



SENATE IN REVIEW

A look at the 2017 accomplishments of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus

John J. Cullerton, Senate President

Communications Department | www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com



Senators,

It has been this department’s honor to serve and support you in contentious political times. With the state in the grip of an unprecedented budget crisis, we worked together to pass a balanced budget to restore certainty and security to Illinois, to expand our reach to constituents through social media and VOICE, and to support and advance the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

It has been a pleasure working with you these past five months. And while today is the end of the legislative session, it is the beginning of an exciting season of job fairs, town halls, and other events in your district. We look forward to working with you on these projects in the weeks and months ahead.

Brandy Renfro
Communications Director

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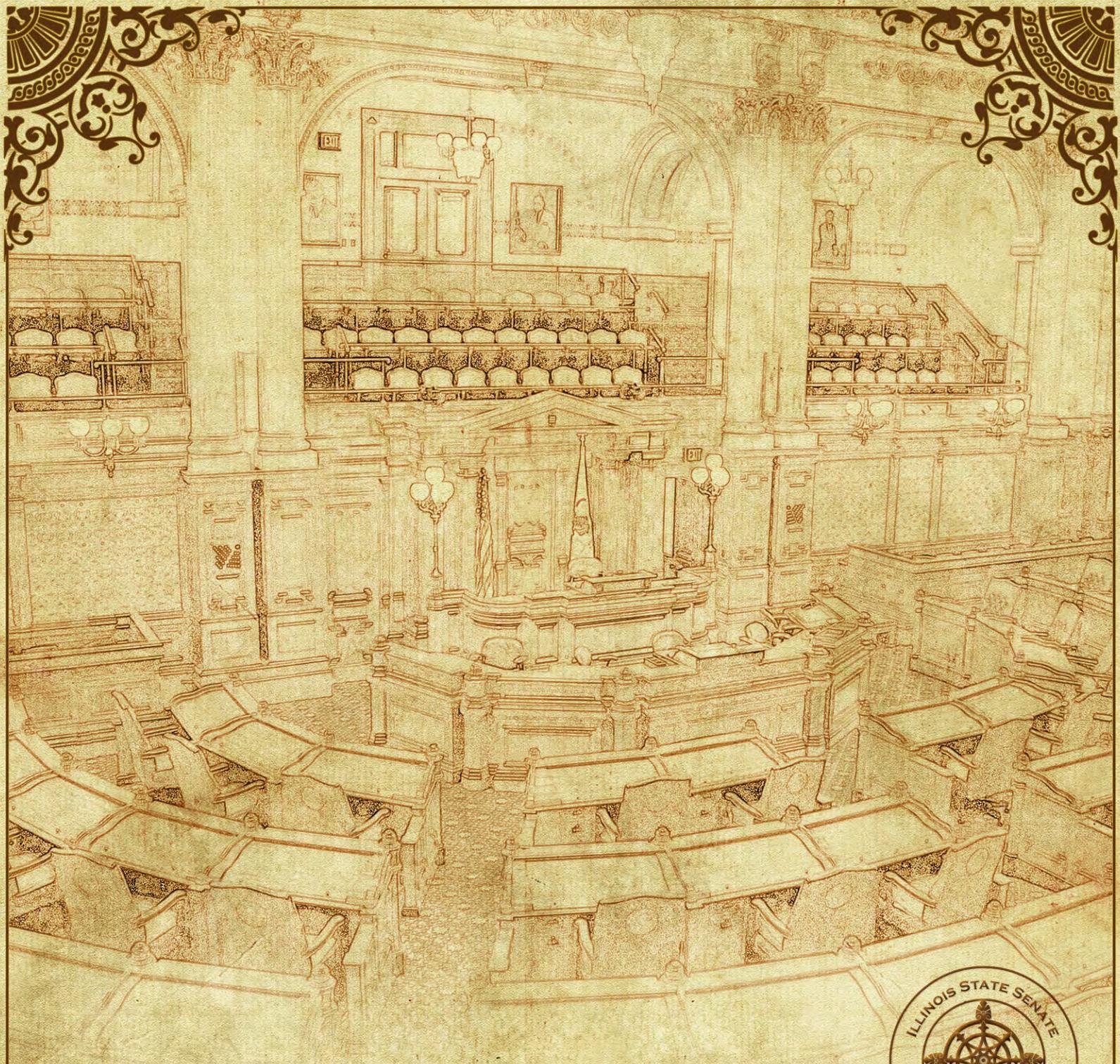
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LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

John J. Cullerton, Senate President

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Legislative accomplishments

Illinois Senate Democrats set the tone early for the 100th Session of the Illinois General Assembly, enacting Senate leader term limits on the first day of session and then unveiling a comprehensive set of reforms and budget plans designed to end the state's lingering fiscal impasse and restore stability to our economy.

The comprehensive package would become known as the Grand Bargain and through it, the Senate worked to solve the major economic problems being ignored by Gov. Bruce Rauner.

At its core, the Grand Bargain contained a full budget, something Illinois hadn't seen in nearly two years. With no budget, state debt exploded at a rate of \$11 million a day, producing a backlog of bills expected to top \$24 billion by Election Day 2018 and continue climbing.

Aside from the budget plan, there were nearly a dozen other provisions designed to bring about needed changes and build support for the balanced budget component.

For instance, local voters would be empowered to consolidate or eliminate local governments, property taxes would be frozen for two years, workers compensation costs would be reduced for businesses, pension reforms would save taxpayers billions, the state's archaic school funding system would be overhauled, and gaming expansion would open new economic opportunities.

The plan included budget cuts – ultimately totaling more than \$3 billion – and created new revenues through restoring incomes taxes and modernized sales taxes to wipe out the deficit in the governor's spending plan for Illinois. The budget included full funding for the state's public universities for the first time in two years, and it restored funding for student financial aid. Charitable groups that provide services and counseling on behalf of the state would also be in line for stable funding that would halt layoffs and preserve domestic violence shelters, cancer screenings, mental health counseling and numerous



other services.

Initially, Republicans joined Democrats in pushing for an end to the chaos caused by the lack of a budget. But as negotiations finalized and it came time to vote, Republicans repeatedly stalled and then finally backed out entirely, leaving Illinois Senate Democrats to lead alone.

And lead is exactly what they did.



By the end of May, Illinois Senate Democrats had approved every component of the Grand Bargain they'd unveiled back in January. Along the way, they garnered a great deal of civic praise and credibility for the common-sense approach to solving problems, something many feared lost in the era of big-money politics that accompanied Rauner into office.

However, while the Grand Bargain may have defined the spring session of the 100th General Assembly, there were numerous other accomplishments. Illinois Senate Democrats fought to raise the minimum wage to a living wage, pushed through an automatic voter registration system, worked for solutions to gun violence, protected the rights of our immigrant neighbors and offered legal assurances that women should make the same as men for doing the same – if not better – work.

It was a spotlight session for a caucus already known for its leadership on progressive policies.

Uniting for a responsible agenda that protects all Illinoisans

At a time in national politics when illiberal discriminatory policy appears to be the order of the day, Illinois Senate Democrats stood together to advance protections that reinforce the state's commitment to openness, inclusiveness and equality for all.

In a year when women marched all over the country to send a message of resistance against attacks on their rights and autonomy, Senate Democrats worked to increase protections to abortion access with House Bill 40. The legislation ensures that even if the landmark U.S. Supreme Court precedent of *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, women in Illinois will have the same access to abortion they have for the past 40 years. The matter took on new urgency this year as Gov. Bruce Rauner reversed his earlier position and declared he would not support women's right to choose.

As immigrants across the country have become subject to more intrusive and constitutionally dubious surveillance and prejudicial treatment by federal authorities, Senate Democrats moved to ensure protections for the Illinois immigrant community. The Trust Act, spearheaded by the Latino Caucus, ensures that federal authorities cannot strong-arm local authorities or institutions like schools into cooperating with immigration raids. In his first year in the Senate, Senator Omar Aquino was vocal in questioning Rauner's administration on how it will respond to the federal government's overreach.

And, as federal environmental efforts appear set for significant rollbacks, Senate Democrats advanced environmental protections. Senator Don Harmon carried legislation to ban the use of lead ammunition on federal lands – a harmful practice regulated under the Obama administration that is set to be reversed.

More work remains to be done. Senate Democrats stand ready to continue supporting a responsible agenda that protects all Illinoisans.



Senators target mismanagement of state resources

During another year without a budget, Senate Democrats remained focused on attacking mismanagement of state resources and taxpayer money.

Senator Andy Manar questioned Rauner administration officials on property practices that have led to a number of warehouse leases that cost taxpayers unnecessarily. Manar said he is concerned by the latest report about a third warehouse lease deal in Springfield, inked by the Rauner administration at time when the state has no budget and numerous state buildings in the city sit empty or underutilized.

“I think lawmakers have an obligation to continue asking questions and make sure the taxpayers we represent are getting best possible deal,” Manar said.

State Senator Tom Cullerton worked to stop the Illinois comptroller from making rental payments to the outrageous sweetheart lease deal and has launched an investigation through the Illinois Legislative Audit Commission to examine all suspicious state leases and contracts the governor’s administration has signed.

“Governor Rauner’s attempt to shake up Springfield has turned into a shakedown of Illinois’



taxpayers,” Cullerton said. “The governor needs to quit cutting deals for his friends and focus on cutting waste, fraud and abuse in our state. Right now, our schools are struggling to make ends meet, yet there are funds available to perpetuate what is clearly wasteful spending. We cannot afford this. This needs to be stopped right now.”

Senator Patricia Van Pelt also questioned the administration’s decisions to cut public health services in the governor’s proposed budget, a move she argued would result in untold damage and costs down the road.

“Every state agency across the board would need to cut spending by 20 percent to achieve the balanced budget the governor wants,” Van Pelt said. “Those kinds of cuts in public health would have dire consequences, and people deserve to know what those cuts could be.”

Senate Democrats move into the next fiscal year committed to transparent and responsible use of state resources.

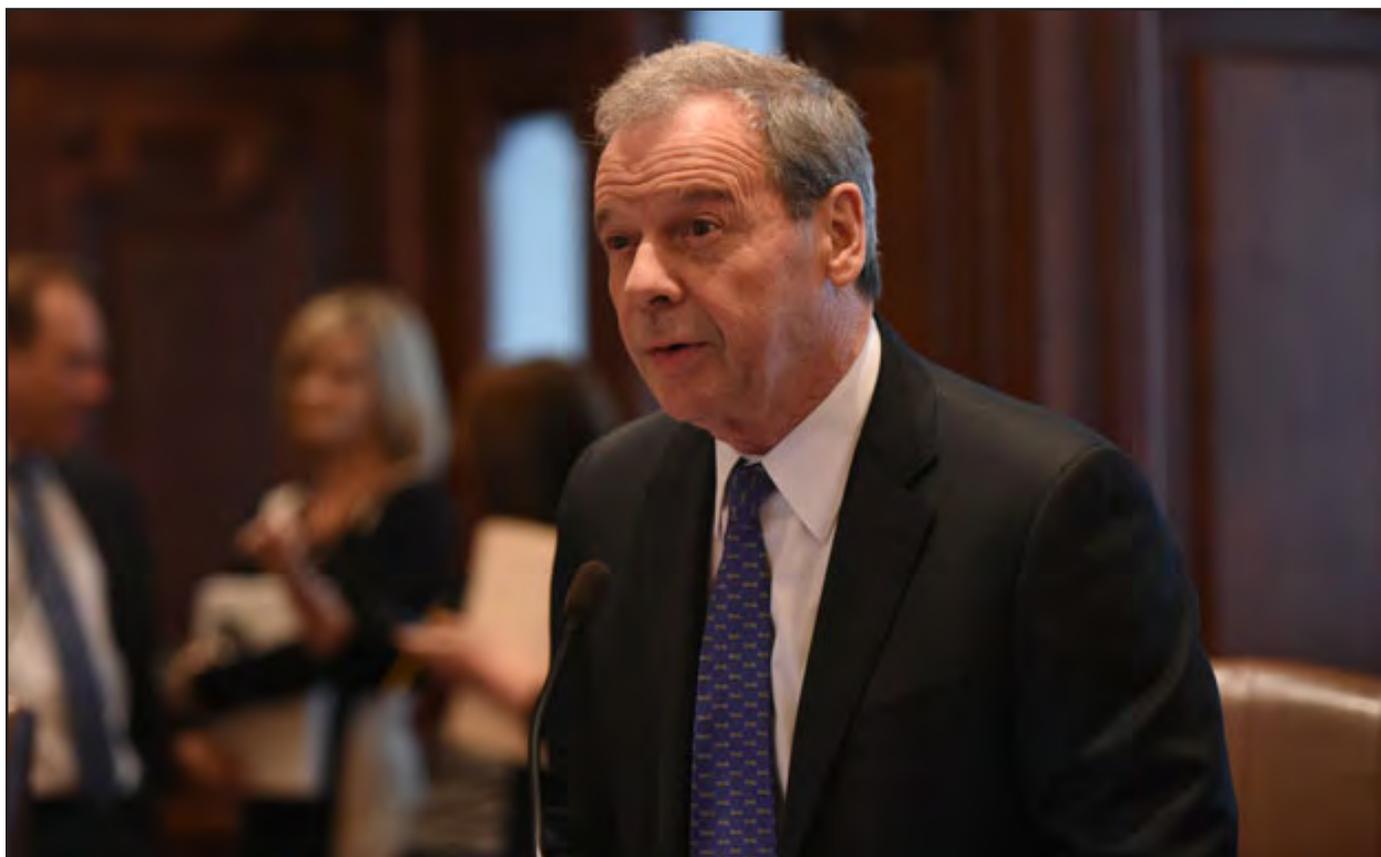
Criminal Justice Reform

Recognizing the complex nature of the violence that affects communities across the state, Senate Democrats pursued comprehensive criminal justice reform measures.

Legislation targeted at repeat gun offenders, sponsored by Senator Kwame Raoul passed the Senate in April. The measure recommends that judges sentence repeat offenders on the higher end of the existing sentencing range. It also puts in place reforms intended to lower the prison population and decrease recidivism, like increased access to re-entry programming, expanded eligibility for drug probation programs and a reduction in the protected area for drug crimes.

“It is vital that we distinguish between repeat offenders and those who just picked up a gun for the first time,” Raoul said.

With concern over police brutality growing nationwide, Senate Democrats approved a measure



requiring drug and alcohol testing after officer-involved shootings. The legislation, sponsored by Senator Mattie Hunter aims to increase accountability among law enforcement officials and improve credibility in police department investigations.

“Whether these attacks have been targeted or unfortunate accidents, this policy will hold law enforcement accountable for the frequent tragedies of deadly force,” Hunter said. “Officers must be held to the same standard as other professionals who are responsible for the lives of human beings. This should be a standard operating procedure for every police department.”

Finally, Senate Democrats advanced landmark legislation intended to restore trust between immigrant communities and police officers. This measure is particularly timely, with many immigrants living in fear due to President Trump’s statements and policies on deportation.

The Trust Act, sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton, creates safe zones at schools, medical facilities, courts and Secretary of State facilities where federal immigration agents would not be admitted without a criminal warrant. It also bars local and state law enforcement from participating in immigration enforcement without a federal warrant.

“If someone is going to be detained in Illinois, it should be because an actual crime has occurred, not because of how they look, what they believe or what paperwork they may or may not have. This proposal reinforces the message that our immigrant neighbors are, in fact, part of our community,” Cullerton said.



SPREADING THE NEWS

John J. Cullerton, Senate President

Communications Department | www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com





VOICE, a constituent relationship management database, provides our caucus with a uniform system to track important issues and communicate with the people back in district. The system offers a variety of tools to assess constituent requests and opinions and manage casework for legislative assistants and district office staff.

As a result, staff in district and the Capitol can instantaneously identify important issues and proactively communicate with constituents based on their concerns and interests, all the while steadily growing targeted and general e-newsletter lists.

Since last year, VOICE has logged more than 308,399 emails, web forms, phone calls and letters. Currently, there are 36 legislative assistants and 27 district offices using VOICE.

By the numbers...

This year VOICE has...

- Sent out e-newsletters and targeted e-blasts to 2,978,841 constituents.
- Sent out 29,591 emails and 209 letters to constituents.

Here is a snapshot of incoming constituent correspondence:

Method	Number of Incoming Correspondence
Email	285,709
Web forms	17,860
Phone calls	2,072
Letters	1,731
Faxes	1,027
Total	308,399

Top 10 issues for this session:

- Revenue / Taxes: 3,575
- Budget: 3,104
- 2nd Amendment: 3,047
- Healthcare: 2,504
- Education: 2,135
- Energy: 1,368
- Animal Rights: 968
- Human Rights: 901
- Pensions: 729
- Consumer Issues: 628

Tele-Town Hall meetings

This year, Senate Democrats participated in telephone town halls reaching a total of 359,018 people. The senators were given the ability to reach thousands of people with a single phone call, engaging them in a lively talk show format. The average number of participants was 3,846. Senator Manar had the most successful call this year with a total of 6,353 people. The budget impasse dominated most of the calls. We look forward to continuing to offer this service next year.

Tele-Town Halls	
Total called	359,018
Active participants	42,306
Live questions	139



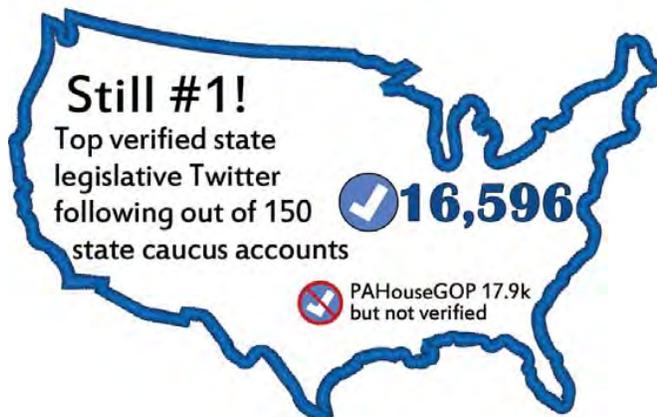
Illinois Senate Democrats Online: 2016-17 Results



Twitter

Under the Dome:

Followers	ILSenDems	16,596
	ILHouseGOP	13,707
	ILSenateGOP	10,656
	ILHouseDems	679



Trending on Twitter

May 23, 2017

IL Senate Democra...
@ILSenDems
TWEETS 30.4K FOLLOWING 1,943 FOLLOWERS 16.5K

Trends Change

- #FightFor15 @PFIAction is Tweeting about this
- #TrumpBudget Trump sends a \$4.1 trillion budget proposal to Congress
- #WorldTurtleDay @ChasesCalendar, @ChicagoMag and 2 more are Tweeting about this
- #theflashfinale
- Sean Hannity Fox News retracts murder investigation report about former DNC staffer Seth Rich
- #EndTheChaos** @KwameRaoul, @senirismartinez and 7 more are Tweeting about this
- #DeepThoughtsFromMikePence

Top @ILSenDems Tweets	Retweets/Likes	Impressions
1/11 Getting to work immediately, the Illinois Senate just adopted a rule to restrict Senate leaders to term limits of 10 years.	74	5,938
3/1 He's willing to compromise as long as he gets 100% of what he wants, apparently: Cullerton.	52	6,221
3/1 @AndyManar statement on Gov. Bruce Rauner's apparent interference in today's Senate grand bargain negotiations. (link)	272	6,041

Top 10 IL Political Accounts on Twitter

- IllinoisPolicy 35,767
- Capitolfax 20,484
- GovRauner 19,579
- RayLong 16,684
- ILSenDems 16,596**
- GregHinz 13,975
- ChiTribCloutSt 10,719
- AmandaVinicky 12,013
- Trib_ed_board 10,670
- MoniqueGarcia 9,156



Instagram
621 followers

ilsenatedems 350 posts 621 followers 1,051 following

IL Senate Democrats
Photos from the Democratic caucus of the Illinois State Senate. Likes are not endorsements.
www.illinoisenatedemocrats.com/

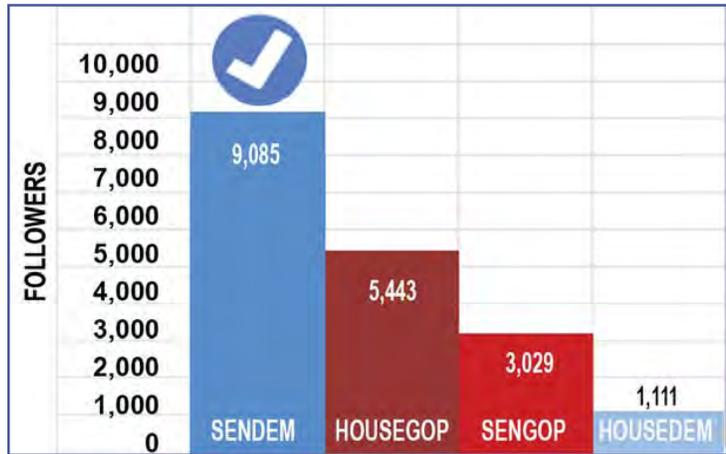


Facebook

ILSenateDems 9,085
 ILHouseGOP 5,443
 ILSenateGOP 3,029
 ILHouseDems 111



THIS YEAR: 1st Facebook Live



THIS YEAR: created more graphics for social media messaging

WARNING FAKE NEWS OUTBREAK

SCHOOL FUNDING (SB1)

FOLLOW THE FACTS

IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com

"Spending \$11M a day is fiscally irresponsible. In this time of fiscal irresponsibility, we have people whose livelihood is affected by our debt. It's time to take care of our people and pay them what they're owed."

Illinois State Senator Tol Hutchinson
 #MakeTheDeal #DoTheJob

"The governor is constitutionally required to present a balanced budget tomorrow. For the sake of this state and everyone who calls it home, I urge him to step up and do his duty."

Illinois State Senator Cristina Castro
 #DoTheJob

THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO SLICE IT.

FAIRNESS & EQUITY FOR FUNDING ILLINOIS SCHOOLS

PLEASE JOIN SENATOR ANDY MANAR AND SENATOR KIMBERLY A. LIGHTFORD FOR A SPECIAL FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT 5:15 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 16

www.facebook.com/IllinoisSenateDemocraticCaucus



"Gov. Bruce Rauner yesterday stuck out his leg and tripped the grand bargain as it moved toward Senate passage. The unprecedented, widely hailed effort for both Democratic and Republican senators to take the tough votes necessary to stabilize Illinois lay face down in the governor's office."

Illinois State Senator Pat McGuire
 #DoTheJob

"We have a balanced budget plan in the Senate that funds higher education and human services. Now it's time to see a balanced budget plan from the governor. He needs to get serious about ending the crisis he created."

Illinois State Senator Iris Martinez
 #DoTheJob

Domestic Violence FAQ

Why don't victims just leave?

On average, it takes a victim 7 times to leave an abusive relationship before staying away for good.

Source: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence www.ncadv.org

State Senator Steve Stadelman Senate Bill 57

ILLINOIS SENATE DEMOCRATS
 JOHN J. CULLERTON, SENATE PRESIDENT

IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com

96,490 Total page views #1: Top New Laws

474,679 All sites total page views

13,000 Facebook

5,300 Twitter

1,400 SlideShare (New Laws)

264 Other

referrals to website from



LinkedIn
 461 followers



YouTube
 77.5k views



Senate Black Caucus: Standing up for diverse communities

The senators of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, a partnership of black legislators from both the House of Representatives and Senate, maintained their focus on social justice, equitable access to

education for students and social service funding for our most vulnerable populations. The caucus fights for these causes while advocating for responsible fiscal management on behalf of state government without saddling these vulnerable populations with an unfair financial burden.

With the effects of the budget impasse continuing to be felt around the state, Black Caucus Joint Chair Kimberly A. Lightford pushed to ensure the caucus made

their voices heard early. Members rallied to call out the governor’s lack of accountability and record of mismanagement. They called on the governor to do his job in two deafening press conferences, following the State of the State and budget addresses.

The Senate Black Caucus accepted the responsibility of voting on a combination of cuts, reforms and revenue that will bring stability to a state that has been brought to the brink of devastation by the governor and his inability to do the job. With this measure, universities and community colleges would see more money than they’ve received in the past two years, students would receive MAP grant funding and a variety

of human service programs the governor has proposed cutting would be reinstated.

ILBC Senate Chair Toi Hutchinson, along with Leader Donne Trotter, led negotiations for a full, balanced budget after failed attempts to compromise with the Senate Republican caucus. Hutchinson was lead Senate sponsor of Senate Bill 9, which doubles the Earned Income Tax Credit, a refundable tax credit for working families that has been credited with lifting millions above the poverty line since its creation in the 1980s.

Trotter promoted the mental well-being of inmates and improved technological capability of the state by sponsoring vital budget legislation that dedicates \$575 million in General Obligation Bonds to infrastructure needs in Illinois.

Black Caucus members ensured

SINCE THE FIRST PRESENCE OF AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1876, 157 AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEGISLATORS HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE.



that public schools already struggling in the absence of a state budget under the governor would open in the fall with the passage of a Senate budget including \$330 million in additional funding over the last year, plus \$35 million extra for early childhood programs. Funding for grants for after-school programs and advanced-placement classes was prioritized as well.

The caucus continued their efforts on increasing neighborhood safety. Senator Kwame Raoul pushed controversial legislation recommending that judges sentence repeat gun offenders on the higher end of the existing sentencing range. Additionally, he negotiated to put in place a series of criminal justice reforms aimed at reducing the prison population and providing low-risk offenders with better access to rehabilitation programming and opportunities after release.

Senator Patricia Van Pelt and Senator Emil Jones III were two Senate committee chairs who aggressively asked state agency directors what programs they intended to cut to help balance the nearly \$5 billion in deficits Gov. Rauner proposed.

Lightford also passed legislation intended to balance student safety while making sure children are not given criminal records for minor incidents and allowing the State Board of Education to award competitive grants to school districts that reallocate funding for law enforcement personnel to practices that promote healthy learning environments.

With nearly 5,000 people on the

organ donor waiting list, families may soon see a second chance at life for their loved ones thanks to legislation sponsored by Senator Mattie Hunter and Senate Majority Leader James F. Clayborne Jr. Their initiative would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to register for the state's First Person Consent



Organ/Tissue Donor Registry when receiving their driver's license or identification card.

Clayborne also moved a number of measures to increase opportunities for those who are looking to attend college. Understanding the expenses attributed to pursuing a college degree, and the need to have easy access to the proper resources to succeed, Clayborne passed a measure to add computers and other technology to the definition of qualified expenses under the Illinois' College Savings Plan.

Senator Jacqueline Collins moved to stop car insurers from charging higher premiums to people who live in predominantly minority neighborhoods. In some cases, residents in predominantly minority neighborhoods of Chicago paid as much as 30 percent more

in premiums than residents in mostly white neighborhoods — a disparity for which differences in risk could not account.

The ILBC rallied behind Leader Clayborne to advance a measure which aims to increase the number of minority-owned, female-owned and veteran-owned enterprises that Illinois vendors contract with. This would require companies to submit a report outlining their procurement goals and highlighting minority ownership of businesses they contract with.

Senator Napoleon Harris also sponsored legislation to prohibit diminished payments due to subcontractors or material suppliers without reasonable cause for construction contracts with the Department of Transportation.

The ILBC supported statewide reforms, including bringing automatic voter registration to Illinois and increasing youth participation in the legislative process. For the third year, hundreds of youth from all around the state visited the Capitol for the annual Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Civic Youth Engagement Day. Youth were given the opportunity to represent their school and communities by participating in various activities, some of which included giving presentations about their civic engagement topic, visiting with legislators and hosting a rally on the first floor rotunda of the Capitol.



Senate Latino Caucus: Giving voice to Illinois' fastest growing constituency

The members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus maintained their unrelenting commitment to improving the quality of life for Latino residents throughout the state and the people of Illinois as a whole. Members have been vocal on issues dealing with higher education, social justice, health, education and criminal justice.

Early this session, Senator Martin A. Sandoval was elected Co-Chairman of the Latino Caucus, and he worked on a number of issues with the support of caucus partners.

In collaboration with the governor's office and the law enforcement community, the Latino Caucus embarked on a first-time collaboration agreement to formulate strategies designed to enhance opportunities in state employment, to increase Latino representation and retention of Latino state employees, and to address legislation, civil rights, law enforcement and education policies.

In efforts to rebuild the trust lost to the fearmongering rhetoric the current president and his supporters have spewed, the Latino Caucus supported legislation known as the Trust Act. The essential legislation prohibits law enforcement agencies from using state or local resources to enforce or comply with federal



civil immigration detainers and administrative warrants.

When her alma mater, Northeastern Illinois University, announced it would need to cancel days of classes to cut costs, Senator Iris Y. Martinez made sure the public was aware of the impact the school has on the Latino community. NEIU's El Centro campus, located in Martinez's district, has been a focal point for access to higher education opportunities for Latinos.

Continuing Illinois' legacy of welcoming people of all races, ethnicities and cultures, Senator Omar Aquino passed a measure that requires the Legislative Information System to use a free translation tool to enable translation into multiple languages of its website.

Latino Caucus members renewed their dedication to reducing crime and unemployment in Latino communities. Recognizing that many Latinos have learned skills in the military, Senator Tony Munoz

expanded the Illinois State Police candidate pool by adding two considerations in meeting the collegiate educational requirements for the position.

The caucus announced a partnership with the Illinois State Police and Olivet Nazarene University in facilitating the annual Team Illinois Youth Police Camp for northern Illinois. The weeklong residency camp is a highly structured program for 13- to 16-year-old boys and girls, emphasizing the principles of self-respect and service to others.

Encouraging diverse hiring practices, Sandoval and Senator Cristina Castro each presented measures that require reporting of voluntary supplier diversity programs. Sandoval's proposal focused on the railroad industry, and Castro's dealt with EDGE tax credit recipients. Both measures serve as a way to help institutions find success with their supplier diversity programs.



Reaching out en Español

In order to serve their growing Spanish-language audience, the Illinois Senate Democrats provide a mobile multimedia unit that shoots videos to send to Spanish media outlets. Video is today's communication currency, and the Senate Democrats are up to the task.

Latino and non-Latino members received coverage in leading Spanish language networks, and had stories, op-eds and letters to the editor published in printed and web publications. Following current trends, a number of interviews were conducted on Facetime and aired later on newscasts.

Senate Democrats encourage civic engagement among Spanish-language audiences by communicating their work on complex issues impacting those communities. This legislative session, they produced videos on the Trust Act (President Cullerton-Martinez), the crisis of the cash bond system (Cunningham) and the fight to pass a full balanced budget that supports higher education (Castro).

More than any other caucus, the Senate Democrats embrace the global stage we live in, working to enhance our relationships with Illinois' friends and allies. The Chairman of the Latino caucus, Martin Sandoval, and President Cullerton welcomed the Mayor of Mexico City, Miguel Ángel Mancera to the Senate floor. There, we reaffirmed our ties and friendship with Illinois' second largest trade partner, and we did it en Español.





AP Associated Press

THE TIMES

JournalStar

THE TELEGRAPH

13

17 abc WTVO

Aledo Times Record

Rockford Register Star

EVANSTON ROUNDTABLE

The Washington Post

abc 7

The Herald-News

Daily Herald
Big Picture . Local Focus

TELEMUNDO

WBEZ CHICAGO

WVLI 92.7 Local The Valley

VÍVELO HOY

02 cbs2chicago.com

Chicago MAGAZINE

DNAinfo

PURE NEWS USA

CNBC

JG-TC JOURNAL GAZETTE & TIMES-COURIER

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Peoria Public Radio WCBU89.9

Journal Register

The Courier-News

Bugle

The Southern ILLINOISAN

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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THE DAILY AMERICAN

THE HUFFINGTON POST

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THE DAILY JOURNAL
www.Daily-Journal.com

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\$87 M

Skokie Review
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IF YOU WERE BUYING ADS.

Chicago Tribune

LAWNDALE NEWS

REUTERS

HERALD-WHIG

The New York Times

23 HD WIFR

WUIS 91.9

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

The News-Gazette
SERVING EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

PANTAGRAPH

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

THE CHICAGO Crusader

SOUTHTOWNSTAR

Lake County News-Sun

The Beacon-News

CHICAGO DEFENDER

LAKE COUNTY Suburban Life

Herald & Review

Mundelein Review
my home • my local news

The McDonough County VOICE

UNIVISION

The Times Weekly

N

AUSTIN WEEKLY news

WEDNESDAY JOURNAL
of Oak Park and Rose Park

EL NUEVO SIGLO

Citizen

La Raza Newspaper
Chicago's Leading Hispanic Publication

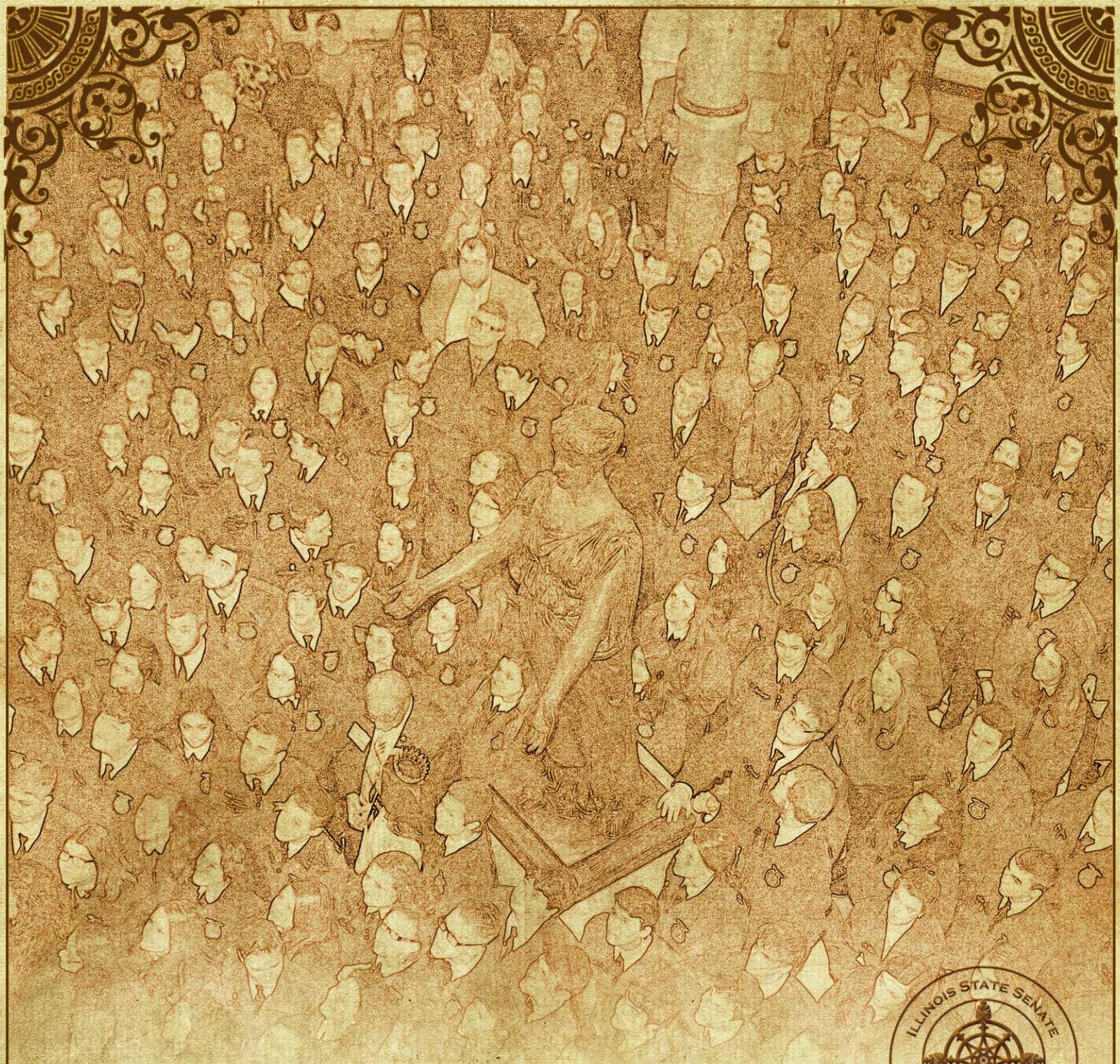
Forward

WVON 1690
The Talk of Chicago!

BRIGHTON PARK LIFE McKINLEY PARK

HYDE PARK HERALD

JUF NEWS
Covering Chicago, South and the Jewish World



FEATURED STORIES



John J. Cullerton, Senate President

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Senate enacts term limits on first day; Senate President urges colleagues to lead way to solutions

The Illinois Senate began its 100th session by imposing term limits on Senate leaders along with a call from the Senate President for an end to the political rhetoric that has plunged Illinois into a two-year budget impasse.

“How about we try governing for a bit?” Senate President John Cullerton said in his inaugural speech. “That’s what the people sent us here to do.”

Cullerton’s comments follow recent efforts by Senate leaders in both parties to assemble a sweeping budget and reform plan to solve the state’s lingering financial problems. The proposal constituted the first 13 pieces

of legislation filed in the new session.

The Senate President called on the Senate to continue to provide leadership by working together.

“I’m prepared to do something about this, and so is (Republican) Leader (Christine) Radogno,” Cullerton said in his speech.

“We have made it clear that the Senate will offer solutions and leadership.”

The Senate President said the goal is for the Senate to act swiftly in the new session to restore economic stability in Illinois.

“Frankly, I think the state’s been shaken up enough. Let’s make Illinois great again,”

Cullerton said. “I think we’ve made it clear that the Senate’s not afraid to take tough votes to solve problems and move this state forward.”

“So let’s get to it.”

Among the first votes taken Wednesday was the approval of rules to govern Senate proceedings. Added to the official rules was a term limit for the Senate President and Minority Leader. The term limit, sponsored by State Senator Julie Morrison, D-Deerfield, was approved 58-0 and takes effect immediately in the Senate.



Law sponsored by Martinez gives former offenders a second chance

A new law that gives ex-offenders a chance to pursue a career in the health care field becomes effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Majority Caucus Whip Iris Y. Martinez (D-Chicago) sponsored the initiative in the Illinois Senate.

"I'm a believer in second chances, especially when someone has committed a non-violent offense at a young age," Martinez said. "We've taken a needed step forward by giving former offenders an opportunity to prove that they are rehabilitated and be able to

petition the state for a health care license."

Under the new law Martinez championed, health care professionals who have had their licenses revoked or denied due to a past felony conviction could petition the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) to restore or issue their license.

When deciding if a person should be granted a license, IDFPR must take into account the seriousness of the crime, prior disciplinary actions by state and

federal agencies, and the date of the conviction, among other factors. The department may refuse to issue or restore any license that has been revoked.

Additionally, IDFPR would not be able to restore or issue a license to anyone who has committed a sex crime. Such individuals would also be banned for life from receiving a health care license.

"The law has very important safeguards in place that prevent sex offenders from ever becoming licensed," Martinez said.



Bennett: Let victims decide when they are ready to seek justice

Legislation removing the statute of limitations for certain sex crimes against minors passed the General Assembly. By a vote of 54-0, members of the Senate sided with victims still struggling to come to terms with the crimes committed against them.

State Senator Scott Bennett (D-Champaign) worked with Attorney General Lisa Madigan to pass the measure.

“Survivors of these horrific crimes should not be forced to seek justice before they are ready to do so,” Bennett said. “This

legislation is a beacon of hope to victims all over Illinois that an arbitrary deadline won’t stand between them and justice.”

Attorney General Lisa Madigan has made protecting the victims of sex crimes a top priority of her office.

“For a child survivor of sexual assault, reporting their crime can be unimaginable because these crimes are usually committed by an adult they know well,” Madigan said. “We must ensure that we can seek justice whenever a survivor comes

forward to report the crime.”

Senate Bill 189 has passed both houses and now awaits the governor’s signature.



Harmon advances landmark Illinois gun dealer licensing measure



After more than a decade of building support for state-level gun dealer licensing, Senator Don Harmon advanced the measure out of the Illinois Senate in a 30-21 vote.

“This was a difficult and a controversial bill, I know,” said Harmon, an Oak Park Democrat. “I appreciate the support of every senator who was able to put children and families ahead of the NRA.”

Senate Bill 1657 would allow Illinois to license gun dealers and encourage better business practices while holding corrupt dealers accountable as authorities try to get a handle on the violence epidemic that continues to plague Chicago neighborhoods. Gun dealers also must be licensed by federal authorities.

Harmon said he did the best he could to eliminate opposition to the legislation, which is a good-faith effort to crack down on a handful of irresponsible gun dealers where a large number of the guns involved violent crimes in the Chicago area originate.

Colleen Daley, executive director of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, commended Harmon and the Senate for passing the long-awaited measure.

“On behalf of the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, we are thankful to Senator Harmon and members of the Senate for passing this very important bill,” she said. “Licensing and regulation of gun dealers will help stem the flow of illegal guns, keeping guns out of the hands

of criminals and ultimately save lives.

Harmon, whose district includes parts of the west side of Chicago where gun violence has reached epidemic proportions, became emotional after several senators raised objections to the legislation, in spite of daily news stories about deadly gun violence in Chicago neighborhoods. As of Wednesday, more than 1,000 people had been shot in Chicago.

“I’m not asking for much. I’m asking to give police the tools to go into the dealers and say, ‘Why did you sell 50 guns to one guy last month?’ Is that too much to ask?” Harmon said.

“We’re not going to put people out of business. Believe me, there will always be guns for sale.

“But can you help us in our neighborhoods, where 14-year-olds are shooting each other because guns are so easily available? This isn’t a perfect solution, but we have to do something.”



Hutchinson passes paid sick time plan out of the Senate

An estimated 1.5 million Illinois workers would benefit from a plan that passed the Senate guaranteeing paid sick time for every Illinois worker. The plan, contained in House Bill 2771, is sponsored by State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D – Chicago Heights).

“Every day, too many Illinois workers who are sick are essentially forced to go into work because they cannot afford to stay home and get better,” Hutchinson said. “Healthier workers are good for our families, our communities and our businesses. I’m proud to have worked with advocates over the past two years to guarantee paid sick time to every Illinois worker.”

Hutchinson’s plan, contained in House Bill 2771, would provide up to five paid sick days per year to full-time and part-time employees, accruing an hour at a time for every 40 hours worked.

While Hutchinson’s proposal would greatly benefit workers, businesses also stand to benefit. According to the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, lost productivity caused by sick workers costs the economy \$160 billion annually. Having an overall healthier and more productive workforce, as well as reducing illness from the transmission of contaminated food by sick workers, all add up to big savings for employers.

“Under this plan, employers would have more productive workers with reduced transmission of disease and reduced turnover,” said Wendy Pollack, Director of the Women’s Law and Policy Project at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law.

House Bill 2771 passed the Senate and will now head to the Illinois House for concurrence. If passed by the House and signed by the governor, Illinois would become the eighth state in the nation to require some form of paid sick time.



New law strengthens life insurance protections for grieving families

Collins: “This is just one way that state government should be fighting inequality.”

Grieving families who might be unaware that their departed loved one left them a life insurance policy, would be protected by a stronger Unclaimed Life Insurance Benefits Act thanks to an initiative shepherded by State Sen. Jacqueline Collins and Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs.

“As our technology and our best practices are updated and improved, we need to consider how we can also improve our accountability to the taxpayer and the consumer,” Collins said. “Dementia might rob an elder of the memory of their insurance policy, and not every grieving

family has somebody on retainer to keep such affairs in order. In an age when we can computerize and automate these matters, we owe it to Illinoisans to make the effort.”

Enacted last year after collaboration between Treasurer Frerichs and Senator Collins, the Unclaimed Life Insurance Benefits Act requires insurance companies to check their policies against a state database to determine whether a policyholder has died, and then to take reasonable steps to ensure the beneficiaries receive their due payout. The new provisions would require companies to reach back into

their records and check any lapsed policies back to 2000 to determine if policies were unpaid.

“In Illinois alone, hundreds of millions of dollars have been directly paid to beneficiaries as a result of insurance companies comparing their policies to the Death Master File,” Collins said. “That should show us that this is more than just a question of advocating for consumers. It’s just one way that state government should be fighting inequality in our society.”

House Bill 302 passed the Illinois Senate 36-19.

Senate Democrats pass fair funding for all Illinois schools

Illinois school districts, shortchanged for decades under the state's worst-in-the-nation education funding formula, could see a significant influx of funding to level the playing field for the poorest districts with wealthier suburban districts under a landmark school funding reform measure that passed in both houses of the legislature.

"I am pleased and incredibly proud that after four years of studying and debating the issue of school funding, lawmakers from all over Illinois today were able to agree finally that students in schools all over Illinois are struggling because of an unfair and inadequate funding system," Manar said.

"This is a good bill because it addresses the root of the problem we have: inequity. Lawmakers and the governor have to stop fighting to preserve a broken system. This plan will send money to the poorest districts in the state. I represent some of them. This enables us to turn a major corner for the first time in 20 years in Illinois and attack poverty in the public school classroom."

"I am thrilled that this landmark reform has passed both chambers," Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) said. "This measure is about equity and the right

to a quality education. I urge the governor to take our children out of politics and stop letting zip codes determine the quality of their education."

"I proudly joined my colleagues in the General Assembly in voting for Senate Bill 1, which acknowledges the urgent need to reform Illinois' terrible method of funding public schools, while offering property tax relief and ensuring no schools see a loss of funding in the process," said Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park).

"Combined with passage of a balanced state budget that fully funds public schools, I believe this is the single most-significant statewide anti-poverty measure the legislature will pass this spring. I urge Gov. Rauner to sign it into law as soon as it lands on his desk."

Senate Bill 1 has strong support from thousands of school administrators, superintendents, principals, educators, taxpayers and advocates for fair school funding. Illinois' school funding formula has not been updated in more than 20 years and is



considered one of the worst in the nation because it relies so heavily on local property wealth.

An analysis of Illinois State Board of Education figures released estimates by Funding Illinois' Future – a coalition that advocates for school funding reform – shows potential funding increases for local school districts under Senate Bill 1, an evidence-based model that accounts for factors such as students with disabilities, English language learners and low-income students.

It also provides extra support for the neediest districts in the quest for adequate funding, and it offers property tax relief.

No school district would receive less funding under Senate Bill 1 than they have received under Illinois' current school funding formula.



Senate's "Trust Act" wins final approval

Legislation designed to combat a surge in anti-immigrant rhetoric since Donald Trump became president has cleared the Illinois Senate and next heads to the governor's desk to become law.

"Police in Illinois have enough responsibilities without also trying to serve as immigration officers. If there's a warrant and legitimate criminal activity, by all means, we want the police involved. What we don't want is people targeted because of their appearance or culture," said Illinois Senate President John J. Cullerton, who sponsored what's known as the "Trust Act."

"We want to send a message that immigrant communities

can trust law enforcement. That trust is vital to solving real crimes in our communities," Cullerton said. "The politics of fear and intimidation have no place in Illinois."

Cullerton's proposal, SB 31, won bipartisan support in the Senate, passing 37-17.

The legislation, SB 31, is designed to foster trust between police and immigrant communities and refocus law enforcement resources on fighting priority crimes.

Under the Trust Act ...

- Law enforcement agencies may not stop, arrest, search or detain a person solely on the basis of an immigration

detainer, non-judicial warrant or immigration status.

- If a federal immigration agent presents a valid criminal warrant to the state law enforcement agency, none of the above prohibitions apply.

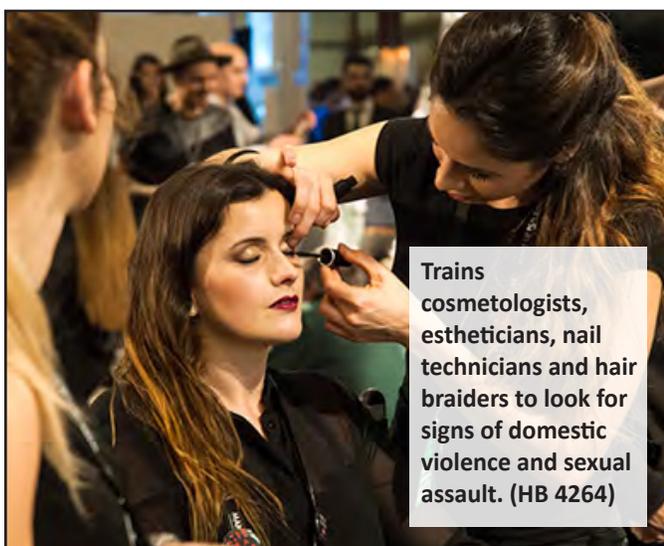
In addition, the Illinois Senate sent companion legislation to the House to ensure that immigrants who are the victims of crimes are assisted in obtaining special visas in exchange for assisting law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting crimes. That legislation is SB 32.



Every year, the General Assembly passes hundreds of new laws that affect the lives of Illinois citizens and present new opportunities for safety, security and government transparency.

These new and revised laws address safety, ethics, employment wages, benefits and criminal justice reform.

This snapshot reflects a larger list of new laws that changed Illinois in 2017 that you can find on our website.





Bans companies from asking a worker paid less than \$13.50 an hour to sign a non-compete agreement. (SB 3163)



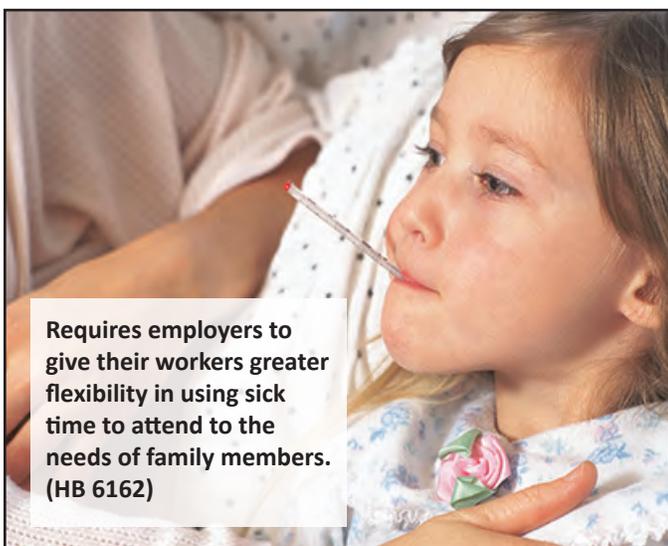
Makes lobbying groups ineligible to receive taxpayer-funded pensions to end the abuse of vital state dollars. (HB 4259)



Forbids medical providers to refuse certain medical treatments based on religious objections. (SB 1564)



Prohibits the sale or release of properties with high lead levels until the property is considered safe. (SB 2300)



Requires employers to give their workers greater flexibility in using sick time to attend to the needs of family members. (HB 6162)



Requires law enforcement officials to accept cash to post bail. (SB 2907)



YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

John J. Cullerton, Senate President

Communications Department | www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com



John J. Cullerton

Illinois Senate President | 6th Senate District



Long known as the Capitol’s quintessential dealmaker, Illinois Senate President John Cullerton emerged as the General Assembly’s voice

of reason this year amid ongoing financial chaos as he helped guide the Senate’s approval of a balanced budget and sweeping set of vital reforms.

Casting aside the blinders of partisan politics, Cullerton began his fifth term as Senate President by working across the aisle and throughout the state to assemble and promote what became known as the Grand Bargain in an effort to restore stability to Illinois finances and prevent further economic devastation. In addition to restoring tax rates, eliminating corporate loopholes and taking the first steps to modernize Illinois’ sales tax system, the set of reforms included an overhaul of the state’s long-expired school funding system, empowering voters to reduce government, streamlining state purchasing rules to end red tape and providing property tax relief to homeowners.

He won widespread praise in civic and media circles for his plainspoken recognition of the situation and his work with Republican Leader Christine Radogno to pull together a bipartisan deal to confront it.

With a backlog of unpaid bills soaring to more than \$13 billion and vital programs and agencies shutting

down almost daily, Cullerton took to the stage in early February at the annual City Club speech and issued a blunt challenge to critics.

“If not this plan, then what? And if not now, then when?”

Cullerton’s bipartisan coalition with Republicans would ultimately and unfortunately be shattered by Gov. Bruce Rauner, who flexed his political muscle to pull Republicans out of negotiations to try to kill the deal.

Frustrated but undaunted, Cullerton and Senate Democrats forged ahead, ultimately passing every component of the Grand Bargain along with balancing and passing the governor’s own state budget plan without a single Republican vote.

Cullerton also continued his leadership in the fight for equality in Illinois. He received the “Visionary Leadership Award” from the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago for his work to

promote tolerance and diversity. The organization cited Cullerton’s efforts to pass the Trust Act, which offers assurances to immigrant communities that Illinois police will not be co-opted by the Trump administration to round up undocumented immigrants.

In accepting the award, Cullerton pointed to Illinois rich’ history of diversity and ability to bridge divides.

“The history of Illinois is one of coming to terms with ethnic and religious differences. Our future relies on a similar commitment to protect and honor religious freedom,” Cullerton said. “As we know too well, threats still exist. There are still those who seek to distort public discourse in a desperate attempt to slow the sands of time from burying their ignorance and intolerance to the forgotten depths of history.

“But, whether they like it or not, change happens,” he said. “We are a people, a society, a government that ultimately exists to expand and accept.”





James F. Clayborne Jr.

Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 57th Senate District



Economic revitalization is needed in State Senate Majority Leader James F. Clayborne's district. He remains

dedicated to improving the region's economic standing. One of the most important features of economic and urban development is encouraging locally owned small businesses.

Clayborne passed a measure through the Illinois Senate this session that aims to increase the number of minority-, female- and veteran-owned enterprises that Illinois companies contract with. Clayborne understands how important this legislation is in boosting the local economy.

He successfully passed legislation through the Senate ensuring corporations do not continue to overlook these businesses. Clayborne understands how important it is for companies to reinvest back into the communities in which they serve.

With Scott Air Force Base in his district, Clayborne made sure military service members remained represented in Springfield. The senator filed and supported legislation that would create the Educational Credit for Military Experience Act, which

would require the state's public universities and community colleges to develop a policy for awarding college credit for military courses taken through the armed forces.

Clayborne has also been the recipient of many awards this session for his work on important legislative initiatives.

For his efforts in ramping up investigations on infant deaths in Illinois, the Child Death Review Team recognized him with an appreciation award. Oftentimes, infant deaths are reported as sudden infant death syndrome with no further investigation. Clayborne's work in the state legislature helped to address this issue.

Clayborne knows what an important role college can play in ensuring bright futures for young people. He passed a

number of measures that would increase college opportunity and affordability. One such measure would encourage East St. Louis School District 189 to allow juniors and seniors to take classes at the SIU Charter School for dual credit at no cost to the students.

Away from the Capitol, Clayborne continued his commitment to making sure local students gain firsthand perspective on college opportunities available to them with his youth mentoring program. This year, he took a group of students to Chicago to show them college prospects as well as allow them to gain an insight into investment banking.





Don Harmon

President Pro Tempore | Executive chair | 39th Senate District



Don Harmon first introduced the idea of state-level gun dealer licensing to the Illinois Senate in 2003 when he was a freshman senator and

saw it as an opportunity for curbing an emerging gun violence problem in Chicago.

He introduced similar legislation in every General Assembly since, but it never went anywhere.

Things changed on April 27, 2017, when 30 state senators – 29 Democrats and one key suburban Republican – came around to his way of thinking and passed Harmon’s latest version of the proposal, Senate Bill 1657.

“No debate has frustrated me more,” Harmon said. “In those years, thousands of lives were lost, entire communities were destabilized, and Chicago gained widespread attention – all because of gun violence and the powerful gun lobby.”

Passage of the licensing bill was a hard-fought victory that required the Oak Park Democrat to engage in years of negotiation with gun rights advocates, firearms manufacturers and gun violence opponents.

It also required him to re-examine his views on gun ownership – he grew up in a household without firearms – as, through the years, he became friends with senators from other parts of Illinois where people grow up with guns and are taught from a young age how to own and handle them responsibly.

“This is a difficult issue for many.

Other corners of Illinois have different cultural mores when it comes to gun ownership and rights. Law-abiding gun owners deserve a place at the table, too,” Harmon acknowledged in a column in the Wednesday Journal, Oak Park’s weekly newspaper, after the legislation passed. “I appreciate my downstate colleagues who chose to see things from our point of view, including the lone Senate Republican brave enough to cross the aisle to get this done.”

Harmon, now president pro tempore of the Illinois Senate and chairman of the powerful Senate Executive Committee, continues to champion solutions to some of the most important issues facing Illinois and his district, which includes suburbs and parts of Chicago’s Austin neighborhood.

Believing it is important that immigrants in Illinois and local police officers trust and talk to each other, Harmon was a vocal champion for Senate Bill 31, the Illinois Trust Act.

“Everyone should feel like they

can go to the police when they need help or have something to report,” he said. “Unfortunately, the president’s hateful rhetoric has had a chilling effect on immigrants’ willingness to come forward and report crimes because they’re afraid of being deported. We can’t allow that to stand.”

Harmon backs efforts to promote renewable energy, clean jobs and protecting the environment and wildlife, including Illinois’ recovering bobcat population. He continues to champion his long-held support of fair taxes and fair labor negotiations, and he helped to pass automatic voter registration in the Senate again this year.

Finally, he sponsored a bipartisan measure to require politically active “nonprofit” dark money groups to register as political committees and disclose their donors. The Chicago Sun-Times editorial board supported the proposal, saying, “It’s always good to know who’s pulling somebody’s strings.”





William Haine

Assistant Majority Leader | 56th Senate District



State Senator Bill Haine continues to be a strong advocate for the citizens in his district as well as

veterans, seniors and local government.

He is a strong voice in Springfield on behalf of the communities he represents in the 56th Senate District, which includes all or part of Madison, Jersey and St. Clair counties and the cities of Alton, Edwardsville, Collinsville, Granite City and Wood River.

He has tirelessly worked to protect programs and services for senior citizens, students, colleges and universities, and middle-class families.

Haine has continued to be responsive to social service agencies in his district. Earlier this year, IMPACT Center for Independent Living, an Alton organization that assists individuals with hearing loss, came to the senator asking him to champion legislation that would allow those with hearing loss to have better access to important medical information.

The senator filed a measure that would require certain medical facilities to have active closed captioning on televisions

in waiting rooms and resident rooms.

He has also continued his work to honor veterans in his district. Haine filed a resolution to honor three fallen soldiers who gave their lives for their country during the Vietnam War.

Haine remained outspoken on the issues the state has faced without having a budget. When proposals were made that would cut the Local Government Distributive Fund, Haine stood steadfast in his commitment to ensuring critical funding for roads, infrastructure and local services were not taken away from local communities.

Haine has also been a strong voice in ensuring senior service programs remain funded. He has been outspoken on the need to fund human service agencies, including Senior Services Plus

in Alton as they struggled to continue providing services when resources dwindled because of the state budget stalemate. Senior Services Plus assists more than 30,000 senior citizens in southern Illinois and the Metro East. Initiatives like its Meals-on-Wheels program faced cuts because of the stalemate.

Serving a district that borders the Mississippi River, Haine has pushed for increased recovery aid for communities affected by flooding and other natural disasters. He understands the severe effects flooding can have on communities – from damage to homes and businesses to taxing the limited resources of local first responders.





Kimberly A. Lightford

Assistant Majority Leader | 4th Senate District



Identifying potential mental health problems in school-age children helps prevent possible negative consequences throughout their lives. Requiring mental health screenings opens up dialogue and combats the stigma of mental illness.

Recent studies show that 14 percent to 20 percent of all school-age children in the United States and 13 percent of preschoolers have an emotional or behavioral disorder. Those numbers could soon decrease thanks to a measure led by Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford that goes into effect June 1.

Continuing her work combating disparities in school discipline, Lightford sponsored legislation that would prohibit the expulsion of children enrolled in early childhood programs receiving grants from the Illinois State Board of Education. Instead, the proposal puts focus on transitioning children into programs that better fit their needs.

Disrupting a student's academic progress should be a last resort regardless of their grade level. When a disruption does happen, students need the right program and resources to guarantee success.

In an effort to address the need for resources in keeping re-enrolled dropouts in the classroom, Lightford led legislation that provides school

districts with a dropout rate twice the state average with more funding for each student that was dropped from enrollment rolls for at least one month and was re-enrolled into an evidence-based and best practices program for high school dropouts.

Unlocking the full potential of Illinois students requires creating opportunities for all children. One way to embrace gifted young people is a measure that requires school districts to have an accelerated placement policy that allows students to be referred and evaluated for possible early entrance to a number of programs.

Keeping in mind that educators need the proper tools to provide the proper programs, Senator Lightford seeks to expand eligibility for the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship program. Recipients would increase the number of minority teachers with additional teaching endorsements or

master's degrees and would be able to offer courses that award college credit.

In response to concerns about the lack of awareness surrounding the importance of cancer screening among veterans, Lightford spearheaded legislation that establishes the Veterans' Cancer Screening Program.

As chairman of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, Lightford continues to make strides in improving the lives of African Americans and all people throughout our state. This year, the ILBC hosted its third annual Civic Engagement Day. Students from across the state were brought to Springfield to learn more about the legislative process and how to take part in government for themselves.

Lightford is a vigorous fighter for education, families and criminal justice reform. Her ability to negotiate solutions for those and many other issues facing our state resonates through impactful legislation.





Terry Link

Assistant Majority Leader | 30th Senate District



Throughout the state, veterans and their families every year receive a property tax exemption because of

their service to our country. But some families who lost a loved one in the line of duty may not receive the exemption.

State Senator Terry Link felt that was both unfair and unpatriotic. He believed that those families also made huge sacrifices for their country and deserved just as much honor and respect. That is why he passed legislation that would expand the property tax credit to spouses, even if their service member never applied for the credit due to a death in the line of duty.

Link also continued to push for legislation that would protect the residents of Illinois who have multiple sclerosis. This year he pushed legislation that would require insurance companies to provide an exceptions process for those who are seeking more medically necessary physical therapy to properly treat their conditions.

Link also fought for a more responsive Lake County government. Lake County is one of the few county governments left that does not elect its county

board chairman countywide. With the power that resides with the county board chairman as the county executive, Link felt it was only fair that the voters have a chance to have a say in who handles those day-to-day operations.

That is why the Senate passed a measure to give Lake County voters a chance to say if they want to have a countywide elected chairman. The measure would give the voters the ability to decide who they want running their county.

Link worked throughout the 2017 session to pass measures that would modernize state government. One measure that Link pushed through the Senate was to require that the LRB Digest be published online each week during the regular and special sessions of the General Assembly.

Link also continued work to increase access at the ballot box. He passed legislation this year that would require that grace period registration and changes of address shall be conducted for residents connected to voting at nursing homes. He also supported a measure this year to bring automatic voter registration to Illinois.

Despite all this work in Springfield, Link continues to make it a priority to attend as many of the Honor Flight returns in his district as possible. He believes that honoring those past, present and future who put their lives on the line for our country is one of the best things a legislator can do.





Antonio Munoz

Assistant Majority Leader | Executive Appointments chair | 1st Senate District



Too often, innocent lives in Chicago are lost at the hands of offenders with prior gun convictions.

Just last August, Nykea Aldrige, cousin of Chicago Bulls star Dwyane Wade, was killed while pushing her infant child in a stroller. It was later noted that the two men charged in her murder had prior gun convictions.

A measure designed to target repeat gun offenders while affording better opportunities for non-violent offenders was led by Assistant Majority Leader Antonio “Tony” Munoz. Courts could soon be directed to sentence repeat gun offenders on the higher end of the existing sentencing ranges for aggravated unlawful use of weapons and unlawful use or possession of a weapon by a felony when the weapon is a firearm.

Munoz, a former Chicago police officer, has seen violence on the streets of Chicago firsthand. Knowing that this issue will not be solved with tougher sentencing alone, Munoz worked with criminal justice advocates to include reforms that reduce recidivism and increase successful reintegration of low-risk offenders.

Believing that veterans deserve every chance to get back on track, Leader Munoz led a plan to expand access to a program that allows veterans who have committed a non-violent crimes to receive treatment. Often, veterans do not recognize they have a problem or want to address the issue until after sentencing. At that point, under current law, they are no longer eligible to receive assistance.

Furthermore, veterans can have expanded access to the Veterans and Servicemember Court by no longer requiring the state’s attorney to approve participation.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a structured system that requires participants to report to meetings with a probation officer, report to appointments with a VA case manager, attend

drug or alcohol rehabilitation programs as required, and adhere to other recommendations and requirements.

Veterans who complete the VTC program may have their original charges dismissed, have their sentence terminated or be discharged from any further proceedings.

Munoz is dedicated to improving the lives of the people in his communities and throughout the state. His unique experiences give him the tools to tackle issues from a personal perspective and understanding.





Donne Trotter

Assistant Majority Leader | 17th Senate District



As a child, State Senator Donne Trotter saw his parents participate in community organizations and march

against

injustice. When he was older, he continued his parents' legacy to fight oppression and prejudice.

The last few years have been turbulent for Illinois. Time and time again, Trotter has reconfirmed his commitment to pushing education, health care, criminal justice reform, mental health, equity for all and economic development. As the son of an educator, he understands the importance of reaching one's highest potential. Poor health and poverty are detrimental to scholastic achievement, and he has fought to reduce both.

The fiscal drought in the social services sector has left many people with limited options for assistance. Trotter maintained his dedication to health care by sponsoring legislation to increase HIV testing for at-risk women in their third trimester of pregnancy.

Whether they are wrongfully convicted and awaiting court ordered claims or caught in limbo unable to pay bail awaiting trial, Trotter has sponsored measures

to reduce bias in the criminal justice system for people who are normally ignored. His dedication to the rights of everyday people has been constant.

Many Illinoisans have fallen on hard times, burdened by a lack of employment opportunities. Trotter stepped in by sponsoring legislation that requires the Illinois State Board of Education to make information available to teach entrepreneurial skills in school districts with secondary schools.

The vulnerable and downtrodden know that they have an unwavering ally in the Senate. Trotter made sure that the construction of the Olive Harvey Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Center on the South Side of Chicago continued because he sees the importance in bringing jobs to the

community.

As one of the state's most experienced budget negotiators, he has worked to bridge the gap between political discourse and action. He sponsored a crucial piece of legislation in the Illinois Grand Bargain which promoted the mental welfare of inmates and improved the state's administrative capabilities.

Trotter recognizes that Illinois needs to diversify its revenue streams in order to lift itself out of debt.

He has been instrumental in the fight to advance the causes of those less fortunate than himself and he has never strayed from his calling. He is a man of the people; it is his love of public service and commitment to his constituents that takes his already-rich legacy to new heights.





Ira I. Silverstein

Majority Caucus chair | 8th Senate District



Public safety, consumer protections and protecting the most vulnerable members of our society are the hallmarks

of State Senator Ira Silverstein’s 18-year career in the Illinois Senate. In 2017, he maintained that commitment.

Growing children need new shoes, car seats and clothes more often than adults as their bodies get bigger. Children with hearing loss who use hearing aids need new instruments as their hearing status and size change. But in Illinois, their families’ insurance only cover the costs of hearing aids and related instruments up to age three. With instruments alone costing more than \$2,000 each, families’ finances can quickly become strained.

Silverstein believes that those costs should be covered up to 18 years of age. The Martin family of Springfield agrees: Their 10-year old son, Hunter, testified about his limitations, abilities and improved life with hearing aids, and his mother described 5-year-old Cody’s similar condition. Two growing boys could mean more than \$15,000 each year in instrument costs. Silverstein’s proposal is for children’s hearing aids to be replaced up to once

every 12 months or any time hearing status changes.

All Americans struggle with rising prescription medicine costs. Prices often skyrocket with little or no notice to consumers. People with life-threatening conditions like diabetes, hepatitis C or nut allergies learned their prescription prices were exponentially increasing without warning or alternatives. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say one in 10 American adults don’t take their medications as prescribed because of the cost.

The Illinois Department of Public Health would publish impending price increase information, under a Silverstein proposal to protect consumers and fine drug companies that don’t comply. The federal government has taken no action,

but Silverstein’s move is a step to protect Illinoisans from this threat to our physical and financial well-being.

A wave of anti-Semitic events has produced bomb threats, desecrated Jewish cemeteries and vandalized synagogues in Illinois and across the country this year. Throughout history, these acts have attempted to incite fear and hate and the recent upsurge is yet again designed to attack the Jewish culture.

Silverstein’s resolution condemns these acts and calls for unity and work for peace and acceptance of all races, religions and nationalities. Another measure provides emergency security grants for specific non-profit organizations to make security improvements to prevent or respond to acts of terrorism.





Mattie Hunter

Majority Caucus Whip | Energy & Public Utilities chair | 3rd Senate District



Last November, Roger Dennison, father of the late Ashley Dennison, testified at a news

conference held by Senate Majority Caucus Whip Mattie Hunter. In an effort to tackle the heroin and opioid epidemic, Hunter asked organization leaders and legislators to join her with the hopes of identifying common drug problems that happen across the state.

As a certified substance abuse counselor, Hunter has had the opportunity to work as a support system for those struggling with drug addiction. She recognizes the importance of teaching individuals how to modify their behavior with the intention of full recovery to prevent relapse. Sadly enough, her dear friend Roger Dennison and his family still feel the pain after losing their loved one.

“My daughter had been dealing with this for 15 years; I really can’t explain how it’s affected me and my family,” said Dennison. “These drugs will take over a person’s mind and body, and the access is way too easy. If we don’t do something to try to address this issue, many more overdoses and deaths will occur.

So I truly appreciate the senator’s efforts to end this.”

Hunter joined the Illinois Crisis Response Advisory Council to further her efforts and the fight.

This was just one of the many ways Hunter has worked this session to improve the lives of the people in Illinois. In addition, Hunter hosts multiple career fairs to combat the soaring unemployment plaguing Chicago’s minority youth.

This May, Hunter and Reps. Sonya Harper and Julianna Stratton hosted a second annual Alternative Pathways Career and College Fair. The fair was designed to connect Chicago students with non-traditional post-high school opportunities, as they create their own unique path to adulthood.

The University of Illinois at Chicago released a report in 2016 that states there were

more than 100,000 youth and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 years old who were jobless and not in school in Illinois. In addition to the fair, Hunter has passed legislation that would create a statewide task force to develop programs and opportunities for this rapidly increasing population.

Hunter continued to be an outspoken health advocate. She stood alongside Secretary of State Jesse White and passed legislation that would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to register for the state’s First Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry. Under current law, an individual must be at least 18 to join the registry. The legislation will not only broaden the number of overall donations, but save countless lives.





Iris Y. Martinez

Majority Caucus Whip | Licensed Activities & Pensions chair | 20th Senate District



Majority Caucus Whip Iris Y. Martinez came to Springfield once again ready to fight for those who need her most. Specifically, she advanced

legislation aimed at protecting and advancing the rights of undocumented immigrants, women and minorities.

In response to an undocumented University of Illinois student being unable to run for the position of student trustee because he was not registered to vote in Illinois, Martinez sponsored legislation to change residency requirements to be a University of Illinois student trustee. Previously, students were required to provide proof of residence in Illinois, along with a voter registration card and a driver's license or state ID. Martinez's bill changed the requirements to proof of residence for six months and either voter registration or a driver's license or state ID.

Martinez also created another opportunity for DACA recipients, or dreamers, with legislation allowing them to become licensed pharmacists. Her measure brings pharmacy in line with requirements for other professions, as no other profession that is regulated by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation requires proof of immigration status to obtain licensure.

Seeking to protect a woman's

right to give birth where she chooses, Martinez introduced legislation licensing midwives in the state of Illinois. The Home Birth Safety Act would establish two-year licenses for certified professional midwives. Illinois is one of only 18 states that does not license midwives, leaving women who chose to give birth at home to use an unlicensed professional. The Home Birth Safety Act would allow women to choose a career as a midwife and choose to have a safe home birth.

Martinez sought to help Illinois become REAL ID-compliant by proposing a two-tier system in which applicants for driver's licenses and identification cards can choose to apply for either a REAL ID-compliant license/card or a non-compliant license/card. The measure was supported by the Secretary of State's office.

Always looking to take on tough issues, Martinez also signed on as

a sponsor to two major pieces of legislation that moved through the Senate: the Trust Act and House Bill 40. The Trust Act, sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton, prohibits law enforcement agencies from engaging in immigration enforcement without a warrant issued by a judge. It also bans detaining a person based on their immigration status and forbids the use of any state or local resources to help create a federal registry based on race, national origin, religion or other protected classes. The other, House Bill 40, sponsored by Senator Heather Steans, a Chicago Democrat, protects a woman's right to choose in Illinois by deleting trigger language that would make abortion illegal in Illinois if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. It also allows Medicaid and state health insurance plans to cover abortions.





Omar Aquino

2nd Senate District



During his first year in the General Assembly, State Senator Omar Aquino was a strong voice for working people, immigrants and social service providers. He helped move legislation requiring presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns, introduced a measure to put free translation software on the Illinois General Assembly website and fought to maintain the social safety net.

Like many Illinoisans, Aquino was troubled by the Trump administration's potential financial conflicts of interest. He worked with State Senator Daniel Biss on a piece of legislation that would prevent future candidates from hiding their tax returns from the public. The legislation requires a candidate for president or vice president to submit their five most recent years of tax returns in order to be put on the ballot in Illinois.

Aquino was a co-sponsor of the Illinois TRUST Act, a measure that prevents local officials, including law enforcement officers, from being deputized by the federal government and used in immigration raids. This is just one of Aquino's measures to help immigrants. He proposed a bill to create a Spanish translation of the General Assembly's website so

that Spanish speakers could find information on Illinois government in their first language.

When fellow lawmakers questioned whether the translation would cost the state any money, Aquino saw an opportunity to change the legislative language to clarify that the translations would cost taxpayers nothing. Instead of only creating a Spanish translation, Aquino's bill will use free software to provide translations in dozens of languages. By compromising and incorporating suggestions from his colleagues, Aquino produced a stronger bill.

Aquino advanced legislation in the Senate to create a civil penalty for hate crimes and expand the list of potential offenses to include online harassment and others, giving Illinoisans of all walks of life more protection from hate-

motivated crimes and updating the law to reflect changing technology.

Aquino continues to advocate for human services during such a turbulent time in Illinois. He questioned the Rauner administration's commitment to immigrants when they proposed a budget that would slash immigrant integration programs and demanded transparency from the Department of Human Services regarding demographic data of state program beneficiaries. When Aquino discovered that the Department of Human Services does not track the demographics of state program participants, he helped pass legislation requiring the department to collect the data. This measure will give government agencies more information so that they make efficient and equitable spending decisions.





Scott Bennett

52nd Senate District



As State Senator Scott Bennett began serving his first full term in the Illinois Senate, he continued his efforts to pass a fair and

balanced budget that protects the most vulnerable and invests in Illinois' institutions of higher education.

Bennett continued to utilize his background as a former Champaign County assistant state's attorney to pass legislation aimed at protecting minors from sex crimes. Teaming up with Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Bennett ushered Senate Bill 189 through the Senate. SB 189 eliminated the statute of limitations on sex crimes committed against minors, guaranteeing that victims get to decide when they seek justice, not an arbitrary deadline.

Bennett has also made efforts to help school districts help students who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. Under House Bill 261, schools will have the option to use their own transportation funds to provide housing assistance to students in need if they determine it will be more cost-efficient. The Regional Office of Education serving northern Cook County says it spent nearly \$1

million in northern Cook County alone on transporting homeless students. Those same funds, they contend, could house up to 40 families. That's why Senator Bennett stepped up to pass this legislation.

After the Flint water crisis, Bennett took steps to ensure that similar disasters would not take place in Illinois. In east-central Illinois, hundreds of thousands of residents get their drinking water from the Mahomet Aquifer, an underground river covering 14 counties. To protect the aquifer, Bennett passed legislation creating the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force. The task force will study what steps can be taken to protect the safety and well-being of downstate Illinois residents.

Always understanding the importance of agriculture in

Illinois, Bennett has also worked to address the shortage of trained agriculture education teachers. Thanks to legislation Bennett passed, the Agriculture Education Shortage Task Force will be created to help study how schools can better recruit and train teachers in agriculture education and help maintain Illinois' agriculture sector.

Bennett has also stood up for Illinois workers by sponsoring legislation that requires Illinois tax credits to be used investing in Illinois. Under House Bill 3538, companies that have received Illinois tax credits but have moved jobs out of state would be required to pay those tax credits back. Senator Bennett believes that if businesses want to use Illinois taxpayers' dollars, then they should use those dollars to invest in Illinois.





Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant

Education chair | 49th Senate District



When named to be the new chair of the Senate Education Committee, State Senator Jennifer

Bertino-Tarrant became laser-focused on one goal: making education throughout the state of Illinois better for every student. She also continued to be a strong advocate for teachers because she knew that without great teachers, our public schools could never reach their true potential.

That is why she advocated for teachers to have a stronger voice on the Illinois State Board of Education. She believed that the only ones who truly knew what was happening in the classrooms were the ones in the classroom.

She has also become a leader in finding a way to properly fund our schools. Joining State Senator Andy Manar and others on a commission, she looked to find ways that our current school funding formula is no longer working and the unique ways in which we could change it. Bertino-Tarrant continues to

listen to all sides in the hope that we can come together on a formula that is more efficient and equitable for all children.

Hearing from many constituents throughout the district about how burdensome the cost of college is becoming for many middle-class families, Bertino-Tarrant proposed legislation to attempt to lower that burden. The legislation could allow families to start saving earlier and put more money into their children's future education so that the burden isn't as heavy when the student eventually goes to college.

The largest story facing the Illinois General Assembly this year has been the continued

budget impasse. Due to this, Bertino-Tarrant has worked toward finding what cuts could be implemented if we face another budget impasse. She questioned state agencies about what cuts they could take on if necessary due to a budget deficit.

Finally, Bertino-Tarrant makes meeting with constituents her top priority. Throughout the summer, she looks to host multiple visits with constituents and town halls. During spring 2017, she hosted her annual kids fair to bring important groups together to show what resources are available to families with children.





Daniel Biss

Labor chair | 9th Senate District



Government should better reflect the people it serves – not just the billionaires and corporations that wield tremendous influence over it.

That’s why State Senator Daniel Biss – an Evanston Democrat and a steadfast champion for proposals that advance equality and fairness – sponsored Senate Bill 1424 to bring small donor matching to Illinois. The Senate approved the plan in May.

The concept of small donor matching is simple: It allows taxpayers to empower ordinary people to compete financially and ideologically with special interests and wealthy donors, effectively weakening the influence of money in statewide Illinois elections. It also opens up the playing field to more diverse candidates for office and leads to more options at the ballot box.

“This is one way we can restore the balance of power in government and ensure that average people – those who represent Main Street America and middle-class values, not Wall Street and the corporate class – have greater influence over the decisions that are made in Springfield and elsewhere,” he said.

In addition, Biss helped to pass automatic voter registration in the Senate, and he sought to ensure Illinois voters have information about presidential candidates’ financial conflicts of interest. The Senate passed his Senate Bill 982, which would require candidates to release five

years’ worth of income tax returns before they could appear on the ballot in Illinois.

“Voters should be able to make up their own minds about a candidate based upon their own priorities and their own interests,” he said. “I think we can all agree that it is in the public’s best interest to make sure they have all the information they need to make the best possible decision at the polls.”

Biss passed legislation to protect middle- and low-income student borrowers from predatory lenders, even after the loan industry sent lobbyists to Springfield to oppose the measure. The student loan bill of rights, Senate Bill 1351, would help to ensure students and their families receive clear information about the money they borrow for higher education and how their student loans are serviced.

He voted for House Bill 40 to ensure Illinois women continue to have access to important reproductive health care, free of government interference.

And he sponsored Senate Bill 1761, commonly known as the “gay panic defense” bill, which would disqualify panicking about the discovery of a victim’s sexual orientation as a mitigating factor for murder.

Biss joined Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins in bringing attention to the troubling results of a ProPublica investigation that exposed apparent racial bias – or “redlining” – by car insurers who charge higher premiums to customers who live in predominantly minority neighborhoods of Chicago.

Biss also co-sponsored Senate Bill 31, the Illinois Trust Act, which seeks to blunt the impact of federal overreach on immigration matters and help to restore trust among local immigrant communities and police officers. And he championed a measure to close the gender wage gap in Illinois by barring employers from asking job applicants about their salary history, a practice that perpetuates gender discrimination and wage inequality.





Melinda Bush

Government Reform chair | 31st Senate District



Upon her return to Springfield in January, State Senator Melinda Bush immediately began building

on her past efforts to make government more efficient, improve gender equality and battle the opioid epidemic.

As chair of the Senate's Government Reform Committee, Bush has worked to pass measures that reduce bureaucracy and streamline services, while ensuring the quality of service is not affected. This year, Bush again worked to pass legislation that creates a framework for all 102 counties to allow local governments to consolidate with voter consent. Bush also sponsored legislation prohibiting a person from holding two elected offices if each paid more than \$10,000.

Building on her past work on tackling the opioid epidemic, Bush sponsored legislation that would require prescribers of controlled substances to check the Prescription Monitoring Program database to see if a patient has been prescribed a controlled substance by another

doctor prior to writing a script. Studies show that as few as 14 percent of physicians always check the database before prescribing controlled substances. Universal use of the Prescription Monitoring Program would help reduce the flow of opioids, crack down on doctor shopping and potentially save thousands of lives.

Bush continued working to ease the financial burdens women face every day by passing legislation to increase transparency in pricing among service providers. The measure requires hair salons, barbers, dry cleaners and tailors to provide customers with a price list for services upon request, giving consumers the resources

necessary to make educated choices when deciding which businesses to frequent.

In an attempt to close the pay gap among women and men, Bush sponsored legislation that would prohibit employers from asking job applicants their past salaries, a practice that often leads to women being paid less than men for doing the same job. Prohibiting the practice would make it more likely that an employer sets a salary for a position based on job responsibilities and an employee's qualifications than on past salaries.





Cristina Castro

22nd Senate District



As a new state senator, Cristina Castro has been very active in her role working on issues of social justice, public safety

and transparency and helping to bring economic development to her district.

In her first act as senator, Castro voted to enact Senate leadership term limits. Castro believes that new leadership brings in new ideas and helps to keep career politicians accountable.

Castro was also a strong voice for women's rights this session. When a measure came before the Senate that would ensure women maintain the right to access safe abortions, as well as allow abortion coverage for individuals on Medicaid or covered by State Employee Health Insurance, Castro jumped on as a co-sponsor. She believes abortion is a decision that is to be made between a woman and her doctor, not regulated by the state.

Castro has also had college affordability in mind this session. Students throughout Illinois have been subjected to crippling student loan debt. That is why Castro was a co-sponsor of the Student Loan Bill of Rights this session. Castro knows that college shouldn't be the financial burden it has become, which is why she wanted

to make sure families receive clear information about the money they borrow for higher education and how their student loans are serviced.

Castro was also a part of the movement to pass monumental legislation, the Trust Act, through the Senate that ensures communities in her district remain safe by garnering trust between the community and police departments. Through her sponsorship on the legislation, Castro made it known that she does not believe a person in the shadows should be afraid to come forward to report crimes against themselves, or other people, because they fear their immigration status may be exposed.

The senator has also worked hard to bring economic development and jobs home to the district. Castro was a co-sponsor of legislation to extend the Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, which would bring

funding to Elgin to restore older buildings in the city's downtown area and increase job growth to help stimulate the local economy.

Public safety has also been a concern for Castro this session. She sponsored a bill that would require dealerships to remove decals on vehicles before leaving the lot. The measure arose out of a tragic situation where 22-year-old Brenden Burke was the victim of a preventable fatal accident.

Public safety and transparency have been common themes in the legislation the senator has worked on. She passed important legislation through the Senate to allow parents to ensure their children are in safe hands. The Child Abuse Awareness act would create an online database with information on reports of child abuse or neglect in day care facilities.





Jacqueline Y. Collins

Financial Institutions chair | 16th Senate District



In a year of ongoing challenges in Springfield and Chicago, State Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins continued

in her career-long role as an advocate for the community and an opponent of racial and socioeconomic inequality.

Collins, who has chaired the Senate Financial Institutions Committee since 2005, sponsored legislation this year to protect consumers as they work to navigate a complex financial system. She sponsored legislation this year that would ban the use of a driver's credit score or ZIP code as a factor in his or her auto insurance rate and also seeks to ban the practice of "redlining," where insurance companies charge unfairly higher rates to policyholders in minority communities based on actuarial models that lack public transparency. In addition, she sponsored legislation that would ensure life insurance companies regularly check their policies against a state registry of deceased people to ensure next of kin receive their rightful benefits.

Collins remained a tireless proponent of measures aimed at eradicating the causes of

violence. To that effect, she co-sponsored and supported proposals that included a gun dealer licensing requirement and a measure designed to simplify the complaint process against officers guilty of misconduct. As an advocate for her district during a time when violence leads the news in Chicago, Collins has been present for the community, as when she marched in December alongside thousands of citizens bearing wooden crosses with names of those killed during the past year. She also co-founded the Violence Prevention Caucus with other members of the Senate and Illinois House.

As the state continues to operate without a budget, Collins has fiercely advocated for passage of a complete budget and called for legislation that improves the quality of life for Illinois residents.

She remains a strong advocate for community initiatives that address the causes and effects of poverty, including her work on the Attendance Awareness Commission and related legislation calling on schools to study the causes of truancy and provide support for those families with students at high risk of it. She also successfully passed through the Senate legislation that extends the funding for the Abandoned Property Program and the Foreclosure Prevention Program, which aim to reclaim abandoned property and to aid homeowners at risk of foreclosure.





Tom Cullerton

Veterans Affairs chair | 23rd Senate District



As a former U.S. Army infantryman, State Senator Tom Cullerton has continued to fight for Illinois veterans.

This year, he took meaningful reforms from his Veterans Suicide Task Force to make it easier for our returning heroes to receive health care, achieve a higher education and own a home with more ease.

Cullerton believes that the least we can do for our veterans is to ensure that they receive veterans services without the hassle of red tape and bureaucracy. This bipartisan measure will also open lines of communication between federal and state governments to eliminate redundant eligibility requirements.

To help save lives in Illinois, Cullerton continued his fight along-side the PANS/PANDAS advocacy group to provide medical coverage to children who are suffering from the little-known autoimmune disease known as PANDAS. Insurance companies would be required to pay for treatment and provide children with this much-needed relief.

After the Illinois Senate Democrats discovered that the

governor’s administration was leasing a \$2.4 million warehouse instead of exploring more cost-effective means to store state documents, Cullerton launched an investigation. He worked to halt rental payments to this suspicious deal to protect vital taxpayer dollars while the General Assembly continues to investigate.

Cullerton cannot sit by as valuable taxpayer dollars are wasted. He has continued his crusade to push for monumental statewide government consolidation legislation to give local residents the power to eliminate redundant and ineffective government units.

He has also continued his push to eliminate the Office of Lieutenant Governor to not only show local government officials

and Illinois residents the state is serious about government consolidation but to help save \$1.2 million in government funds that should go toward our schools, senior programs and funding need-based tuition assistance.

Cullerton knows that government works best when it is a true representation of the people. He has continued to provide excellent service to DuPage residents by hosting multiple senior fairs, property tax relief workshops, fraud seminars and town halls throughout his district.





Bill Cunningham

Telecommunications & Information Technology chair | 18th Senate District



Seeing the disconnect in how drug offenses and violent offenses were being dealt with in the state's bond system, State Senator Bill Cunningham knew he had to act. Violent offenders seemed to post bond more frequently than those facing low level drug offenses due to their or their families' inability to pay the bond.

That is why he pushed a measure that would allow judges discretion in setting no bond for certain gun crimes, especially when dealing with repeat offenders. Cunningham argued that we need to stop setting too many restrictions on what judges can and cannot do and instead give them the tools to help keep communities throughout Illinois safe.

Cunningham also looked to expand local access to a top performing high school in the 18th Senate District. For many years now, the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences has had a special education cluster that allowed local families who have students with special needs to keep their children close to home. But that cluster was a part of the school's total attendance limit.

That is why Cunningham passed a measure to statutorily authorize the special education cluster and exempt it from counting towards the school's overall attendance limit. This will allow local families throughout Beverly, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood expanded access to the high school.

One of Cunningham's top priorities coming into the spring legislative session was to continue to find ways to put more protections in place for Illinois' seniors.

Over the winter he learned about fly-by night agencies that would say they were home care agencies. Unfortunately, many of these agencies did not take the proper steps to ensure their clients would be kept safe. Cunningham acted by passing legislation that would require

hospitals to only refer properly licensed and bonded home care agencies to seniors after they leave a hospital.

Cunningham also pushed legislation to make it easier for seniors to get the property tax exemption they deserve. His legislation, which passed the Senate, would allow a senior to only apply for the homestead exemption once for as long as their residence was at the same location.

Despite his busy Springfield schedule, Cunningham continued to make it a priority to hold monthly coffee and conversation events, extended office hours and held regular town halls throughout the 18th District to keep a conversation going about how the state can solve its biggest problems.





Napoleon Harris III

Agriculture chair | 15th Senate District



There is not an issue more important facing the legislature than passing a budget. With vital services for our most vulnerable populations at stake, the Senate came together to draft a package of legislation that combined reforms with a spending plan for the rest of fiscal year 2017 known as the Grand Bargain.

With the well-being of his constituents in mind, State Senator Napoleon Harris III expressed his disappointment that the Senate was unable to approve the plan as a result of little Republican support. Harris believes legislators need to stand for what is right in moments where compromise does not allow for easy decisions.

Embracing his role as the new Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee chairman, Harris held a hearing to ask the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources where the agencies can make cuts to fix the nearly \$5 billion dollar gap in the budget proposed by the governor in February.

Not receiving any fruitful answers, Harris advised the department heads to think

about contingency plans moving forward in this tough fiscal predicament, as he understands that a solution to the state's budget crisis will take working together to make difficult choices.

Harris also explored opportunities in urban agriculture and community garden programs with downstate farmers and what they could mean to communities in his district, along with other economic revitalization efforts.

Continuing his support of small businesses, Harris sponsored legislation prohibiting contractors, subcontractors or material suppliers who contract with the Department of Transportation from offsetting, decreasing, or diminishing payments due to subcontractors or material suppliers without reasonable cause.

Under current law, a

subcontractor that has not been paid by a contractor within 15 days of the contractor being paid by the state can file written notice with the state. Then, an administrative hearing is held to determine whether there was reasonable cause for withholding payment, a process that puts a strain on small businesses as it can be difficult to wait for payment.

Harris has put an emphasis on getting a budget approved as it is the most important issue for his constituents. He continues to look for ways to increase economic opportunity for the South Suburbs, minority businesses and small businesses. His experience as a business owner allows him to work through and understand issues small businesses in Illinois face.





Michael E. Hastings

Criminal Law chair | 19th Senate District



As we enter an expanding technological world, State Senator Michael E. Hastings is fighting to protect the sanctity of our nation's

elections from cyber attacks. Hastings is working with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin to investigate the possibly of foreign entities interfering with the democratic process. He is working to prevent future cyber vulnerabilities by calling for a full report and preventive measures to be put into place after the Illinois State Board of Elections cyber breach.

Hastings will fight all assaults on our democratic principles including Illinois residents' privacy. He worked to put protections in place to give the citizens of the Southland the ability to request what information companies such as Yahoo and Google collect about them. As the federal government rolls back regulations, he believes the need for further state regulations has become absolutely vital.

To protect the rights of Illinois' companies, Hastings is working to level the playing field among businesses that compete for state contracts and investments by prohibiting expatriate corporations from submitting bids or entering into contracts with state agencies. Corporations that use offshore tax havens to avoid paying taxes should not be rewarded with state contracts and business. He believes if businesses are going to avoid paying taxes, they should not be making money off of taxpayer dollars.

To give Illinois' children a second

chance, Hastings advanced a series of criminal justice reforms, including Senate Bill 2021 which eliminates the occasions when juvenile records for nonviolent crimes may be shared, giving children a chance to succeed instead of crippling them with the mistakes of their past.

He worked to promote the fair use of testimony from "jailhouse snitches." Senate Bill 1830 puts protections in place to work toward giving defendants a fair trial. It will allow jailhouse informant testimony to be challenged for reliability to work toward addressing wrongful convictions. Hastings knows sending the wrong person to jail doesn't make our communities any safer.

Hastings continues to fight for our nation's heroes. As a former U.S. Army captain, he knows the sacrifices that Illinois veterans have made for our democracy and freedom and is helping Illinois return the favor by putting legislation in place to better serve our returning veterans.

This year, Hastings advanced Senate Bill 736 to direct Illinois higher education institutions to establish a policy for awarding academic course credits for military credits. It was his honor to work with our state universities and community colleges to ensure that returning veterans receive credit for the valuable on-the-job training they received during their time in the military. In Illinois, there are workforce shortages for registered nurses, EMTs and other medical specialties. Hastings cannot think of better job candidates than our returning servicemen and -women who have on-the-job training.

He also advanced Senate Bill 1620 to create a one-stop shop for veterans to gain certification to bid on small business contracts. Hastings believes Illinois has a wide range of programs available to assist Illinois veterans and honor them for their dedication and sacrifices. However, these programs are not useful if they are hidden behind red tape and multiple levels of bureaucracy.





Linda Holmes

Commerce and Economic Development chair | 42nd Senate District



State Senator Linda Holmes continues to work to strengthen the business climate, protect animals and wildlife, and create efficiencies in business and

government.

Holmes sponsored several measures aimed at increasing efficiency during 2017. She cast her vote in support of the government consolidation provision of the Grand Bargain and introduced a few bills of her own to make government more efficient and effective. One such measure is her legislation to streamline the minority vendor reporting process in the film industry so that film projects must only report expenses above a certain dollar amount in order to qualify for tax credits. She also supported a measure advanced by the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts that made it easier for fire districts to access tax increment financing funds to invest them in new firefighting technology.

Holmes joined the Legislative Audit Commission, a bipartisan group of lawmakers from the House and Senate. The group's purpose is to investigate waste, fraud and abuse in state government, find ways to fix it and inform people of their efforts in public hearings.

Holmes also worked on legislation to energize the state's business climate and investigate ways to streamline

business operations. The entrepreneur learner's permit program reimburses first-time business owners for certain permits, licenses and fees associated with starting a business in Illinois. This legislation will strengthen the small business community for years to come as more entrepreneurs take the risk of starting a new venture. Holmes was also the chief sponsor of a measure to create the electronic notary task force. Modeled after similar laws in other states, the task force would investigate the possibility of updating state rules for notaries so that a document could be notarized remotely using the internet. Presently, Illinois law mandates that a notary must meet with an individual in person in order to legally notarize a document.

For leading the way on animal welfare issues, Holmes earned this year's Legislator of the Year award from the Illinois chapter of the U.S. Humane Society. Holmes ran a

number of bills concerning animal welfare, the best known being the "Beagle Freedom Bill," an initiative of the Beagle Freedom Project. This legislation provides that any publicly funded research institution in the state have an adoption plan in place for any medically eligible research dogs and cats before euthanasia is an option. It earned its nickname because beagles are the most commonly used dog breed for scientific research.

Holmes also introduced legislation to ban elephants from traveling exhibitions that lack the resources to take care of them. In recent years, it has become less common for traveling circuses to feature elephants because they are an endangered species and are difficult to care for properly. The legislation bans the archaic practice of traveling circuses keeping elephants but does not restrict zoos or any other entity capable of properly caring for elephants.





Toi Hutchinson

Revenue chair | 40th Senate District



Nearly two years ago, Governor Rauner made drastic cuts to the Child Care Assistance Program, eliminating safe and affordable child care for tens of thousands of Illinoisans. While some of the governor's cuts were later reversed, thousands of children remain ineligible.

State Senator Toi Hutchinson has been working with child care advocates to restore access to the popular program for families with parents enrolled in education or training programs – a group that included nearly 4,000 children when Rauner cut the program.

As a mother of three, Hutchinson understands first-hand how difficult it is to go back to school or work a full-time job without access to affordable child care.

Hutchinson continued her longstanding commitment to establish a minimum paid sick leave policy for Illinois workers this year, advancing a plan out of the Senate.

Nearly 45 percent of private-sector employees in Illinois do not have access to a single paid sick day. Working with the Women's Law and Policy Project at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Hutchinson's plan would establish a minimum of five

paid sick days for full-time workers, accruing an hour at a time for every 40 hours worked.

Having access to paid sick days has shown to be beneficial to both workers and businesses alike. Businesses benefit from a workforce that is overall healthier and more productive, while the risk of transmitting disease from restaurant workers to patrons is significantly reduced.

With more than 80 percent of Illinois land use tied to agriculture, Illinois has some of the best farmland in the Midwest. With a large portion of her own district dedicated to farming, Hutchinson passed legislation this year that would allow farmers to participate in hemp cultivation.

Used in a variety of products including paper, plastics, textiles and fuel, hemp has the potential to benefit farmers dealing with

contaminated soil or those looking to transition to organic farming.

Hutchinson has continued highlighting the unique set of challenges facing women in the workplace and in society at large.

With uncertainty in Washington, D.C., Hutchinson helped pass a proposal that would protect abortion access in Illinois should *Roe v. Wade* be overturned. She also brought attention to the continuing pay disparity between men and women in the workforce. Nationally, women, particularly women of color, earn drastically less for the same work than their male counterparts.

Hutchinson also worked to eliminate employers' ability to inquire about the previous wage history of a prospective employee, reducing the effects that initial wage disparities continue to have throughout a woman's career.





Emil Jones III

Local Government chair | 14th Senate District



A legislative year that started with optimism and talks of a bi-partisan Senate Grand Bargain

agreement being negotiated quickly turned problematic. After weeks of negotiations, it became evident that the governor and Senate Republicans were stalling further progress. Meanwhile, the budget impasse continued to increase the state’s debt by \$11 million per day. With more social services organizations that serve our most vulnerable populations closing and 44 percent of African American young men between the ages of 20-24 in Illinois unemployed and out of school—it was time to take a stand.

In March, Senator Emil Jones III (D-Chicago), chairman of the Senate Local Government Committee, became one of the first legislators to halt the advancing of legislation out of his committee. Instead, he only allowed subject matter hearings in relation to the budget. This effort was another meaningful example of his

consistent commitment to be a voice for underserved populations throughout the state, specifically in Chicago neighborhoods.

As a member of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, State Senator Emil Jones III continued his efforts toward promoting job growth in Illinois by advocating for employee rights and employer protection. In addition, he worked to ensure all people are provided the best possible conditions to find work and grow their businesses.

Jones also fought to keep the state’s public universities and community colleges open and maintain resources for student financial aid. He helped pass legislation to deliver public

universities and community colleges more money than they’ve received in the past two years, under a Senate budget plan.

In addition, he supported a measure to reinstate a variety of human service grant programs that were eliminated by the governor. Most of the programs are important to families, children and neighborhoods: autism support, youth employment, Teen Reach, community youth services, immigrant services and addiction prevention services.





Dave Koehler

Environment and Conservation chair | 46th Senate District



Since becoming the chairman of the Senate Environment Committee, State Senator Dave Koehler has used his position to champion legislation that protects Illinois residents and their environment.

When farmers from Fulton County expressed their fear and frustration about a proposed hog farm, Koehler began working on legislation that would bring transparency to the permitting process for these factory farm operations. Despite the intense pushback, Koehler has vowed to keep working on the measure to guarantee rural Illinoisans know what exactly is being built in their backyard.

Koehler has also stood up for small business owners by sponsoring legislation that would eliminate a redundant regulation. A former small business owner himself, Koehler understands that small business deal with a web of local, state and federal regulations that make it difficult to manage the day-to-day activities of their business. That is why he moved legislation eliminating a certificate requirement for which a national certificate existed.

When Koehler moved to

Peoria in the 1970s, his first job included advocating for tenants for fairness in quality housing. Drawing on that experience, Koehler passed legislation adding protections for “rent-to-own” style contracts. In a survey of housing counselors around the state conducted by Housing Action Illinois, only 12 percent of counselors reported that they felt that people considering rent-to-own homeownership opportunities well understand the differences between rent-to-own and homeownership with a mortgage.

The new legislation would seek to address that lack of understanding by creating the Installment Sales Contract Act. Among the new protections are a requirement that a payment schedule is to be given to the buyer prior to closing, a

prohibition on prepayment penalties and a requirement for a written contract with information about ballooning payments.

As our national conversation on criminal justice reform proceeds, Koehler has fought to bring some reform to the Peoria area in order to help incarcerated women. Under legislation sponsored by Koehler, a facility known as the Peoria Women’s Community Transformation Center will provide housing, case management, social and educational services, hands-on training in construction skills and other types of vocational training, plus a pool of jobs created through the work of the Community Transformation Institute and its partners.





Steven Landek

State Government chair | 12th Senate District



Every year in the General Assembly, more than 6,000 bills begin as ideas and work their way toward the floors of the House and the

Senate, and with some luck, to the governor's desk.

During this legislative session, Senator Steven M. Landek gave careful attention to these legislative proposals, trying pick out the bills that would do more harm than good when it comes to state government.

"My aim in the Senate is to find and oppose or improve the bills that are unduly burdensome to the taxpayers and the public, to fine-tune the bills with potential and to lend my support to the bills that will benefit the common man and optimize government in the state," Landek said.

As a business owner and an elected municipal mayor, Landek has a unique perspective that has allowed him to cultivate a keen eye for unfunded mandates and burdensome regulation. When such bills come to the senator's State Government Committee, he works to oppose them or to compromise with the bill's sponsor to remove the more harmful parts of the legislation.

"I've seen too many well-intentioned bills that sound good

on paper but have unintended consequences when they are put on the books," Landek said.

Landek takes that perspective and applies it to all of his committee assignments. He serves on the Local Government, Appropriations, Insurance and Government Reform committees as well. Those varying assignments have allowed him to develop effective relationships with Senators of a vast array of political walks of life.

"I want to decrease the cost of doing business in Illinois," Landek said. "If you can help me accomplish this, it doesn't matter to me which party you are from. To me, good government is more important than political affiliation."

Landek's efforts have earned him a "pro-manufacturing" rating from the Technology and

Manufacturing Association – making him the association's highest-ranking Democrat in the Senate.

The middle-of-the-road approach taken by Senator Landek is made possible because he is willing to listen to the diverse constituent groups that pass through his office at the Capitol.

This legislative session he has enjoyed visits from local members of the Restaurant Association, local Latino and Arab-American advocacy groups, students from Berwyn and throughout the district, and downstate 4-H groups among many others.

"Having the privilege of serving the 12th Senate District in Illinois offers me opportunities to meet people with vast and diverse worldviews," Landek said. "There's a lot to be learned by taking a few minutes to listen."





Andy Manar

Appropriations II chair | 48th Senate District



As chairman of one of the Senate's two appropriations committees, State Senator Andy Manar embraced the role of watchdog,

exposing mismanagement and wasteful spending by the Rauner administration on warehouse leases, offshoring of staff salaries and payment of employee bonuses during a historic budget crisis.

Manar also called attention to the effect of the budget stalemate on rural Illinois, where funding cuts have left schools, hospitals, transportation services and human service providers reeling. For example, he noted that decimated funding for addiction treatment, public health, job training and affordable housing perpetuate a cycle that leads to problems like the opioid abuse crisis in rural areas.

"I fear that this cycle of despair is exactly what's happening right now in too many parts of Illinois," said Manar, a Bunker Hill Democrat. "We will not solve this problem by spending less on it. I will not vote for any state budget that cuts addiction treatment and prevention services under any circumstance, because I see the effects of that kind of short-sighted decision-making every day in the community where I live."

In April, Manar brought together Macoupin County police, pharmacies and others to organize a drug takeback event to draw attention to the problem of opioid abuse and encourage people to rid their homes of old and

unwanted prescriptions that addicts pilfer. In all, residents disposed of more than 100 pounds of medications, including one prescription dating to 1987, during the one-day event.

Manar continues to champion a comprehensive overhaul of Illinois' 20-year-old school funding formula, and in May the Senate passed his Senate Bill 1, an evidence-based model of funding schools, which has widespread support from educators and school funding advocates in Illinois. Manar said a new funding formula, coupled with a balanced budget that fully funds districts, is the only way to help the state's schools overcome their current state of emergency.

"Somehow, lawsuits, social media campaigns and thunderous rallies outside the doors of the governor's office aren't getting the message across to him," Manar said. "Superintendents and parents are sending a clear message to Springfield: their schools can't survive much longer

under the status quo."

Manar also decried a Rauner administration plan to outsource union prison nurses' jobs to an out-of-state corporation and sponsored bipartisan legislation to stop the move.

In early May, the Senate approved his automatic voter registration plan, Senate Bill 1933. If it becomes law, qualified voters would be automatically registered to vote when they visit the Secretary of State and other state agencies for services. A series of checks would ensure no one is registered to vote that should not be.

And in response to the tragic death of 20-year-old Conor Vesper from Staunton and a plea for help from his family, Manar sponsored and passed Senate Bill 2185, or Conor's Law, which would require that anyone under 21 who is arrested for DUI can only be released to the custody of a responsible adult or upon passage of a voluntary breathalyzer test.





Pat McGuire

Higher Education chair | 43rd Senate District



As the chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, State Senator Pat McGuire's focus this past

year has been on the various ways the ongoing lack of funding has affected the state's public colleges and universities.

Since the lapse of the stopgap higher education budget Jan. 1, Illinois' colleges and universities have been forced to lay off further employees, including some educators, and triage programs to determine which might need to be shuttered completely in the absence of funding.

Meanwhile, without the Monetary Award Program grants that they were promised, students are forced to consider whether they can continue their educations at all.

In committee hearings, at rallies, and speaking on the floor of the Senate, McGuire's message this year has been clear: Reach a compromise on the budget and fully fund our state colleges and universities. He led students and activists in calls to pass the Senate's Grand Bargain legislation and to share their personal stories with the governor's administration to illustrate how

harmful the lack of stability in higher education funding has been.

In addition to his advocacy for higher education students, McGuire was direct in his questioning of administration officials on life-and-death matters in the 43rd District. With his position on the Senate Appropriations II Committee, McGuire had opportunities to directly call attention to dangerous situations that have arisen or may become worse due to the lack of a state budget or a coherent plan on how to address likely funding cuts in the near future.

Addressing a string of workplace deaths in the Joliet area, McGuire called attention to an apparent lack of effort on the part of Department of Labor officials to ensure the state's

Occupational Safety and Health Administration is addressing shortfalls in investigating possible safety violations. He also co-sponsored legislation to raise the wage of direct service professionals who care for those with developmental disabilities. The situation is exacerbated by staff leaving to take jobs in new local distribution centers that pay markedly better wages. In the hopes of attracting more workers to those facilities that are experiencing dangerous staffing shortages due to such low pay, McGuire acted as chief co-sponsor of Senate Bill 955, which raises wages for direct service professionals to \$15 an hour. Currently, the state-supported wages are \$9.35 an hour.





Julie Morrison

Human Services chair | 29th Senate District



On the first day of the 100th General Assembly, State Senator Julie Morrison passed historic term limits that for the first time limit the amount of time Senate leaders can serve in leadership. Morrison passed the resolution after hearing continued calls from constituents about the importance of ensuring leaders do not make careers out of serving their state.

As the newly named Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, Morrison next turned her attention to the needs of some of Illinois' most vulnerable. She continued her work this year to reform the troubled Department of Children and Family Services, working with child welfare advocates in passing legislation increasing the court's role in preventing children from languishing in temporary or inadequate settings for longer than necessary. Her law would give the courts more of a say to ensure children are not lost in the system. With continued high-profile missteps at the state agency, Morrison has announced a series of summer hearings to find out where the agency is failing.

Acknowledging Illinois' high

number of local governments and the corresponding property tax burden these entities have on homeowners, Morrison continued working this year to empower voters to consolidate local units of government and provide efficient and cost-effective services to residents. She passed a plan allowing voters across the state to decide whether to eliminate township road districts by allowing their responsibilities to be absorbed by the township. She worked to eliminate state restrictions on local government consolidation efforts and passed a proposal that will reduce the often excessive wait times faced by many homeowners who file appeals to their property tax assessments.

While it is not uncommon for local governmental officials to receive vehicle allowances for

use in conducting city business, several suburban officials use the perk to boost their pension payments when they retire. Morrison passed a plan to end that practice and prohibit the perk from increasing a future pension. With the state struggling with past decisions to delay pension payments and sweeten certain pension benefits, Morrison also worked on a plan that would protect public pension funds from private individuals purchasing credit in a state pension fund.





John G. Mulroe

Insurance chair | 10th Senate District



Taking on his new role as head of the Senate Insurance Committee, State Senator John G. Mulroe worked

with insurance organizations, constituents and advocates to strike a balance on mandates and insurance coverage. In this new role, Mulroe sponsored legislation to rewrite Illinois' captive insurance law, update the Illinois Insurance Code to comply with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' model and provide clarity to existing insurance coverage.

This session, Mulroe committed himself to making it easier for individuals to receive the medical help they need. He sponsored legislation to lower premature birth rates by allowing pharmacists to administer progesterone injections to pregnant women with a history of delivering prematurely. Preterm birth affects approximately one in 10 children born in the United States and can cause serious developmental delays and medical issues.

Mulroe also worked to enable a health care center in his district take in additional medically fragile children. Maryville Children's Healthcare Center

provides transitional care for children who have been released from the hospital but still require complex medical care and are not yet ready to return home. Additionally, Mulroe worked to streamline the prescription refill process for individuals with chronic conditions. Under his plan, patients would be able to synchronize their prescription refills so that they can pick them up at the same time.

Mulroe sponsored legislation to ensure that the children of individuals that pass away without a will may receive their inheritance more quickly. Currently, the estate distribution process is drawn out over the course of several years in case another child is born. Mulroe's plan will allow families to find closure more quickly.

Mulroe put forward several

bills to assist children in the criminal justice system. He worked to pass legislation to ensure that juveniles that are taken into temporary custody appear before a judicial officer more quickly by eliminating the weekend and holiday exception and allowing juveniles to appear through two way audio-visual communication. Mulroe also sponsored legislation to allow drug court treatment programs to establish a system to electronically monitor juveniles for drug- or alcohol-related offenses if approved by the Chief Judge of the Circuit.





Laura M. Murphy

28th Senate District



State Senator Laura Murphy made standing up for women's ability to make their own health care decisions a key part of her legislative

agenda this year.

Murphy co-sponsored and helped pass Senate Bill 40, which would remove "trigger language" currently in Illinois state law that will strip away women's ability to make their own health care decisions if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. The legislation also expands access to health care to women on state insurance policies and on Medicaid.

She also prevented a radical proposal that would have prevented state agencies from contracting with facilities that perform abortions from advancing through the Senate Public Health Committee. The proposed measure would have reduced women's access to vital health care options.

Murphy also worked to expand insurance coverage of life-saving MRIs to women diagnosed with dense breast tissue, a possible indicator of breast cancer. Currently, insurance companies are only required to cover ultrasounds.

Past studies have shown that dense breast tissue can be up to six times more likely to develop cancer. Additionally, because cancer is a non-fatty tissue, it can be harder to

detect within dense breast tissue. An MRI can find up to an additional 8 percent of breast cancers not found by a mammogram or ultrasound.

Murphy also passed legislation to require the Department of Human Services to audit insurance companies that contract with Medicaid to ensure they are following through on their contractually obligated duties. The audit will lead to better health care for Medicaid patients and savings to taxpayers.

Murphy also worked to keep guns out of the hands of criminals by helping pass legislation to require gun dealers to obtain state licenses. The proposal, supported by the Council Against Handgun Violence and the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, seeks to stop corrupt gun dealers from selling guns to criminals. Recent studies by the coalition have found:

- 17 percent of all gun crimes in Chicago are linked to guns from just three of the state's 2,400 gun dealers.

- 40 percent of guns used in crimes between 2009 and 2014 came from Illinois.

- Of the top 120 firearm dealers that sold guns used in a crime between 1996 and 2000, 13 dealers were located in Illinois – the second most of any state.

Murphy also maintained an active presence in the district by hosting regular constituent office hours in several different communities to talk to community members about their concerns. She also held numerous property tax seminars to offer tips to local residents on how to navigate the difficult property tax appeals system and will be hosting several town hall meetings over the summer to discuss the state budget.





Kwame Raoul

Judiciary chair | 13th Senate District



State Senator Kwame Raoul returned to the Capitol this January ready to keep fighting for comprehensive criminal justice

reform. As a past member of the governor's task force on criminal justice and sentencing reform and chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Raoul continues to work hard to find solutions to the complex issues of violence and crime that are prevalent in his district and around the state.

Raoul once again took on some of the most troubling problems in the area of criminal justice: gun violence, prison overcrowding, disproportionate sentencing of minorities and lack of opportunity for ex-offenders, among others. He introduced legislation designed to address these issues.

With gun violence continuing to plague the state, particularly Chicago, and prison populations overflowing, Raoul sought to get dangerous, repeat gun offenders off the streets while providing opportunities for rehabilitation for non-violent and first-time offenders. With the full support of the Chicago Police Department, Raoul sponsored and passed legislation that creates recommendations for judges to increase sentencing

on repeat felony gun offenders while expanding opportunities for rehabilitation and successful re-entry for nonviolent offenders. The Department of Corrections estimated that this bill would save \$62 million over 10 years and decrease the prison population by almost 1,500.

Raoul also recognized that not everyone carrying a gun in Chicago is doing so with ill intent. In fact, he knows that many carrying are doing so for protection or because they have suffered a traumatic event due to the violence that plagues many communities. So he introduced legislation designed to protect the most vulnerable, creating a diversion program for gun offenders with post-traumatic stress disorder so they can get treatment rather than sentencing.

As in the past, Raoul

continued to work to build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. He introduced legislation implementing a special prosecutor in cases of officer-related deaths. At a time when public trust of investigations into officer misconduct is low, Raoul sought to increase transparency into investigations of deaths at the hands of police.

Finally, Raoul protected workers' rights and saved employers money with the passage of comprehensive workers' compensation reform legislation. The reform package was the result of a year of bipartisan, bicameral negotiations.





Martin Sandoval

Transportation chair | 11th Senate District



State Senator Martin A. Sandoval started the 100th General Assembly ready to get to work for the people of the 11th District. He worked on legislation aimed at protecting and advancing the rights of undocumented immigrants, women and minorities.

Sandoval feels strongly that the way to improve the business climate is by connecting our anchor economic engines to the hundreds of thousands of newer, entrepreneurial businesses in every corner of our state, including the tens of thousands of businesses owned by women, veterans and minorities. These pathways to partnerships connecting our economic engines and our newer businesses will grow opportunities all across Illinois. He sponsored and co-sponsored supplier diversity bills that will affect utility companies, hospitals and railroads.

As Co-Chair of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, he executed several initiatives this session. Sandoval worked on a collaborative agreement between several Latino groups in Illinois to come together for “Latino Unity Day.” He worked with the Illinois State Police to start a Latino

Recruitment Plan to help more Latinos officers become part of ISP. They also worked together to organize Team Illinois Youth Camp for northern Illinois. The Latino Caucus held its first ever Inauguration at the historic Old State Capitol. All elected Latinos past and present were invited to attend. The Caucus also hosted its annual Cinco De Mayo celebration that was attended by hundreds and was a huge success.

Sandoval also signed on as a sponsor to a major piece of legislation that moved through the Senate. The Trust Act, sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton, prohibits law enforcement agencies from engaging in immigration enforcement without a warrant issued by a judge. It also bans detaining a person based on their immigration status and forbids

the use of any state or local resources to help create a federal registry based on race, national origin, religion or other protected classes. Sandoval hosted a visit from the Mayor of Mexico City, Miguel Mancera, who was in Springfield to witness the vote.

For almost two years, immigrants, women, children, people with disabilities and senior citizens have suffered without a budget. Over and over again they have voiced their fears about losing the services they need. Senator Sandoval voted on a budget to take action to fix what the budget impasse broke.

Sandoval represents the 11th Senate District, which includes the West Cook municipalities of Berwyn, Burbank, Cicero, Forest View, Lyons, McCook, Stickney and Summit.





Steve Stadelman

Gaming chair | 34th Senate District



State Senator Steve Stadelman came to Springfield in January ready again to advocate for

his constituents in the Rockford area.

Each year, the Rockford public school district receives millions of dollars in federal funds for Title 1 programs, intended to help low-income students. Unfortunately, the district was previously required to use a significant portion of those funds to pay down the state’s pension debt. Stadelman passed a measure that reduced the district’s contribution rate to the pension debt from 45 percent to 7 percent, freeing up millions of dollars for Rockford public schools without affecting individual teachers’ pensions.

Stadelman also drew from personal experience to introduce legislation that could save lives. On a family vacation years ago, Stadelman found himself in a dangerous situation when he realized that his 13-year-old son did not have insulin or needles to manage his Type 1 diabetes. Because it was a Saturday, the pharmacy they visited was unable

to reach a doctor to authorize a prescription. Stadelman passed legislation this year that allows pharmacists to fill emergency prescriptions without a doctor’s approval if discontinuing the medication abruptly would be dangerous for the patient.

Taking on a very serious issue, Stadelman also introduced legislation making it easier for victims of domestic violence to leave abusive relationships. His bill, which passed unanimously in the Senate, allows victims to separate from their abuser’s cell phone plan while keeping their phone number. Many men and women remain in abusive relationships because they are financially dependent on their abuser. By assisting with financial

independence, Stadelman removed a roadblock for victims to leave.

Always looking out for Rockford, Stadelman also secured an extension of the River’s Edge tax credit, an important economic tool for the revitalization of downtown Rockford that is equal to 25 percent of the rehabilitation costs for a business in a historic building. The credit incentivizes development in downtown Rockford and is also available in Aurora, Peoria, Elgin and East St. Louis.





Heather Steans

Appropriations I chair | Oversight of Medicaid Managed Care chair | 7th Senate District



State Senator Heather Steans continued to champion the cause of raising wages for direct support personnel and front-line

workers who care for Illinoisans with developmental disabilities. Direct support personnel work long hours in demanding jobs and are often the sole caregiver during a shift. Direct support personnel cook and clean for developmentally disabled Illinoisans, distribute their medication and teach residents how to perform routine household tasks such as folding their clothes and sweeping the floor.

Recognizing that Illinois' direct support personnel have not received a raise in nearly a decade and are paid among the lowest wages in the nation for comparable work, Steans continued her work to raise their wages to \$15 an hour. Low wages are among the reasons why Illinois facilities have had difficulty attracting and retaining qualified staff, leading to high staff turnover and vacancy rates. Half of the cost to increase direct support personnel wages would come from federal reimbursement.

Steans led the fight to protect a woman's right to choose and expand abortion services to individuals on Medicaid and state health insurance plans. This legislation will ensure that Illinois remains a state where women

can safely and legally exercise their right to choose. Additionally, as she has in years past, Steans proposed ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

As one of the Senate's two Appropriations committee chairs, Steans continued the difficult work of negotiating an end to the budget impasse. She heard many hours of testimony from government agency heads, social service providers and universities. She met with both caucuses and the governor's staff to work toward compromise and fiscal stability.

In an effort to create a new revenue source for the state, Steans introduced legislation to legalize and tax recreational marijuana use for individuals over the age of 21. The leading advocacy organization has estimated that legalizing recreational marijuana would generate between \$350 million and \$699 million in new

revenue for the state of Illinois.

Under Steans' plan, this revenue would support the Illinois State Board of Education, the Department of Public Health and the General Revenue Fund. She held the first in a series of subject matter hearings on legalizing recreational marijuana and held multiple events in her district to seek feedback from residents on this topic.

Recognizing a need for increased mental health awareness, Steans introduced legislation to create training for probationary officers and law enforcement officers to recognize mental crises that require an immediate response. The course would include information about types of mental health illnesses and their signs and symptoms as well as training on how to de-escalate a potential crisis situation with a mentally ill individual.





Patricia Van Pelt

Public Health chair | 5th Senate District



State Senator Patricia Van Pelt returned to Springfield this January with the goal of building on her past efforts to

reform the criminal justice system in Illinois, increase accountability among law enforcement and expand opportunities for the state’s most vulnerable residents. Having experienced a tough upbringing, Van Pelt is passionate about reducing recidivism and ensuring that past non-violent criminal charges don’t prevent individuals from future success. This year, Van Pelt sponsored legislation to expand criminal record sealing eligibility to allow nearly all felony arrests to be sealed. Allowing for more felony records to be sealed will remove a barrier to employment for all those impacted.

After hearing from constituents whose property was taken by law enforcement and learning that each year more than \$30 million of property is seized, and the majority of that property is sold by law enforcement agencies for profit and not returned to the owners, Van Pelt aimed to reform the state’s civil asset forfeiture laws. She sponsored legislation to only allow law enforcement to seize an individual’s property if a

person is charged with a crime.

In another attempt to help improve relationships between law enforcement, youth and communities, Van Pelt championed legislation to allow school districts to establish partnerships with local law enforcement to create police academy job training programs at local high schools. The program is modeled off of other successful efforts across the state, which have helped enhance neighborhood safety and encourage positive communication. The legislation requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to administer a scholarship program for students who have participated in the police training programs and have been accepted into one of the state’s public universities or

colleges, giving more students the opportunity to continue their education and serve as law enforcement officers.

Van Pelt, a firm believer that solving the issue of violence requires a well-rounded approach, worked to increase economic opportunities for at-risk individuals by sponsoring a measure to require the Illinois State Board of Education to post resources regarding the teaching of high-skilled manufacturing to be used in vocational programs and high schools. She also led the effort to require school boards to allow community groups to advertise relevant events and after-school programs, a move which will help keep young people occupied and off the streets.





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100th General Assembly - Spring 2017

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



John J. Cullerton, Senate President

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2nd Amendment

- HB 2685 - Removes the requirement that Fur Harvesters dispose of green hides within 20 days after the close of trapping season.
- HB 3093 - Allows hunters to have a copy of their license(s) on their cell phone instead of a physical copy.

HB 2685	Removes the requirement that Fur Harvesters dispose of green hides within 20 days after the close of trapping season.
HB 3093	Allows hunters to have a copy of their license(s) on their cell phone instead of a physical copy.
HB 3273	Allows the Department of Natural Resources to issue a maximum of five commercial fishing licenses.
SB 0315	Regulates the purchasing of tannerite, an explosive component that is used in long range target practice.

Agriculture

- HB 3090 - Requires the Department of Agriculture to make all recorded livestock brands available electronically.
- SB 0447 - Allows Chicago Ag school to exceed its enrollment cap by 80 students for a special education cluster.
- SB 1342 - Bans African and Asian elephants in circuses and traveling animal acts.

HB 0470	Makes corn the official State Grain of the State of Illinois.
HB 1800	Allows a county board to pay an inconvenience fee of more than 10% when the board contracts a farmer to grow a row of crops adjacent to a county highway to block drifting snow.
HB 2028	Changes the expiration date for fish dealer licenses.
HB 2488	Allows the Department of Natural Resources to sell plants to government agencies, institutions or individuals at a price to cover the DNR's costs to grow and maintain the trees.
HB 2580	Allows a weight limit increase to registered vehicles hauling agriculture commodities during an emergency harvest situation.
HB 2813	Clarifies the definition of "wooded acreage" in the Property Tax Code by making sure it is in line with the federal law.
HB 2995	Transitions duties from the Agricultural Export Advisory Committee to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
HB 2998	No longer requires the Department of Agriculture to store and index rules and regulations of infections and contagious diseases in animals; no longer requires the Department to provide a free, printed pamphlet to the public but will require the Department to post the info on their website.
HB 3058	Allows the Department of Agriculture to decide whether to comply with applications from entities in control of public ground requesting pest and disease inspections.
HB 3081	Provides that, beginning July 1, 2018, licenses issued to Type I and Type II meat and poultry processor/slaughter establishments shall not expire.
HB 3090	Requires the Department of Agriculture to make all recorded livestock brands available electronically.
HB 3121	Requires a person to pay any inspection fee or monetary penalty for any violation of the Weights and Measures Act 60 days after the issuance of notice from the Department of Agriculture.
HB 3130	Clarifies current product and business registration fees, the late registration fee for pesticides, and the late fee for public or commercial not-for-hire operator licenses under the Illinois Pesticide Act.
HB 3188	Repeals the David A. Wirsing Food Animal Institute Act, eliminating the institute created to study the state's food animal industry.



HB 3189	Repeals the Specialty Farm Product Act, eliminating the requirement for specialty farm product buyers to register with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
HB 3272	Changes the rules of taking fish while fishing to be decided by scientific assessment of dates or fishery need.
HB 3455	Requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish an "Adopt-a-Trail" program that will allow volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing trails on State owned land.
SB 0312	Requires any entity selling "catfish" products to disclose the fish's country of origin on the packaging, menu or wherever applicable.
SB 0447	Allows Chicago Ag school to exceed its enrollment cap by 80 students for a special education cluster.
SB 1342	Bans African and Asian elephants in circuses and traveling animal acts.
SB 1586	Allows the Department of Natural Resources to establish rules for the public to scatter ashes in a State park.
SB 1991	Creates a task force to study how to recruit and retain agriculture education teachers to address the shortage of qualified teachers.

Business and Economic Development

- HB 0736 - Establishes a small business grant program that will provide money to low-income individuals on public aid who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs.
- HB 1813 - Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement a program to help small and mid-sized businesses with market research, information systems and web development.
- HB 2698 - Creates the State Small Business Credit Initiative Fund, which would make loans and investments in Illinois businesses.
- SB 1839 - Removes AT&T's requirement to provide copper based landline service.

HB 0535	Addresses the process by which cable operators and broadband service providers may access railroad real estate or right of way for construction or installation of a cable operator's facilities or systems.
HB 0732	Prohibits a person from performing roofing work on his or her employer's commercial or industrial property without a roofing contractor license.
HB 0736	Establishes a small business grant program that will provide money to low-income individuals on public aid who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs.
HB 0759	Clarifies that financial institutions and their employees aren't required to have a limited lines producer license or class of producer's license if the financial institution enrolls or performs other administrative services to enable customers to purchase insurance coverage.
HB 0823	Requires the Division of Banking to review the Federal Community Reinvestment Act performance evaluations.
HB 1792	Amends the Credit Union Act so that state credit unions may operate in a manner no more burdensome than federal credit unions doing business in Illinois.
HB 1809	Clarifies that corporations do not have to inform the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation when they open a loan, savings or bank branch.
HB 1813	Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement a program to help small and mid-sized businesses with market research, information systems and web development.
HB 2514	Allows the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to share confidential supervisor information with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago regarding Illinois chartered banks and credit unions if it determines the FHLB has a legitimate interest in the information.



HB 2622	Creates a public non-profit workers compensation company.
HB 2630	Extends the sunset of the Acupuncture Practice Act by 10 years (until Jan. 1, 2028) and makes several clarifying and technical changes.
HB 2698	Creates the State Small Business Credit Initiative Fund, which would make loans and investments in Illinois businesses.
HB 3032	Changes the name of the Interagency Military Base Support and Economic Development Committee to the Military Economic Development Committee (MEDC), changes the office to which MEDC reports, and redefines the duties it has assigned.
HB 3164	Allows the City of Chicago the ability to issue liquor licenses to the following specified establishments, which are located within 100 feet of a church or school: Revel Motor Row, Pizano's Pizza, Murphy's Lounge, Medici Restaurant and Nando's Peri-Peri Restaurant.
HB 3282	Amends the Data Processing Services for Financial Institutions Act providing that any data transferred or made available to an independent data processing facility by a financial institution remains the property of the financial institution.
HB 3528	Changes Real Estate License Act to create an education provider license for schools that offer courses in pre-license, post-license or continuing education real estate content, and eliminates licensure for continuing education schools and pre-license schools.
HB 3897	Amends the Amusement Ride and Attraction Safety Act by adding "trampoline courts" to the definition of Amusement Ride.
SB 0262	Changes Business Enterprise standards for minority groups.
SB 0298	Requires dry cleaners, barbers and tailors to provide price lists for standard services upon request.
SB 0318	Bars employers from penalizing employees who refuse to disclose their genetic information or participate in workplace wellness programs that require disclosure of such information.
SB 0322	Changes/corrects the square footage for an existing 100-foot rule exemption for Almuflihi Food & Liquors.
SB 0326	Simplifies the process of becoming a registered interior designer by eliminating the educational and experience requirements.
SB 0652	Reauthorizes the Illinois New Markets Development Program.
SB 0768	Extends the repeal date of the Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act to Jan. 1, 2028 and makes several clarifying and technical changes.
SB 0898	Clarifies the conditions under which properly educated and trained physical therapists may perform dry needling procedures.
SB 0899	Allows out-of-state Certified Public Accounting firms licensed in another state to operate in Illinois.
SB 0941	Allows special event retailers to sell spirits (instead of only beer and wine) at limited special events.
SB 1254	Changes how regulatory fees are structured under the Savings Bank Act.
SB 1297	Provides that the Federal Home Loan Bank won't be subject to a stay or prohibited from collecting collateral pledged by an insurance company member who becomes subject to an insolvency proceeding.
SB 1348	Extends the sunset of the Medical Practice Act to Dec. 31, 2027. Requires applicants for licensure to provide an email address, adds elder abuse as grounds for disciplinary action by IDFPR and makes technical changes throughout to comply with current practices of the department.
SB 1434	Eliminates the use tax upfront and instead applies it to the final sale, so that rental purchase companies can warehouse in Illinois and lease to multi-state clients in border communities.



SB 1462	Reimburses state fees for first-time business owners of information services, biotechnology and green technology businesses.
SB 1585	Extends the repeal date of the Physician Assistant Practice Act to Jan. 1, 2028 and makes several clarifying and technical changes.
SB 1714	Requires consultants to report information on minorities, women and people with disabilities.
SB 1720	Prohibits the state from doing business with any person or company that violates a number of state wage payment and collection laws.
SB 1834	Exempts third-party contractors from the law requiring re-possessors to register as repossession agents.
SB 1839	Removes AT&T's requirement to provide copper-based landline service.

Civil Law

- HB 0703 - Amends the Adoption Act by creating procedures for interstate adoption placements to promote the permanent placement of children.
- HB 2626 - Provides that a person's blindness shall not serve as a basis for denial of: 1) parenting time when in best interest of child; 2) participation in private or public adoption when in best interest of child; or foster care or guardianship when in best interest of child.
- SB 1697 - Prohibits the firing of an employee for wearing religious garb or facial hair.

HB 0188	Clarifies the procedure for a court establishing jurisdiction over parties in a case.
HB 0189	Makes several changes to the Common Interest Community Association Act and the Condominium Property Act to improve management of condominium boards.
HB 0703	Amends the Adoption Act by creating procedures for interstate adoption placements to promote the permanent placement of children.
HB 1685	Allows the State's Attorney to use civil penalty and damage funds not awarded to a private party as a result of prosecution under the Insurance Claims Fraud Prevention Act for general crime prevention.
HB 2626	Provides that a person's blindness shall not serve as a basis for denial of: 1) parenting time when in the best interest of child; 2) participation in private or public adoption when in best interest of child; or 3) foster care or guardianship when in best interest of child.
HB 3106	Provides that Illinois Supreme Court Marshals are peace officers and have the same powers as police officers and sheriffs.
HB 3359	Changes the name of the "Forcible Entry and Detainer Act" to the "Eviction Act" to make the court system easier to understand for the everyday person.
SB 0647	Extends sunset dates on fees for plaintiffs in foreclosure cases.
SB 0683	Ensures that the Illinois Insurance Guaranty Fund has access to the claims records of insolvent companies that are possessed by third-party administrators and outlines the priority given to expenses the Illinois Insurance Guaranty Fund may recover from the assets of an insolvent insurer.
SB 0731	Prevents someone who has testified as an individual from being named as a defendant in a lawsuit.
SB 1261	Allows pet owners to create partial or joint custody for pets upon dissolution of a marriage.
SB 1697	Prohibits the firing of an employee for wearing religious garb or facial hair.
SB 1898	Protects the right of customers to leave negative reviews online by prohibiting the enforcement of non-disparagement clauses.



Consumer Protection

- HB 2360 - Delays implementation of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program until 2018 and expands the contribution rate for participants.
- HB 3072 - Clarifies Vehicle Protection Product warranties and corrects previous drafting errors.

HB 0302	Requires insurance companies to periodically check any unclaimed life insurance policies against a state death registry back to the year 2000 to ensure families are receiving their due life insurance payouts.
HB 1783	Requires ATMs to post a phone number to report problems to the owner and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.
HB 2360	Delays implementation of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program until 2018 and expands the contribution rate for participants.
HB 2386	Amends the Environmental Protection Act to permit retailers to sell products in a specific metal beverage container, known as a crawler.
HB 3001	Puts regulations in place for when landlords deduct fines and penalties from renters.
HB 3072	Clarifies Vehicle Protection Product warranties and corrects previous drafting errors.
SB 1444	Repeals actions dealing with the way insurance claims on auto damages are handled.
SB 1556	Creates an expiration of temporary liens on vehicles and raises bond requirements on auto dealers.
SB 1730	Sets a cap on the collision damage waiver for rental cars at \$13.50 per full or partial rental day.

Criminal Law

- HB 2373 - Expands the list of sealable offenses.
- HB 2738 - Requires prisons to allow inmates to receive visitors in person or via video teleconference, with some exceptions for behavior.
- HB 3711 - Includes intimidation, stalking, cyberstalking or transmission of obscene messages as possible hate crimes and creates a civil penalty for hate crimes.
- HB 3817 - Eliminates instances when juvenile records may be shared, creates penalties for improper disclosure of juvenile records, expands the scope and eligibility for expungement, and creates automatic expungement processes for juvenile arrest.

HB 0514	Creates a process for the immediate sealing of criminal arrests or charges when the defendant is acquitted or the case is dismissed with prejudice.
HB 0528	Creates a commission to research and develop a plan to implement a statewide mechanism to track and report sexual assault evidence information.
HB 0619	Prevents inmates from accessing information that could put victims, prison staff or other inmates at risk.
HB 0649	Creates a formal process for the county sheriff and Department of Human Services to handle the custody of defendants found either unfit to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity.
HB 0698	Creates the Prisoner Entrepreneur Education Program Law, a five-year pilot program focusing on teaching career skills to prisoners.
HB 2373	Expands the list of sealable offenses.
HB 2390	Adds crimes committed on the grounds of a religious facility to the definition of a hate crime. Removes the \$1,000 restitution cap and allows courts to impose a fine based on the severity of the crime and damages.



HB 2534	Adds and removes several scheduled substances from the Illinois Controlled Substances Act to prohibit synthetic drugs like bath salts.
HB 2559	Requires courts granting a name change to a person with a criminal record who has not received a pardon, or who has a pending arrest or charge, to forward a copy of the name change order to the Illinois State Police.
HB 2738	Requires prisons to allow inmates to receive visitors in person or via video teleconference, with some exceptions for behavior.
HB 2989	Prohibits the Department of Corrections from limiting in-person visits to inmates because of the availability of video-conferencing.
HB 3054	Requires circuit courts to post a public notice with details on how to file complaints against judges.
HB 3084	Provides that a prosecution of an aggravated DUI can occur at anytime, instead of the previous limit of three years.
HB 3165	Provides for training in restorative practices for the Department of Juvenile Justice.
HB 3251	Expands the offense of cyberstalking to include installing tracking software and causing threats.
HB 3711	Includes intimidation, stalking, cyberstalking or transmission of obscene messages as possible hate crimes and creates a civil penalty for hate crimes.
HB 3712	Allows the Department of Corrections to provide inmates with temporary access to content-controlled tablets for educational and visitation opportunities as a reward for good behavior.
HB 3718	Consolidates provisions regarding obtaining and issuing orders of protection and no contact orders, creates a criminal offense for the violation of no contact orders, and allows the State's Attorney to petition for protective orders on behalf of a victim.
HB 3803	Changes the criminal offense of "unlawful contact with a gang member" to "unlawful participation in street gang related activity."
HB 3817	Eliminates instances when juvenile records may be shared, creates penalties for improper disclosure of juvenile records, expands the scope and eligibility for expungement, and creates automatic expungement processes for juvenile arrest.
HB 3910	Allows emergency medical services personnel to administer Schedule II, III, IV or V controlled substances to a person without a written, electronic or oral prescription.
SB 0057	Allows domestic violence victims to continue to use their current cell phone plan when they have separated from their abuser, helping them leave by saving them financial costs from setting up a new phone.
SB 0058	Requires all law enforcement agencies to adopt a written policy on drug and alcohol testing following officer-involved shootings. In the case of injury or death, officers are to submit alcohol and drug testings no later than the end of their shift.
SB 0189	Protects victims of sexual assault by removing the statute of limitations for sex crimes committed against children and allowing them to come forward when they are ready.
SB 0607	Allows a person with a valid FOID card to sell, possess, manufacture or carry a switchblade.
SB 0639	Creates an imprisonment term for a person who delivers a fatal dose of a controlled substance to another person.
SB 0889	Prohibits jurors from being excluded from jury service on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or economic status.
SB 1238	Allows the Veteran and Service members court programs to operate in more than one county in the Circuit at the discretion of the Chief Judge.



SB 1276	Requires a person determining if a defendant is fit to stand trial to also submit a report including an opinion as to whether the person will maintain fitness.
SB 1343	Requires standards for continuing education of probation officers and supervisors to be established.
SB 1399	Allows a drug court treatment program to establish a program to electronically monitor and implement home detention for juveniles for drug or alcohol related-offenses.
SB 1413	Eliminates the fee for obtaining a copy of their birth certificate when a person is released from the Department of Corrections.
SB 1422	Removes the requirement for the prosecution to provide facts to extend the statute of limitations. The defendant must file a pretrial motion alleging that their case should be dismissed.
SB 1519	Removes the requirement that certain Department of Juvenile Justice personnel have a bachelor's or advanced degree with a specialization in criminal justice, education, psychological or social work, and only requires them to have a bachelor's degree, advanced degree or vocational training.
SB 1647	Expands judicial privacy to include retired justices and judges, actively employed justices and judges, and former or deceased justices and judges; prohibits publishing personal information, address, etc.
SB 1688	Requires the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to consider mitigating factors when considering applications for certain licenses, certificates and registrations.
SB 1722	Creates tougher sentencing guidelines for repeat gun offenders while working to keep nonviolent offenders out of prison.
SB 1761	Provides that a person's sexual orientation cannot qualify as a mitigating factor for murder.
SB 1781	Extends sunset date of the program to waive the fee for sealing or expunging arrest records that didn't result in a charge or conviction to Jan. 1, 2019.
SB 1842	Extends the statute of limitations for prosecution for involuntary servitude, involuntary sexual servitude of a minor and human trafficking when the victim is under 18 at the time of the offense.
SB 1843	Implements special prosecutors for law enforcement officials accused of misconduct.
SB 2034	Provides new rights for bail defendants and recommends creation of a risk assessment for defendants to determine if they are a danger to the community. Extends the Illinois Street Gang and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Law by five years.

Economic Development

- SB 0262 - Changes Business Enterprise standards for minority groups.
- SB 0518 - Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may use \$2 million of money collected through the Renewable Energy Resources and Coal Technology Development Assistance Charge for the awarding of Illinois Green Economy Network grants.
- SB 1462 - Reimburses state fees for first time business owners of information services, biotechnology, and green technology businesses.

HB 0465	Extends Tax Increment Financing for the Village of Pearl City.
HB 2987	Creates the State Agency Student Worker Opportunity Act. When a state agency has a job opening, that agency must notify the Department of Human Services, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Family Services, who then must notify qualified applicants of the job opening.
SB 0262	Changes Business Enterprise standards for minority groups.



SB 0518	Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may use \$2 million of money collected through the Renewable Energy Resources and Coal Technology Development Assistance Charge for the awarding of Illinois Green Economy Network grants.
SB 0730	Extends the sunset date of the Illinois Petroleum Education and Marketing Act from Jan. 1, 2018 to Jan. 1, 2028.
SB 1462	Reimburses state fees for first time business owners of information services, biotechnology and green technology businesses.
SB 1567	Requires the EDGE tax credit program to submit a report to the Illinois Commerce Commission concerning procurement and spending for female, minority, veteran and small business owned enterprises.

Education

- HB 0261 - Allows school districts to provide housing assistance to homeless students or students at risk of becoming homeless.
- HB 3139 - Requires school districts to collect and review chronic absence data and determine ways to encourage daily attendance. Schools are encouraged but not required to provide support to students and families.
- HB 3215 - Requires school districts to provide free feminine hygiene products for students.
- SB 0001 - Establishes an evidence-based school funding formula to provide students with fair and equitable funding.

HB 0106	Allows someone with a Masters in Public Administration to obtain the Chief School Business Officer endorsement on a Professional Educator License or an Educator License.
HB 0243	Allows high schools to establish partnerships with local law enforcement to create police training academy job training programs; requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to administer a scholarship program for students who have participated in such programs and have been accepted into one of the state's public universities.
HB 0261	Allows school districts to provide housing assistance to homeless students or students at risk of becoming homeless.
HB 0425	Changes the salaries of chief administrative officers and their appointed assistants at suburban Cook County intermediate service centers to be uniform with those of the Regional Offices of Education.
HB 0655	Allows the State Board of Education to send a renewal notice for a teacher's license via email.
HB 0656	Requires employer contributions to be equal to contributions from special trust and federal funds for the downstate teacher pension system.
HB 0826	Allows school districts to employ enough social workers to reach a 250 to 1 ratio.
HB 1254	Allows a school district to be prohibited from providing the minimum hours of instruction if the school district's facilities are being used by local or county authorities to hold a memorial or funeral service in remembrance of a community member.
HB 2369	Requires public and charter schools to provide reasonable breastfeeding accommodations for students.
HB 2377	Extends the sunset period on a provision that exempts teachers from going through the CMS grading process in order to qualify for employment with the Illinois School for the Deaf or the Illinois School for the Visually impaired.
HB 2404	Creates the Credit for Prior Learning Act to improve degree attainment opportunities for underserved student populations.
HB 2426	Provides that at least 25% of additional funding for CPS must go to programs for children 0-3 years old.
HB 2461	Requires that information about gifted education be listed on the Illinois School Report Card website.



HB 2470	Allows applicants for a career and technical educator endorsement to log a minimum of 60 semester hours of course work at an accredited trade and technical institution.
HB 2540	Establishes a process for suburban Cook County school districts to appeal a disapproved special education cooperative withdrawal petition to their respective Intermediate Service Center.
HB 2612	Changes the process through which school districts outside of Chicago may change their borders through either annexation or detachment.
HB 2618	Sets guidelines for parents to request a due process hearing from a school district regarding special education services when mediation is not used to resolve a disagreement.
HB 2663	Prohibits the expulsion of children enrolled in early childhood programs receiving grants from the State Board of Education.
HB 2794	Requires all school districts, including CPS, to notify qualified students in grades 11 and 12 of dual enrollment and dual credit opportunities at public community colleges.
HB 2898	Removes the sunset date on a provision allowing school support personnel, including social workers, psychologists, etc., to receive a principal endorsement on their professional educator license.
HB 2950	Requires that schools periodically provide information to students concerning what to do if they are being bullied and what resources are available.
HB 3059	Requires school districts to report average daily attendance figures for each grade level served.
HB 3139	Requires school districts to collect and review chronic absence data and determine ways to encourage daily attendance. Schools are encouraged but not required to provide support to students and families.
HB 3215	Requires school districts to provide free feminine hygiene products for students.
HB 3298	Allows substitute teachers to apply for a refund of the licensure application fee within 18 months of issuance.
HB 3368	Requires the State Board of Education to post information for teaching entrepreneurial skills for school districts with secondary schools. ISBE will obtain tips from business groups and universities for the list of resources.
HB 3369	Requires the State Board of Education to post resources regarding the teaching of high-skilled manufacturing, to be used in high school and vocational education programs.
HB 3394	Codifies current state practice relating to school districts working with the Department of Children and Family Services when a teacher is subject to an abuse investigation.
HB 3437	Requires charter schools within Chicago Public Schools to give at least 60 days' notice to all students and parents if a the school decides to close early.
HB 3820	Changes the minimum age for being licensed to teach, supervise or be otherwise employed in the public schools from 19 to 20.
HB 3869	Requires school personnel to complete in-service training to develop cultural competency and reduce implicit racial bias.
HB 3903	Prohibits student booking stations on any school grounds.
SB 0001	Establishes an evidence-based school funding formula to provide students with fair and equitable funding.
SB 0449	Requires the State Board of Education to convene a Performance Evaluation Advisory Council to advise on the ongoing implementation of teacher and principal evaluations.
SB 0764	Requires schools to post contact information for the Department of Children and Family Services to report child abuse or neglect.



SB 0865	Requires school districts to report the total and per-pupil cost of the state's contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System for each district's employees.
SB 1223	Requires school districts to have an accelerated placement policy that allows students to be referred and evaluated.
SB 1486	Makes changes to obsolete and duplicative language in the state's School Code.
SB 1532	Requires average daily attendance and other statistics to be included on a school's state report card.
SB 1692	Expands the types of medical professionals able to allow a student to resume extracurricular activities after sustaining a concussion.
SB 1796	Prohibits the operator of an Internet website or online service from disclosing personal information if the main purpose of the website is for K-12 school purposes.
SB 1846	Requires the School Code to include the collection of data. Also requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to collect and maintain health data on asthma.
SB 1991	Creates a task force to study how to recruit and retain agriculture education teachers to address the shortage of qualified teachers.

Elections

- SB 1933 - Establishes automatic voter registration in Illinois. The Secretary of State has until July 1, 2018 to establish the program while other agencies have until July 1, 2019 to establish the program.

HB 0348	Waives the newspaper publication and pamphlet mailing requirements if the proposed constitutional amendment concerns abolishing the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.
HB 0512	Amends the Election Code to allow notice of public referenda to be up to 60 days prior instead of 30.
HB 0539	Allows county boards to reduce the number of election judges per precinct from five to three for primary elections.
SB 1479	Allows grace period registration and change of address to be conducted for eligible residents at certain elder care facilities.
SB 1933	Establishes automatic voter registration in Illinois. The Secretary of State has until July 1, 2018 to establish the program while other agencies have until July 1, 2019 to establish the program.

Environment and Energy

- SB 0611 - Creates the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force to develop a plan to maintain clean drinking water from the Mahomet Aquifer.
- SB 1882 - Creates best practices and uniform standards throughout the pet sales industry in Illinois to provide dogs and cats with extra protections.

HB 0513	Allows the refueling of off-road vehicles and equipment used at and for the operation of waste disposal sites, sanitary landfills and municipal solid waste landfill units.
HB 0659	Allows the sanitary district to participate in any available nutrient trading program in the state for meeting quality standards.
HB 1914	Authorizes non-profit water companies (co-ops) to construct, alter, maintain and extend wastewater lines on public grounds.



HB 2719	Amends the Radon Industry Licensing Act to remove the definition of the Task Force on Radon Resistant Building Codes from existing law.
HB 2732	Allows the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to regulate Exceptional Quality biosolids as provided by the Nuclear Safety Law of 2004.
HB 2733	Changes the Hazardous Materials Emergency Act to end the Hazardous Materials Advisory Board.
HB 2801	Reduces the state motor fuel tax on liquefied natural gas and propane to the same rate as gasoline and diesel.
HB 2842	Requires an applicant for local siting approval of a pollution control facility to provide evidence to demonstrate compliance.
HB 2876	Changes the Environmental Protection Act to address the recycling and disposal of asphalt shingle.
HB 3048	Changes the Illinois Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Act to end the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Task Group and to give the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to select and manage regional disposal facility sites.
HB 3322	Amends the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Act of 1989 to bring the Act into conformity with current industry practice and national standards.
HB 3396	Changes the definition of "eligible utility" in the Illinois Joint Municipal Electric Power Act to include independent system operators, regional transmission organizations (RTOs) or an entity that participates in either of those systems.
SB 0071	Removes utility scale wind projects from the Illinois Commerce Commission's rule making mandate.
SB 0518	Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may use \$2 million of money collected through the Renewable Energy Resources and Coal Technology Development Assistance Charge for the awarding of Illinois Green Economy Network grants.
SB 0611	Creates the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force to develop a plan to maintain clean drinking water from the Mahomet Aquifer.
SB 1029	Creates the Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program to make grants to conservation land trusts for the purpose of promoting stewardship on eligible lands.
SB 1372	Changes the repeal date of the Mercury Switch Removal Act from 2027 to 2022.
SB 1417	Improves the means to recycle electronics in-state.
SB 1420	Creates a licensing exception for non-profit and government organizations that facilitates the disposal of cooking grease or cooking oil.
SB 1433	Amends the civil penalties Section of the Environmental Protection Act to bring State statute in line with federal policies concerning voluntary self-disclosure and correction of environmental violations.
SB 1456	Makes a technical change to the Environmental Protection Act relating to pollution control facilities in Lake County.
SB 1561	Prevents all counties (except Cook) from imposing more regulations under the Pollution Control Act.
SB 1882	Creates best practices and uniform standards throughout the pet sales industry in Illinois to provide dogs and cats with extra protections.
SB 1884	Provides that a research facility shall make reasonable efforts for adoption of a dog or cat used in research.
SB 1943	Amends the Illinois Public License Law, the Environmental Protection Act and the Environmental Toxicology Act to clarify existing policies and delete obsolete policies
SB 1969	Limits the number of used tires that may be on residential property and sends money to the Prairie Research Institute.



Family

- HB 3212 - Allows homeless minors between the ages of 16 and 18 to live in transitional housing without being partially emancipated by a court of law.
- HB 3213 - Expands eligibility to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to include families taking part in education and training programs.

HB 0817	Creates a special enrollment period for state insurance for an adopted child.
HB 1791	Allows courts to order the Department of Children and Family Services to provide a specific placement for a minor if it is found that a child's current or planned placement by DCFS is not necessary or appropriate.
HB 2556	Allows the Department of Children and Family Services to implement a differential response program.
HB 2577	Extends the sunset of the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Act from January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2027 and makes several clarifying and technical changes.
HB 2700	Provides that consent protections for minors also apply to services performed by chiropractic physicians and licensed optometrists.
HB 3167	Requires the Department of Human Services to conduct a triennial study on the early childhood workforce and how to attract and retain good workers in it.
HB 3168	Allows the Department of Children and Family Services to submit a copy of a child's report, if the child is deemed delinquent, to the child's attorney or guardian ad litem.
HB 3212	Allows homeless minors between the ages of 16 and 18 to live in transitional housing without being partially emancipated by a court of law.
HB 3213	Expands eligibility to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to include families taking part in education and training programs.
HB 3615	Provides that school employees have due process rights when they are the alleged perpetrator of child abuse or neglect.
SB 0067	Provides for alternative conflict resolution that will be used in family relations law where parties agree to resolve the matter without court intervention with the help of counsel.
SB 0069	Gives judges a step by step guide they must use when calculating the amount of child support to which each child is entitled.
SB 0646	Allows for the creation of a Department of Children and Family Services pilot program meant to improve child welfare interventions.
SB 0883	Allows children born within 36 months of the death of a parent to inherit from the deceased parent if the child was born with the decedent's consent.
SB 1321	Changes the Sex Offender Management Act, clarifying the definitions of "child" and "minor."



Health

- HB 1785 - Allows an individual to change their sex designation on his or her birth certificate without undergoing a gender transition.
- HB 1805 - Allows driver’s license or identification card applicants who are 16 years old or older to be included in the First Person Consent organ and tissue donor registry.
- HB 2800 - Changes the Perinatal HIV Prevention Act to increase HIV testing among at risk pregnant women, by adding a 3rd trimester HIV testing in addition to the current 1st trimester HIV test.
- HB 2959 - Bars health insurance companies from denying coverage to Illinoisans with pre-existing conditions.

HB 0375	Requires the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to create a course on mental health awareness, including recognizing mental crises which require an immediate response.
HB 0481	Allows clinical experience at an assisted living establishment to count as credit towards being placed on the Health Care Worker Registration Act.
HB 0524	Allows local government entities and counties to display a container suitable as a receptacle for used, expired or unwanted pharmaceuticals and provides that the public must be given regular continuous notice of such a receptacle.
HB 0679	Requires the Department of Public Health to develop an informational brochure about meningococcal disease and requires institutions of higher education to provide the brochure to students.
HB 0706	Allows nurses to dispose of unused medication found at the scene of a death.
HB 1332	Expands the coverage that insurance must provide for eating disorders.
HB 1785	Allows an individual to change the sex designation on his or her birth certificate without undergoing a gender transition.
HB 1805	Allows driver's license or identification card applicants who are 16 years old or older to be included in the First Person Consent organ and tissue donor registry.
HB 2383	Expands the list of entities where authorized direct care staff can administer medications to people with developmental disabilities.
HB 2408	Requires licensees and applicants to provide an email address to the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, adds that criminal battery against a patient disqualifies a healthcare worker from license restoration, and allows applicants or licensees to have their records classified as confidential in certain cases.
HB 2452	Requires the Department of Human Services to conduct inspections of the records and premises of each certified community-integrated living arrangement at least once every two years.
HB 2465	Provides that a provisional license shall be issued to a mental health facility within 60 days of determining its compliance with the Division of Mental Health's staff training plan.
HB 2496	Allows healthcare professionals other than physicians to make certain disability determinations.
HB 2506	Abolishes the Health Maintenance Advisory Board.
HB 2510	Addresses allergen awareness training for individuals seeking food service sanitation manager certification or re-certification.
HB 2531	Amends the Illinois Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to remove the requirement that pharmaceutical manufacturers provide the Director of the Department of Public Health with notice containing bioequivalence information no later than 60 days prior to a specified generic drug substitution.
HB 2700	Provides that consent protections for minors also apply to services performed by chiropractic physicians and licensed optometrists.



HB 2762	Prohibits hospitals from maintaining a list of individuals that cannot be admitted for treatment but instead gives the hospital the ability to recommend an alternate provider, or arrange access to care services that best meet the needs of an individual patient.
HB 2800	Changes the Perinatal HIV Prevention Act to increase HIV testing among at risk pregnant women, by adding a third trimester HIV testing in addition to the current first trimester HIV test.
HB 2814	Changes the reporting requirements for DHS and HFS to add “0 to 45” days and “46 to 90 days” to the reporting requirement stating the length of time of Medicaid applications, redeterminations and appeals that are pending.
HB 2907	Removes the requirement that a psychiatrist be in the same room as a patient, thus allowing the use of treatment via teleconference.
HB 2957	Allows patients with chronic conditions to synchronize prescription refills so that so they are dispensed and picked up by the patient at the same time.
HB 2959	Bars health insurance companies from denying coverage to Illinoisans with pre-existing conditions.
HB 3002	Allows EMTs, paramedics, firefighters, police officers and others to require that a person they come into contact with undergo an infectious disease test under certain circumstances.
HB 3063	Clarifies public health regulations for cottage food operations.
HB 3215	Requires school districts to provide free feminine hygiene products for students.
HB 3684	Helps small business by eliminating a redundant state food handling certificate.
HB 3703	Creates a two-year mental health pilot project.
SB 0314	Requires insurance to cover mammograms for dense breast tissue.
SB 0317	Allows a pharmacist to administer progesterone injections to pregnant women to lower the risk of preterm birth if a patient has a valid prescription.
SB 0589	Allows dental assistants to remove loose or broken orthodontic appliances and requires basic life support certification.
SB 0626	Allows the Director of Public Health to grant staffing waivers to nursing homes meeting certain requirements.
SB 0636	Amends the Pharmacy Practice Act, exempting necessary medical items for home dialysis.
SB 1094	Requires the state to issue certified registered nurse anesthetist licenses to APNs.
SB 1400	Consolidates the substantive statutory provisions relating to the Department of Public Health's Health Care Worker Registry into one act.
SB 1413	Eliminates the fee for obtaining a copy of their birth certificate when a person is released from the Department of Corrections.
SB 1478	Abolishes the Radiologic Technologies Accreditation Advisory Board.
SB 1774	Establishes the Lead Direct Assistance Program to remove lead-based paint and plumbing hazards from housing.
SB 1790	Allows pharmacists to grant emergency prescription refills without a doctor's authorization, pending certain requirements.
SB 1811	Eliminates the requirement for a physician practicing telemedicine to conduct an in-person patient history or physical examination of the patient if the patient meets certain conditions.
SB 1944	Allows a person over the age of 18 to purchase and have in their possession up to 100 hypodermic syringes or needles.



Higher Education

- HB 3211 - Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to identify college students who are potentially eligible to receive food stamp (SNAP) benefits and to work to increase available information to students who may be eligible.
- SB 1351 - Creates the Student Loan Bill of Rights, which prohibits loan servicers from engaging in any unfair or deceptive practices toward any borrower or cosigner.
- SB 1739 - Extends the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship program to those licensed to teach but currently furthering their education.

HB 0679	Requires the Department of Public Health to develop an informational brochure about meningococcal disease and requires institutions of higher education to provide the brochure to students.
HB 2442	Requires the assessment administered by the State Board of Education for the purpose of student application to or admissions consideration by institutions of higher education to be administered on a school day during regular student attendance hours.
HB 2740	Requires that the regional superintendent of schools and the Illinois Community College Board make a High School Equivalency Testing Program available for qualified individuals.
HB 2976	Requires private universities approved by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for purposes of MAP to submit an annual two-page report on their voluntary supplier diversity programs.
HB 3091	Clarifies that, in the event of a vacancy on a community college board, the successor is elected to serve out the remaining time of the term of the board member they were elected to replace.
HB 3179	Expands the college savings pool to include expenses incurred for special needs services.
HB 3211	Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to identify college students who are potentially eligible to receive food stamp (SNAP) benefits and to work to increase available information to students who may be eligible.
HB 3255	Amends the Board of Higher Education Act by rescinding antiquated provisions, along with making conforming technical changes to the language within the Act.
HB 3490	Adds institutions with pre-licensure nursing education programs and post-licensure nursing education programs approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) or any successor agency with similar authority to the definition of "approved institution."
HB 3601	Allows East St. Louis High School to offer dual credit courses with Southwestern Illinois College.
SB 0448	Allow Southern Illinois University dental faculty to form a partnership to treat and charge patients.
SB 0887	Allows the Illinois Community College Board to collect a fee to cover student data processing and prohibits it from sharing student information without explicit protections.
SB 0930	Extends the repeal of a tuition affordability program from 2022 to 2026.
SB 1351	Creates the Student Loan Bill of Rights, which prohibits loan servicers from engaging in any unfair or deceptive practices toward any borrower or cosigner.
SB 1739	Extends the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship program to those licensed to teach but currently furthering their education.



Housing

- SB 0609 - Encourages more timely resolutions of property assessment appeals by allowing homeowners to aggregate appeals if the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) lowers a property assessment.

HB 2965	Amends the Residential Mortgage License Act of 1987 by requiring a licensee to accept payment in whole month amounts when a mortgage is in arrears more than one month.
SB 0609	Encourages more timely resolutions of property assessment appeals by allowing homeowners to aggregate appeals if the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) lowers a property assessment.
SB 0885	Creates rules and regulations for "rent-to-own" style apartment contracts.

Human Services

- HB 0698 - Creates the Prisoner Entrepreneur Education Program Law, a five-year pilot program focusing on teaching career skills to prisoners.
- HB 2909 - Allows Medicaid recipients to receive a new pair of eyeglasses after a surgical operation.
- HB 3542 - Adds a new provision to the Foster Children’s Bill of Rights Act to provide for the best settings for foster care placements.

HB 0223	Amends the Nursing Home Care Act to make it clear that an identification wristlet may be placed on any resident per a physician's order.
HB 0698	Creates the Prisoner Entrepreneur Education Program Law, a five-year pilot program focusing on teaching career skills to prisoners.
HB 2388	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to establish and maintain a searchable database regarding whether day care facilities have ever had their licenses suspended.
HB 2643	Adds walking, running and bike paths to definition of "pedestrian with a disability."
HB 2708	Allows certain Department of Human Services officials to access the prescription monitoring database.
HB 2782	Requires the Department of Human Services to provide administrative support to the Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities Task Force.
HB 2909	Allows Medicaid recipients to receive a new pair of eyeglasses after a surgical operation.
HB 2910	Provides that the Department of Children and Family Services cannot place a minor at an out-of-state residential treatment center unless the court has determined that the placement is in the best interest and is the least restrictive, most family-like setting for the minor.
HB 3110	Creates the Social Services Contract Notice Act, which allows a state agency or authorized social service provider to terminate, suspend or reduce any contract for any reason upon 30 days prior written notice to the other party.
HB 3131	Requires the Department of Human Services to publicly report demographic data of program participants.
HB 3169	Amends the Children and Family Services Act to add the definition "youth in care," which means persons placed in the temporary custody or guardianship of the Department of Children and Family Services.
HB 3376	Provides that in the Department of Human Services' Home Services Program, the patient has the right and discretion to select and hire a personal assistant or other individual provider of his or her choice and determine the number of hours per week this personal assistant may work.
HB 3502	Creates the Advisory Council on Early Identification and Treatment of Mental Health Conditions, which is required to develop a set of recommendations and an action plan to address the barriers to early and regular screening of mental health conditions in children and young adults in Illinois.



HB 3542	Adds a new provision to the Foster Children's Bill of Rights Act to provide for the best settings for foster care placements.
HB 3709	Increases the number of counseling visits available to minors 12 and older without consent from a guardian from five sessions to eight.
HB 3899	Allows services and supplies to be procured from non-profits for people with significant disabilities without advertising or calling for bids.
SB 0084	Creates the Intellectual and Developmental Disability Home and Community-Based Services Task Force, which will review current federal funds for services provided in the state and look for ways to minimize the impact of being on the wait list for services.
SB 0320	Adds a representative of the Department of Public Health to each child death review team.
SB 0931	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to file a written report with the court when a minor in their care remains in a shelter beyond 30 days, in a psychiatric hospital past the time of discharge or in a detention center solely because the agency cannot find an appropriate placement.
SB 0973	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to submit an annual report to the General Assembly including information on the number of youth in the agencies care waiting for placement.
SB 1353	Increases the total monthly personal needs allowance to \$60 for residents living in a CILA, Medically Complex for the Developmentally Disabled facilities or Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.
SB 1544	Extends the deadline for long-term care facilities to submit a resident's admission documents from 15 days to 45.
SB 1746	Changes the meaning of "fictive kin," meaning foster parents may only adopt child after close personal or emotional ties have been established.
SB 1748	Requires group homes for individuals with developmental disabilities to collect and store identifying and contact information for each individual resident.

Labor

- HB 2462 - Prohibits employers from asking job applicants about their salary history.
- HB 2525 - Streamlines the state's workers' compensation system while keeping valuable protections in place.
- SB 0081 - Increases the minimum wage to \$15 by 2022.

HB 2462	Prohibits employers from asking job applicants about their salary history.
HB 2525	Streamlines the state's workers' compensation system while keeping valuable protections in place.
HB 3044	Requires the Department of Labor to publish a prevailing wage schedule for each county on its website by August 15 of each year.
HB 3120	Revises the Prevailing Wage Act to allow public bodies to satisfy notice requirements by posting a link to the Department of Labor's prevailing wage schedule on their website.
HB 3631	Exempts minor league baseball players from minimum wage.
HB 3785	Removes the requirement that the Department of Labor investigate the fitness of the premises to be used by a private employment agency.
SB 0019	Bars the Department of Corrections from laying off prison nurses and mental health employees.
SB 0081	Increases the minimum wage to \$15 by 2022.



SB 0318	Bars employers from penalizing employees who refuse to disclose their genetic information or participate in workplace wellness programs that require disclosure of such information.
SB 0858	Amends the Illinois Freedom to Work Act to fix a loophole in the definition of "low-wage employee."
SB 1694	Requires those seeking to impose fees for vehicle storage to provide a notice of the fees to the vehicle owner and the lienholder.
SB 1895	Prohibits volunteer firefighters or EMS personal from being terminated by their employer for responding to an emergency call or text.

Local Government

- HB 0607 - Permits counties outside of Cook County to abolish road districts through public referendum.
- SB 0003 - Creates a bipartisan government consolidation plan to allow local government units to dissolve through a voter referendum.
- SB 0910 - Provides protections to minorities when a county board creates or changes the apportionment of districts.

HB 0169	Allows county board members to serve as members of the board of review.
HB 0607	Permits counties outside of Cook County to abolish road districts through public referendum.
HB 0743	Allows the Fire Protection District Board of Trustees to levy a special tax for expenses for emergency and rescue crews and equipment via referendum.
HB 0770	Allows the county board to pay an inconvenience fee of more than 10% when the board contracts a farmer to grow a row of crops adjacent to a county highway to block drifting snow.
HB 0776	Provides that if the voters of a park district, by referendum, reduce a board from seven members to five members, then the remaining members' staggered terms will be adjusted accordingly.
HB 1895	Changes the Illinois Police Training Act to include training in handling stress, trauma and post-traumatic stress.
HB 2407	Allows municipalities to annex contiguous territory across a body of water.
HB 2423	Allows a road district to deliver products generated during tree maintenance to the residents on a first come, first service basis or other method of random selection.
HB 2427	Allows a township to collect, transport, dispose of and recycle brush, wood chips and leaves within the unincorporated areas of the township without referendum approval.
HB 2585	Provides that if there isn't a newspaper in an area, then public notices that are required by law may be published in a secular newspaper that has general circulation within the unit of local government or school district.
HB 2778	Allows a fire protection district to annex property into its jurisdiction.
HB 3010	Provides that trustee vacancies of the North Shore Water Reclamation District are replaced by members of the same political party.
HB 3036	Requires each county to adopt and implement a predictable fee schedule that eliminates surcharges and other additional fees to record standard documents with a county recorder by Jan. 1, 2019.
HB 3108	Allows fire departments, fire protection districts or non-profit ambulance services to receive loans up to \$200,000 for the purchase of ambulances.
HB 3150	Removes a repeal date of the County Recorder Fraud Referral and Review Program so that county recorders can continue to review and prevent fraudulent deeds.
HB 3325	Allows the general manager of a public water district to be discharged at a meeting of the board of trustees upon a majority vote of the members. Currently it takes a unanimous vote.



HB 3400	Provides that municipalities operating a waterworks or combined waterworks/sewerage system can only bill for any service, including unbilled service, within 12 months of the service for residential customers, and within 24 months of the service for non-residential customers.
HB 3521	Discontinues the offices of township collector in Sangamon County on Jan. 1, 2022 and provides that the Sangamon County Treasurer shall assume the duties of each collector.
SB 0003	Creates a bipartisan government consolidation plan to allow local government units to dissolve through a voter referendum.
SB 0041	Allows municipalities to direct funds to trusts to get lower interest rates and also allows CMS to enter into 15-year contracts to help state facilities reach energy savings.
SB 0422	Allows townships to be exempt from competitive bidding for purposes of buying equipment, such as fire and safety gear, that was previously used by other governments.
SB 0567	Allows Macon County and the City of Decatur to use quick-take procedures to acquire property for construction on Brush College Road to resolve traffic issues.
SB 0641	Allows county animal control agencies to use funds for Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return programs for feral cats.
SB 0666	Removes weighted voting in township caucuses.
SB 0669	Requires the Chair of Lake County Board to be elected by the county as a whole.
SB 0751	Allows Cook and collar counties to collect non-real property taxes and fees in the same manner as they would collect fines, sanctions and costs resulting from county code violations.
SB 0789	Allows a county, township or municipality to use their allotted motor fuel tax funds for public transportation service, capital improvements to improve pedestrian, bicycle or transit mobility; or infrastructure used to support publicly or privately owned electric vehicles.
SB 0910	Provides protections to minorities when a county board creates or changes the apportionment of districts.
SB 1304	Places in statute minimum qualifications that a person must have or obtain in order to be appointed as a fire chief of a municipal fire department or fire protection district.
SB 1493	Allows a forest preserve district to abate unpaid property taxes and existing liens when it acquires certain types of distressed property.
SB 1518	Allows McHenry County to acquire certain property for the purposes of construction.
SB 1562	Names the appropriate local government as a party of interest in a abandoned housing rehabilitation plan application.
SB 1591	Allows for further development of land in Hoffman Estates by annexing it to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.
SB 1795	Seeks to address the issue of blight in Rockford by forgiving existing liens and property taxes when a property is acquired by the government for the purpose of demolition.
SB 1807	Bars municipalities from contracting with people or companies for the disposal of general construction or demolition debris.
SB 2057	Prohibits the health department from having jurisdiction over or regulating a private residential leasehold unless it regulates private single-family residential property in a similar manner.
SB 2066	Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to submit a yearly report on mandates, including the estimated compliance cost, to the General Assembly.
SB 2068	Allows a library board to vote to authorize an advisory question of public policy related to library operations to be placed on the next local ballot.



Pensions

- HB 3070 - Allows IMRF participants to make one payment for service credit after retirement, providing they applied while still employed.

HB 0164	Allows certain Metropolitan Reclamation District retirees or their surviving partner to “buy back” retirement benefits.
HB 0418	Changes the Downstate Police Article of the Illinois Pension Code.
HB 0815	Allows firefighters and police officers in certain municipalities to enter SLEP in the IMRF if the municipality hasn't established a pension plan for them.
HB 2966	Amends the IMRF Article of the Pension Code by making two technical changes.
HB 3070	Allows IMRF participants to make one payment for service credit after retirement, providing they applied while still employed.
HB 3122	Eliminates part time local elected officials' pensions.
SB 0701	Excludes vehicle allowances from the definition of earnings under IMRF.

Public Safety

- HB 3773 - Clarifies that a battery powered smoke detector must contain a battery that is non-replaceable, non-removable and capable of powering the detector for a minimum of 10 years.

HB 0616	Requires fire departments to present each new appointee with a certificate of appointment on the day he or she is sworn in, and requires that firefighters who were not issued a certificate of appointment when originally appointed be provided one within 10 days of requesting it.
HB 0769	Designates April 1 of each year as Illinois State Trooper Day.
HB 1677	Requires the Secretary of State to include information on human trafficking in its commercial drivers license curriculum and study guide information.
HB 1772	Requires fingerprint vendor agencies to receive certification from the Department of State Police that their equipment and software meets the specifications required by the Department.
HB 1849	Removes the rank of Special Agent Sergeant, Special Agent Master Sergeant, Special Agent Lieutenant, Special Agent Captain and Special Agent Major.
HB 1952	Allows an ambulance assistance provider to submit a proposal to the EMS Medical Director requesting approval of an in-field service level upgrade.
HB 2492	Exempts emergency vehicles and fire trucks from all size, weight and load limits in the Vehicle Code except on Class I highways.
HB 2661	Allows an EMT or Paramedic to transport a police dog injured in the line of duty to a veterinary clinic if there aren't any people requiring medical attention or transport at that time.
HB 3469	Allows vehicles operated by fire chiefs or by municipal or county emergency/disaster services to be equipped with sirens.
HB 3773	Clarifies that a battery powered smoke detector must contain a battery that is non-replaceable, non-removable and capable of powering the detector for a minimum of 10 years.
HB 3879	Allows the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to conduct an inventory of law enforcement agencies, county sheriff's offices, circuit court clerks or circuit clerks in the state that operate using a predominately paper system.
SB 0986	Extends the Human Trafficking Task Force repeal date to July 1, 2018.



Revenue and Taxes

- HB 0155 - Extends the time Cook County taxpayers have to pay their delinquent property taxes.
- SB 0852 - Extends the Live Theater Production Tax Credit for five years.
- SB 1567 - Requires the EDGE tax credit program to submit a report to the Illinois Commerce Commission concerning procurement and spending for female, minority, veteran and small business owned enterprises.

HB 0155	Extends the time Cook County taxpayers have to pay their delinquent property taxes.
HB 0373	Requires municipal libraries to submit financial documents regarding funds they will need next fiscal year earlier in the year.
HB 0466	Grants a one-month extension to mobile home tax notices.
HB 0819	Makes retailers' certificates of registration expire one year after the issuance or last renewal.
HB 0821	Requires retailers whose annual gross receipts average more than \$20,000 to file electronically or lose their vendor discount.
HB 1797	Restricts a regional port district from paying money owned to the Capital Development Board under its contract if it has not reached the required level of profit for 25 years.
HB 2551	Removes the stipulation that grants administered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall be funded by the General Revenue Fund.
HB 2783	Provides that the Secretary of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has the power to allow collection agencies in the State of Illinois to participate in a multi-state licensing system.
HB 2831	Creates the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act, providing local units of government the authority to establish a property assessed clean energy program.
SB 0473	Increases the maximum income limitation to qualify for the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze to \$65,000.
SB 0588	Extends a TIF district in Milledgeville's sunset date to the year 2030.
SB 0852	Extends the Live Theater Production Tax Credit for five years.
SB 1567	Requires the EDGE tax credit program to submit a report to the Illinois Commerce Commission concerning procurement and spending for female, minority, veteran and small business owned enterprises.
SB 1593	Provides that qualified parking areas owned by any religious institution that meets the qualifications for exemption are exempt from property tax when leased or rented to a municipality for the purpose of providing free parking or parking at a nominal cost.
SB 1598	Moves the sunset date on valuation procedure on PPV leases to Jan. 1, 2056.
SB 1783	Extends and expands the River Edge Historic Tax Credit from expiring Jan. 1, 2018 to expiring Jan. 1, 2022.
SB 2012	Extends the Angel Investment Tax Credit from Dec. 31, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2021, incorporates operational changes and new reporting requirements, and includes a reserve for M/F/D businesses and businesses in small counties.
SB 2046	Creates the Thriving Youth Income Tax Checkoff Fund to support grants for community-based youth programs. Grants would be available to providers delivering non-Medicaid services. Also creates a new Illinois Police Memorial checkoff and a State Police Memorial tax checkoff.



Seniors

- SB 0473 - Increases the maximum income limitation to qualify for the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze to \$65,000.
- SB 1479 - Allows grace period registration and change of address to be conducted for eligible residents at certain elder care facilities.

HB 0223	Amends the Nursing Home Care Act to make it clear that an identification wristlet may be placed on any resident per a physician's order.
SB 0473	Increases the maximum income limitation to qualify for the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze to \$65,000.
SB 0626	Allows the Director of Public Health to grant staffing waivers to nursing homes meeting certain requirements.
SB 1479	Allows grace period registration and change of address to be conducted for eligible residents at certain elder care facilities.
SB 1676	Requires healthcare providers to only refer patients to other providers that are properly licensed by the state.
SB 1790	Allows pharmacists to grant emergency prescription refills without a doctor's authorization, pending certain requirements.

State Government

- HB 0643 - Freezes the General Assembly's mileage reimbursement and per diem rates and provides that there will be no FY 18 cost of living adjustment for members of the General Assembly.
- SB 0008 - Creates procurement reform that makes the process more efficient while maintaining key transparency measures and saving taxpayers money.
- SB 0031 - Creates the Illinois TRUST act, restoring relations between law enforcement and immigrant communities.
- SB 0707 - Requires state agencies to investigate and report any security breaches to the General Assembly.

HB 0123	Designates the last Monday in September as "Indigenous Peoples Day."
HB 0136	Establishes the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum as an independent agency, separate from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.
HB 0140	Allows the Attorney General to become a member of the Multi-state Registration and Filing Portal, which is developing an online system that will allow nonprofit organizations and their professional fundraisers to comply with all states' registration and annual filing requirements through a single online portal.
HB 0284	Requires mobilization payments be made to subcontractors when the contract with the Department of Transportation provides for mobilization payments.
HB 0394	Authorizes the Secretary of State to solicit and accept sponsorship of registration renewal notices.
HB 0395	Allows the Secretary of State to implement a two-tiered REAL ID system under which applicants for drivers' licenses and identification cards may choose to apply for either a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card or a non-compliant license or ID card.
HB 0457	Amends the Opportunities for At-Risk Women Act by stating that appointments to the Task Force shall be made within 60 days after this bill is signed into law.
HB 0539	Allows county boards to reduce the number of election judges per precinct from five to three for primary elections.
HB 0547	Increases the threshold for which projects must be let to competitive bidding from \$20,000 to \$25,000 in the Municipal Code, the Illinois Local Library Act and the Public Library District Act of 1991.



HB 0623	Changes the State Comptroller Act by requiring state employee salaries to be rounded to the nearest hundred dollar when listing the most recent past year's salary amounts and the current year's total amount or monthly amount for the public.
HB 0643	Freezes the General Assembly's mileage reimbursement and per diem rates and provides that there will be no FY 18 cost of living adjustment for members of the General Assembly.
HB 0812	Makes shelter dogs and cats the official state animal.
HB 1808	Provides that if the property owed to a person that has been matched under the Prevailing Wage Act has a value greater than \$2,000 or is tangible property or securities, the State Treasurer must provide notice informing the person that he or she may file a claim with the Treasurer for the return of the property.
HB 2371	Requires every state employee to undergo annual cyber-security training by the Department of Technology & Innovation.
HB 2379	Requires the filing of a statement containing estimations of state expenditures or revenues when the governor issues an executive order.
HB 2382	Regulates "dry hydrants" under the Fire Hydrant Act.
HB 2439	Prohibits members of the Illinois Energy Conservation Advisory Council from receiving state grants for teaching or administering CEUs concerning any recommendation or rule proposed by the council.
HB 2474	Cleans up the Illinois Public Aid Code and ensures that the Department of Human Services stops receiving audit findings.
HB 2568	Designates milkweed as the official state wildflower.
HB 2664	Prohibits contractors, subcontractors or material suppliers with Department of Transportation contracts from offsetting, decreasing or diminishing payments due to subcontractors or material suppliers without reasonable cause.
HB 2704	Amends the Personnel Code by stating that payroll certifications must be made by an agency head, rather than Director of Central Management Services.
HB 2828	Requires the Department of Natural Resources to prioritize projects that create parks universally designed to meet everyone's needs, ages and mobility and where all equipment, and the park itself, is handicap-accessible.
HB 2878	Requires the Illinois Liquor Control Commission to commence actions for violations within two years of the date the Commission becomes aware of the violation.
HB 2895	Makes cycling the official State exercise.
HB 2987	Creates the State Agency Student Worker Opportunity Act. When a state agency has a job opening, that agency must notify the Department of Human Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Family Services, who then must notify qualified applicants of the job opening.
HB 3143	Expands the list of goods or services in the Prompt Payment Act, including services concerning prevention, intervention or treatment services and support for youth.
HB 3216	Provides that third-party contracts entered into by the State are permissible only when they are in the best interest of the State.
HB 3234	Allows the State Historian to use industry standards to preserve past editions of Illinois newspapers.
HB 3419	Places restrictions on the conditions under which "expatriate entities" may submit bids or enter into contracts with State agencies.
HB 3464	Expands the work experience requirements for licensure as a private security contractor to include having three years' experience in the Department of Corrections.



HB 3514	Amends the Business Corporation Act of 1983, providing that filings with the Secretary of State by entities formed under the Act may not be deemed “expedited services” subject to certain fees solely because the filings were made electronically.
HB 3649	Requires each state agency to provide a report to the State Comptroller that details the liabilities held at the agency.
HB 3658	Defines nominal value to mean the value of an item is \$1,000 or less.
HB 3855	Creates the First 2017 General Revisory Act.
SB 0008	Creates procurement reform that makes the process more efficient while maintaining key transparency measures and saving taxpayers money.
SB 0031	Creates the Illinois TRUST act, restoring relations between law enforcement and immigrant communities.
SB 0055	Designates August 4 of each year as Barack Obama Day in honor of our 44th president, to be celebrated throughout the state.
SB 0100	Creates the Illinois Complete Count Commission, which shall develop, recommend and assist in the administration of a census outreach strategy to encourage full participation in the 2020 federal decennial census of population.
SB 0265	Requires notaries to state that they are not attorneys or providing legal advice in electronic communications and advertisements, and makes other guidelines for notaries.
SB 0267	Allows the Rantoul Historical Society and other museums to access the grants for the Octave Chanute Aerospace Heritage Fund.
SB 0282	Designates April 16 of each year as Esther Golar Day.
SB 0325	Extends the sunset for the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act from Jan. 1, 2018 to Jan. 1, 2028.
SB 0707	Requires state agencies to investigate and report any security breaches to the General Assembly.
SB 0886	Allows for the state to sell the Thompson Center in Chicago so the valuable land can be redeveloped.
SB 1085	Clarifies the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois to require that a licensee or applicant for licensure through an interstate compact must submit his or her fingerprints to the Department of State Police.
SB 1459	Creates an electronic notary task force.
SB 1489	Allows the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to collect fees from attendees at IEMA sponsored conferences.
SB 1577	Updates the False Claims Act, aligning penalty amounts with new federal law.
SB 1668	Allows the Department of Natural Resources to transfer land in Will County.
SB 1670	Requires the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions to offer an option for sexual orientation in applications that must be reported.
SB 1696	Creates an Illinois Muslim American Advisory Council and makes all necessary provisions for the appointment of members to it and reports issued from it.
SB 1869	Provides a free translation tool to enable translation of the ILGA website into multiple languages and creates a task force for language access to government services.
SB 1880	Requires online publishing of the Legislative Synopsis and Digest weekly during regular and special sessions of the General Assembly.
SB 1902	Allows locally held bank accounts in adequately protected financial institutions to receive and disburse security deposits for renting facilities at each State fairground during non-fair time periods.



Transportation

- HB 1677 - Requires the Secretary of State to include information on human trafficking in its commercial drivers license curriculum and study guide information.
- HB 2453 - Requires the Department of Revenue to transfer funds directly from sales taxes into the Downstate Public Transportation Fund instead of first being deposited into the General Revenue Fund (GRF).
- HB 3240 - Requires that O’Hare International Airport must upgrade its permanent noise monitoring system on or before June 30, 2018.

HB 0683	Makes three changes concerning truck length.
HB 0733	Prohibits motor vehicle dealers from allowing a driver to leave the premises in a vehicle with any type of signs/decals on its windows that would obstruct the driver's view.
HB 0764	Provides that a recently annexed highway will revert back to the township that had previous jurisdiction if the disconnection or de-annexation takes place within one year after the original annexation.
HB 1677	Requires the Secretary of State to include information on human trafficking in its commercial drivers license curriculum and study guide information.
HB 1784	Allows motorists to pass bicyclists in no-passing zones and allows bicyclists to drive on the shoulder.
HB 2361	Allows the City of Chicago to enact an ordinance for a noise monitoring system anywhere on Lake Shore Drive.
HB 2437	Authorizes the Illinois Department of Human Services to issue "volunteerism" decals for the Universal special license plate.
HB 2453	Requires the Department of Revenue to transfer funds directly from sales taxes into the Downstate Public Transportation Fund instead of first being deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
HB 2485	Creates the Prostate Cancer Awareness Fund and authorizes the Department of Public Health to issue "prostate cancer awareness" decals for the Universal special license plate.
HB 2499	Allows tollway vehicles weighing 9,000 pounds or more to use red or white oscillating or flashing lights and adds them to the definition of authorized emergency vehicle.
HB 2543	Allows interstate carriers operating intrastate to operate a motor vehicle on the State’s public roads without an IOA number painted or affixed to any side of the cab or power unit.
HB 2567	Creates the Automobile Dealer’s License Task Force to conduct a study relating to the licensing and oversight of nontraditional vehicle dealers in Illinois.
HB 2581	Requires local municipalities to enter into a maintenance agreement with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority whenever the Authority has constructed or will construct grade separations or interchange improvements in the future.
HB 2595	Creates the US Coast Guard license plate.
HB 2610	Allows the Secretary of State to electronically verify auto insurance policies.
HB 2611	Requires courts to report a conviction or disposition to the Secretary of State when a minor is convicted of operating a snowmobile or watercraft while under the influence.
HB 2725	Requires the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation to enter into an inter-agency agreement and coordinate on developing the obligation of projects authorized by the Federal Highway Administration for projects within the Recreational Trails Program.
HB 3004	Extends the ability of the Regional Transportation Authority to issue, sell and deliver additional Working Cash Notes until July 1, 2020.



HB 3045	Requires the Secretary of State to include a person’s email address, if available, at the time of application for a certificate of title and vehicle registration.
HB 3172	Requires a truck tractor in combination with a semitrailer to be submitted to safety inspection every 12 months.
HB 3240	Requires that O'Hare International Airport must upgrade its permanent noise monitoring system on or before June 30, 2018.
HB 3293	Provides that when an individual or entity that is not a school district, religious organization, school bus vendor or school bus company sells a school bus, the purchaser must re-paint the vehicle so it does not resemble a school bus.
HB 3874	Clarifies that no person shall operate, register or maintain registration of a motor vehicle anywhere in this State (including on private property) unless the vehicle is covered by a liability insurance policy.
SB 0052	Allows the Horsemen's Council of Illinois to issue a decal for the Universal special license plate.
SB 0396	Creates three new classifications of electric bicycles and allows local authorities to regulate low-speed electric and gas-bicycles.
SB 0675	Allows the Secretary of State to cancel a license or permit if the holder has helped an out of state resident illegally acquire an Illinois license.
SB 0822	Places aggravated passing of a school bus under offenses requiring the mandatory revocation of a license.
SB 1267	Requires each Class I railroad to submit an annual report containing procurement goals and actual spending for female-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned and small business enterprises.
SB 1376	Makes updates and clarifying changes to the Railroad Revitalization Act.
SB 1429	Clarifies that cars started by keyless remote starter systems are not considered unattended vehicles.
SB 1580	Establishes that the Department of Transportation will collect electronic crash data and allows IDOT to make motor vehicle accident data available to the public for a fee.
SB 1681	Requires that every rail carrier that contracts with a carrier for the transportation of its employees must verify that the contract carrier has hit and run, uninsured, and underinsured motor vehicle coverage.
SB 1687	Prohibits manufacturers from taking certain actions against dealerships.
SB 1946	Creates a procedure for insurance companies and salvage dealers to obtain a junk or salvage car title through the Secretary of State in certain cases.
SB 2028	Allows a school bus to be used to transport passengers other than students to non-school based events without changing the registration and license plates on the bus.



Veterans

- HB 2897 - Allows the Helping Paws Service Dog Program to also train service dogs for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or depression.
- HB 3701 - Requires colleges that receive state funds to have a policy in place for awarding credit for prior military training and service.
- SB 0860 - Updates the Line of Duty Compensation Act to help compensate the families of servicemen and women who were killed in three subsequent military operations post-9/11.

HB 0374	Allows veterans with specialty veterans plates to replace them with another type of plate without paying the fee.
HB 2449	Allows armed servicemen and women to terminate or suspend contracts such as internet service or gym memberships until they return from duty.
HB 2570	Provides that when an Illinois National Guard Member dies during active duty or in training, a state flag shall be presented to the next of kin of the deceased.
HB 2595	Creates the US Coast Guard license plate.
HB 2897	Allows the Helping Paws Service Dog Program to also train service dogs for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or depression.
HB 2973	Requires the Illinois Veterans' Advisory Council to investigate the re-entry process for service members who return to civilian life after being engaged in active theater and dissolves the Illinois Discharged Service Member Task Force.
HB 3017	Establishes that, in addition to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, any other State or federal entity, agency or person can notify the governor of the death by hostile fire of an Illinois resident member of the United States Armed Forces.
HB 3018	Makes technical changes in various acts by correcting reference to the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
HB 3095	Makes certain veterans deemed to have met the collegiate educational requirements to be an Illinois State Police officer.
HB 3507	Grants students whose parents are military personnel five days of excused absences if their parent is deployed.
HB 3701	Requires colleges that receive state funds to have a policy in place for awarding credit for prior military training and service.
SB 0266	Adds the Chicago Veterans Home to state statute and creates the Chicago Veterans Home Fund.
SB 0838	Requires the Department of Public Health to promote awareness and programs for cancer screening of veterans.
SB 0860	Updates the Line of Duty Compensation Act to help compensate the families of servicemen and women who were killed in three subsequent military operations post-9/11.
SB 0866	Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide returning veterans with informational resources on how to acquire service animals.
SB 1238	Allows the Veteran and Service members court programs to operate in more than one county in the Circuit at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
SB 1312	Removes the States Attorney approval requirement for participation in the Veteran and Servicemember Court.
SB 1693	Adds veterans designation to death certificates.