republican Governor: Sen. Darren Bailey

Sen. Darren Bailey didn't just win -- he dominated the field with almost 60% of the vote in a crowded primary. Aurora mayor Richard Irvin, the establishment candidate, came in third with just 15% of the vote. Many feel this primary election indicates the future direction of the Illinois GOP. There are questions about whether Illinois Republicans have evolved with the times and the state's demographic changes, particularly as its gradual evolution to the right has been hastened by far-right Republicans who became followers of former President Donald Trump. Trump's coalition of discontented voters represents a growing faction challenging the state's GOP establishment. Another sign of the rightward shift can be found in the Illinois General Assembly, where among the GOP's super-minority — 45 of 118 members in the House and 18 of 59 members in the Senate — none are pro-choice.

Gov. JB Pritzker considers Bailey's win as a win for himself — viewing Bailey as the easiest path for him to win a second term. Pritzker and the Democratic Governors Association pumped \$34 million into advertising that declared Bailey as the most conservative candidate in the race, and former President Donald Trump endorsed Bailey. Citadel CEO Ken Griffin funneled \$50 million to Irvin, who had been seen as a candidate who could beat Gov. Pritzker in the general election. The takeaway here is Trump's endorsement is strong within the Illinois Republican Party. Now the question is whether he can win statewide as he takes on Gov. Pritzker in the general election.

Democrat Secretary of State: Alexi Giannoulis

Despite winning the endorsements of Gov. Pritzker, Sen. Dick Durbin, and Secretary of State Jesse White, Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia was defeated by former state Treasurer (and former Illinois Community College Board chair) **Alexi Giannoulis**. Valencia suffered setbacks due to ethical concerns after she failed to report her husband's lobbying business on city disclosures. Giannoulis was heavily supported by a majority of labor unions and outspent Valencia.

Republican Secretary of State: Rep. Dan Brady

Democrat Jesse White has run the Illinois Secretary of State's Office for more than 20 years, and it employs thousands of state workers. Longtime **State Rep. Dan Brady** cruised to victory over prosecutor John Milhiser, a Griffin-backed candidate. The general election for the open Secretary of State's office is expected to be one of the hottest races in November.

Republican Attorney General: Tom DeVore

Like the governor's race, this contest is showing how far right Illinois Republicans have moved. Attorney **Tom**

DeVore is best known for filing numerous lawsuits (unsuccessfully) against the Governor's Covid-19 mitigation policies. His opponent, Steve Kim, carried establishment backing and was endorsed by former Gov. Jim Edgar. The question here is the same as it is for race for governor – can DeVore be appealing to a statewide constituency in his challenge to incumbent **Kwame Raoul**.

Treasurer and Comptroller

In the general election, incumbent Treasurer **Michael Frerichs** will face former state Rep. **Tom Demmer**. For Comptroller, incumbent **Susanna Mendoza** will face **Shannon Teresi**. None of these candidates had a primary opponent.

U.S. CONGRESS

GOP member vs member -- 15th District: U.S. Rep. Mary Miller

In possibly the biggest upset of the night, veteran U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis was defeated by first-year U.S. Rep. **Mary Miller**, a MAGA supporter recently endorsed by former President Trump when he stopped in Illinois for a "Save America" rally. Davis had the endorsement from party leaders and was a ranking member in the House Republican caucus. Miller will have some work to do to earn the level of clout that Davis used to support central Illinois.

Democrat member vs member – 6th District: U.S. Rep. Sean Casten

The intense battle between U.S. Reps. **Sean Casten** and Marie Newman fizzled in recent days with the tragic death of Casten's teenage daughter. Both sides pulled back on ads, and Casten disappeared from the campaign trail. Casten won with 68.1% to Newman's 28.8%.

Open 1st Congressional District: Johnathan Jackson

Johnathan Jackson, son of Rev. Jesse Jackson, rose to the top of a field of 17 Democrats vying for the nomination to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush. This district is solid Democrat.

Open 3rd Congressional District: State Rep. Delia Ramirez

State Rep. **Delia Ramirez** defeated Chicago Ald. Gil Villegas by a wide margin of 65.8% to 23.7% in a newly drawn district. This was a win for U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia, who endorsed Ramirez. This district is also solidly Democrat.

Open 13th Congressional District

Nikki Budzinski (D) will face **Regan Deering** (R) in this newly drawn district. This district runs from the Metro East to Champaign and was drawn for a Democrat, but the area has been represented by a Republican (Rodney Davis) for a long time and only leans Democrat. Democrats will have to drive turnout up to capture this new seat.

Open 17th Congressional District

Eric Sorensen (D) defeated former state Rep. Litesa Wallace to take on **Esther Joy King** (R) in November. This is a newly drawn district that leans Democrat but could be a very tight race in November.

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

The Illinois Supreme Court's 2nd and 3rd District seats are up for election in November (the 3rd District did not have a contested primary on either side). The results will determine the balance of control. Democrats currently have the majority on the court with a 4-3 advantage. In the 2nd district, Democrat **Elizabeth Rochford** will face either Republican **Mark Curran** or **Daniel Shanes** (still too close to call). In the 3rd District, Republican **Michael Burke** will face Democrat **Mary Kay O'Brien**.

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE: The June 28 primary election was not friendly for incumbents.

In the House, Speaker Chris Welch lost three Democratic incumbents. House Revenue Chair **Mike Zalewski** lost in a huge upset to super progressive **Abdelnasser Rashid**; **Denyse Wang Stoneback** lost to **Kevin Olickal**; and **Kathleen Willis** lost to progressive **Norma Hernandez**, a Triton College trustee. In a five-way Democrat race to replace House Majority Leader Greg Harris, **Hoan Huynh** prevailed, even though Gov. Pritzker supported Eileen Dordek.

In total, House Democrats had 10 incumbents facing challengers. Reps. **Sony Harper**, **Michael Kelly**, **Lindsey LaPointe**, **Curtis Tarver**, **Justin Slaughter**, **Thaddeus Jones**, and **Natalie Manley** all won their primaries.

The House Republican caucus will look much different next spring. A small faction of the House Republican Caucus — the extreme right “Eastern Bloc” led by Sen. Bailey — worked against candidates selected by Minority Leader Jim Durkin, resulting in the loss of two incumbents. **David Welter** lost to **Jed Davis**, who was backed by Sen. Bailey, while **Mark Luft** lost to **Travis Weaver**, former Sen. Chuck Weaver’s son. In the open seat following Rep. Keith Sommer’s retirement, **William Hauter** overcame Durkin’s pick Mary Burress. Several other candidates in open primaries also defeated Durkin’s preferred candidate. In addition, many members of Durkin’s leadership team are leaving or running for other offices, including Reps. **Avery Bourne**, **Tom Demmer**, and **Mark Batinick**. Tuesday’s results are incredibly important for the future of the House Republican Caucus.

SENATE: Senate President Don Harmon backed losing candidates in two open primary contests. Newly appointed Sen. **Eric Mattson** lost to progressive Will County Board member **Rachel Ventura**, despite the support of his caucus and nearly a million dollars spent. President Harmon also backed LaMont Williams, who lost in an open contest against **Willie Preston**. Incumbent Sens. **Omar Aquino**, **Robert Martwick**, and **Celina Villanueva** all fended off their primary opponents.

State Rep. **Sam Yingling** failed in his attempt to move to the Senate to take over the vacated seat left by Senator Melinda Bush. President Harmon and Sen. Bush strongly backed former Rep. **Mary Edly-Allen**, who came out on top.

Republican incumbent Sen. **Win Stoller** pulled out a win against Brett Nicklaus, who had been backed by Leader Durkin. Other victorious Senate Republicans include **Steve McClure** over Bailey-backed Don Debolt and **Dave Syverson** over Eli Nicolosi.

This November, the Senate Democrats may lose a seat or two, but they are unlikely to lose their super-majority status and will lean a little further to the left.

Overall, House and Senate Republicans were expecting to be competitive in many districts across the state, particularly in the collar counties, with the support of financing from billionaire Ken Griffin. As detailed below, Griffin decided last week to leave Illinois and with an extremely conservative gubernatorial candidate at the top of the ballot, it is hard to predict how the Republican Party will fare in November against a Democratic Party that has become more progressive. Republicans and Democrats in Illinois are both becoming more polarized.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PANDEMIC-RELATED EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Gov. Pritzker has extended his previously issued pandemic-related Executive Orders to July 24, 2022.

SPECIAL SESSION FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

Despite the action of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, reproductive healthcare remains legal in Illinois. A few years ago, the General Assembly removed the trigger law that would have prohibited abortion in the state with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Additionally, Illinois Medicaid and most private health insurance plans are required to cover abortion care.

After the July 4 holiday, the General Assembly will convene into special session to consider reproductive health issues. No session dates has been set. In calling for the special session, Gov. Pritzker stated that the session is meant “to more firmly protect women’s reproductive rights in Illinois and address the challenges posed by this radical Supreme Court decision.”

One possible item is a non-binding statewide referendum this November to boost Democratic turnout in what is anticipated to be a stronger election cycle for Republicans. However, Planned Parenthood Illinois Action wants more than the symbolic gesture of a ballot initiative to show support. It is calling for legislative authority for nurse practitioners to perform early abortions, a streamlined process for out-of-state providers to become licensed in Illinois, state funding to open new abortion clinics and expand existing facilities, as well as state money to help transport and house out-of-state women seeking abortions in Illinois.

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY BILL

Gov. Pritzker has signed legislation updating Illinois law to recognize certificates like GEDs the same as high school diplomas. [Public Act 102-1100](#) ensures that all high school equivalency certifications are considered equally and attempts to correct the misunderstanding that GEDs and similar certificates are less legitimate than high school diplomas.

FFA DUES COVERED BY STATE

The Illinois Department of Agriculture announced that Future Farmers of America dues for every student taking agriculture education classes across the state will be covered starting this fall. The elimination of dues makes Illinois a FFA affiliation membership state, ensuring that every student enrolled in agricultural education will have FFA membership dues automatically paid.

CONGRESS PASSES NEW GUN SAFETY LAW / SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN NY GUN LAW

The new [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#) strengthens background checks for the youngest firearms buyers, expands the definition of a gun seller, and imposes new penalties on gun traffickers. It could also give Illinois and its communities a share of \$15 billion to improve school safety and fund mental health initiatives. The legislation also makes \$750 million available to the 19 states, including Illinois, and the District of Columbia that have "red flag" laws to make it easier for them to temporarily take away firearms from people who have been adjudged to be dangerous, and to other states with violence prevention programs. To receive the money, a state with a red flag law would have to have a legal process in place for the gun owner to fight the removal of the firearm.

Meanwhile, the US Supreme Court has struck down a New York conceal-and-carry law that required New Yorkers who want to carry a handgun in public to show a special need to defend themselves. The Supreme Court made it clear that Americans have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense.

CITADEL MOVING HEADQUARTERS FROM ILLINOIS TO FLORIDA

Citadel CEO Ken Griffin has announced that the company will move its headquarters from Chicago to Miami, citing Florida’s better business environment. Griffin (who is worth \$28.9 billion) was the wealthiest resident of Illinois and has donated more than \$600 million to organizations in the region. This is the latest corporate

departure from Illinois, coming after Caterpillar and Boeing also announced they were leaving. Kellogg Co., conversely, announced earlier this month that it will open its headquarters in Chicago.

CULLERTON SENTENCED TO YEAR IN PRISON FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Former Illinois Sen. **Thomas Cullerton** has been sentenced to one year in prison after pleading guilty to embezzling nearly \$250,000 from a Chicago Teamsters job that had him doing little or no work. Cullerton pleaded guilty in a separate extortion case in 2019 and has been cooperating with federal prosecutors. He has not yet been sentenced. He is one of eight former General Assembly members to be charged with federal crimes in the past three years.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BANS JUUL E-CIGARETTES

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has ordered all JUUL e-cigarette products off the market, citing “inconsistent and conflicting data” on safety. The FDA’s orders only pertain to the commercial distribution, importation, and retail sales, and do not restrict individual consumer possession. In 2019, the Illinois General Assembly raised the legal age for tobacco and nicotine purchases to 21. In Illinois, state leaders largely supported the regulatory move.

CHICAGO SEEKING 2024 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Gov. Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot recently pitched Democratic National Committee officials about Chicago’s bid to host the 2024 Democratic National Convention. In separate presentations, New York, Houston, and Atlanta representatives made their cases to host the 2024 event.

COM-ED TRIAL POSSIBLY PUSHED TO 2023

Utility giant Com-Ed’s public corruption trial, which was set for September 12, has been postponed because of a delay in another major trial set to begin soon — the child pornography trial of R&B superstar R. Kelly (which was to begin August 1 and has now been pushed back to August 15). The Com-Ed case includes four members of indicted former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan’s inner circle. Madigan’s former chief of staff Timothy Mapes was set to go to trial for lying under oath in January 2023. Mapes’ trial could also be delayed.

LISA HOLDER WHITE TO TAKE OATH ON ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

Justice Lisa Holder White will become the first Black woman to sit on the state’s high court when she takes the Supreme Court’s oath of office on Thursday, July 7. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Rita B. Garman. Justice White’s appointment is effective July 8 and concludes on Dec. 2, 2024, when the seat will be filled in the November 2024 general election.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report • July 11, 2022

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION DELAYED

The Illinois General Assembly's highly anticipated special session to take up issues related to reproductive rights has been postponed, with a possible return in September before the November 8 general election. It is exceedingly difficult to convene and pass legislation during the summer given member schedules and the higher vote requirement – any legislation with an effective date prior to June 1, 2023, will require super majorities in both chambers.

In a statement about postponing the special session, Gov. JB Pritzker and legislative leaders announced that they want to take a more deliberate and careful approach for adding new protections for abortion and other reproductive healthcare rights. One possible piece of legislation being discussed would expand who can perform abortions. Illinois does not currently allow nurse practitioners to perform procedures, but in many other states they do. Gov. Pritzker has said that he would sign such a bill, explaining that it is necessary as more out-of-state patients come to Illinois seeking abortions.

In addition to legislation related to reproductive health, some legislators are also demanding action related to gun safety. The suspect in the July 4 Highland Park shooting admitted to investigators that he fired a "high-powered rifle" from a rooftop – killing seven and wounding dozens more. Illinois officials are calling for federal gun-safety laws to go further than the legislation President Biden signed last week. At the state level, government and law enforcement officials are trying to determine what went wrong and how to address the gun problem in this state. Possible legislation includes limiting purchase and ownership for those under 21 as well as a complete "assault rifle" ban.

On July 5, Gov. Pritzker issued a [Disaster Proclamation](#) in response to the shooting, declaring Lake County a disaster area to assist in recovery efforts.

Both the reproductive health and gun rights issues will play a role in the 2022 Illinois governor's race. Pritzker faces Republican state Sen. Darren Bailey, who is both pro-life (in all circumstances) and an avid gun rights advocate, in the November general election.

Last week, Gov. Pritzker signed the final two bills passed by the General Assembly during the spring 2022 session. He did not veto any of the more than 400 bills that landed on his desk. About a dozen went into effect on July 1.

STATE ENDS FY 2022 WITH ZERO FUND BALANCE

The state's fiscal year ended with a General Funds accounts payable balance of \$1.8 billion and a payment cycle of ZERO days. Illinois is officially caught up with payment on all bills related to K-12 schools, higher education, Medicaid and state insurance, and other government operations and programs.

JUNE 28 PRIMARY ELECTION DEBRIEFS

- ❖ Voter turnout was low – nearly half of what was expected for this type of primary election.
- ❖ The campaign for governor will be ugly. Kicking off his own fall election campaign last week, Gov. Pritzker gave a fiery speech taking direct aim at his Republican opponent Darren Bailey. *“Let me be clear, someone who seeks out and accepts the endorsement of a racist, misogynistic, homophobic, xenophobic, twice impeached former president does not deserve to come anywhere near this state’s highest office,”* Pritzker said. *“Darren Bailey cannot side with the insurrectionists at the Capitol, assert that the 2020 election was stolen, and say that women and their doctors should be jailed for having an abortion even in cases of rape and incest and expect to be handed the keys to the Governor’s Office.”* Bailey took aim at Pritzker, too, starting what is likely to be a war of words in the fall campaign. *“Here’s a tip and some advice for JB Pritzker: start packin,’ friend,”* Bailey said. *“Because on November 8th, you’re fired.”*
- ❖ *“A ballot that’s top-heavy with people viewed as extremists won’t play well in suburban areas, especially among suburban women,”* former Republican Gov. Jim Edgar said in an interview. *“We have to start identifying who can win a primary and a general. Right now, that looks like two different kinds of people.”*
- ❖ Concerning a contested Republican congressional race, former conservative GOP state Rep. Jeanne Ives said, *“Illinois Republicans want somebody who has exhibited courage to stand up to the system and the bureaucrats.”* And Rep. Mary Miller’s victory over Rep. Rodney Davis shows *“Trump’s endorsement means something.”*
- ❖ Illinois House Democrats lost three incumbents to more progressive challengers and will have several swing district members facing national headwinds this fall, regardless of the current state of the GOP in Illinois.

2022 GENERAL ELECTION RACES TO WATCH

- ❖ **Illinois 6th Congressional District:** Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Sean Casten in this suburban district. This district slightly favors Casten.
- ❖ **Illinois 17th Congressional District:** The district covers portions of central, western, and northwestern Illinois. The district leans Democratic and is currently represented by a Democrat, Cheri Bustos, who did not seek reelection. Local meteorologist Eric Sorensen (D) is running against Esther Joy King (R), a lawyer who ran against Bustos in 2020. The district could swing to favor a Republican.
- ❖ **Secretary of State:** State Rep. Dan Brady (R-Bloomington), a moderate downstate Republican lawmaker, and Alexi Giannoulas, a former State Treasurer and Illinois Community College Board chair, will square off this fall in hopes of replacing longtime Secretary of State Jesse White.
- ❖ **Senate 43rd:** After Sen. John Connor decided to run for judge, Eric Mattson was appointed to Connor’s seat, believing his opponent, progressive Will County Board member Rachel Ventura, could put the district on the bubble this November if she won. Ventura won and the Senate Republicans are hoping their candidate, Diane Harris, has a strong chance to flip this seat.
- ❖ **Illinois Supreme Court – 2nd and 3rd Districts:** The Illinois Supreme Court is currently a 4-3 majority Democratic court. In November, with two districts on the ballot, determination of the court’s majority is at play. Expect to see national political parties and interest groups focus their money and attention on these races, as state courts have become the battle ground for abortion rights, redistricting, voting rights, and other partisan political issues.
- ❖ **The above are just a few examples. Additional legislative races to watch this fall will be highlighted in future reports.**

GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT VACANCIES

Since many of the 59 Senate and 118 House seats did not field candidates on both Democrat and Republican primary ballots, both parties have an opportunity to fill vacancies and name a candidate to appear on the November ballot. If no one was nominated at the primary, the local committees can select an individual, who must then get signatures and file with the State Board of Election by July 25. Additionally, new party or independent candidates may file July 5-11.

NEW SENATOR SWORN IN TO REPLACE CROWE

Kris Tharp was sworn in to represent Illinois' 56th Senate District, replacing former Sen. Rachele Aud Crowe, who resigned after she was confirmed as the region's new U.S. Attorney. Tharp is a captain and jail administrator for the Madison County Sheriff's Office with nearly 25 years of law enforcement experience in the Metro East. This will be a highly contested seat in the upcoming general election.

ILLINOIS FAMILY RELIEF PLAN BEGAN JULY 1

On July 1, the [Illinois Family Relief Plan](#) went into effect, providing an estimated \$1.83 billion in relief, including income and property tax rebates and a temporary cut in several sales taxes. The Family Relief Plan includes several tax holidays:

- **Groceries:** The state's 1% sales tax on groceries will be suspended July 1 through June 30, 2023, saving consumers \$400 million.
- **Gas:** The state's normally scheduled increase in the motor fuel tax will be delayed from July 1 to January 2023, saving consumers \$70 million.
- **School supplies:** Sales taxes for qualified clothing and school-related items will be reduced from 6.25% to 1.25% for a 10-day window from August 5 to 14, saving consumers \$50 million.

The plan also includes a permanent expansion of the state's earned income credit from 18% to 20% of the federal credit; property tax rebates for eligible homeowners in an amount equal to the property tax credit they qualified for on their 2021 Illinois tax returns, up to a maximum of \$300; and \$50 income tax rebates for individuals who made less than \$200,000 in 2021. Tax filers will also receive \$100 per dependent they claimed on their 2021 taxes, up to three dependents. The State Comptroller's office expects to issue rebate checks over an eight-week period beginning September 12.

CHICAGO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED ON JULY 1

Chicago's minimum wage increased by \$0.40 to \$15.40 an hour for workers at the city's large employers with at least 21 employees. For companies with between four and 20 employees, workers must make a minimum of \$14.50 an hour. Domestic workers, including people who work in childcare, housekeeping, and home health services, must make \$15.40 regardless of employer size. The city's minimum wage increases are laid out in its [minimum wage ordinance](#). Until this year, the minimum wage for larger employers in Chicago increased \$1 per year. This year and beyond, the minimum wage increase for large employers is pegged to the Consumer Price Index or 2.5%, whichever is lower.

The state minimum wage in Illinois is \$12; the federal minimum wage sits at \$7.25 and has not increased since 2009.

FIRST BLACK FEMALE JUSTICE SWORN ONTO ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

Judge Lisa Holder White has officially joined the Illinois Supreme Court as its first Black female justice. Holder White was picked by outgoing Justice Rita Garman as her replacement and then approved by the full court in May. Like Garman, Holder White is a Republican, meaning her appointment will maintain the court's 4-3 Democratic majority.

U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION ON ENERGY DOES NOT CHANGE ILLINOIS POLICY

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling limits federal regulations on reducing carbon emissions, saying that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot take the kind of broad approach the Obama administration had adopted in regulating greenhouse gases from the nation's power plants. The decision put the onus on Congress to give EPA more authority to instituting policies related to climate change. The EPA does not enforce Illinois state law, so the decision is not expected to undermine the Clean Energy Jobs Act, the 2021 law that supposedly puts Illinois on track to reach 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

AG RAOUL, STATE POLICE LAUNCH TRACING TOOL FOR ILLEGAL GUNS

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and the Illinois State Police have announced that law enforcement agencies will pool information on guns used in crimes across the state to better track the trafficking of illegal guns. The "Crime Gun Connect" platform makes gun crime records available digitally that, by federal law, are only available in paper form. The database contains more than 100,000 searchable records dating back to 2009. Raoul said that Crime Gun Connect will be a vital tool in Illinois, where most guns used in crimes come from out-of-state. Illinois will be the first state in the nation to compile this information.

DHS IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR DELAYING INMATE'S MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

A Sangamon County judge has ruled the state of Illinois was in civil contempt of court for failing to transfer a Sangamon County Jail inmate to a Department of Human Services facility for psychiatric treatment after the inmate was declared unfit April 7. The judge said that Gov. Pritzker's executive order granting DHS Secretary **Grace Hou** unfettered discretion on when to allow admissions of county jail inmates to DHS facilities violates the Illinois Emergency Management Act and cannot be enforced, based on a [November 2020 ruling](#) by the 4th District Appellate Court involving transfers of county jail inmates to state prisons. The judge ordered the state to pay a \$100-per-day fine until the inmate is admitted to DHS.

On July 6, Gov. JB Pritzker extended the executive order at issue, suspending the legal requirement for the state to transfer mentally ill jail inmates into psychiatric care within 20 days. Sangamon County State's Attorney Dan Wright says that he is reviewing the order and weighing his options.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REBATE PROGRAM OPEN

Illinois' [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program](#), created under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, is now open. Applications for a \$4,000 rebate in the first funding round are being accepted starting July 1 and must be postmarked on or before September 30, 2022. The next funding round begins July 1, 2026, for a \$2,000 rebate. As of July 1, 2022, the EV Rebate Fund has a balance of \$17,909,043.51.

MAJOR INVESTMENT AT ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has kicked off \$58.1 million in capital investments addressing years of deferred maintenance on the historic state fairgrounds. The investment will tackle road projects, new roofs, structural repairs on prominent buildings, and more.

ALEXANDER-CAIRO PORT PROJECT UPDATE

State leaders gathered at the intersection of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers with an update on the Alexander-Cairo port project. State Comptroller Susana Mendoza said that her office has paid out 11 vouchers totaling \$1 million from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and 43 vouchers totaling nearly \$1.7 million from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The next phase of the project will begin sometime later this year.

DUPAGE COUNTY ALLOWS RESIDENTS TO VOTE ANYWHERE

The June 28 primary election was the first time DuPage County residents had the ability to vote at any of the 263 polling places in the county.

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

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

November 4, 2022

By Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel

It's the final stretch. The economy, crime, and abortion are all in play as issues that might drive voters to the polls on November 8. Democrats are banking that the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade* will spur more women to vote. With two state Supreme Court seats up for grabs, Illinois could see a shift on the high court to a Republican majority. While Democrats were seeing sizable margins on their side in the last few months, as Election Day gets closer, several races appear to be tightening as the lagging economy seems to be boosting Republicans. Election Day could end up as a nail biter in some unpredictable places. Late polling seems to indicate James Carville's phrase from the 1990s – "It's the economy, stupid" – has aged well, three decades later.

Initially, early voting was lagging; but in recent weeks, vote totals have been rising. According to the Illinois State Board of Elections, over 1 million Illinoisans have already voted. Nearly 870,000 vote-by-mail ballots were requested for the General Election, and about 520,000 of those ballots have been returned; more than 535,000 people have voted early at their voting center.

KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Veto Session:** The Fall 2022 Veto Session is scheduled for **November 15-17 and November 29-December 1.**
- **Lame Duck Session:** Members have been advised to be prepared to meet in Springfield on **January 4-10, 2023.**

ILLINOIS GENERAL ELECTION UPDATES

- ❖ The top **Illinois Senate** races to watch:
 - 19th – Sen. Mike Hastings (D) versus Patrick Sheehan (R)
 - 23rd – Sen. Suzy Glowiak-Hilton (D) versus former Rep. Dennis Reboletti (R)
 - 36th – Rep. Mike Halpin (D) versus Mike Thoms (R)
 - 48th – Sen. Doris Turner (D) versus Rep. Sandy Hamilton (R)
 - 56th – Sen. Kris Tharp (D) versus Erica Conway-Harriss (R)
- ❖ The top **Illinois House** races to watch:
 - 45th – Rep. Deanne Mazzochi (R) versus Jen Ladisch Douglass (D)
 - 51st – Rep. Chris Bos (R) versus Nabeela Syed (D)
 - 53rd – Rep. Mark Walker (D) versus Jack Vrett (R)
 - 66th – Rep. Suzanne Ness (D) versus Connie Cain (R)
 - 83rd – Rep. Keith Wheeler (R) versus Matt Hanson (D)
 - 104th – Rep. Mike Marron (R) versus Cynthia Cunningham (D)
 - 112nd – Rep. Katie Stuart (D) versus Jennifer Korte (R)

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES SEE SYSTEMWIDE ENROLLMENT INCREASE

For the first time since 2009, the Illinois community college system recorded fall-to-fall enrollment growth. Statewide, fall 2022 enrollments increased in both headcount (+1.5 percent) and full-time equivalent (+0.3 percent) from the previous year, according to the Illinois Community College Board's

Fall 2022 Enrollment Report. This 1.5 percent increase is well above the national average, which declined by 5.6 percent in 2021 and remained flat in 2022. The full report is accessible [HERE](#).

2022 SCHOOL REPORT CARD DATA SHOW GRADUATION RATE IMPROVEMENT

Illinois high schools graduated the most students they have in a decade, according to data released in the 2022 Illinois Report Card. The state's graduation rate, 87.3 percent, is the highest in 12 years, driven by consistent increases in Black and Hispanic student graduation rates every year since 2018. In addition to record graduation rates, the 2022 school year showed average student growth in the 54th percentile in language arts and the 52nd percentile in math, compared to 2021's 38th percentile and 2019's 50th percentile in both language arts and math. The Illinois State Board of Education also announced that Illinois has defied national trends of growing teacher shortages, adding 2,500 last year, including 500 Black and Hispanic teachers. ISBE's full 2021-2022 school year report card data can be found [HERE](#).

AP EXAM TAKERS RANKS 5TH IN NATION, BACK TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

The number of Illinois students taking Advance Placement (AP) exams has rebounded from the pandemic, leading Illinois to rank 5th in the nation in exam takers, according to the Illinois State Board of Education. The state saw 7.2 percent more students taking AP exams in 2022 compared to 2021. Additionally, 72,000 students received a 3 or higher on those exams, 18.5 percent more than in 2021.

PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION AWARDS \$8.6 MILLION FOR SOUTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS TRAINING & INNOVATION CENTER

This state grant will be used to redevelop a warehouse in the city of Litchfield's Industrial Park and will create a regional training center, providing Career and Technical Training (CTE) for school districts in Montgomery & Macoupin counties, as well as displaced workers in the region. In partnership with Lincoln Land Community College and Lewis and Clark Community College, students will have the opportunity to earn college credits and industry credentials while still in high school – helping them meet the needs of regional workforce demands while preparing them for postsecondary success. The Center will offer training in auto technology, welding, as well as an Illinois Laborers' and Contractors apprenticeship program focused on the trades. The warehouse will be retrofitted to offer state-of-the-art facilities including a full-scale auto garage, welding center, and separate modules different areas within the trades – all designed for hands-on learning designed to meet the demands of the workforce, including Precision Machining, IT Certifications, & Agriculture Technology.

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

Jobs in clean energy grew by 5,000 in Illinois last year, mostly in electric vehicle and solar energy sectors. Overall, employment in clean energy grew by 5 percent statewide, employing more than 120,000 Illinoisans and leading the Midwest in clean energy jobs.

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report 2022 General Election November 9, 2022

Yesterday's general election saw Illinois voters cast ballots on a state Constitutional amendment, Congressional offices, every statewide Constitutional office, every seat in the Illinois General Assembly and, in 12 counties, a spot on the state's Supreme Court.

Earlier this year, what once seemed like an inevitably good year for Republicans was thrown out of whack by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision reversing Roe v. Wade, which ended the Constitutional right to an abortion. Democrats started to believe that they could overcome the typical poor performance of the president's party in a midterm election. As the Roe decision faded and gas prices started to creep up again, so did Republican poll numbers. However, a GOP surge never materialized. Instead, voters turned out to support Democrats in a big way. (It must be said some of these races could change as more ballots are counted.)

Illinois Democrats now control:

- All 8 statewide seats (six constitutional officers and two US Senators)
- A 14-3 Congressional advantage
- A 5-2 advantage on the Illinois Supreme Court
- A supermajority in the Illinois Senate: possibly 39 Dem – 20 GOP, which is a net loss of -2 Democrats
- A supermajority in the Illinois House: possibly 77 Dem – 41 GOP, which is a net gain of +4 Democrats

At the top of the ticket, Illinois saw a Democratic sweep. Even with the late surge in Republican polling, all **statewide Constitutional officers** (Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller, and Treasurer) enjoyed commanding polling leads heading into Election Day, and all won by double digits. All statewide office holders will continue to be held by Democrats for the next four years.

Democrat incumbent **U.S. Senator** Tammy Duckworth faced an unsuccessful challenge by Republican Kathy Salvi, an attorney from north suburban Mundelein.

ILLINOIS WORKERS RIGHTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Also on the ballot was a **constitutional amendment** that would enshrine the right to organize and bargain over wages, hours, and working conditions as fundamental in the Illinois Constitution. The measure needs either 60% of those who vote on the question or a simple majority of those who cast a ballot in the election. As of this writing, the result is too close to call.

U.S. CONGRESS

The Illinois Democratic Congressional delegation safely held onto all its incumbents -- even increasing their House seats by one -- and now hold a 14-3 advantage. In the **6th Congressional District**, sitting Democratic Rep. Sean Casten defeated Republican Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau by eight points. The new **13th Congressional District** previously represented by Republican Rodney Davis, which stretches from East St. Louis to Champaign-Urbana and includes Decatur and Springfield, featured Democrat Nikki Budzinski, a former adviser to Pritzker who worked in President Joe Biden's administration, and Regan Deering, a philanthropist

and community activist. This seat was considered a toss-up, but Democrats handily picked up this seat. In the **17th Congressional District**, a C-shaped district which includes Bloomington-Normal, Peoria, the Quad Cities and Rockford, Democrat Eric Sorensen narrowly defeated Republican Esther Joy King.

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

This election cycle, Illinois had not one but two **Supreme Court** seats on the ballot, with the partisan makeup of the court hanging in the balance. Both seats were won by the Democratic candidate. Looming large over both races was abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, sending the issue back to the states.

The Illinois Supreme Court has seven total seats: three from the First District, which is Cook County alone, and one each from the four other districts across the state. Democrats have long held a 4-3 majority on the court but will now have a 5-2 majority. The three justices from Cook County are all Democrats, including **Justice Mary Jane Theis**, who was up for a retention vote this year and was successfully retained for another 10-year term and will serve the next three years as the Chief Justice. The justices from the Fourth District (central and western Illinois) and Fifth District (largely downstate) are both Republicans, with two vacant seats – the 2nd and 3rd Districts – decided on Election Day.

In the **2nd Supreme Court District**, winner Judge Elizabeth Rochford (Democrat) faced former Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran (Republican). Curran never served as a judge and was rated “not recommended by the Illinois State Bar Association, while Rochford has been a judge in Lake County for 10 years and was rated as “highly recommended” by the ISBA. The district covers DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry Counties. The **3rd Supreme Court District** includes DuPage, Will, Kankakee, Iroquois, Grundy, LaSalle and Bureau counties. Incumbent Republican Michael J. Burke was defeated by Democrat Mary K. O'Brien. O'Brien was previously a private attorney and a state legislator from 1997 to 2003 when she was appointed to the 3rd Appellate District Court. Justice Burke, appointed in 2020 to fill a vacancy, had served as a judge for the last 30 years.

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Down ballot, a big theme has been the vast disparity in campaign resources. Democrats had a much stronger advantage with campaign funds than Republican candidates.

As the outstanding votes come in, outcomes in close races may change

The super majority status of the **Senate** Democrats was never in question. Even though they lost two seats, they will still have 39 members in their caucus (36 members for a super majority), while Republicans will have 20 members (up from 18). With all state Senate districts up for grabs under the new map, only 25 of the Senate's 59 seats were contested. Of those, there were only a few Tier One races where both sides poured in millions of dollars. In the **District 48** race featuring Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, and state Rep. Sandy Hamilton, R-Springfield, spending topped \$6 million. Turner defeated Hamilton. In the **District 56** race between appointed Sen. Kris Tharp, D-Maryville, and Republican challenger Erica Harriss, Republicans picked up this seat. In **District 19**, embattled Sen. Michael Hastings, D-Frankfort, is trailing Republican Patrick Sheehan by less than 100 votes; however, this is one of those races where late ballots could change the outcome. In other Senate news, Senate Republican Leader Dan McConchie is currently leading his Democratic challenger Maria Peterson by less than 2,000 votes. Peterson is unwilling to concede, with more than 6,000 mail-in ballots outstanding in that district.

In the **Illinois House**, Democrats increased their super majority status, in the first test for new Speaker of the House Emanuel “Chris” Welch. Battling in newly drawn districts, 78 of the total 118 districts were contested –

12 more contested seats than in 2020. With limited resources, House Republicans fought to overcome super minority status, but they came up so short that Representative Jim Durkin announced the morning after Election Day that he will not seek another term as Minority Leader. As of this writing, House Democrats picked up a net four seats. The big shocker was the loss of Democrat Rep. LaToya Greenwood from East St. Louis. Even with her loss, the Democrat pick-ups in five currently Republican-held districts give them 77 seats out of 118 in the House (71 members for a super majority). Incumbent Republicans losing their seats include Assistant House Minority Leader Keith Wheeler from North Aurora and Rep. Chris Bos from Lake Zurich. The other two Democrat pick-ups were in newly drawn open seats. It appears Rep. Deanne Mazzochi of Elmhurst will narrowly defeat her Democrat challenger, but this is a close call that could change in the coming weeks.

COMING UP

The four legislative caucuses are scheduled to convene in Springfield on November 15 for the 2022 fall veto session. With no vetoes to consider, they are most likely to address concerns about the future of reproductive health, public safety issues related to the SAFE-T Act, firearm safety, mental health awareness, and the rise of online extremism. The caucuses will also be choosing their leaders for the upcoming 2023-2024 General Assembly. House Republicans will be jockeying for the selection of a new Minority Leader. Sen. McConchie will seek another term as leader of the Senate Republican Caucus. Senate President Harmon and Speaker Welch are both vying for second full terms.

Below is a breakdown of the Illinois legislative races. Again, as early votes come in, the outcomes could change. Please feel free to reach out with any questions!

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

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2022 ILLINOIS GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

U.S. SENATE

DEMOCRAT

Tammy Duckworth

REPUBLICAN

Kathy Salvi

LIBERTARIAN

Bill Redpath

U.S. CONGRESS

	<u>DEMOCRAT</u>	<u>REPUBLICAN</u>	<u>THIRD PARTY</u>
1ST CONGRESS	Jonathan L. Jackson	Eric Carlson	
2ND CONGRESS	Robin Kelly	Thomas Lynch	
3RD CONGRESS	Delia Ramirez	Justin Burau	
4TH CONGRESS	Jesus "Chuy" Garcia	James Flakos	Edward Hershey
5TH CONGRESS	Mike Quigley	Tommy Hanson	Jerico Matias Cruz
6TH CONGRESS	Sean Casten	Keith Pekau	
7TH CONGRESS	Danny K. Davis	---	
8TH CONGRESS	Raja Krishnamoorthi	Chris Dargis	
9TH CONGRESS	Jan Schakowsky	Maxwell "Max" Rice	
10TH CONGRESS	Brad Schneider	Joseph Severino	
11TH CONGRESS	Bill Foster	Catalina Lauf	
12TH CONGRESS	Homer "Chip" Markel	Mike Bost	
13TH CONGRESS	Nikki Budzinski	Regan Deering	
14TH CONGRESS	Lauren Underwood	Scott Gryder	
15TH CONGRESS	Paul Lange	Mary Miller	
16TH CONGRESS	Elizabeth "Lisa" Haderlein	Darin LaHood	
17TH CONGRESS	Eric Sorensen	Esther Joy King	

Bold = Elected Official; *Italics* = Appointed Official; (**Bold in parentheses**) = Not running; **Highlight** = Winner
Information from the Illinois State Board of Elections Website Candidate List

ILLINOIS CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

	<u>DEMOCRAT</u>	<u>REPUBLICAN</u>	<u>LIBERTARIAN</u>
GOVERNOR	JB Pritzker	Darren Bailey	Scott Schluter
LT. GOVERNOR	Juliana Stratton	Stephanie Trussell	John Phillips
ATTORNEY GENERAL	Kwame Raoul	Thomas DeVore	Daniel Robin
SECRETARY OF STATE	Alexi Giannoulas	Dan Brady	Jon Stewart
COMPTROLLER	Susana Mendoza	Shannon Teresi	Deirdre McCloskey
TREASURER	Michael Frerichs	Tom Demmer	Preston Nelson

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

	<u>DEMOCRAT</u>	<u>REPUBLICAN</u>
2ND DISTRICT Justice Thomas Vacancy	Elizabeth "Liz" Rochford	Mark C. Curran, Jr.
3RD DISTRICT Justice Kilbride Vacancy	Mary K. O'Brien	<i>Michael J. Burke</i>

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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE – 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Contested Races

	<u>DEMOCRAT</u>	<u>REPUBLICAN</u>
6TH DISTRICT	Sara Feigenholtz	Nicole Drewery
9TH DISTRICT	Laura Fine	Paul Kelly
11TH DISTRICT	Mike Porfirio	Thomas “Mac” McGill
18TH DISTRICT	Bill Cunningham	Christine Shanahan McGovern
19TH DISTRICT **	Michael Hastings	Patrick Sheehan
20TH DISTRICT	Cristina Pacione-Zayas	Patrycja “PR” Karlin
21ST DISTRICT	Laura Ellman	Kathleen Murray
23RD DISTRICT	Suzy Glowiak Hilton	Dennis Reboletti
24TH DISTRICT	Lauren “Laurie” Nowak	Seth Lewis*
25TH DISTRICT	Karina Villa	Heather Brown
26TH DISTRICT	Maria Peterson	Dan McConchie
27TH DISTRICT	Ann Gillespie	Bill Robertson
28TH DISTRICT	Laura Murphy	Sal Raspanti
31ST DISTRICT	Mary Edly-Allen	Adam Solano
32ND DISTRICT	Allena Barbato	Craig Wilcox
34TH DISTRICT	Steve Stadelman	Juan Reyes
36TH DISTRICT	Michael Halpin	Mike Thoms
40TH DISTRICT	Patrick Joyce	Philip Nagel
42ND DISTRICT	Linda Holmes	Paul Santucci
43ND DISTRICT	Rachel Ventura	Diane Harris
45TH DISTRICT	Gerald Podraza	Andrew Chesney*
46TH DISTRICT	Dave Koehler	Desi Anderson
48TH DISTRICT	Doris Turner	Sandy Hamilton*
56TH DISTRICT **	<i>Kris Tharp</i>	Erica Conway Harriss
57TH DISTRICT	Christopher Belt	Wavey Lester II
TOTAL	39	20

*Currently serving House member

**Change in Party

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Information from the Illinois State Board of Elections Website Candidate List

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
****Contested Races****

	<u>DEMOCRAT</u>	<u>REPUBLICAN</u>
3RD DISTRICT	Eva-Dina Delgado	Jonathan Serrano
4TH DISTRICT	Lilian Jimenez	JD Sloat
6TH DISTRICT	Sonya Harper	Leonard Griffin
7TH DISTRICT	Emanuel “Chris” Welch	Eddie Kornegay, Jr.
8TH DISTRICT	LaShawn K. Ford	Thomas Hurley
11TH DISTRICT	Ann Williams	Marc James
12TH DISTRICT	Margaret Croke	George Kemper
13TH DISTRICT	Hoan Huynh	Alper Turan
15TH DISTRICT	Michael Kelly	Mark Albers
16TH DISTRICT	Kevin Olickal	Vince Romano
17TH DISTRICT	Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz	Bradley Martin
18TH DISTRICT	Robyn Gabel	Charles Hutchinson
19TH DISTRICT	Lindsey LaPointe	Michael Harn
21ST DISTRICT	Abdelnasser Rashid	Matthew Schultz
22ND DISTRICT	Angie Guerrero-Cuellar	Carlos Alvarez
23RD DISTRICT	Edgar Gonzalez, Jr.	Lupe Castillo
27TH DISTRICT	Justin Slaughter	Beth O’Neil
29TH DISTRICT	Thaddeus Jones	Jeffery Coleman
30TH DISTRICT	William “Will” Davis	Patricia Bonk
31ST DISTRICT	Mary Flowers	Kenneth Yerkes
32ND DISTRICT	Cyril Nichols	Carl Kunz
33RD DISTRICT	Marcus Evans, Jr.	Quintin Barton
34TH DISTRICT	Nicholas “Nick” Smith	Frederick Walls
35TH DISTRICT	Frances Ann Hurley	Herb Hebein
36TH DISTRICT	Kelly Burke	David Sheppard
38TH DISTRICT	Debbie Meyers-Martin	Tom Toolis
39TH DISTRICT	Will Guzzardi	Anthony Curran
41ST DISTRICT	Janet Yang Rohr	Richard Janor
42ND DISTRICT	Terra Costa Howard	Stefanie Hood
43RD DISTRICT	Anna Moeller	Angela Hallock Nowak
44TH DISTRICT	Fred Crespo	Patrick Thomas Brouillette

45TH DISTRICT	Jenn Ladisch Douglass	Deanne Mazzochi
46TH DISTRICT	Diane Blair-Sherlock	Robert R Stevens
47TH DISTRICT	Jackie Williamson	Amy Grant
48TH DISTRICT	Azam Nizamuddin	Jennifer Sanalitro
49TH DISTRICT	Maura Hirschauer	Kevin Wallace
50TH DISTRICT	Barbara Hernandez	Donald Walter
51ST DISTRICT **	Nabeela Syed	Chris Bos
52ND DISTRICT	Mary Morgan	Martin McLaughlin
53RD DISTRICT	Mark Walker	Jack Vrett
54TH DISTRICT	Mary Beth Canty	Michele Hunter
55TH DISTRICT	Martin Moylan	Michael Lupo
56TH DISTRICT	Michelle Mussman	E Dale Litney
57TH DISTRICT	Jonathan Carroll	Rory Welch
58TH DISTRICT	Bob Morgan	Mike Clark
59TH DISTRICT	Daniel Didech	Charles Roeske
61ST DISTRICT	Joyce Mason	Peter Pettorini
62ND DISTRICT	Laura Faver Dias	Adam R. Shores
63RD DISTRICT	Brian D Meyers	Steven Reick
64TH DISTRICT	Rick Konter	Tom Weber
65TH DISTRICT	Linda Robertson	Dan Ugaste
66TH DISTRICT	Suzanne M. Ness	Connie Cain
67TH DISTRICT	Maurice A. West II	Glen Oland
68TH DISTRICT	Dave Vella	Jonathan Ojeda
69TH DISTRICT	Peter Janko	Joe Sosnowski
71ST DISTRICT	Christopher Demink	Dan Swanson
72ND DISTRICT	Gregg Johnson	Tom Martens
75TH DISTRICT	Heidi Henry	Jed Davis
76TH DISTRICT	Lance Yednock	Jason Haskell
77TH DISTRICT	Norma Hernandez	Anthony Airdo
79TH DISTRICT	Erin Slone	Jackie Haas
80TH DISTRICT	Anthony DeLuca	Al Kuypers Sr.
81ST DISTRICT	Anne Stava-Murray	Paul Leong
83RD DISTRICT **	Matt Hanson	Keith R. Wheeler
84TH DISTRICT	Stephanie A. Kifowit	Joe West

85TH DISTRICT	Dagmara “Dee” Avelar	Chris Metcalfe
86TH DISTRICT	Lawrence “Larry” Walsh, Jr.	Scott F. Greene
91ST DISTRICT **	Sharon Chung	Scott Preston
92ND DISTRICT	Jehan Gordon-Booth	Benjamin Watt
96TH DISTRICT	Sue Scherer	Lisa Smith
97TH DISTRICT **	Harry Benton	Michelle Smith
98TH DISTRICT	Natalie A. Manley	Donna Russell
104TH DISTRICT	Cynthia E. Cunningham	Mike Marron
111TH DISTRICT	Joe Silkwood	Amy Elik
112TH DISTRICT	Katie Stuart	Jennifer M. Korte
113TH DISTRICT	Jay Hoffman	Ashley Hunsaker
114TH DISTRICT **	LaToya N. Greenwood	Kevin Schmidt
118TH DISTRICT	Van Ikner	Paul Jacobs
TOTAL	77	41

**Change in Party

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report November 18, 2022

The Illinois General Assembly convened this week for Fall Veto Session but didn't take action on any major issues. We expect to see changes to the controversial SAFE-T Act the second week of veto session, which is scheduled for November 29-December 1. Other controversial issues like abortion and gun control may not be taken up until the lame duck session in January or after the new General Assembly takes the oath of office.

Illinois election authorities are still counting late arriving vote-by-mail and provisional ballots, and final totals won't be reported until November 22, but there are clear winners in nearly all races.

KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Veto Session:** The Fall 2022 Veto Session is scheduled for **November 29-December 1**.
- **Lame Duck Session:** Members have been advised to be prepared to meet in Springfield on **January 4-10, 2023**.
- **Swearing-In Sessions:** The 103rd General Assembly convenes at noon on **Wednesday, January 11, 2023**. New Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis will swear in the Senate, and soon-to-be Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias will swear in the House.
- **Spring 2023 Session:** The **official Spring Session** calendar will be released after Veto Session.

SUPERMAJORITIES CONTINUE IN BOTH CHAMBERS

Senate President Harmon and House Speaker Welch raised an incredible amount of money and ran an unprecedented number of legislative races. Each caucus only lost one member, both in the Metro East where shifting population and low voter turnout heavily impacted the election. The **Senate Dems will have a 40-19 Democratic majority** in the 103rd General Assembly. The House Dems picked up 5 seats (plus another that looks to be a Dem win), which would give the **House Dems an unprecedented 78-40 Democratic majority**. Both chambers have turnover, with 22 new members in the House and 7 in the Senate, including several former members and those switching chambers.

The Republican minorities in the Illinois House and Senate elected new leaders for the 103rd General Assembly. Following the election, House Minority Leader **Jim Durkin** announced he would not seek another term, and Rep. **Tony McCombie** (R-Mt. Sterling) secured the votes for the position. She will be the first female House Minority Leader. Although she has yet to form her full leadership team, McCombie already named Rep. **Norine Hammond** as her deputy minority leader. Reps. Marty McLaughlin (R-Lake Barrington) and Tim Ozinga (R-Mokena) also pursued the position. In the Senate, Minority Leader **Dan McConchie** (R-Lake Zurich) drew a challenge from Sen. **John Curran** (R-Lemont), who was ultimately supported unanimously by the Senate Republican caucus.

Senate Democrats also voted to support President **Don Harmon** (D-Oak Park). House Democrats will hold its caucus on November 30th, although Speaker **Emmanuel “Chris” Welch** (D-Westchester) announced he secured the necessary votes within his caucus to continue as Speaker of the House.

BIG CHANGES TO THE HOUSE GOP CAUCUS

Rep. **Tim Butler** (R-Springfield) announced last week he will resign from the House and take a job with the Illinois Railroad Association. Republicans will fill his vacancy. Of the 11 HGOP members of Jim Durkin’s leadership team, only three will be returning for the 103rd General Assembly (assuming Rep. **Deanne Mazzochi** loses her race, as this race is still close): **Tom Bennett**, **C.D. Davidsmeyer**, and **Ryan Spain**. Along with Butler, Rep. **Dan Brady** of Bloomington ran unsuccessfully for Secretary of State, Rep. **Tom Demmer** of Dixon lost for state Treasurer, and Rep. **Avery Bourne** of Morrisonville made a failed bid for lieutenant governor in the June GOP primary. Rep. **David Welter** of Morris lost to a more conservative challenger in the primary, and Rep. **Keith Wheeler** of Oswego was unseated in the general election. Rep. **Mark Batinick** of Plainfield, meanwhile, chose not to seek another term.

WORKER’S RIGHTS AMENDMENT PASSED

Voters were asked to decide whether to amend the Illinois Constitution to include language that would constitutionally enshrine the right to collectively bargain wages and other terms of employment. To pass, the amendment must be approved by 60% of those voting on the question or a majority of those casting ballots. It likely will not reach the 60% threshold but appears to have passed with approximately 53% of the total ballots cast.

NEW MEMBERS IN THE ILLINOIS SENATE

1. Javier Cervantes (1 - D)
2. Mike Porfiro (11 - D)
3. Willie Person (16 - D)
4. Seth Lewis (24 - D)
5. Mike Halpin (36 - D)
6. Rachel Ventura (43 - D)
7. Erica Conway Harriss (56 - R)

NEW MEMBERS IN THE ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Lillian Jimenez (4 - D)
2. Hoan Huynh (13 - D)
3. Kevin Olickal (16 - D)
4. Abdelnasser Rashid (21 - D)
5. Jenn Douglas Latish (45 - D) *Still counting votes
6. Jennifer Sanalidro (48 - R)
7. Nabeela Syed (51-D)
8. Mary Beth Canty (54 - D)
9. Laura Dias (62 -D)
10. Gregg Johnson (72 - D)
11. Brad Fritts (74 - R)

12. Jed David (75 - R)
13. Norma Hernandez (77 - D)
14. Matt Hanson (83-D)
15. Bill Hauter (87 - R)
16. John Cabello (90 - R)
17. Sharon Chung (91 - D)
18. There will be a replacement named for retiring Rep. Tim Butler (96 - R)
19. Harry Benton (97 - D)
20. Dennis Tipsword (105 - R)
21. Wayne Rosenthal (108 - R)
22. Kevin Schmidt (114 - R)

COVID EXECUTIVE ORDER IS EXTENDED

[Executive Order 2022 - 22](#) reissues previous COVID-related Executive Orders through December 9, 2022.

PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS NEAR-COMPLETE DEFICIT ELIMINATION IN FIVE YEARS

The state's budget deficit will be mostly eliminated in five years, according to models released by the Governor's Office of Budget and Management Monday. The annual [Illinois Economic and Fiscal Policy Report](#) shows that the state can expect as much as a \$1.7 billion budget surplus for Fiscal Year 2023, rather than a \$3 billion shortfall as projected in 2019.

Gov. **JB Pritzker** has stated that he intends to pursue several actions to continue Illinois' strong path forward, including working with the Legislature to:

- Make additional deposits of \$1.3 billion into the state's rainy-day fund, bringing it to more than \$2.3 billion. While Illinois currently has its highest balance ever at \$1.045 billion, Illinois is still among the smallest state rainy-day funds;
- Set aside funds to pay off revenue bonds issued in 2010 to help the state pay bills that mounted during the Great Recession. About one-third of the \$1.5 billion borrowed at the time remains outstanding; and
- Make an additional contribution toward the Unemployment Insurance Trust fund. The Trust Fund's remaining debt to the federal government is \$1.345 billion plus interest, down from last year's level of \$4.5 billion.

GIANNOULIAS TRANSITION TEAM

Secretary of State-elect Alexi Giannoulias revealed his transition team members and a new website to gather ideas from the public for the Secretary of State's office. Members of the committee include retiring U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos; Stephanie Neely, former Chicago treasurer and now managing director at J.P. Morgan Asset Management North America Institutional Central and Canada; Martin Cabrera, CEO and founder of Cabrera Capital Markets and Cabrera Capital Partners; and Ed Smith, CEO and president of Ullico and a former leader of the Laborers International Union.

ISBE'S DR. CARMEN AYALA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala has announced plans to retire at the end of her current contract, which concludes January 31, 2023. Dr. Ayala has served as State Superintendent since early 2019, shepherding Illinois schools through COVID-19 and kickstarting their academic recovery – leading most recently to a decade-high in the state's graduation rate.

CYBERSECURITY PERFORMANCE GOALS

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released a set of cross-sector Cybersecurity Performance Goals (CPGs), which were developed at the direction of the White House, in coordination with the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and other agencies. The CPGs provide guidance to critical infrastructure partners to help them prioritize security investments toward areas that will have the greatest impact on their cybersecurity, and they are developed to be implemented in concert with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF). Every organization should use the NIST Cybersecurity Framework to develop a rigorous, comprehensive cybersecurity program. The CPGs prescribe an abridged subset of actions – a kind of “QuickStart guide” – for the NIST CSF to help organizations prioritize their investments. CISA is releasing an accompanying [Checklist](#) that prioritizes each Goal by Cost, Impact, and Complexity.

SOCIAL EQUITY FORGIVABLE LOAN

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will make \$8.75 million in Direct Forgivable Loans available to all conditionally-approved social equity cannabis license loan applicants in order to provide immediate access to capital. The loans are fully funded by the state. Craft Growers are eligible for \$500,000, infusers are eligible for \$250,000 and transporters are eligible for \$50,000.

CANNABIS DISPENSING ORGANIZATION LICENSES ISSUED

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation issued the first full adult use cannabis dispensing organization licenses to two social equity applicants: Ivy Hall and Green Rose, both located in Chicago. The agency anticipates issuing an additional 198 licenses in the near future.

GARCIA ANNOUNCED MAYORAL CAMPAIGN

U.S. Rep. Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (D-4) has formally announced his candidacy for Chicago Mayor. Garcia won reelection to the 4th Congressional District on November 8. He previously ran for mayor in 2015. With Garcia entering the race, that brings the number of candidates up to 14: incumbent Mayor Lori Lightfoot; State Rep. Kam Buckner; Chicago Alds. Sophia King, Raymond Lopez, and Roderick Sawyer; Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson; former Chicago Public Schools CEO Paul Vallas; activist Willie Wilson; police officer Frederick Collins; Freedom of Information Act expert Robert Earnshaw; activist Ja'Mal Green; and business executives Dennis “DJ” Doran and John Thomas. Rumored as a potential candidate, Chicago Ald. Tom Tunney has decided not to run for mayor.

CHICAGO 2023 BUDGET APPROVED

The Chicago City Council passed Mayor Lori Lightfoot's \$16.4 billion budget, 32-18, on Monday, November 7. The budget keeps the property tax rate flat and increases police spending. Mandated payments to the city's pension fund continue to grow year over year. In 2023, the city will spend \$2.6 billion in contributions to its four pension funds. This year's budget is also the first to reflect what many hope will be years to come of revenue from the city's forthcoming casino.

COOK COUNTY BOARD 2023 BUDGET APPROVED

The Cook County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the county's \$8.8 billion budget for 2023, which is free of taxes and full of plans to spend the county's federal COVID relief dollars on a slew of social programs. After amendments, the \$8.8 billion figure is a roughly 8% increase over her 2022 budget and nearly three times the size of Preckwinkle's budget a decade ago. That growth has been driven by the county expanding its flagship health system — at a 2023 cost of more than \$4 billion — and steadily rising pension payments, which will total more than \$500 million in 2023.

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

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ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report

December 5, 2022

The Illinois General Assembly was previously in session on November 15 and 16, where the focus was on electing caucus leadership and continuing negotiations on modifications to the SAFE-T Act set to become effective on January 1, 2023. Lawmakers returned for session November 29 – December 1 to act on a few other issues needing resolution before the end of the calendar year.

Legislators successfully sent to the Governor a bipartisan agreement on paying back the borrowed funds for the unemployment insurance trust fund ([Senate Bill 1698](#)); changes to the SAFE-T Act ([House Bill 1095](#)); an omnibus TIF extension bill ([SB 1595](#)); a sunset extension package ([HB 2406](#)); a revenue omnibus bill that will, among other things, prevent student loan forgiveness from taxation and boost electric vehicle incentives ([HB 5189](#)); and a Secretary of State package ([HB 5049](#)).

Several actions passed one chamber of the other and may be considered in the other chamber during the upcoming “lame duck” session in January. A few of those issues include a clean unemployment insurance appropriations bill ([SB 2801](#)), a hospital tax credit sunset extension ([SB 2951](#)), a government administrative package ([HB 1587](#)), a healthcare omnibus bill ([HB 4846](#)), and procurement reform ([HB 4285](#)).

Other issues expected to be addressed during lame duck session include a measure to ban the sale of assault weapons (just filed as [HB 5855](#)). Other working groups formed late summer, including the group working to address concerns about the future of reproductive health, continue their work. Those proposals should be released in the coming weeks.

KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Lame Duck Session:** Members will return to Springfield for the lame duck session **January 4-7**.
- **Swearing-In Sessions:** Monday, **January 9**, is the inauguration for the five state executive officers. The members of the 103rd General Assembly will convene at noon on Wednesday, **January 11**, for their inauguration. Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis will swear in the Senate, and soon-to-be Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias will swear in the House of Representatives.
- **Spring 2023 Session:** The new Illinois General Assembly calendar for the Senate (link [HERE](#)) shows lawmakers adjourning a week earlier than usual on Friday, **May 19** (no Memorial Day legislative session). The House has not yet released its calendar for 2023.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

House Democrats voted unanimously to retain Emanuel “Chris” Welch as speaker. Newly elected members, who officially start legislative work in January, were in Springfield for freshmen orientation during the last week of the fall veto session.

State Rep. **Lakesia Collins** becomes the new chair of the Illinois House Legislative Black Caucus after Rep. **Kam Buckner**, the current chair, finished his term. Buckner is also running for mayor of Chicago. In a statement, Buckner called the last two years “an inflection point” for Illinois “as we dealt with issues surrounding the pandemics of Covid, injustice and disinvestment.”

SEN. BARICKMAN ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

State Sen. **Jason Barickman** (R-Bloomington) plans to resign from the Illinois Senate next month. He has served in the Illinois General Assembly for more than a decade, winning election to the House in 2011 before moving over to the Senate in 2013. In announcing his decision on December 5, Barickman cited his desire to spend more time with his family. His replacement will be appointed via weighted vote by the district's 12 Republican county chairs. They have 30 days to decide once Barickman's resignation takes effect on January 10.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AGREEMENT

General Assembly leaders, the Governor's office, labor interests, and the business community have reached a bipartisan agreement to pay off the remaining \$1.36 billion unemployment insurance loan balance, replenish the fund for the future, and protect benefits for working families. The agreement will contribute more than \$1.8 billion in state funds to the unemployment insurance trust fund, which includes payment of the remaining federal loan balance borrowed under Title XII of the Social Security Act. The remaining \$450 million will be placed into the trust fund from state funds as an interest-free loan. As the loan is repaid over the next 10 years, funds will be deposited directly into the state's rainy-day fund.

SB 1698 is expected to be signed quickly by Governor JB Pritzker. That quick action is necessary to allow adequate time for the Illinois Department of Employment Security to prepare and deliver 2023 employer tax calculations. IDES indicated that it will be mailing the 2023 tax calculations during the first week of January.

The financial portion of the agreement is embodied in SB 2801, which was approved by the Senate. The House will be taking up the measure when it returns for a lame duck session scheduled to start on January 4.

SAFE-T ACT TRAILER BILL HEADS TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

A trailer bill to the controversial SAFE-T Act that is set to end the cash bail system passed on party lines through the Illinois Senate and House and is heading to the Governor's desk. HB 1095 passed the Senate 38-17 and the House 71-40. No Republicans supported the bill.

Among the changes to the bill are an expanded list of offenses for which a judge can order pre-trial detention and what they can consider when deciding whether an individual can be deemed a flight risk or a threat to public safety. It also clarifies that the changes will apply only to crimes charged after January 1, 2023. Those detained before January can apply to be released under the new provisions under a tiered system that gives preference to those detained who are not flight risks or considered a threat to public safety.

REP. MAZZOCHI AWAITS APPELLATE COURT RULING, DISCOVERY RECOUNT

When the legal deadline for counting late-arriving mail-in ballots passed last Tuesday, November 29, Rep. Deanne Mazzochi (R-Elmhurst) trailed Democratic challenger Jenn Ladisch Douglass by 343 votes. Mazzochi (a former College of DuPage board chair) says that she is waiting for a 3rd District Appellate Court ruling on a temporary restraining order approved by a circuit judge and upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court while it

awaited an Appellate Court ruling. Mazzochi alleges that the DuPage County Clerk was verifying signatures on mail-in ballot envelopes with the signatures on their application for the ballot, instead of verifying signatures based on voter registrations. She is awaiting the Appellate Court ruling for more direction on outstanding ballots and is beginning the process for asking for a discovery recount, the first step in asking a judge for a full recount.

SOS-ELECT GIANNOULIAS TRANSITION

Alexi Giannoulis, the Democratic Secretary of State-elect, has pulled together a huge transition team in an effort to transform the office that has been led for more than 20 years by retiring Secretary of State Jesse White. Giannoulis (a former chair of the Illinois Community College Board) has pulled together nine transition committees, which comprise a total of 125 members from across the state and from various industries -- including his former opponent, State Rep. **Dan Brady**. See the [full list here](#).

State Rep. **Bob Morgan** is leading the Driver Facilities and Road Safety Committee. Brady heads up the Organ and Tissue Donations Committee and serves on the Road Safety panel. Former state Rep. **Carol Ronen** is leading Voter Rights and Registration. Tech entrepreneur **Howard Tullman** heads up Technology Enhancements. Illinois Environmental Council's **Jennifer Walling** leads Environmental Initiatives. Highland Park Library's **Heidi Smith** heads up Library Enhancements. Broadhaven Capital's **John Simpson** leads Securities Division Policies. Velez Global Enterprises' **Letty Velez** heads up Business Services.

CHICAGO MAYOR'S RACE

Candidates in the competitive Chicago mayor's race had to file their petitions by November 28. A total of 11 candidates, including incumbent Mayor **Lori Lightfoot**, filed petition signatures to run. Ald. **Raymond Lopez** dropped out of the race before the filing deadline and is instead seeking reelection to the Chicago City Council. The deadline to object to signatures of opponents is Monday, December 5. The election is February 28, but if a candidate does not win at least half of the vote, the top two candidates compete in a runoff on April 4.

ALD. BURKE WON'T SEEK RE-ELECTION TO CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL

After more than 50 years on the Chicago City Council, Ald. **Ed Burke** will not run for reelection next year. Burke, who is Chicago's longest serving alderman, was indicted in 2019 on 14 counts including bribery, attempted extortion, and racketeering.

ILLINOIS DRIVER'S LICENSE EXTENSIONS HAVE ENDED

If you have an expired Illinois driver's license or ID card, it's officially time to renew. As a result of the COVID pandemic, the Illinois Secretary of State's office extended the renewal period for licenses and IDs, allowing extra time for residents to legally use expired cards. However, on December 1, that extended grace period came to an end. Although there is a grace period, driving with an expired driver's license can result in a hefty fine, or even a misdemeanor depending on the length of time that has gone by. Separately, the federal deadline to get a REAL ID has been extended two years to May 3, 2025.

ICCB PROVIDES MORE THAN \$9 MILLION TO ADDRESS EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PROGRAMMING EQUITY

The Illinois Community College Board has granted over \$9 million to 55 organizations, including 36 community colleges throughout the state, to help address education and unemployment gaps. The funding will be used to help minority and low-income students as well as individuals with disabilities remove barriers to completing their education and career goals through the Innovative Bridge and Transition Grant program. These initiatives improve student transitions to and through postsecondary education and into employment, support transitions for individuals with disabilities, and scale programs that promote equity and diversity among those served.

SECRETARY OF STATE AWARDS \$5.6 MILLION IN ADULT LITERACY GRANTS

Illinois has awarded over \$5.6 million in grants to over 100 local projects to promote adult literacy in the state. In addition to helping adults who read below the ninth-grade level or speak English at a beginning level, these programs also help adults learn English as a new language. Organizations receiving grants include those that train volunteer tutors, businesses that are looking to help provide onsite instruction to employees, and various other organizations, such as child-at-risk agencies, public libraries, correctional facilities, domestic violence shelters, and local schools.

SEIU PUSHES CHICAGO CANDIDATES TO BACK \$25 MINIMUM WAGE

SEIU, the big union expected to play a major role in upcoming city of Chicago elections, is asking candidates seeking its endorsement to take a position on a \$25 minimum wage. Other issues raised in the SEIU candidate questionnaire include whether sports stadiums and convention centers should have to reach labor-peace agreements if they receive city funds; whether the city of Chicago ought to restore health insurance for retirees; and whether charter schools need tighter regulation. Chicago's minimum wage is now \$15.40 an hour. It will rise automatically with inflation but is not expected to get close to \$25 for many years.

GOV. PRITZKER NAMES ERIN JOHNSON TO CANNABIS OVERSIGHT POSITION

Gov. Pritzker Monday has appointed **Erin Johnson** as the state's next Cannabis Regulation Oversight Officer, taking over for outgoing CROO **Danielle Perry**. Johnson previously worked as an Associate Corporate Counsel at Amazon, Chief of Staff at the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Associate General Counsel and Chief Diversity Officer in the office of former Gov. Bruce Rauner, and Litigation Associate at SmithAmundsen law firm. The CROO is a part of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and is responsible for coordinating state agencies on the regulation and taxation of cannabis sales in the state. Before becoming official, Johnson's appointment must be confirmed by the Illinois Senate.

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



ICCTA Government Relations and Public Policy Report December 16, 2022

*The 102nd General Assembly is scheduled to convene in its final days of **Lame Duck session** on Wednesday, January 4 through Saturday, January 7, and Tuesday, January 10. Legislation with an immediate effect date requires passage by a simple majority during the Lame Duck session.*

*The **103rd General Assembly** will be sworn into office at noon on Wednesday, January 11, with Constitutional Officers sworn in Monday, January 9. The new 2023 Illinois General Assembly calendar for the [House](#) and [Senate](#) show lawmakers will adjourn a week earlier than usual on **May 19** — no Memorial Day legislative session. The Governor will deliver a combined **Budget and State of the State Address** on February 15.*

KEY SESSION DATES FOR THE 103RD ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- January 11: Inauguration of the 103rd General Assembly
- January 27: Deadline – Senate Legislative Reference Bureau requests
- February 3: Deadline – House LRB requests
- February 10: Deadline – Introduction of Senate bills in the Senate
- February 15: Governor's State of the State / Budget Address
- February 17: Deadline – Introduction of House Bills in the House
- February 28: Consolidated primary election
- March 10: Deadline – Senate bills out of Senate committee / House bills out of House committee
- March 24: Deadline – Third Reading of House bills in the House
- March 31: Deadline – Third Reading of Senate bills in the Senate
- April 4: Consolidated Election (including community college trustee elections)
- April 28: Deadline – House bills out of Senate committee / Senate bills out of House committee
- May 11: Deadline – Third Reading House bills in the Senate
- May 12: Deadline – Third Reading Senate bills in the House
- May 19: Adjournment

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE: SENATOR SCOTT BENNETT

State Senator **Scott Bennett** (D-Champaign), 45, passed away on Friday, December 9, surrounded by his wife, family and loved ones from complications of a large brain tumor. A member of the Senate since 2015, he had served as chair of the Senate's Higher Education and Agriculture committees. Bennett is remembered as the guy who knew how to lighten a mood while getting things done for his constituents and all Illinoisans.

LEGISLATIVE RESIGNATIONS

Sen. **Jason Barickman** (R-Bloomington) announced his retirement from the Illinois Senate effective at the end of his current term, which expires on January 10, 2023. Barickman leaves the Senate after 12 years of service. In a statement, he announced his retirement now "to give the Republican Party leadership in my district time

to fill this vacancy so that a new Senator can be seated at the inauguration of the new 103rd General Assembly in January 2023.” State Rep. and former ICCTA president Tom Bennett (R-Pontiac) has expressed interest in being appointed to the seat.

State Rep. **Keith Sommer** (R-Morton) submitted his resignation on December 1, a move that could pave the way for his successor to take office early. The likely scenario is that state Rep.-elect **Bill Hauter** (R-Morton) will be appointed to serve the remainder of Sommer’s term, which would give him seniority over his fellow freshman legislators.

State Rep. **Delia Ramirez** (D-Chicago) has resigned her House post ahead of her inauguration as Illinois’ 3rd Congressional District representative. State Rep.-elect **Lilian Jimenez** won the 4th House district in November and will likely be appointed.

State Rep. **Tim Butler** (R-Springfield) also submitted his resignation, effective December 31, to accept a position with the Illinois Railroad Association. The local Republican party has not yet selected his replacement.

In addition, State Rep. **Deb Conroy** (D-Villa Park) has resigned from office, as she takes over as chair of the DuPage County Board. State Rep.-elect **Diane Blair-Sherlock** was appointed to Conroy’s seat on December 7.

GUN SAFETY REFORM PACKAGE UNVEILED

The House Democrats’ working group on firearm safety and violence has filed [House Bill 5855](#) (Morgan). The Protecting Illinois Communities Act would ban assault weapons; prevent the sale of high-capacity automatic rounds; require the registration of certain firearms; set up a strike team to combat illegal gun trafficking; and remove the ability of individuals under the age of 21 to own firearms if not used for hunting or military use. The House is holding subject matter hearings on the proposal. According to Gov. JB Pritzker, “Whether it happens during the lame-duck session [in early January] or regular session ... it’s important that we do it as fast as possible, there’s no doubt. I just want to be clear that our aim is to get it done in the first half of the year.” Two subject matter hearings have already been held, with the next hearing scheduled for December 20.

OTHER POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES DURING LAME DUCK SESSION

Other working groups formed late summer, including the group working to address concerns about the future of reproductive health, continue their work. Those proposals should be released in the coming weeks.

Gov. Pritzker will also ask the General Assembly to pass legislation giving his administration a “deal-closing fund” -- as much as \$1 billion in discretionary state spending to provide economic incentives to businesses locating or expanding in Illinois. Legislation would double the EDGE credit to 50 percent for underserved areas and increase the physical size of enterprise zones, in addition to the expansions already made to electric vehicle manufacturing tax credits.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS CERTIFIES 2022 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

On December 5, the Illinois State Board of Elections announced the certification of the 2022 General Election results. According to ISBE, more than 4.1 million voters cast ballots for a total of 51.06% turnout, the fourth lowest midterm turnout in the state in 40 years. More than 39% of the total ballots were cast before Election Day, with 18% cast by mail and 21% cast in person. The board confirmed that the constitutional amendment

securing the rights of workers to organize and collectively bargain passed with 51.42% “yes” votes of all ballots cast.

NEW STATE LAWS TAKE EFFECT

More than 180 new laws go into effect on January 1, 2023, including:

❖ **Illinois' Minimum Wage Will Increase on January 1, 2023**

Effective January 1, the statewide Illinois minimum wage will rise to \$13 per hour for non-tipped employees ages 18 and over. The \$1 increase is part of legislation signed by Gov. Pritzker in 2019 to establish a statewide \$15 minimum wage by 2025. Tipped workers may be paid 60% of the hourly minimum wage, or \$7.80, so long as they receive the difference in tips. Chicago and Cook County have a higher wage than the Illinois minimum wage.

❖ **Updates to One Day Rest in Seven Act**

The One Day Rest in Seven Act gives workers the right to a day of rest every workweek and breaks for meals or rest during daily work shifts. Changes to ODRISA under [Public Act 102-828](#) and [P.A. 102-1012](#) taking effect on January 1 include:

- *New meal and rest break requirements:* Requires employees be given a 20-minute break if working a 12-hour shift or longer, and at least 24 consecutive hours of rest in every consecutive 7-day period, clarifying the day of rest requirements for workers whose schedules do not align with a Sunday to Saturday calendar week.
- *Notice posting requirements:* All employers covered by ODRISA must post a notice at the workplace notifying employees of their rights under the Act. The Illinois Department of Labor will provide this notice on its website for employers to download and post.

❖ **New Smoke Detector Rules**

Beginning January 1, the state's Smoke Detector Act will be changed to state that any smoke detectors must have a "self-contained, non-removable, long term battery." The change was approved in 2017, but did not take effect until January 1, 2023. It applies to "residents that are still using alarms with removable batteries or alarms that are not hardwired." The change does not apply to devices which use a low-power radio frequency wireless communication signal, Wi-Fi, or any other wireless local networking capability.

❖ **Changes to the Family Bereavement Leave Act**

Illinois employers must provide up to 10 workdays of unpaid leave to workers who may miss work because of one of the following events: a miscarriage; an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or assisted reproductive technology procedure; a failed adoption match or adoption that is not finalized because it was contested by another party; a failed surrogacy agreement; a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility; or a stillbirth.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE

Secretary of State-elect Alexi Giannoulias named his campaign manager Hanah Jubeh and political strategist Scott Burnham as deputy secretaries of state in his new administration.

Among Giannoulas' top priorities is eliminating the "time tax" state residents pay to access simple government services. His agenda, which is still under review by a transition team, prioritizes developing digital licenses and state IDs that can be accessed by smartphones to cut costs and wait times, instituting two-year vehicle stickers, and implementing electronic car titles.

REVENUE GROWTH BOOSTS STATE BUDGET OUTLOOK

State budget analysts reported that they are raising their revenue estimate for the current fiscal year by \$4.9 billion over the assumed revenue levels. Revenue manager Eric Noggle, writing in the monthly report of the legislature's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, said that the upward revision was prompted by the strong overall performance of November's (tax) receipts, which increased by \$277 million. "Through the first five months of the fiscal year, overall general-funds receipts are up an amazing \$1.945 billion. Even when excluding the \$620 million growth from federal (coronavirus aid), the general funds base growth of \$1.325 billion is just as impressive," Noggle said.

GOVERNOR EXTENDS DISASTER DECLARATION THROUGH JANUARY 6

On December 8, Gov. Pritzker signed a new Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation regarding COVID-19, extending the statewide disaster declaration through Friday, January 6, 2023. Additionally, the Governor signed [Executive Order 2022-23](#), which extends previous executive orders. With the signing of a new disaster proclamation, public meetings may continue to be held remotely, in accordance with [P.A. 101-0640](#), if certain requirements are met.

PENSION DEBT GROWS TO \$139.7 BILLION

Illinois' unfunded pension liability grew by \$9.8 billion, or 7.5%, in the fiscal year that ended June 30, due in large part to market losses in a volatile economy. The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported that the total unfunded liability in the state's five pension funds reached \$139.7 billion, leaving them with a funded ratio of just 44.1%. All five of the pension funds continue to pay out benefits to eligible retirees on a timely basis.

\$40 MILLION FOR ENERGY TRANSITION COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Gov. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity have launched the [Energy Transition Community Grant Program](#), an initiative under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that provides funding to communities undergoing a significant energy transition. Based on criteria in CEJA, 22 areas have been identified as eligible to apply for the funding through the program. The program funds are designed to meet the needs of individual localities to address the economic and social impacts of plant closures and can be used on a variety of initiatives and investments, including workforce investments, housing support, business attraction efforts, and much more.

REAL ID DEADLINE AGAIN EXTENDED

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline an additional two years, from May 3, 2023, to May 7, 2025. With this extension, current standard Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports for domestic air travel until May 7, 2025.

NEW 730 AREA CODE COMING TO SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Commerce Commission announced a new area code is coming to southern Illinois. The new 730 area code will "overlay" the existing 618 area code to address the depletion of prefixes available for assignment within the region. The first prefix in the new area code will not be introduced until after July 7.

IDVA PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with the National Veterans Legal Services Program to provide access to free legal representation for Illinois veterans and their families in cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The partnership will allow veterans who have had disability claims denied by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have free legal representation when they file an appeal in the CAVC.

STATE RECEIVES \$350 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Illinois small businesses will have the opportunity to apply for over \$350 million in launch and growth funds as part of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative. The funds will be distributed through four programs: the state's existing Advantage Illinois program that provides loans to small business, a new Advantage Illinois loan guarantee program that will support businesses that have struggled to receive loans, a new venture capital program that will support emerging technologies and industries, and a Climate Bank Finance program that will support businesses working in the clean energy space. The SSBCI was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

NCSL CEO PREVIEWS 'HOT' ISSUES FOR STATE LEGISLATURES IN 2023

Tim Storey, CEO of the National Conference of State Legislatures, recently shared the organization's forecast for trending issues and themes among state legislatures in 2023. Workforce, labor, and employment issues were number one on Storey's list of "hot" topics heading into the new year. Based on conversations he has held with state legislative leaders, he said he has never heard such "unanimity" among states about what their top priority will be.

Additionally, he called education the "big bear in the room," saying that he expects states to focus on mitigating students' pandemic learning loss. Education, he said, is also another workforce issue in 2023 due to the shortage of teachers and other school staff.

The last issue states are "addressing seemingly across the board," Storey said, is behavioral and mental health issues. Coming out of the pandemic, Storey said that there is a huge amount of concern for this issue as it ties into education and public safety.

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



ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION



Bill Information

HB209 FOOD SERVICE BAN LATEX GLOVES *(MUSSMAN M)*

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Creates the Latex Glove Ban Act. Provides that, on and after January 1, 2023 a food service establishment may not permit employees to use latex gloves in the preparation and handling of food. Provides that, if latex gloves must be used in the preparation of food due to a crisis that interrupts a food service establishment's ability to source nonlatex gloves, a sign shall be prominently placed at the point of order or point of purchase clearly notifying the public of the temporary change. Provides that, to encourage compliance, the Department of Public Health shall send a notice of warning to a food service establishment for its first violation of specified provisions. Prohibits the use of latex gloves by (1) EMS personnel on and after January 1, 2023 and (2) health care facility personnel on and after January 1, 2024. Provides that, if a crisis exists that interrupts their ability to reliably source nonlatex gloves, EMS personnel and health care facility personnel may use latex gloves upon a patient, but shall prioritize, to the extent possible, using nonlatex gloves for the treatment of specified patients. Defines terms.



RECENT STATUS

6/16/2022 - Public Act 102-1095

6/16/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

6/16/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB1167 EDUCATION-TECH *(YANG ROHR J)*

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the School Code to provide for pay and benefits to school district employees and contractors who provide educational support services for a school closure or e-learning day. Provides for COVID-19 paid administrative leave for school district employees who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Provides for the return of sick leave used during the 2021-2022 school year to teachers and employees who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois to provide for the return of sick leave used during the 2021-2022 school year to university or community college district employees who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Provides for COVID-19

paid administrative leave for employees who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Effective immediately.

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - With respect to the Section of the School Code concerning e-learning days, provides that the definitions of "employee" and "school district" apply only to the amendatory provisions concerning payment to employees by school districts for e-learning days. Makes corresponding changes in the provisions of the School Code concerning charter schools.

House Floor Amendment No. 3 - Adds an exception to paying employees and contractors of a school district who provide educational support services for a school closure or e-learning day if the school day is rescheduled and the employee will be paid their daily, regular rate of pay and benefits on the rescheduled day when services are rendered.



RECENT STATUS

4/5/2022 - Public Act 102-0697

4/5/2022 - Effective Date April 5, 2022

4/5/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB1293

GOVERNMENT-TECH (LAPOINTE L)

House Floor Amendment No. 5 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Creates the Money Laundering in Real Estate Task Force Act. Establishes the Money Laundering in Real Estate Task Force and directs the Task Force to, among other things, assess the exposure of real estate sectors in Illinois to illicit Russian money. Amends the Election Code. Creates the Illinois Elections and Infrastructure Integrity Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations to prepare for and prevent foreign interference in elections in advance of the 2024 election and all future elections in the State and to prepare for and prevent potential cyberattacks on State infrastructure. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Grants the Department of Human Services emergency rulemaking powers with respect to its refugee resettlement program in the case of an imminent, large-scale refugee resettlement event. Amends the Deposit of State Moneys Act and the Public Funds Investment Act. Prohibits the investment of State moneys and public funds in certain investments or institutions tied to Russia or Belarus. Amends the Illinois State Police Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Division of Criminal Investigation shall conduct investigations of any property-related crimes, such as money laundering, involving individuals or entities listed on a specified sanctions list. Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that the State-funded retirement systems shall not invest moneys in Russian or Belarusian sovereign debt, Russian or Belarusian government-backed securities, any investment instrument issued by an entity that is domiciled or has its principal place of business in Russia or Belarus, or any investment instrument issued by a company that is subject to Russian Harmful Foreign Activities Sanctions, and no retirement system shall invest or deposit

State moneys in any bank that is domiciled or has its principal place of business in Russia or Belarus. Provides that as soon as practicable after the effective date of the amendatory Act, each State-funded retirement system shall instruct its investment advisors to sell, redeem, divest, or withdraw all direct holdings of Russian or Belarusian sovereign debt and direct holdings of Russian or Belarusian government-backed securities from the retirement system's assets under management in an orderly and fiduciarily responsible manner. Requires the Illinois Investment Policy Board to make its best efforts to identify all companies that are domiciled or have their principal place of business in Russia or Belarus and companies subject to Russian harmful foreign activities sanctions and to include those companies in the list of restricted companies. Makes other changes. Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall require a public institution of higher education to disclose to the Board any endowment or other donation given to the institution from a source associated with any individual or entity listed on the sanctions list maintained by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control or any company that is domiciled or has its principal place of business in Russia or Belarus and is on the list of restricted companies developed by the Illinois Investment Policy Board. Effective immediately.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the engrossed bill with the following changes. Makes changes to the findings of the General Assembly. Makes changes to the membership of the Money Laundering in Real Estate Task Force and the Illinois Elections and Infrastructure Integrity Task Force. Provides that the Illinois Elections and Infrastructure Integrity Task Force shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly not later than January 1, 2024 (rather than 18 months after the effective date of the amendatory Act). Requires the Illinois Elections and Infrastructure Integrity Task Force to also submit a report evaluating the 2024 election not later than March 1, 2025. Makes conforming changes. Effective immediately.



RECENT STATUS

11/30/2022 - Passed Both Houses

11/30/2022 - House Concurs

11/30/2022 - Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 House Concurs 109-000-000

HB3296 SCH CD-CAREER/TECH ED PATHWAY *(NESS S)*

House Floor Amendment No. 3 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the School Code. Requires a school district that enrolls students in grades 6 through 12 to adopt and implement a postsecondary and career expectations framework; sets forth requirements concerning the framework. Provides that a school district that enrolls students in any of grades 9 through 12 shall become an eligible school district and award College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act and pursuant to a specified schedule. Allows a school board of a school district to opt out of implementation of all

or any part of these provisions. Authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules. Amends the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. Requires the State Board of Education, Illinois Community College Board, Board of Higher Education, and Illinois Student Assistance Commission to, by July 1, 2023 and in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, jointly adopt and publicize an update to the model postsecondary and career expectations that extends the expectations to grade 6 and includes such other revisions and updates as the agencies deem appropriate. Requires the State Board of Education to consult with a statewide organization representing businesses and manufacturing. Provides that after consultation, the State Board shall publish and maintain on its website a current database, organized by region, of employer champions for work-based learning and career readiness systems and programs. Makes other changes.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the engrossed bill with the following changes. Specifies that by July 1, 2025, a school district that enrolls students in any of grades 9 through 12 shall either elect to implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements or opt out of implementation. Provides that a school district may elect to implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements either by submitting the necessary application materials to the State Board of Education or by the school board of the district adopting a timeline for implementation. Adds to the enumerated findings that a school board of a school district must adopt in order to opt out of implementation the willingness of institutions of higher education to partner with the school district for successful implementation of the pathway and whether the district has sought and established a partnership agreement with a community college district incorporating the provisions of the Model Partnership Agreement under the Dual Credit Quality Act. Provides that a school district electing to opt out of implementation may reverse its decision in whole or in part at any time. Requires the State Board of Education to publish and maintain on its website an inventory of resources available to support school districts in implementing College and Career Pathway Endorsements. Makes other changes.



RECENT STATUS

5/27/2022 - Public Act 102-0917

5/27/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

5/27/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB4201

HIGHER ED-BENEFITS NAVIGATOR *(WEST, II M)*

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Requires the governing board of each public university and community college district to employ a benefits navigator for the purpose of helping students at the institution of higher education apply for and receive assistance from benefits programs; defines "benefits program". Requires the governing board (i) to provide training for the benefits navigator, with training

guidance and support provided by the Department of Human Services, (ii) participate in a statewide consortium with other public institutions of higher education for the purpose of facilitating communication between benefits navigators at different institutions and developing best practices for benefits navigators, and (iii) develop an internal process to enable students to provide feedback and recommendations on how the institution can better assist students in determining eligibility for benefits programs and applying for assistance under benefits programs. Sets forth the duties of a benefits navigator. Effective January 1, 2023.

House Committee Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the contents of the bill with the following changes. Makes changes to the definition of "benefits navigator". Requires the institution of higher education (rather than the board of trustees) to designate (rather than employ) a benefits navigator who has a detailed understanding of eligibility requirements for benefit (rather than benefits) programs and campuswide and community resource support (rather than a detailed understanding of eligibility requirements for benefits programs and how to apply for assistance under benefits programs). Removes the requirement that the Department of Human Services provide training guidance and support. Requires the statewide consortium to be facilitated by the Board of Higher Education. Makes related changes. Effective January 1, 2023.

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - In the provisions amending the Public Community College Act, makes changes limiting the statewide consortium to community colleges. Provides that the Illinois Community College Board (instead of the Board of Higher Education) shall facilitate the consortium.



RECENT STATUS

6/7/2022 - Public Act 102-1045

6/7/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

6/7/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB4292

PEN CD-ACCELERATED BENEFIT *(MORGAN B)*

Amends the General Obligation Bond Act. Authorizes an additional \$1,000,000,000 of State Pension Obligation Acceleration Bonds. Makes a conforming change. Amends the State Employees, State Universities, and Downstate Teachers Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Extends the option for a participant to receive an accelerated pension benefit payment in lieu of any pension benefit or for a reduction in the increases to his or her annual retirement annuity and survivor's annuity to June 30, 2026 (instead of June 30, 2024). Effective immediately.



RECENT STATUS

5/5/2022 - Public Act 102-0718

5/5/2022 - Effective Date May 5, 2022
5/5/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB4320 PEN CD-EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS *(HALPIN M)*

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. In a provision that requires an employer to make an additional contribution to the State Universities Retirement System for certain salary increases greater than 6%, provides that the System shall exclude any earnings increase paid in an academic year beginning on or after July 1, 2020 (instead of any earnings increase) resulting from overload work performed in an academic year subsequent to an academic year in which the employer was unable to offer or allow to be conducted overload work due to an emergency declaration limiting such activities. Makes other changes. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.



RECENT STATUS

5/13/2022 - Public Act 102-0764
5/13/2022 - Effective Date May 13, 2022
5/13/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB4501 DENTAL PRACTICE-VARIOUS *(STUART K)*

Amends the Illinois Dental Practice Act. Provides that a person who uses teledentistry is considered to practice dentistry under the Act. Provides that a dentist may utilize and delegate dental services to a dental hygienist or dental assistant using telehealth only under the supervision requirements as specified in the Act for in-person patient care. Provides that a dental assistant who has at least 2,000 hours of direct clinical patient care experience continuing education provider approved by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation may perform specified procedures. Provides that a dental assistant who has completed specified training may perform coronal scaling and intracoronal temporization of a tooth under the supervision of a dentist. Changes the definition "public health setting" to include a prison. Changes the definition of "teledentistry" to include limited patient diagnosis and treatment planning (rather than patient care) using synchronous and asynchronous communications under an Illinois licensed dentist's authority (rather than a dentist's authority).

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause with the provisions of the introduced bill, and makes the following changes: Removes changes to the definition of "teledentistry". Removes a provision that provides that a person who uses teledentistry is considered to practice dentistry under the Act. Restores a provision providing

that a dental assistant who has completed training and is an expanded function dental assistant, may place, carve, and finish amalgam restorations, and place, pack, and finish composite restorations as allowed under provisions concerning acts constituting the practice of dentistry. Provides that a dental assistant who has completed training and is an expanded function dental assistant may perform coronal scaling as allowed under provisions concerning acts constituting the practice of dentistry and intracoronar temporization of a tooth. Provides that an order to a hygienist on which services are necessary to be performed on the patient who is unable to travel to a dental office shall be implemented within 30 (rather than 120) days. Provides that without the supervision of a dentist, a dental hygienist may perform dental health education functions, including instruction in proper oral health care and dental hygiene in either a school setting or a long-term care facility. Provides that a dental hygienist may record care (instead of case) histories and oral conditions observed at any time prior to a clinical exam by a dentist.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause with the provisions of the engrossed bill, and makes the following changes: Provides that a dental assistant who has completed training and is an expanded function dental assistant may perform coronal scaling only on patients 17 (instead of 12) years of age or younger who have an absence of periodontal disease and who are not medically compromised as allowed under provisions concerning acts constituting the practice of dentistry and intracoronar temporization of a tooth. Restores a provision that provides that coronal sealing shall only be utilized on patients who are eligible for Medicaid, who are uninsured, or whose household income is not greater than 400% (rather than 200%) of the federal poverty level. Provides that an order to a hygienist on which services are necessary to be performed on the patient who is unable to travel to a dental office shall be implemented within 45 (rather than 30) days.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 - Expands the definition of "public health setting" to include a long-term care facility. Provides that the training program for expanded functions for dental assistants or hygienists must include a minimum of 32 hours of instruction in both didactic and clinical manikin or human subject instruction (rather than a minimum of 16 hours of instruction in both didactic and clinical manikin or human subject instruction). Provides that coronal scaling performed by dental assistants shall be utilized on patients whose household income is not greater than 300% (rather than 400%) of the federal poverty level. Provides that a dental hygienist who is certified as a public health dental hygienist may provide services to patients who are uninsured and whose household income is not greater than 300% (rather than 200%) of the federal poverty level.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 - Expands the definition of "public health setting" to include a long-term care facility. Provides that the training program for expanded functions for dental assistants or hygienists must include a minimum of 32 hours of instruction in both didactic and clinical manikin or human subject instruction (rather than a minimum of 16 hours of instruction in both didactic and clinical manikin or human subject instruction). Provides that coronal scaling performed by dental assistants shall be utilized on patients whose household income is not greater than 300% (rather than 400%) of the federal poverty level. Provides that a dental hygienist who is certified as a public health dental hygienist may provide services to patients

who are uninsured and whose household income is not greater than 300% (rather than 200%) of the federal poverty level.



RECENT STATUS

5/27/2022 - Public Act 102-0936

5/27/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

5/27/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB4740

PERSONNEL CD-BILINGUAL PAY *(MAZZOCHI D)*

Amends the Personnel Code. Provides that a bilingual pay supplement shall go into effect within 30 calendar days after an employee presents to the Director or the Director's designee a certification from either: (i) the designated testing program process selected by the Director; or (ii) an Illinois community college confirming that language skill proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking has been satisfied by the employee. Provides for the acceptance of certifications of linguistic competence from pre-approved third parties for needs that require a certain linguistic ability. Provides further requirements concerning the testing and certification of linguistic ability for job positions.

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Provides that a bilingual pay supplement shall be processed (rather than go into effect) within 30 calendar days after an employee presents to the Director of Central Management Services, or his or her designee, specified certification. Provides that no later than January 2024 (rather than January 2023), the Department of Central Management Services shall authorize at least one if not more community colleges in specified regions of the State to pre-test and certify linguistic ability for specified purposes.



RECENT STATUS

5/27/2022 - Public Act 102-0952

5/27/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

5/27/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB5175

HIGHER ED-VET GRANT PROGRAM *(KIFOWIT S)*

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Changes definition of qualified applicant. Provides that a qualifying condition requires that the person applying must have received an honorable discharge after leaving federal active duty service (instead of received an honorable discharge after leaving each period of federal active duty service). Effective immediately.

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause with the provisions of the introduced bill with the following changes. Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that if a person is on active duty (instead of active military duty) or is entitled to veterans' education assistance (instead of is receiving veterans' education benefits), then the board of trustees of a community college district shall deem that person an in-district (instead of Illinois) resident for tuition purposes for any academic quarter, semester, or term, as applicable. Effective immediately.



RECENT STATUS

5/13/2022 - Public Act 102-0800

5/13/2022 - Effective Date May 13, 2022

5/13/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB5225

APPRENTICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM *(HARPER S)*

Creates the Apprentice Assistance and Support Services Pilot Program Act. Provides that the Department of Labor shall develop a 5 year Apprentice Assistance and Support Services Pilot Program. Specifies that the Pilot Program shall provide transportation assistance and a child care subsidy to eligible individuals participating in a qualified apprenticeship. Provides that no later than January 1, 2028, the Department shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report that evaluates the results of the Pilot Program and its effectiveness in assisting Program participants in entering the workforce or in obtaining better employment. Provides for the adoption of rules. Repeals Act on January 1, 2029.

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the introduced bill with the following changes: Changes the name to the Act to the Job Training Assistance and Support Services Pilot Program Act. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (rather than the Department of Labor) shall develop the Pilot Program. Provides that the Department shall award grants to organizations to distribute subsidies to qualifying individuals. Provides that to be eligible for assistance under the Pilot Program, an individual is required to participate in a registered apprenticeship program, pre-apprenticeship program as defined by the United States Department of Labor, or work-based learning programs, such as an internship, paid work experience, transitional jobs training, on-the-job training, or incumbent worker programs administered by the Department. Provides that the assistance provided by the Pilot Program may include funds for transportation, child care, housing-related expenses, including, but not limited to, rent and utilities, transportation, child care, digital technology needs, education needs, mental health services, substance abuse services, income support, and work-related supplies that are not typically covered by programmatic supportive services.



RECENT STATUS

5/13/2022 - Public Act 102-0803

5/13/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

5/13/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB5464

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION *(STUART K)*

Amends the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act by changing the definition of "institution of higher learning" and removing provisions related to the collection of data, data sharing, and analysis. Amends the Private Business and Vocational Schools Act of 2012 to require schools operating under the Act to be issued 5-year permits of approval by the Board of Higher Education; makes other changes. Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Makes changes to provisions concerning the terms or vacancies of members of the Board of Higher Education. Adds provisions concerning the implementation of equity plans and practices in regard to the underrepresentation of certain groups in higher education; and sets forth certain requirements that must be included in an equity plan. Changes provisions concerning the closing of an institution of higher education and the retention of student records. Amends the Higher Education Cooperation Act by changing the term "Illinois master plan" to "Illinois strategic plan". Amends the Academic Degree Act. Makes changes to provisions concerning the approval of notices, amendments, applications, or proposed degree programs submitted to the Board of Higher Education; amends provisions concerning the inspection of records. Adds a provision requiring any certified institution to make certain disclosures if the United States Department of Education places the institution on heightened cash monitoring or reimbursement payment methods. Allows the Board of Higher Education to issue an order to cease and desist to any educational entity operating without authorization issued by the Board of Higher Education. Makes related and other changes to the Private College Act. Changes a reporting date to February 15, 2023 (rather than January 1, 2023) in the Developmental Education Reform Act; makes a related change. Effective immediately.



RECENT STATUS

6/7/2022 - Public Act 102-1046

6/7/2022 - Effective Date June 7, 2022

6/7/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HB5506

HIGHR ED-DUAL CREDIT-STANDARDS *(STUART K)*

Amends the Dual Credit Quality Act. Provides that a partnership agreement entered into between a community college district and a school district shall allow a high school student who

does not otherwise meet the community college district's academic eligibility requirements to enroll in a dual credit course, but only for high school credit. Makes changes concerning the professional development plans of instructors and the information the Illinois Community College Board must annually report.

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Adds a requirement to high school and community college partnership agreements. Adds a provision limiting a high school student who does not otherwise meet the community college district's academic eligibility requirements to enrollment in a dual credit course taught at a high school. Adds a provision permitting instructors, in coordination with their higher learning partner, to differentiate instruction by credit section. Changes the date by which an instructor who does not meet the faculty credential standards allowed by the Higher Learning Commission can raise his or her credentials to January 1, 2025 (instead of January 1, 2026). Changes the date regarding the maximum length of the professional development plan to January 1, 2028 (instead of January 1, 2029). Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall also report information concerning the professional development plans of instructors. Adds separate provisions concerning instructors who enter into a professional development plan on or after January 1, 2023. Removes the amendatory language concerning instructors in career and technical education courses. Adds a provision requiring that within 15 days after entering into or renewing a partnership agreement, an institution of higher learning shall notify its faculty of the agreement, including access to copies of the agreement if requested.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 - Adds provisions requiring that school districts and community colleges annually assess disaggregated data pertaining to dual credit course enrollments, completions, and subsequent postsecondary enrollment and performance to the extent feasible. Adds a provision requiring that high schools establish procedures, prior to the first day of class, to notify all individual high school students enrolled in a mixed enrollment dual credit course that includes students who have and have not met the criteria for dual credit coursework of whether or not they are eligible to earn college credit for the course.



RECENT STATUS

6/10/2022 - Public Act 102-1077

6/10/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

6/10/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

HR582

P-20 COUNCIL-COLLEGE TSK FORCE *(WEST, II M)*

Urges the P-20 Council to convene a geographically representative College and Career Readiness (CCR) Funding and Governance Task Force to address the following: (1) Local and national best practices pertaining to regional college and career readiness system governance and funding, including the roles of regional partners including secondary districts, community

colleges, and employers, (2) Recommendations for a regional college and career readiness governance model inclusive of Career and Technical Education, the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act, the Dual Credit Quality Act, and the Education and Workforce Equity Act and addressing the State's equity-based postsecondary attainment targets, (3) Recommendations to ensure the State's Career and Technical Education fund disbursement methodology supports the State's CTE vision as outlined in the State's Perkins V plan to "empower and support all students to achieve their life and career goals through an aligned, equitable, and high-quality career pathway system", and (4) Recommendations to clarify and affirm the role of regional college and career readiness systems in addressing State goals as outlined in State agency plans, including the State Perkins Plan, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan, the Higher Education Strategic Plan, and any plan emerging from the P-20 Council's work to meet the requirements of HB2170.



RECENT STATUS

3/16/2022 - House Higher Education

3/15/2022 - RESOLUTION ADOPTED Adopted by Voice Vote.

3/15/2022 - Resolutions Order of Resolutions

SB1915

PROCUREMENT-SINGLE USE PLASTIC *(MORRISON J)*

Senate Floor Amendment No. 4 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the introduced bill with changes. Provides that when a State agency or institution of higher education contract (rather than only a State contract) is to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, an otherwise qualified bidder who will fulfill the contract through the use of compostable foodware or recyclable foodware may be given preference over other bidders unable to do so; provided that the bid is not more than 5% greater than the cost of products that are single-use plastic disposable foodware. Provides that the contract awarded the cost preference shall also include the option of providing the State agency or institution of higher education with single-use plastic straws. Prohibits the procurement and use of single-use plastic disposable foodware at State parks and natural areas (removes the Illinois State Fair from this prohibition). Removes provision specifying that the prohibition does not apply to the procurement of single-use plastic disposable straws if a State agency is servicing medically vulnerable persons. Provides that the prohibition on the use of single-use plastic disposable foodware does not apply to the procurement of supplies for the Illinois State Fair. Makes conforming changes.



RECENT STATUS

6/10/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

6/10/2022 - Public Act 102-1081

6/10/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB2991 PEN CD-SURS-MISTAKE IN BENEFIT *(MARTWICK R)*

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. In provisions concerning mistakes in benefit calculation, provides that if the amount of the benefit was mistakenly set too high, the error was undiscovered for 3 years or longer, and the error was not the result of incorrect information supplied or information omitted (instead of incorrect information supplied) by the affected member or beneficiary, then upon discovery of the mistake the benefit shall be adjusted to the correct level, but the recipient of the benefit need not repay to the System the excess amounts received in error. Provides that regardless of the date an overpayment is discovered, if the System determines that the overpayment has occurred for specified reasons, the System may recover the overpayment from the recipient thereof or the recipient's estate, plus interest at the effective rate from the date of the overpayment to the date of recovery, either directly or by deducting such amount from the remaining benefits payable to the recipient or the recipient's estate, or by any other means available to the System. Makes other changes. Effective immediately.



RECENT STATUS

5/6/2022 - Effective Date May 6, 2022

5/6/2022 - Public Act 102-0746

5/6/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3032 STUDENT DEBT ASSISTANCE ACT *(FINE L)*

Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Creates the Student Debt Assistance Act. Prohibits an institution of higher education from refusing to provide an unofficial transcript to a current or former student on the grounds that the student owes a debt; conditioning the provision of an unofficial transcript on the payment of a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript; or charging a higher fee for obtaining an unofficial transcript or providing less favorable treatment of a request for an unofficial transcript because a current or former student owes a debt. Provides that an institution of higher education (1) must provide an official transcript of a current or former student to a current or potential employer, even if the current or former student owes a debt; (2) may not condition the provision of an official transcript to a current or potential employer on the payment of a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript; and (3) may not charge a higher fee for transferring an official transcript to a current or potential employer or provide less favorable treatment for such a request because a current or former student owes a debt. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, requires every institution of higher education to have a policy

instituting a financial or physical hardship withdrawal process; sets forth requirements concerning the process. Provides that if an institution of higher education chooses to send a current or former student's past due debt to a debt collection agency, the past due debt may not be reported to any credit reporting agencies or used against that student in a credit report or credit score. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/27/2022 - Effective Date May 27, 2022

5/27/2022 - Public Act 102-0998

5/27/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3120 SUPPORT THROUGH LOSS ACT *(BUSH M)*

Senate Committee Amendment No. 3 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Child Bereavement Leave Act. Changes the name of the Act to the Family Bereavement Leave Act. Provides that all employees shall be entitled to use a maximum of 2 weeks (10 work days) of unpaid bereavement leave to be absent from work due to (i) a miscarriage; (ii) an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure; (iii) a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party; (iv) a failed surrogacy agreement; (v) a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility; or (vi) a stillbirth. Provides that the employer may not require that the employee identify which category of event the leave pertains to as a condition of exercising rights under the Act. Changes references from "child" to "covered family members". Defines terms.

RECENT STATUS

6/9/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

6/9/2022 - Public Act 102-1050

6/9/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3149 HIGHER ED-CHILD CARE RESOURCES *(VILLANUEVA C)*

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to annually include information about the Child Care Assistance Program and the federal dependent care allowance in the language that schools are required to provide to students eligible for Monetary Award Program grants. Specifies the information that must be included. Provides that an institution of higher learning that participates in the Monetary Award Program shall provide, at a minimum, the information to all students who are enrolled, or who

are accepted for enrollment and are intending to enroll, and who have been identified by the Commission as Monetary Award Program-eligible at the institution. Provides that an institution of higher learning shall also provide the information to any student identified by the institution of higher learning as a student with dependents. Provides that an institution of higher learning may designate a public benefits liaison or single point person to assist students in taking the necessary steps to obtain public benefits if eligible. Requires the Commission to adopt rules to implement the provisions on or before October 1, 2022. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/13/2022 - Effective Date May 13, 2022

5/13/2022 - Public Act 102-0829

5/13/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3761 HIGHER ED-SOCIAL WORKER-GRANT *(GILLESPIE A)*

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Renames the School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program to School and Municipal Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program. Expands the Program to require the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to, each year, receive and consider applications from eligible social workers working for an Illinois municipality who do not report directly to a police department (now the Program only accepts applications from social workers who are employed by a public elementary or secondary school in this State) to encourage a grant recipient to use the financial assistance for the repayment of educational loans.

RECENT STATUS

5/27/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

5/27/2022 - Public Act 102-1022

5/27/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3762 VETS-DEPENDENTS SCHOLARSHIP *(HASTINGS M)*

Amends the School Code. Provides that any spouse, natural child, legally adopted child under the age of 18 at the time of adoption, minor child younger than 18 who is under a court-ordered guardianship for at least 2 continuous years prior to application, or step-child under the age of 18 at the time of marriage of an eligible veteran or serviceperson shall, upon application and proper proof, be awarded a MIA/POW Scholarship. Provides that the holder of a MIA/POW Scholarship shall not be required to pay any tuition or mandatory fees while attending a State-controlled university or public community college in this State for a period equivalent to 4 years

of enrollment, including summer terms. Amends the Children of Deceased Veterans Act. Changes the name of the Act to the Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans' Dependents Educational Opportunity Grant Act. Requires the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide, subject to appropriation, for matriculation and tuition fees, board, room rent, books and supplies for the use and benefit of any natural child, adopted child, minor child who is under a court-ordered guardianship for at least 2 continuous years prior to application, or step-child of an eligible veteran or serviceperson, if the child is not under 10 and not over 18 years of age. Requires the child to provide proof of compliance with Illinois compulsory attendance requirements as provided under the School Code. Defines "eligible veteran or service person". Requires the Department to adopt rules on how to render payments to eligible minor children of deceased veterans or servicepersons. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/13/2022 - Effective Date May 13, 2022

5/13/2022 - Public Act 102-0855

5/13/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3789 LOCAL GOV CONSOLIDATION-10 YRS *(MORRISON J)*

Creates the Decennial Committees on Local Government Consolidation and Efficiency Act. Provides that, within one year after the effective date of the Act and at least once every 10 years thereafter, each unit of local government that may levy any tax (except municipalities and counties) must form a committee to: study local efficiencies, including an analysis of whether to consolidate with another unit of local government, municipality, or county; and create a report with recommendations regarding efficiencies, increased accountability, and consolidation. Provides that the duties of the committee include, but are not limited to, the study of the unit of local government's governing statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, powers, jurisdiction, shared services, intergovernmental agreements, and interrelationships with other units of local government and the State. Provides that the committee shall collect data, research, analysis, and public input. Dissolves the committee after completion of its report. Provides for committee membership, meetings, and report requirements. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the introduced bill with the following changes: Renames the Act to the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act. Removes a requirement that a committee study whether the governmental unit should consolidate with another governmental unit, municipality, or county and makes conforming changes. Amends the School Code. Provides that the report that accompanies the school district's annual financial report must be adopted at an open meeting that allows for public comment. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.



RECENT STATUS

6/10/2022 - Effective Date June 10, 2022

6/10/2022 - Public Act 102-1088

6/10/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3792 STATE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA *(CASTRO C)*

Amends the Children and Family Services Act, the Illinois Youthbuild Act, the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act, the School Code, the Public University Uniform Admission Pilot Program Act, the Public Community College Act, the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, the Illinois Insurance Code, the Pharmacy Practice Act, the Structural Pest Control Act, the Community Association Manager Licensing and Disciplinary Act, the Home Inspector License Act, the Real Estate License Act of 2000, the Illinois Public Aid Code, the Firearm Concealed Carry Act, the Illinois Vehicle Code, and the Unified Code of Corrections. Changes references from high school equivalency certificate to State of Illinois High School Diploma.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 - In the provisions of the School Code concerning high school equivalency, specifies that a State of Illinois High School Diploma is a recognized high school equivalency certificate for purposes of reciprocity with other states and a high school equivalency certificate from another state is equivalent to a State of Illinois High School Diploma.



RECENT STATUS

6/24/2022 - Public Act 102-1100

6/24/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

6/24/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3939 CYBERSECURITY-INFORMATION TECH *(SIMS E)*

Amends the Freedom of Information Act. Modifies the exemptions from inspection and copying concerning cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Amends the Department of Innovation and Technology Act. Requires a local government official or employee to be chosen to act as the primary point of contact for local cybersecurity issues. Amends the Illinois Information Security Improvement Act. Requires the Secretary of Innovation and Technology to establish a cybersecurity liaison program to advise and assist units of local government and school districts concerning specified cybersecurity issues. Provides for cybersecurity training for employees of counties, municipalities, and school districts. Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that State agencies are prohibited from purchasing any products that, due to cybersecurity risks, are

prohibited for purchase by federal agencies pursuant to a United States Department of Homeland Security Binding Operational Directive.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 - Requires the Secretary of Innovation and Technology to establish a cybersecurity liaison program to advise and assist units of local government (rather than units of local government and school districts) concerning specified cybersecurity issues. Provides for cybersecurity training for employees of counties and municipalities (removes training for employees of school districts). Makes conforming changes.



RECENT STATUS

5/6/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

5/6/2022 - Public Act 102-0753

5/6/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**

SB3990

SCH CD-SCH COUNSELING SERVICES *(PACIONE-ZAYAS C)*

Amends the School Code. Provides that school counseling services may include the promotion of career and technical education by assisting each student to determine an appropriate postsecondary plan based upon the student's skills, strengths, and goals and assisting the student to implement the best practices that improve career or workforce readiness after high school.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 - Provides that the school counseling services of developing individual career plans with students and assisting all students with a college or postsecondary education plan includes planning for postsecondary education, as appropriate, and engaging in related and relevant career and technical education coursework in high school.



RECENT STATUS

5/13/2022 - Effective Date January 1, 2023

5/13/2022 - Public Act 102-0876

5/13/2022 - **GOVERNOR APPROVED**