

SENATE IN REVIEW

**A look at the 2018 accomplishments of
the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus**





Senators,

It has been this department's honor to provide support for you during this productive legislative Session. We worked together to address issues ranging from gun violence to education funding to equal rights. We continued to expand our outreach to constituents through social media and e-newsletters to communicate the hard work you do, and, as always, advance and promote your message.

Working with you this Session has been a pleasure. As you prepare to leave Springfield, we are preparing to work with you on exciting upcoming events in your district in the months ahead.

Brandy Renfro
Communications Director

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Legislative accomplishments

As Illinois began a yearlong countdown to its 200th bicentennial, Illinois Senate Democrats in the 100th General Assembly focused on restoring the state's reputation and fiscal stability after a two-year budget stalemate that produced a backlog of bills and decimated services and institutions.

Senate Democrats also concentrated on advancing solutions to problems affecting families and individuals throughout the state – fair funding of public schools, reducing gun violence, resolving the teacher shortage crisis and ensuring government transparency and accountability on behalf of taxpayers.

Members of the caucus also devoted time and attention to standing priorities, including protection of the middle class and vital state services, collective bargaining rights, fair wages, access to affordable higher education and workforce training, services for the poor and disadvantaged, and voter access.

School funding reform

Senate Democrats were the driving force behind a landmark school funding formula overhaul that passed the General Assembly in the late summer and was signed into law Aug. 31, 2017.

The new formula, known as the evidence-based model, was the result of years of hard work, grassroots advocacy and bipartisan compromise.

The evidence-based model prioritizes funding for the state's neediest schools for the first time in decades. It ensures no school districts lose money, eliminates the past system of winning and losing school districts, and offers financial certainty to school districts annually when they embark on crafting their budgets for upcoming schoolyears.

After some significant delays in implementing the new formula earlier this year, largely at the hands of Gov. Bruce Rauner, Senate Democrats in March cleared the way for it to proceed, and the state comptroller was able to begin distributing eagerly awaited checks under the new formula to schools around the state in April.



Generations of Illinois children stand to benefit from schools that are fairly and adequately funded under the new formula, said Bunker Hill Senator Andy Manar, the law's chief Senate sponsor and one of the legislature's most vocal advocates for fair school funding.

"The data we have now reinforces what we already knew: that there is astonishing unfairness in how school districts around Illinois are funded," Manar said.

"We have school districts with more than double the amount of resources it should take to educate their particular students, while other school districts have barely half of what they need. It's been this way for years, and it's going to come to an end."

Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford, a longtime champion for school funding reform, lauded the bipartisan compromise that led to success on behalf of Illinois schoolchildren.

"I will continue working to make education more accessible and fair on every level, and I am glad we were able to take a significant step toward that goal," she said.

Lawmakers kept their promise to school districts and advocates by including in next year's state budget the \$350 million in K-12 education funding required under the new formula.

Addressing gun violence

As mass school shootings and threats of gun violence continued to make headlines around the nation, Senate Democrats led the way on violence-prevention discussions and the introduction of stricter gun laws to save lives in Illinois.

Oak Park Senator Don Harmon found bipartisan support for his initiative to regulate gun dealers and reduce the number of illegal guns being used to commit crimes in the state. Gov. Rauner vetoed a similar measure in March. Lawmakers were unable to override the veto despite urging from Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich, medical professionals who treat gunshot victims and others.

"This is a sensible measure that satisfies everyone's concerns," Harmon said. "It doesn't compromise our objectives, nor does it infringe on

anyone's 2nd Amendment right to buy, sell or own a firearm."

Senator Kwame Raoul of Chicago proposed a ban on bump stocks and trigger cranks, which passed in the Senate with bipartisan support. Twelve rifles recovered from a Las Vegas hotel room following a massacre last year were equipped with bump stocks.

"There are a lot of passionate voices on this issue, but one thing I hope we are all passionate about as lawmakers is keeping the people of Illinois safe," Raoul said. "This is a simple step, but one that has the potential to save lives."

Deerfield Senator Julie Morrison was prompted to act after a mass shooting in Tennessee at the hands of an Illinois man in late April that left four dead at a Waffle House. She introduced a plan to increase oversight and penalties whenever a family member takes possession of a firearm from a person who is deemed unqualified to possess the weapon.

"This tragic situation suggests we need to be more specific about what our laws mean and how they should be enforced," Morrison said. "It is of paramount importance that firearms do not end up back in the hands of individuals who have been deemed unfit to possess them."

Morrison also proposed the Lethal Violence Order of Protection Act, a measure to increase the waiting period to purchase assault weapons to 72 hours and a plan to restore Illinois municipalities' ability to regulate military-style assault weapons.

Assistant Majority Leader Antonio "Tony" Munoz, a former Chicago police officer, also advanced measures to address gun violence. He proposed a ban on the sale of assault rifles to anyone under the age of 21 and a measure to give the Illinois State Police tools to better evaluate Firearm Owners Identification Card applications.

"As a former police officer, I have seen firsthand the damage these weapons can do in the wrong hands. It's horrifying," he said. "We have to do better to prevent this violence, and this is a step in the right direction."



Transparency and accountability

Good government was a priority for Senate Democrats, who advanced proposals to bring sunlight to state budgeting, contracts and procurement, while demanding accountability for costly employee severance packages.

Senate Democrats approved a requirement that governors must record late interest payments as a separate line item in its appropriations to state agencies to paint a clearer picture of the state's finances and slow the depletion of funding needed to run those agencies.

Villa Park Senator Tom Cullerton sponsored the measure. Currently, most late payment interest penalties accrue at a rate of 12 percent per month for bills unpaid after 90 days, while health care bills accumulate interest at a rate of 9 percent after 30 days.

"Utilizing responsible accounting practices to generate a responsible state budget allows Illinois citizens to know how and where their valuable tax dollars are spent," Cullerton said. "As legislators, we can't negotiate a proper budget when we don't know how much money is owed or where it is going."

Cullerton also proposed barring golden parachutes for public employees fired for misconduct and limiting government-paid severance packages to an amount no greater than 20 weeks of compensation.

"Our state cannot afford to waste a single penny, especially to help folks who treat taxpayers like their own personal piggy bank," he said.

Senate Democrats also called on Gov. Rauner to put an end to the practice of concealing governor's office salaries within state agency budgets, a practice known as "offshoring." They passed the Truth in Hiring Act, which requires every employee who works in the governor's office to be paid from the governor's payroll.

Offshoring has been utilized by Illinois governors, Democratic and Republican, for years to make their office budgets appear smaller than they actually are. Examples include paying an education advisor to the governor \$250,000 from the Department of

Human Services budget or a deputy chief of staff to the governor \$140,000 from the Illinois State Police budget.

The practice creates problems for those who must try to make sense of the governor's expenses, including lawmakers who determine appropriations for state agencies.

Senate Democrats also had taxpayers in mind when they raised red flags about the Rauner administration's pricey lease of a Springfield warehouse for paper storage. An audit published this spring contained troubling findings about how the administration approached the procurement process.

Cullerton, who pursued the initial investigation of the warehouse deal with Senator Andy Manar, said the audit findings were eye opening and suggested more review was required.

"Many questions are still left out there, including whether Gov. Rauner will ever admit his failure in leadership and the obvious corruption revealed within this report," he said.

Putting teachers in classrooms

As Illinois school districts sounded the alarm on the growing statewide teacher shortage crisis, Senate Democrats sought ideas from educators and administrators about how to solve the problem and passed needed legislation.

"Teacher shortages are leading to larger class sizes and inadequate learning experiences for our children. This is simply unacceptable," said Shorewood Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and chair of the Senate Education Committee. "It's important that we empower educators who want to teach in Illinois by implementing commonsense reforms to cut red tape and streamline the teacher licensure process."

In school districts throughout Illinois, superintendents struggle to attract qualified applicants for open teaching jobs. Classes may be taught by permanent substitutes, and classrooms sometimes go dark because no one can be found at all to teach a class the entire semester or schoolyear.



Complicating matters is that Illinois also has a shortage of available substitute teachers.

Senate Democrats advanced a comprehensive, bipartisan proposal to address the teacher shortage by slashing red tape to encourage educators outside of Illinois to apply for hard-to-fill jobs here, creating a short-term substitute teaching license and allowing downstate retired teachers to substitute in classrooms without jeopardizing their retirement benefits.

Vernon Hills Senator Terry Link proposed a plan to allow school districts to use recruiting firms to find substitute teachers as a means of easing the shortage.

Chicago Senator Omar Aquino proposed the Growing Future Educators Program, a pathway to a paraprofessional license, to address the shortage of bilingual teachers in Illinois.

“Our students need bilingual educators and Illinois has plenty of talented people with firsthand experience as English language learners who are willing and able to do the job,” he said. “The aim of the Growing Future Educators Program is to connect these talented people with careers in education while improving the capacity of our schools to educate bilingual students.”

Supporting ag and small businesses

Support for small businesses and agriculture continued to be priorities for Senate Democrats this year.

Illinois would join a growing list of states allowing the cultivation of industrial hemp under a plan passed by Chicago Heights Senator Toi Hutchinson.

“Illinois has some of the best farmland in the Midwest,” Hutchinson said. “And with more than 80 percent of our land use tied to agriculture, farmers would finally have the chance to grow and produce a product that is already available in our stores.”

In 2014, the federal farm bill for the first time allowed universities and state departments of agriculture to develop pilot programs to study the cultivation and marketing of industrial hemp. Illinois passed legislation in 2015 allowing state universities with four-year agriculture degrees to research

hemp.

Elgin Senator Cristina Castro sought to protect brick-and-mortar businesses in Illinois by proposing a plan to ensure out-of-state businesses that make sales in Illinois pay their fair share of taxes and meet the same requirements as in-state businesses. Currently, out-of-state retailers who sell online to Illinois residents do not have to collect a sales tax, which undercuts local retailers and denies revenue to publicly funded services that benefit everyone.

“Businesses in our state are already struggling,” Castro said. “Online stores from out of state have an advantage over them because they don’t have to meet the same requirements. It’s time for that to change.”

Likewise, Des Plaines Senator Laura Murphy sought to show support for products made in Illinois by sponsoring a plan to extend the sunset of the Support Your Neighbor Commission, which works to increase the sale of Illinois and American-made products.

To help spur continued economic growth locally, legislators such as Senator Bill Haine of Alton passed legislation to extend Tax Increment Financing districts.

And businesses along Illinois’ borders would have easier access to state resources thanks to a measure sponsored by Senator Elgie R. Sims Jr., a Chicago Democrat that aims to help Illinois businesses identify existing and often underused state resources. It directs the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to create a strategy to assist municipalities located along the borders of Illinois and make the information available online.

“This legislation will not only help border communities, but it could help and potentially prevent businesses throughout the state from leaving,” Sims said. “As I talk to entrepreneurs in my district, it is clear they want a plan to help them compete with their out-of-state neighbors and this legislation will help businesses throughout our state.”

SPREADING THE NEWS







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 **284,121** emails, web forms 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 **2,700,080** constituents.
- Sent out **28,099** emails to constituents.

Here is a snapshot of incoming constituent correspondence:

Method	Number of Incoming Correspondence
Email	265,792
Web forms	14,463
Letters	1,663
Phone calls	1,504
Faxes	699
Total	284,121

Top 10 issues for this session:

- 2nd Amendment Issues: **2,254**
- Budget: **2,199**
- Education: **2,139**
- Health Care: **1,118**
- Public Safety: **692**
- Taxes: **630**
- Animal Rights: **530**
- Pensions: **530**
- Consumer Issues: **520**
- Human Rights: **490**

Tele-Town Hall meetings

This year, Senate Democrats participated in telephone town halls reaching a total of **273,816** 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 **3,877**. Senator Manar had the most successful call this year with a total of **6,841** people. The budget dominated most of the calls. We look forward to continuing to offer this service next year.

Tele-Town Halls	
Total called	273,816
Active participants	31,014
Live questions	68

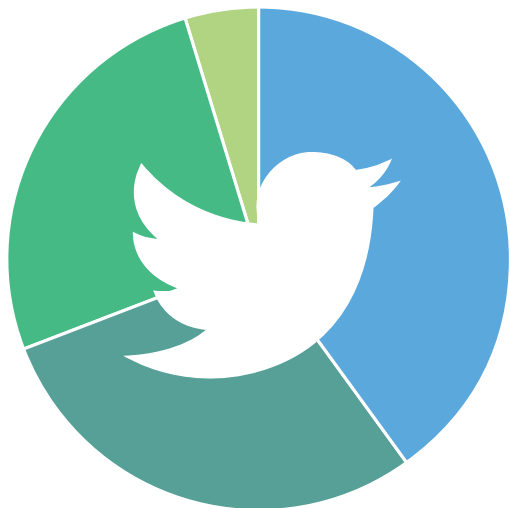


2018 Social Media Report

**Twitter**

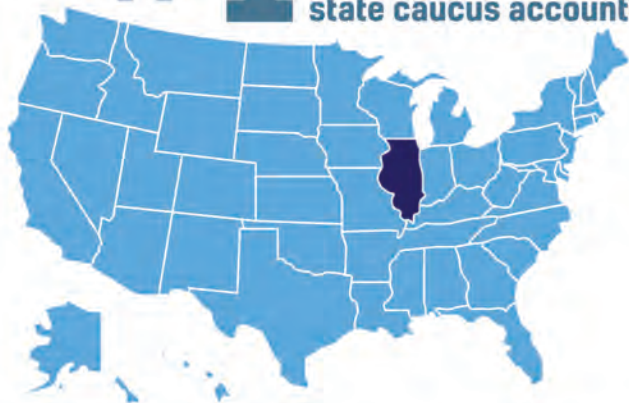
twitter.com/ilsendems

Twitter Followers 2018



39%	ILSenateDems	19,058
31%	ILHouseGOP	15,641
26%	ILSenateGOP	12,416
4%	ILHouseDems	2,171

Still **#1** Top verified state legislative Twitter following out of 150 state caucus accounts



Top 3 @ILSenDems Tweets

Jan - May 2018

Engagement

Impressions

We are walking out at 10 am from the east doors of the Capitol to the Lincoln statue. Join us in solidarity with young people across Illinois and the nation against gun violence. #Enough
pic.twitter.com/xgDrwwxBvp

869

54,053

@DonHarmonIL joins @MomsDemand to urge gun dealer licensing override
<http://ow.ly/9loD30jyWR9>
#OurOneJob pic.twitter.com/SZN4BRP105

5,201

28,375

Sen. Julie Morrison, sponsor of the Lethal Order of Protection gun safety measure, speaks to @MomsDemand rally outside the Capitol this morning. #neveragain
pic.twitter.com/LRGMHyciOI

108

10,544

Top 10 Illinois Political Accounts on Twitter

Illinois Policy	37,028
GovRauner	31,332
Capitol Fax	24,322
RayLong	19,548
ILSenDems.....	19,057
GregHinz	15,696
AmandaVinicky.....	14,854
ChiTribCloutSt.....	12,052
MoniqueGarcia.....	12,012
Trib_ed_board	11,865



Top Tweeted video

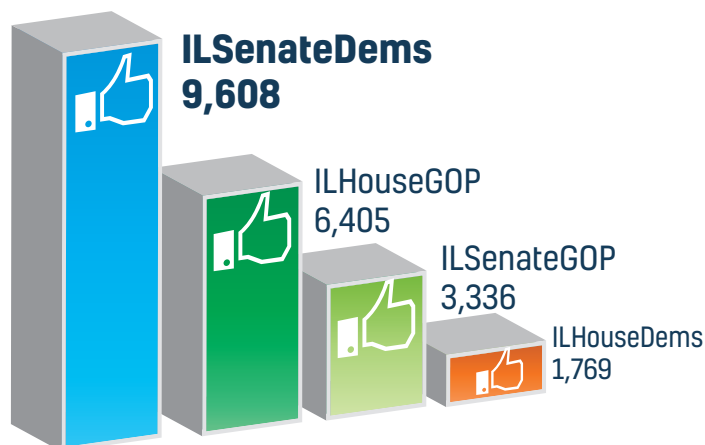
@ILSenDems Apr 21 .@DonHarmonIL joins @MomsDemand to urge gun dealer licensing override ow.ly/9loD30jyWR9 #OurOneJob pic.twitter.com/SZN4BRP1O5

8,903 views



facebook.com/IllinoisSenateDemocraticCaucus

Facebook Likes



Top Facebook Live Event

05/29/18 Live Session Update from the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus

1.1K views



Top Facebook Posts

04/25/18

Today, I am reintroducing the substance of the Gun Dealer Licensing Act as an amendment to an existing bill, Senate Bill 337, and I will begin work immediately on gathering support for the measure.

Type: Link

Impressions: 13,906

Engagement: 14%



Harmon: "Victory" is protecting Illinoisans, not political win against governor

03/14/18

Senators Tony Munoz, Kwame Raoul, Don Harmon, Julie Morrison, Melinda Bush and Jacqueline Collins spoke to the press today after the Senate passed three gun safety bills.

Type: Video

Impressions: 6,525

Engagement: 15%



03/14/18

Today the Illinois Senate took part in the #NationalWalkoutDay in solidarity with students throughout Illinois and the nation.

Here are some highlights.

Type: Video

Impressions: 3,381

Engagement: 9%





YouTube

youtube.com/ILSenDems

2018 Quick Stats

152 VIDEOS
UPLOADED
IN 2018



more
than **6K**
views
in 2018



100%
accessible



Closed captioning added to all videos in 2018.

On mobile alone, **YouTube**
reaches more 18-49 year-olds
than any broadcast or CABLE
TV network.

2018 Video Highlights



Ashley's Law



Black History Month



Medical Cannabis Petitions



Soundcloud

soundcloud.com/ilsendems



100+ pieces of featured audio produced in 2018



Instagram

instagram.com/ilsenatedems



LinkedIn

linkedin.com/company/illinois-state-senate

508 followers

Graphics for Social Media Messaging



NEW MONEY UNDER THE 2018 SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA
Illinois Senate District 48

NEW FUNDS BY COUNTY	Current Year	Change	2018 Total
CHICAGO	\$857,978	+	\$857,978
CHICAGO COUNTY	\$2,549,402	+	\$2,549,402
CHICAGO COUNTY	\$693,971	+	\$693,971
CHICAGO COUNTY	\$2,429,659	+	\$2,429,659
CHICAGO COUNTY	\$1,290,120	+	\$1,290,120
CHICAGO COUNTY	\$197,096	+	\$197,096
TOTAL NEW FUNDS FOR SCHOOL IN ILLINOIS DISTRICT 48	\$8,018,228	+	\$8,018,228

Andy Manar
Representative for District 48



\$288,777 IN NEW GRANTS!

These new grants help fund library expenses such as materials, personnel, equipment, operating expenses, and technology. For more information, visit www.librarygrant.com.

LOCAL LIBRARY	CITY	AMOUNT
Warren-Newport Public Library District	Gurnee	\$83,382.50
Zion-Benton Public Library District	Zion	\$53,003.75
Round Lake Area Public Library District	Round Lake	\$50,500.00
Grayslake Area Public Library District	Grayslake	\$35,215.00
Wauconda Area Public Library District	Wauconda	\$34,057.50
Antioch Public Library District	Antioch	\$32,638.75

\$288,777

State Senator 31st District
Melinda Bush
SenatorMelindaBush.com





An evolving Spanish media outreach

Spanish-language media outreach provided content to major media outlets for the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus' Latino and non-Latino members.

On-camera interviews with senators were provided for daily news coverage in both English and Spanish. The creation of content in video format maximized its usability for a broader number of media outlets through print, online, social media and television.

One notable example was “Mortal Doses,” Univision Chicago’s two-part special on the opioid crisis, which featured legislation and interviews with state senators Melinda Bush and Don Harmon.

Acknowledging the surge of social media and online digital content as powerful communications tools, production of in-house videos in a news-like format helped spread the word about Senate Democrats’ initiatives.

“Voices Act” with State Senator Cristina Castro, “Health Fair” with State Senator Omar Aquino and “A Night of Unity” with State Senator Julie Morrison are examples of video stories that conveyed an effective message using innovative multimedia tools.

Interaction with constituents and stakeholders is essential for caucus members. With the assistance of Spanish-language outreach efforts, a summit was organized for Senate leadership, the Senate Latino Caucus and immigrants’ rights activists.

In addition, the Senate’s work this spring passing a record number of measures to improve the lives of immigrants was broadly reported in the media.

That includes reporting on initiatives to help victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking, to allow college-educated residents with no Social Security number to apply for a professional license, and to prohibit landlords from questioning a tenant’s immigration status as a means of harassment or eviction.





Senate Women's Caucus

Democratic and Republican female senators joined together this year to form the Senate Women's Caucus to promote and advance women's issues within the Legislature and support female senators.

Women senators have met and worked together informally for years, especially on matters involving the state budget. This year, with heightened focus on gender equality and sexual harassment, they decided it was time to formalize those meetings.

After all, they noted, throughout history when women mobilize and claim their seat at the table, they break barriers and find solutions to the most stubborn problems.

"The Women's Caucus brings together a diverse group of legislators from across the political spectrum," State Senator Toi Hutchinson said. "We recognize the importance of being bipartisan so that Senate leadership will respect our efforts. We intend to be taken seriously."

Since the formation of the Senate Women's Caucus in

November 2017, the group has developed bylaws and established a legislative committee to review and vet policy proposals. For any legislation to gain the support of the caucus, 50 percent of Republican members and 50 percent of Democratic members must support the proposal.

The first piece of legislation to garner the endorsement of the caucus was ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, SJRCA 4, sponsored by State Senator Heather Steans. With the support of the caucus, on May 30 Illinois became the 37th state to ratify the ERA.

For the ERA to be ratified to the U.S. Constitution, 38 states must approve the amendment.

"By ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment we can provide a strong legal protection for women's rights and prevent rollbacks from Congress or presidential administrations," Steans said. "After nearly 50 years of opposition, we are just one state away from ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the constitution."



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

The Equal Rights Amendment declares that equality of rights shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex. This legislation solidifies legal protections for women and would prevent rollbacks to advancements for women's rights such as the Equal Pay Act and Title IX.

"The Senate Women's Caucus came together to empower and amplify the voices of women throughout our state," said Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford, a Maywood Democrat and co-chairwoman of the caucus.

"It is fitting that the first piece of legislation endorsed by the caucus is the Equal Rights Amendment, which protects women's constitutional rights and is one of the many women's issues that is long overdue."



Senate Black Caucus: Standing up for diverse communities

The senators of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, a collective of African-American lawmakers from both chambers of the General Assembly, continued work on behalf of the black community by promoting education, health and welfare, minority business enterprise, job creation, consumer education and criminal justice reform.

The black community in Illinois continues to feel the effects of the budget impasse. Black Caucus Chair Kimberly A. Lightford led the group in its efforts to make its priorities and those of its constituents known at the beginning of the legislative session.

The caucus called out Gov. Bruce Rauner for his failure to govern and articulate his plans to address the state's backlog of bills, invest in struggling communities and ensure continued investment in

K-12 schools under a new education funding law.

Minority vendors that want to do business with the state continue to struggle to get their foot in the door under the current administration. State Senator James F. Clayborne Jr. is among those who have won approval of new initiatives to address the problem, such as the Business Enterprise Program, which is designed to prioritize minorities, women and people with disabilities.

After the governor decided to take credit this spring for legislation sponsored by State Senator Mattie Hunter in 2016 and claimed to be a champion for minority procurement, members of the Senate Black Caucus highlighted his political stunt during a press conference in May.

State Senator Toi Hutchinson

sponsored a proposal that would require companies doing business with the state to have a sexual harassment policy protecting workers. The plan requires companies that make a bid or offer for a state contract to have a sexual harassment policy in place. Additionally, companies that claim EDGE tax credits would be required to include their sexual harassment policy in their annual report to the state.

Chairwoman Lightford fought to put an end to wage discrimination against African-Americans under the Equal Pay Act. She advanced a proposal that would prohibit employers from paying wages to African-American employees at a rate less than the rate paid to employees who are not African-American for the same or substantially similar work.

Gun violence is another priority



for the Senate Black Caucus. State Senator Kwame Raoul passed legislation in the Senate making it illegal to sell, manufacture, purchase or possess bump stocks and trigger cranks.

Bump stocks and trigger cranks are attachments that modify firearms to fire at a faster rate. Twelve of the rifles recovered from a Las Vegas hotel room after a gunman killed 58 people and injured 546 were equipped with bump stocks.

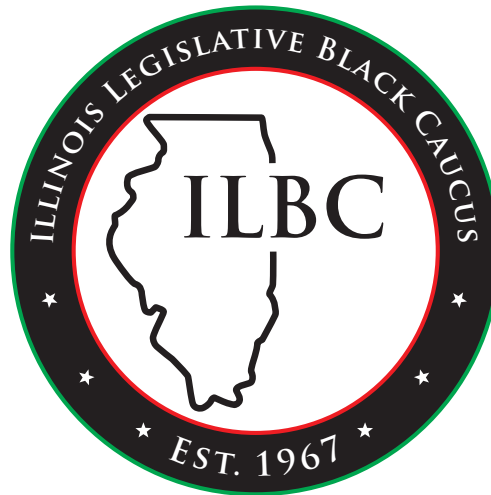
In addition, the Senate Black Caucus is spearheading improvements to the use of controversial gang databases by police. The legislation was introduced by State Senator Patricia Van Pelt.

The use of gang databases to track people labeled as suspected gang members has been called into question in recent months after investigative reports found that hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans have been added to gang databases.

On the health care front, State Senator Emil Jones III and the Senate Black Caucus united to protect funds for Illinois' safety net hospitals. Unlike other hospitals, safety net hospitals cannot subsidize the cost of providing care for Medicaid patients through private insurance. Many safety net facilities lose millions of dollars because they take Medicaid patients almost exclusively, and Medicaid only covers 50 percent to 70 percent of the cost.

State Senator Napoleon Harris III is lead sponsor of education

legislation that would require community colleges and public universities to offer a course on the events of black history. His proposal would allow them to meet the requirement through an online program or course, and it extends the opportunity to elementary and



high schools that already have the requirement.

In response to the alarming report released by WBEZ, in 2017, which uncovered that Chicago Public Schools was intentionally scaling back their special education funding and services, Senator Mattie Hunter sponsored legislation to re-examine the school system's approach.

The bill requires CPS principals and school personnel who are regular members of an individualized education program team to determine special education staffing needs. WBEZ found that schools with wealthier student populations spent the most per student while schools with mostly low-income students spent the least. The plan aims to close

disparities in education spending based on race and income.

Keeping businesses in Illinois is critical to providing good jobs and revitalizing struggling communities. For that reason, State Senator Elgie R. Sims Jr. proposed helping Illinois businesses identify existing and often underused state resources. The plan would help businesses better compete with companies in neighboring states.

State Senator Jacqueline Collins has taken on the challenge of helping the state's unbanked residents protect their money. She sponsored a plan to cap rates at check-cashing facilities.

Unbanked consumers disproportionately are lower-income, African-American, Hispanic and working-age people with disabilities. Collins' plan would protect them from an across-the-board double-digit increase on the maximum fees that could be charged for check-cashing by currency exchanges.

The Senate Black Caucus supported additional broad-based initiatives, including state licensing of gun dealers and the Equal Rights Amendment. Members have continued their work to ensure African-American citizens are equally represented in the General Assembly, especially at the budget negotiation table, where Hutchinson and Sims have seats.

The Senate Black Caucus worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft and pass a budget that restores stability to state services and protects programs that are central within the black community.



Senate Latino Caucus: Empowering the Latino community in the face of adversity

The members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus continued to push forth legislative measures that uplift the Latino community throughout Illinois.

Members stood for important issues dealing with minority businesses, gun control, human trafficking, job training, educating underprivileged communities, health care and immigration.

The contractor industry is a major employer in Latino communities in Illinois. When minority contractors were seeking more transparency regarding the payment of their contracts, Latino Caucus Co-Chair Martin

A. Sandoval teamed up with the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association to help minority contractors get paid.

Requiring the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Capital Development Board to declare whether vouchers submitted to the comptroller include a payment to a subcontractor and posting that information on the comptroller's website would help contractors know the process of their payments.

With a rise in the use of assault weapons in crimes, Assistant Majority Leader Tony Munoz

proposed banning the sale of assault rifles to anyone under the age of 21. Citing the damage assault weapons can cause when in the wrong hands and incidents in two neighborhoods he represents, Munoz continues to look for ways to keep communities safe by curbing gun violence and other crime.

Illinois ranks among the top states for human trafficking cases, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. To provide victims with adequate access or right to file a civil suit against those responsible, Assistant Majority Leader Iris Y. Martinez



proposed a measure that clarifies victims may bring a civil cause of action against those who caused or benefited from their injury.

Working to ensure young people are prepared for the job market, State Senator Omar Aquino introduced a measure that would order the State Board of Education to facilitate job training programs for advanced manufacturing technical skills in at least 12 public high schools in areas throughout the state where the youth unemployment rate is at least twice the national average.

One way to break the cycle of poverty is education. State Senator Cristina Castro sponsored a plan to help certain youth from the state Department of Children and Family Services, after applying for federal student aid, to receive a scholarship that would cover their remaining college tuition and fees.

To protect health care in underserved areas, the Latino Caucus joined the Legislative Black Caucus in signing a letter stating members would not support cuts to funding for Illinois' safety net hospitals that serve a large number of Medicaid patients. When a new Medicaid Assessment Program came before the Senate, it included funding to protect health care in some of the most vulnerable communities in Illinois.

More than 1,600 Puerto Ricans have relocated to Chicago since Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, 2017, according to Chicago's Office of Emergency

Management and Communication. Numerous disabled people were among those who were displaced. Aquino worked to make them eligible to receive temporary disabled parking placards in Illinois under certain conditions.

As the Trump Administration



continued its attack on immigrant communities, Latino Caucus members fought for the protection and well-being of immigrant Illinois residents by sponsoring and supporting proposals that help them.

An effort supported by the Latino Caucus keeps communities safe by allowing undocumented immigrants who work with police to stop human trafficking or other severe crimes to receive paperwork to aid in their application for protective visas. It incentivizes cooperation with police at a time when many fear being separated from their families and have been forced into hiding.

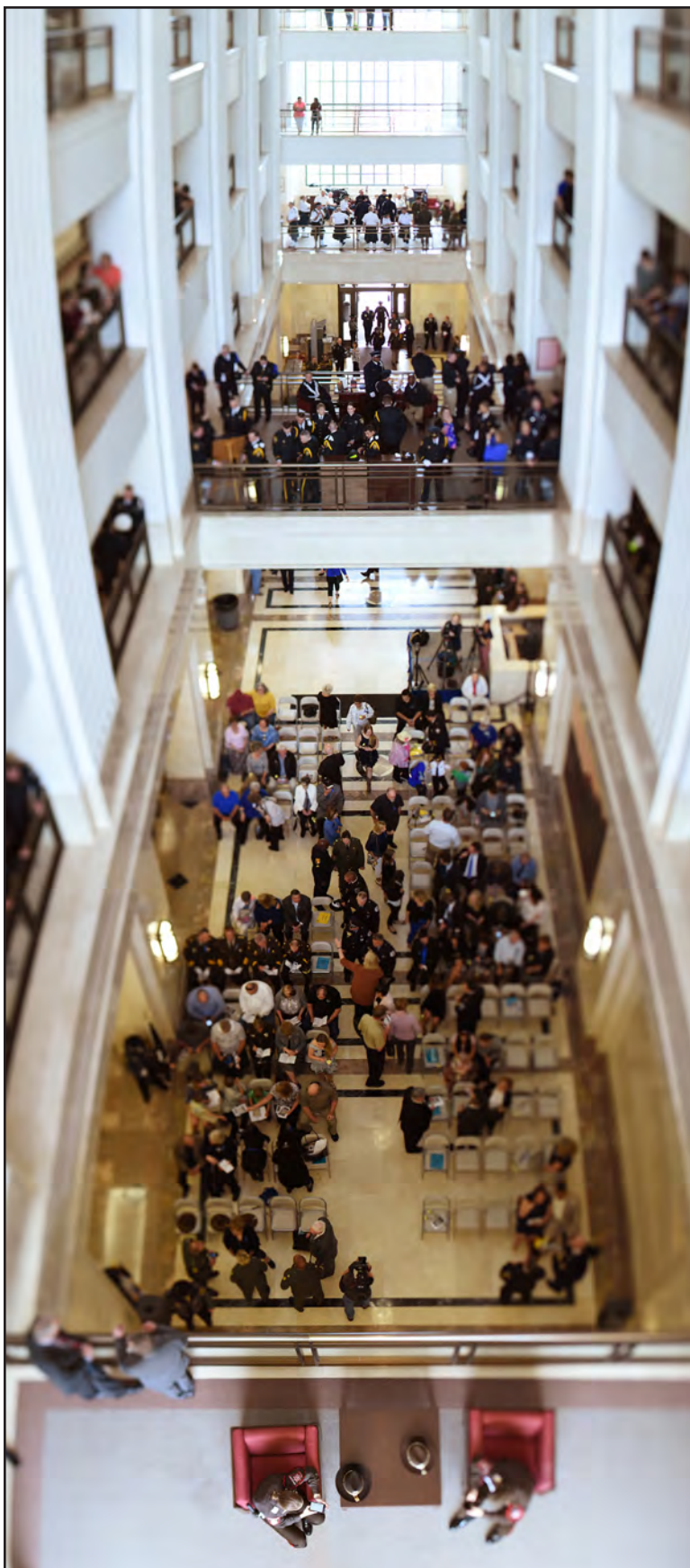
To ensure those who have obtained professional licenses

can continue to work, Martinez spearheaded a proposal that ensures anyone who qualifies for a professional license receives it regardless of their immigration status.

To prevent landlords from taking advantage of undocumented tenants, Castro advocated a ban on landlords questioning a tenant's immigration status as a means of harassment or forcing an eviction. The Immigrant Tenant Protection Act will allow tenants to report criminal activity or habitability issues without being targeted based on their immigration status.

The Latino Caucus also supported a measure requiring the state attorney general to establish a model policy for limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at public schools and libraries, health care facilities, and buildings operated by the Illinois secretary of state.

When Gov. Bruce Rauner said he would comply with any future requests from the Trump administration for Illinois National Guard soldiers to man the Mexican border, Sandoval led a resolution condemning the governor's reluctance to stand up to racism. The resolution cited the failure of similar attempts in the past and the need for National Guard troops in Illinois to help with natural disasters.



FEATURED STORIES







Senate walks out for solidarity, then votes for stronger gun laws

As students nationwide walked out of classrooms March 14 to demand action on new gun laws, Illinois state senators walked out of the Capitol in an expression of solidarity and later approved extending the waiting period for assault weapon purchases.

The legislation, which passed with bipartisan support, will be sent to the desk of Gov. Bruce Rauner, who on Tuesday was hotly criticized for vetoing a bipartisan gun dealer licensing bill the day before the student walkout.

Senators walked out of the Capitol to the Lincoln statue on Second Street. Four members delivered speeches calling for an end to gun violence, followed by recognition of each of the victims of the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and a moment of silence. Senators then returned to the Capitol to take action.

State Senator Melinda Bush (D-Grayslake) organized the event.

"In the month since the shooting, classmates of the victims have been demanding their voices be heard, demanding that we do something so students aren't afraid to go to school, to the mall or to a concert," Bush said.

"Just last weekend I met with students in my district from



Grayslake and Round Lake who share those same concerns. They want to feel safe at school and they want their voices to be heard. We're here because we want these young people to know that we hear them and we support them."

State Senator Jacqueline Collins (D-Chicago) asked the crowd to also remember Chicago Police Commander Paul Bauer, who was fatally shot Feb. 13 – the day before the Parkland mass shooting – while chasing a man near the Thompson Center.

"Guns and bullets do not discriminate against race, religion, age, gender or creed, whether you wear a school uniform or a police uniform. For that reason we must stand united," Collins said. "Let us unite and after

today's solidarity and reflection, let us raise our voices together."

On the same day, the Senate approved two additional gun safety measures – a bump stock ban and an age restriction on the sale of certain weapons and ammunition.

The National School Walkout occurred in communities throughout Illinois and across the country. It was described as an unprecedented show of unity and political solidarity by students who are fed up with gun violence and inaction by political leaders.



Senate Women's Caucus announces first bipartisan effort

Published: Wed., April 11, 2018



The Equal Rights Amendment is the first measure to earn the backing of the Senate Women's Caucus, members of the bipartisan group announced today.

"The intention of the Illinois Senate Women's Caucus is to advance legislation that supports, empowers and protects women of all aspects of life, and that's exactly what we are doing today," said State Senator Karen McConaughay, a St. Charles Republican and co-chairwoman of the caucus.

SJRCA 4, the Equal Rights Amendment proposes to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution and solidify equality for women. Women do not currently have guaranteed equal rights under the federal Constitution.

"Today, we are here together, Republican and Democratic women, to demonstrate our support of the Equal Rights Amendment, which ensures equality for all women," McConaughay said. "This isn't a partisan issue. It's an issue that affects every single woman in this country. By coming together, we have a chance to make an impact at a national level for women all across the nation."

The 17 female senators currently serving in the Illinois Senate comprise the bipartisan caucus. For any legislation to gain the support of the caucus, 50 percent of Republican members and 50 percent of Democratic members must support the proposal. The caucus formed a legislative committee to review

and vet policy proposals.

"The Senate Women's Caucus came together to empower and amplify the voices of women throughout our state," Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford, a Maywood Democrat and co-chairwoman of the caucus, said. "It is fitting that the first piece of legislation endorsed by the caucus is the Equal Rights Amendment, which protects women's constitutional rights and is one of the many women's issues that is long overdue."

State Senator Heather Steans (D-Chicago) is the chief Senate sponsor of the ERA.

"I am proud to sponsor the ERA and for it to gain bipartisan support from female senators," she said. "Passing the ERA will strengthen the fight for so many women's issues. It all starts with equality of rights, regardless of sex, being cemented into the Constitution."



Published: Wed., Jan. 31, 2018



Raoul protects voters by ending participation in Crosscheck system

State Senator Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago 13th) has passed legislation ending Illinois' participation in a controversial voter registration system.

The Illinois Board of Elections currently subscribes to two national voter database systems designed to help election authorities identify voters who may be registered in more than one state: the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program and the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). This legislation will remove Illinois from the Crosscheck system but allow the state to remain in ERIC, widely viewed as the better system.

"We have heard from numerous experts that the

Crosscheck system is unsafe and that it can be used as a tool to discriminate and suppress voters," Raoul said "There is no reason to continue using this system when we have a better option readily available."

Cybersecurity experts testified to a joint committee last year that the Crosscheck system has several security concerns that make private information easily accessible.

Additionally, many voting rights activists say that Crosscheck is a vehicle for discrimination at the voting booth. The system compares first and last names of state voter databases, ignoring middle names and designations like Jr. or Sr. This is viewed as problematic by

experts because communities of color are more likely to share last names, making them easy targets for voter suppression.

Raoul initially joined advocates in asking the Illinois State Board of Elections to withdraw from Crosscheck, but the Board voted last November to stay in the system.

"I am proud that the legislature stood up for the voters of Illinois after the Board of Elections failed to do so," Raoul said. "The right to vote is sacred, and we are making sure that voters know their information is secure when they cast their ballot."

Senate Bill 2273 passed 35-17 and now moves to the House for consideration.



Published: Wed., April 25, 2018



Morrison passes Tobacco 21

Legislation sponsored by State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Deerfield) that would increase the age to legally purchase tobacco products in Illinois to 21 passed the Senate.

"We know that adults rarely pick up a cigarette for the first time, making it so important to reduce access to tobacco for teenagers," Morrison said. "The more we can limit the availability of tobacco for teens, the lower the chance they have of developing a lifetime addiction that disproportionately affects the adolescent brain and costs state government billions of dollars annually."

Senate Bill 2332 would make

Illinois the sixth state to raise the age to buy tobacco to 21. More than 300 towns across the country have also raised the age, including 24 municipalities in Illinois. Chicago, Highland Park, Buffalo Grove, Evanston and Peoria are a few of the cities in Illinois, both small and large, to raise the age.

"In addition to dramatically increasing public health protections, over time, this proposed legislation would save millions of dollars in health care costs in the state of Illinois," said Kathy Drea, vice president of advocacy for the Lung Association. "We strongly encourage the Illinois House of

Representatives to follow suit and support this legislation, which is proven to protect the most vulnerable members of our population, our children."

Raising the age to purchase tobacco has been proven to reduce the number of high schoolers who smoke. In Chicago, authorities recorded a drop from 13.6 percent in 2011 to 6 percent in 2017. Raising the age was cited as a key component of the decrease.

Senate Bill 2332 passed the Senate and will head to the Illinois House for further debate.



Cullerton continues to lead on Legionnaires' fixes



Published: Thu., May 10, 2018

Three years after the initial outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at the Illinois Veterans Home at Quincy, residents of that facility and others like it are still waiting for Gov. Bruce Rauner to be proactive in detecting and removing Legionella bacteria from state-run facilities.

State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) took charge of the situation by passing House Bill 4278, which requires an Illinois veterans home to notify facility residents and their emergency contacts within 24 hours if two or more residents in the home have been diagnosed with an infectious disease in period of one month or less.

"This is a commonsense measure that puts the health of our veterans ahead of bureaucracy," Cullerton said. "In 2015, the families of the servicemen and women residing

the Illinois Veterans Home at Quincy should have been notified of the Legionnaires' disease epidemic, but Gov. Rauner's administration left them and their loved ones in the dark.

This is simply unacceptable and we can't let it happen again."

House Bill 4278 also requires veterans homes to post notification of the incidence of the infectious disease in a visible place near the facility's main entrance. Once those requirements have been met, they must notify the departments of Veterans' Affairs and Public Health of the incidence of the infectious disease.

"When your loved one is in harm's way, you want to know," Cullerton said. "This measure ensures that caretakers and family members have health care information as soon as possible to make the best possible medical decisions."

The measure was introduced in response to Rauner's mismanagement of the Legionnaires' disease outbreaks

at the Quincy veterans home. Despite signs of the spread of bacteria reaching epidemic proportions, the state did not notify the public about the deadly 2015 outbreak until nearly a week later.

This week WBEZ reported that a workplace safety reprimand was issued by the state Department of Labor which said the Department of Veterans Affairs failed to effectively notify all employees of the outbreak. This undermines the insistent claims by Director Erica Jeffries that her department was "very clear" in its Legionnaires' warnings to Quincy staff.

"This is a real shame. The gross mismanagement of the Quincy veterans home is disgraceful," Cullerton said. "If the governor's administration is refusing to use common sense, the General Assembly will put protocol and procedures in place to ensure our nation's heroes receive the best possible care and service we can offer."

House Bill 4278 is supported by the Better Government Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Illinois AMVETS. It passed the Senate and House with bipartisan support.



Published: Wed., May 2, 2018



Inclusive curriculum for LGBT acceptance clears Senate

In an age of divisive language and culture wars, Illinois schools can combat negativity by promoting an inclusive curriculum that celebrates the contributions of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, State Senator Heather Steans said.

Such a measure passed the Illinois Senate.

“By teaching students an inclusive curriculum, Illinois classrooms will promote acceptance and a more accurate portrayal of history,” said Steans, a Chicago Democrat and the legislation’s sponsor. “LGBT students will also learn about

people who had some similar qualities to them and became historical role models.”

Under Steans’ proposal, students will learn about the contributions LGBT individuals made to Illinois and the United States while learning about history. Currently, Illinois schools are required to teach students about the role and contributions of African-Americans and other ethnic groups, as well as about women’s history and disability history.

According to a 2015 survey conducted by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education

Network, nearly 70 percent of LGBTQ students in Illinois have been verbally harassed because of their sexual orientation.

“I hope that with this legislation, more LGBT students will feel safe at school and that there will be fewer instances of harassment on the basis of sexual orientation,” Steans said.

Under Senate Bill 3249, only public schools in Illinois would be required to teach an inclusive historical curriculum.

The measure passed the Senate with a vote of 34-18. It now moves to the House for further consideration.



Published: Thu., April 26, 2018

Harmon seeks to provide medical alternative to opioids

The Senate approved legislation to decrease opioid dependence by increasing access to medical alternatives.

State Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) passed the Alternatives to Opioids Act out of committee earlier this year and worked closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health to address remaining concerns before bringing it to the Senate for a vote.

The measure adds any condition for which opioids could be prescribed to the list of qualifying conditions for the state's medical cannabis program, allowing individuals who might otherwise use an opioid to participate in the program.

"Opioid addiction is one of the

most pressing public health issues in our state," Harmon said. "It kills thousands of Illinoisans every year and costs the state nearly \$1 billion. We should be open to any reasonable solution to tackle it."

The legislation creates a pilot program that allows patients to take a physician certification to a dispensary to receive medical cannabis. Patients can participate in the program and use medical cannabis to help them transition off their initial opioid prescription or to treat their pain without ever using opioids.

A study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control last year found that a patient can become addicted to opioids within a week or even a few days of use.

"We know that medical

cannabis is a safe alternative treatment for the same conditions for which opioids are prescribed," Harmon said. "This legislation aims to stop dependence before it begins by providing an immediate alternative."

Dispensaries would be required to verify the physician certification and dispense medical cannabis in set amounts based on the recommended duration of the opioid prescription. The patient would be given an endorsement card indicating that they are in lawful possession of medical cannabis.

Senate Bill 336 passed the Senate 44-6 with bipartisan support and will now head to the House for consideration.



At the end of each calendar year, the communications department compiles and publishes a top 10 list of new state laws that will go into effect Jan. 1.

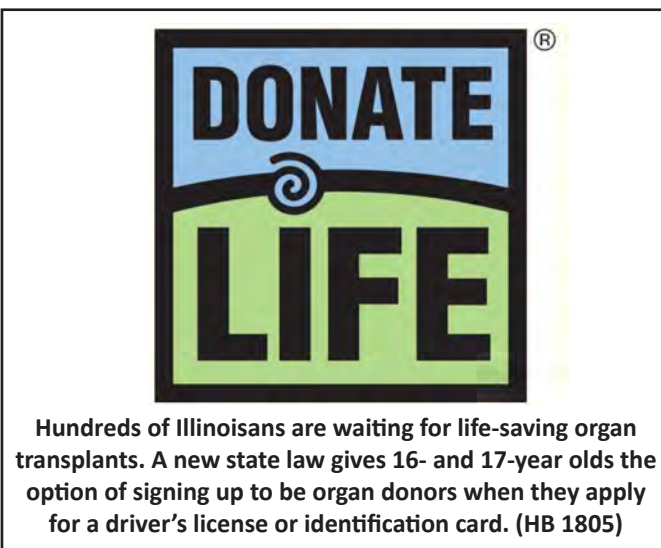
Our list of timely, unusual or otherwise noteworthy new laws has become one of the most popular annual features at illinoisenedemocrats.com and on social media. Citizens from Illinois and beyond review the compilation to learn about new laws they hadn't heard about or that they may need to be aware of.

News reporters also have come to rely on our list for end-of-the-year story ideas and as a tip sheet for their own top 10 lists.

Last year, Senate Democrats' top 10 list was visited by nearly 6,000 readers online.



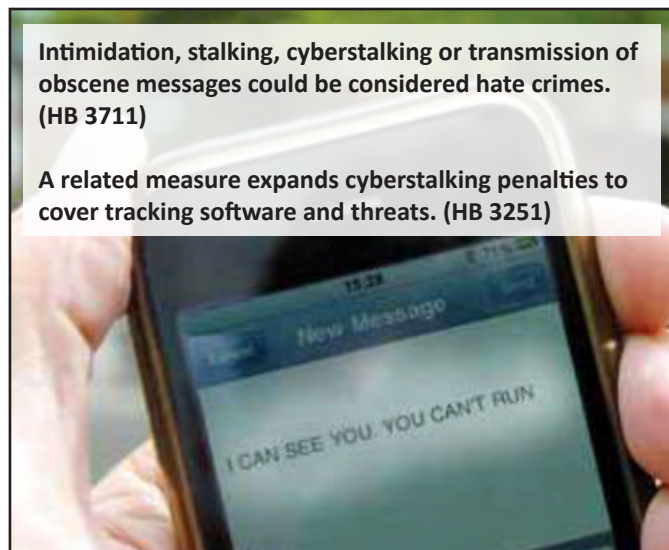
Those great deals might get you onto the lot, but a new law makes sure the numbers are off the windshield before you drive away. (HB 733)



Hundreds of Illinoisans are waiting for life-saving organ transplants. A new state law gives 16- and 17-year olds the option of signing up to be organ donors when they apply for a driver's license or identification card. (HB 1805)



Early childhood programs will need to find services to help young children resolve problems rather than simply kicking them out. (HB 2663)



Intimidation, stalking, cyberstalking or transmission of obscene messages could be considered hate crimes. (HB 3711)

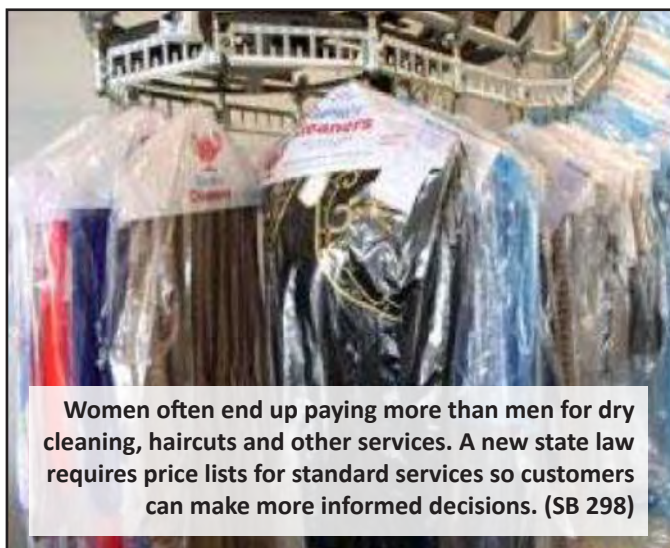
A related measure expands cyberstalking penalties to cover tracking software and threats. (HB 3251)



August 4 is our 44th president's birthday. It's also now Barack Obama Day in Illinois to honor the Chicagoan's historic election and two terms in the White House. (SB 55)



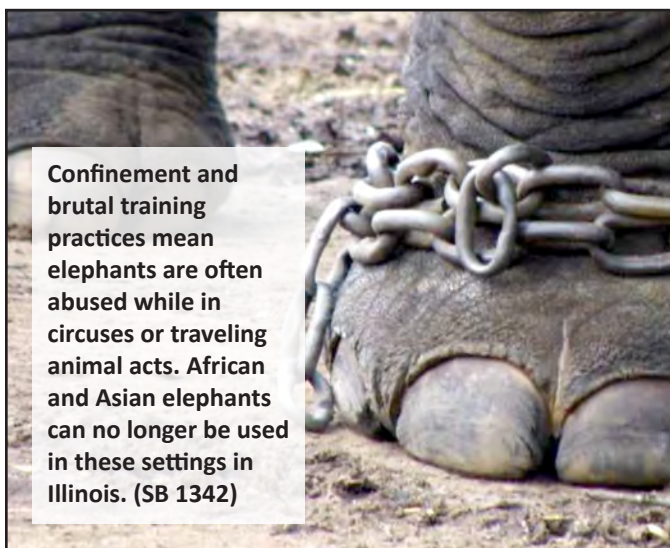
Domestic violence victims won't have to pay to break cell phone contracts and can keep their numbers when they leave their abusers. A new law lets them keep their number and save the related costs for a new account. (SB 57)



Women often end up paying more than men for dry cleaning, haircuts and other services. A new state law requires price lists for standard services so customers can make more informed decisions. (SB 298)



When pets are considered marital assets, who gets custody can become part of the proceedings. (SB 1261)

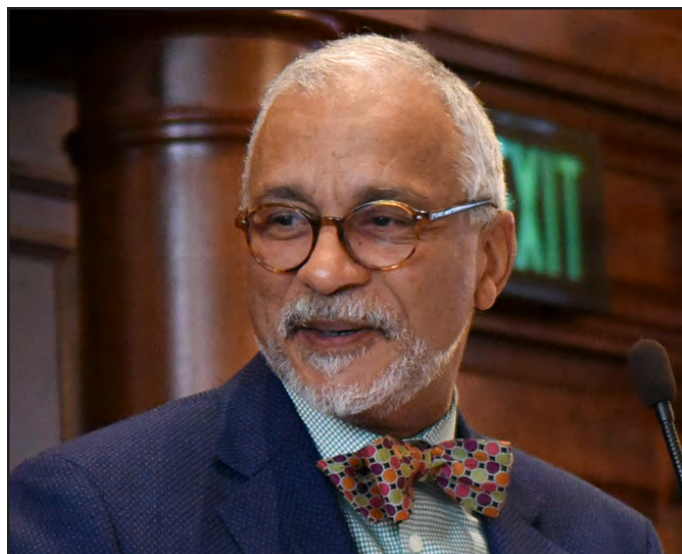
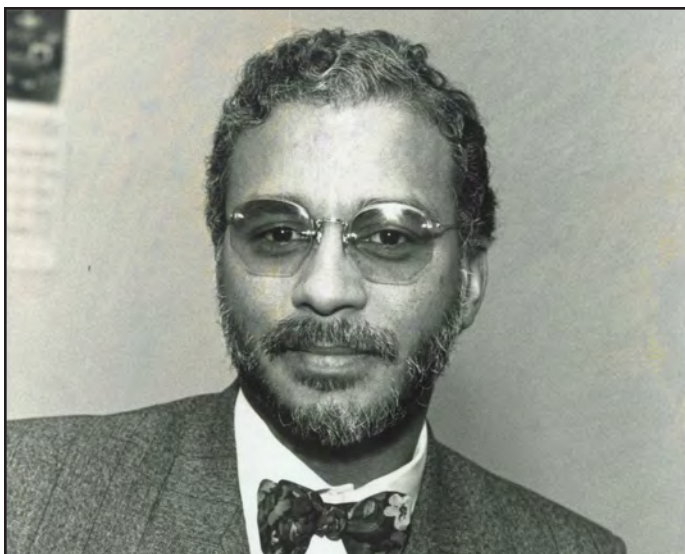


Confinement and brutal training practices mean elephants are often abused while in circuses or traveling animal acts. African and Asian elephants can no longer be used in these settings in Illinois. (SB 1342)



Great food. Terrible service. Probably wouldn't go there again.

Some businesses don't want you leaving negative feedback on apps like Yelp. Now customers have the right to post reviews whether positive or negative. (SB 1898)



‘A gem and a gentleman’

Trotter retires after nearly 30 years in the General Assembly

After nearly 30 years of public service to the people of Illinois, Assistant Majority Leader Donnell Trotter in January announced his retirement from the Illinois Senate.

Trotter had represented the 17th Senate District, which includes parts of Chicago and Will and Kankakee counties, since 1993. He also served four years in the Illinois House.

“I cannot say when the best time is, but I feel this is the right time to go forward and search out different opportunities, and to more importantly give others the chance to serve,” he said.

“Throughout my career, I have tried to pass along the wisdom I’ve gained over my years of service. My own career was never my only focus. I also wanted to ensure the success of those who I knew would follow in my footsteps someday.”

As one of the most experienced members of the Senate, Trotter held a leadership position and was one of the Senate Democrats’ top budget negotiators. Among his priorities were health care, education and programs for underserved youth.

News of his retirement triggered a flood of acclamations and well wishes from lawmakers who considered him a friend and a trusted adviser.

The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus released a statement saying Trotter has been a consummate example of dedication to the citizens of the 17th Senate District and all people of Illinois.

“The caucus will miss (Trotter’s) wealth of institutional knowledge and dedication to ensuring all Illinois residents have access to quality health care, education and general life

wellness,” the statement read. “Senator Trotter has stood fair and firm throughout his illustrious career. The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus thanks him for his three decades of service and wishes him nothing but the best during his retirement.”

Senate President John Cullerton, who joined the Senate just two years earlier than Trotter, described Trotter as a unique person who will be missed in the chamber.

“I will miss his leadership, his counsel, his wisdom, his calm, his experience and to top it all, his fantastic sense of fashion,” he said. “I wish him nothing but the best, and am honored to have worked with him and to consider him my friend.”

State Senator Kimberly A. Lightford said she, too, would miss Trotter, though his legacy in the Senate will continue through



the work of the Senate Black Caucus.

“It has been an incredible journey working alongside my dear friend and colleague, Leader Trotter, for 20 of his 30 years of service. He was the seasoned appropriations chairman and a public health enthusiast when I arrived and always showed me leadership, expertise and commitment,” she said.

“I will truly miss him, his support and his passion for serving people. He helped to lay the foundation for the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and his legacy will continue on for generations to come.”

State Senator Kwame Raoul said he has a special friendship with Trotter.

“I was lucky enough to call Senator Trotter not just my colleague, but also my mentor, my roommate and my friend,” he said. “He supported me in replacing Barack Obama in the Senate when it was not popular in Springfield to do so, and I have benefited from his advice and support ever since. His

intelligence, dedication and compassion will be sorely missed in the Senate.”

State Senator Toi Hutchinson also was deeply influenced by Trotter and his work in the Senate.

“It is not easy to sum up a career in public service in just a few words. But my knowledge of the

budget and revenue process was sharpened in a way that could have only happened with a teacher like Donne Trotter,” she said. “From his impact on the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators to our statehouse, he challenged us to be better. And that means we as legislators are better for his service.”

State Senator Jacqueline Collins described Trotter as “a true gem and a gentleman” in the General Assembly.

“Donne is well-read, knowledgeable and a powerful advocate and voice for the children and families of the state. No one ever has to wonder what he’s thinking because his remarks can be both brilliant

and biting. Sometimes a jester but always a drum major for justice,” she said. “He’s a public servant with heart, who embodies character, courage, and compassion. Donne is a dapper man of distinction, dignity, and decency, and I will truly miss my colleague and friend.”

Trotter, who was succeeded by State Senator Elgie R. Sims Jr., reflected on his public service and on the work yet to be done on behalf of his district and the people of Illinois.

“I’m comfortable with the people who are still serving in the Senate. They have the knowledge and the work ethic to lead our state in the right direction, and I’m not standing in their way,” he said. “I had the great privilege of being able to sit at the table during all policy negotiations, especially the budget. I’m thankful for the voices back home who helped me to articulate the needs of our district and the state at large.”





Senate optimistic after passing balanced, bipartisan budget



Senate Democrats and Republicans came together May 30 to approve a full-year, balanced budget with overwhelming bipartisan support and optimism for a better tomorrow for all of Illinois.

The budget restores funding for important services and establishes continued financial stability for the state.

State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D-Chicago Heights), another budget negotiator, praised lawmakers on both sides of the aisle for their work on the budget.

"This is how the process is supposed to happen. It's an example of who we are supposed to be. When we do what we are supposed to do in this building, everything else can be handled. We are going to lay the groundwork to pass a budget that benefits our state, and I couldn't be more proud," she said.

The budget is balanced through a combination of revenue and almost \$600 million in cuts. It includes \$350 million in additional funding required annually for public K-12 schools under the state's new

evidence-based formula, plus an additional \$50 million for early education.

"This budget is very much a reflection of both Republicans and Democrats, and I think that's something we can all be proud of. This is truly how budget-making ought to work," said State Senator Andy Manar (D-Bunker Hill), one of the chief budget negotiators. "This budget is balanced. It is disciplined. It is pragmatic. It approaches managing government from a perspective that I think we should all take."

To encourage students to choose Illinois colleges and universities, the budget allots \$25 million to a new grant program, AIM HIGH, which will provide additional tuition assistance. Funding also is restored for vital human services programs.

"Above all, the budget is an

investment in our communities," said State Senator Heather Steans (D-Chicago), another chief budget negotiator. "From funding for cities and towns to social services to providing educational opportunities, I believe that Illinoisans young and old will fare better under this budget than they have in years."

The Democrats' fourth budget negotiator, State Senator Elgie R. Sims Jr. of Chicago, said lawmakers can return to their districts proud.

"We will be able to tell our constituents we passed a budget that is balanced, fair and most importantly bipartisan," he said. "That's what they have been asking for. Today's product shows that when we work together, great things happen."

State Senators Steve Stadelman (D-Rockford) lauded the bipartisan process that delivered the budget plan.

"It's great to see Republicans and Democrats working together to pass a bipartisan, balanced budget," Stadelman said. "This is how state government should operate."

Democratic State Senator Pat McGuire of Joliet agreed.

"The serious challenges which still face Illinois are more likely to be solved now that a bridge has been built between Democrats and Republicans," he said.

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS







John J. Cullerton

Illinois Senate President | 6th Senate District

Faced with dangerous rhetoric from the Trump White House, Illinois Senate President John J. Cullerton served this session at the Capitol as a commonsense leader in protecting the rights of immigrant communities.

He successfully steered passage of the Voices of Immigrant Communities Empowering Survivors (VOICES) Act. The goal of the proposal is to encourage crime victims to come forward and work with police without fear for their immigration status. In return, police would be required to process immigration visa paperwork for these crime victims who assist with investigations.

Criminals don't discriminate by immigration status, Cullerton said.

"If undocumented immigrants report crimes and help police catch criminals, it will make our communities safer for everyone," he said. "We all need to work together. This proposal is an effort to recognize and encourage that."

The proposal follows Cullerton's highly acclaimed 2017 Trust Act, which essentially told Illinois police to not serve as federal immigration agents. The proposal was so compelling even Gov. Bruce Rauner abandoned his conservative agenda and signed it into law.

Currently, when an undocumented immigrant helps police there is no requirement that police assist the person with

the immigration paperwork, nor is there any deadline for completing the paperwork. That results in crime going unreported. Cullerton's proposal attempts to change that by requiring police to help immigrants who help police, and it puts in place a 90-business day deadline.

Following Cullerton's lead, the Senate overwhelmingly voted to oppose the creation of a government database to track people according to religion, calling the proposal "un-American" and sending a message to the White House and Washington that the Land of Lincoln won't be part of such narrow-minded politics.

The proposal comes in response to anti-Muslim rhetoric from President Donald Trump. The legislation, sponsored by the Senate President, simply states that Illinois would not participate

in any such database or registry of faith followers.

In addition, the Senate President was honored with the Susan G. Komen Civic Award for his ongoing efforts to protect women's health and bring needed detection and treatment options to underserved communities.

"It is rare that you have the opportunity to cast a vote and know that you will save lives. That's exactly what happens when we fund breast cancer screenings and treatment," Cullerton said in accepting the award.

"It's more than an honor. It's my responsibility to support those initiatives. Access to health care should not, and cannot, hinge on your income level or economic status. As a city, as a state and as a society, we will move forward successfully when we take steps together."





James F. Clayborne Jr.

Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 57th Senate District

For more than two decades, the people of St. Clair and Madison counties have had one of the Senate's toughest and most capable legislators on their side.

State Senator James F. Clayborne Jr. has made his mark on state government during his time in Springfield by fighting for fairness in state contracting, economic development measures for communities in need and a new evidence-based formula that finally will reverse decades of unfair distribution of funding to schools in rural and economically depressed communities in downstate Illinois.

In September Clayborne announced he will not seek re-election, bringing to a close 23 years of dedicated public service in the Illinois Senate. He arrived in Springfield in 1995 as a new lawmaker and rose through the leadership ranks of the Senate. He accepted the role of Senate majority leader in 2009 – the second most powerful leadership position in the Senate and a role he has maintained ever since.

"I am going to focus on my family and my life out of public service," he said in announcing his plans to step down. "I look forward to this new chapter in my life and would once again like to thank the people of the 57th District for allowing me to be their voice in Springfield."

This spring, Clayborne

prioritized enhancing the state's Business Enterprise Program, which aims to increase minority participation in state contracting. To expand the number of local governments using BEP goals, he sponsored Senate Bill 2610, which withholds state transportation funds from cities and counties receiving more than \$1 million from the state if they don't adopt a business enterprise program.

Additionally, Clayborne passed legislation requiring businesses bidding on state contracts to share how they will utilize minority contractors. Without that plan on file, they would be unable to apply for state contracts for one year.

Wolf Branch Middle School, located over an abandoned mine site in Swansea, also has been a priority for Clayborne. The school was badly damaged when the mine collapsed, forcing the school

district to move all students into one overcrowded building. In response, Clayborne sponsored legislation to allow the district to borrow money to build a new school.

Clayborne also made protecting children who have to walk to school through high-crime neighborhoods an area of focus. Current law already allows schools to offer free transportation to students who live within 1 ½ miles if they must pass heavy traffic or railroad tracks. Clayborne sponsored a plan to allow that service to be extended to children who have to walk through neighborhoods that police consider high-crime areas. The measure allows parents or guardians to petition school boards to have a neighborhood deemed a high-crime area.





Don Harmon

President Pro Tempore | Executive chair | 39th Senate District

State Senator Don Harmon returned to Springfield for the spring legislative session ready once again to advance the issue of state regulation of gun dealers.

Harmon passed the Gun Dealer Licensing Act out of the Senate in 2017, but it wasn't called for a vote in the House. Little movement on the measure was expected as lawmakers got to work in January.

But the stunning fatal shooting of a popular Chicago police commander near the Thompson Center on Feb. 13 and a high school shooting in Florida on Valentine's Day that left 17 dead spurred Illinois legislators to action and made gun violence a central topic of discussion at the Statehouse.

The House approved Harmon's gun dealer licensing measure on Feb. 28 and sent it to Gov. Bruce Rauner's desk. The governor vetoed it less than two weeks later.

Harmon, who has tried to pass gun dealer licensing in the heavily divided gun rights state of Illinois every year for 15 years, was undeterred. He considered the governor's concerns about the legislation and worked with Republicans to draft a bipartisan compromise to regulate gun dealers while eliminating bureaucracy and red tape. He filed a new proposal, Senate Bill 337, in May, and it received bipartisan Senate approval. The new measure also addresses the issue of illegal

firearm trafficking by requiring law enforcement to make key information about guns used in crimes available to the public and creating a penalty for failure to keep records of a private gun sale.

Gun violence is not the only threat to the safety of his constituents. Harmon passed legislation to help address the opioid crisis that kills thousands of Illinoisans each year.

The Alternatives to Opioids Act adds any condition for which opioids could be prescribed to the list of qualifying conditions for the state's medical cannabis program. This would allow people who might otherwise use an opioid for pain relief to participate in the program. The plan also creates a pilot program to allow patients to take a physician certification to a dispensary and receive medical cannabis. Patients can use medical cannabis to help them transition

off their opioid prescription or to treat their pain without ever using opioids.

Harmon continued his work for immigrant communities in his district, passing legislation to create safe zones in Illinois where immigration enforcement would be limited. The measure requires the state attorney general to establish a model policy by April 1, 2019, on limiting assistance with immigration enforcement to the fullest extent permissible at locations including public schools and libraries, state-funded medical treatment and health care facilities, and facilities operated by the secretary of state and state courts.

Safe zones were in the original version of the Trust Act that became law last year, but they were not in the final version signed by the governor last year.





William Haine

Assistant Majority Leader | 56th Senate District

State Senator Bill Haine returned to Springfield this spring to complete a distinguished 16-year career in the Illinois Senate. He announced in August that he will not seek another term, closing the books on a career in elective office that spans 40 years.

"The good Lord gives us a finite amount of time on this Earth. I believe the time has come for me to find a new adventure and for someone else to take up the challenge and honor of serving the people in the Illinois Senate," Haine said in announcing his retirement.

During his time in the Senate, Haine has been an ardent supporter of economic development in the Metro East. He helped win state dollars to maintain and expand the Edwardsville campus of Southern Illinois University and other key infrastructure projects in the region, including Interstate 255. He led efforts to approve a constitutional amendment to protect the state's road fund from being raided for purposes unrelated to transportation.

During the two-year budget stalemate under Gov. Bruce Rauner, Haine brought attention to the damaging effects of cuts to vital social programs in his district, including Senior Service Plus, Impact CIL and St. John's Community Care.

This year, when news broke

that 13 residents of the Illinois Veterans Home at Quincy had died from Legionnaire's disease, Haine stood as a passionate voice for veterans' rights and urged the Rauner administration to find a quick but responsible resolution.

A decorated Vietnam War veteran and a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Haine was appointed to a water management task force charged with developing a plan to prevent further fatalities at the veterans home. He publicly expressed frustration with the governor for devoting resources to restoring the governor's mansion but neglecting the needs of veterans.

"What's the difference between the governor's mansion and a home for veterans who risked their lives for the United States and for Illinois? What's

the difference, Governor? There is none!" Haine fired during a news conference in March. "The priority should be the Quincy veterans home, not the governor's mansion, for God's sake."

A pragmatic legislator, Haine supports 2nd Amendment rights but did support two measures to curb the growing threat of gun violence. The first was brought to him by a retired Edwardsville police lieutenant after the fatal shooting of a pastor in a Maryville church. It increases penalties for carrying weapons into churches with the intent of harming others.

The second requires those who threaten gun violence against schools on social media to reimburse police departments for added security and emergency costs. Haine supported it following a string of threats to schools in Alton, Cahokia and elsewhere.





Kimberly A. Lightford

Assistant Majority Leader | 4th Senate District

As the national call for more school resource officers grows, Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford continued to put the well-being of children first by working to ensure Illinois provides proper training for the all-in-one law enforcement, counselor and community liaison position.

School resource officers can help build relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve by creating positive interactions with young people. Proper training can help lower the number of in-school arrests, along with a proposal to create school grants for implementing alternatives to police involvement for in-school offenses.

Thousands of K-12 students are arrested in Illinois schools every year for such minor offenses as drawing on desks, not participating in class and having tantrums caused by separation anxiety or depression.

To reverse that trend, Lightford proposed the Safe Schools and Healthy Learning Environments Program, which encourages schools to implement alternatives to arrests by hiring restorative justice practitioners, school psychologists, social workers and mental health specialists, providing drug and alcohol treatment services, training staff on conflict resolution techniques,

expanding the use of community-based services, and addressing the effects of toxic stress.

Encouraging universities to provide support for underrepresented students, Lightford led an effort to allow public universities to establish bridge programs to provide those students access, academic support and financial aid.

In July 2015, Gov. Bruce Rauner made cuts to Childcare Assistance Program, lowering the income threshold to 50 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The cuts left 90 percent of applicants throughout the state ineligible for childcare, decimated the program and caused massive layoffs in the childcare industry.

Lightford fought to prevent any governor from causing such damage to a program proven to help families succeed. She sought to set the eligibility threshold for

childcare assistance at no less than 185 percent of the poverty level.

More than a half-century since the Civil Rights Act became law, U.S. workers continue to earn different wages based on their race. As chairman of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, Lightford spearheaded legislation to prohibit wage discrimination against African-Americans under the Equal Pay Act.

Lightford helped found the Senate Women's Caucus this year empower and amplify the voices of women throughout Illinois. She currently serves as co-chair of the caucus.

She continues to work to protect children's right to a quality education, advance underprivileged communities and protect families through unapologetic advocacy.





Terry Link

Assistant Majority Leader | 30th Senate District

State Senator Terry Link used this legislative session to build on his past efforts to make life easier for all Illinoisans.

He proposed expanding the veterans homestead exemption to alleviate the property tax burden of those who have served their country. His proposal expands the \$2,500 homestead exemption to include all veterans of the U.S. armed forces who are at least 70 years old and have a household income of less than \$65,000.

Link passed legislation to help veterans establishments across Illinois by allowing them to apply for video gaming licenses regardless of whether they are located in communities video gaming is prohibited.

Tobacco use among teenagers is on the rise again after years of decline. As the chief sponsor of Smoke Free Illinois more than a decade ago, Link was proud to build on his past efforts to limit tobacco use and improve the overall health of Illinoisans by championing the Tobacco 21 initiative this spring. Limiting access to cigarettes by raising the smoking age to 21 has proven effective in reducing the rate of tobacco use among teens. The measure won Senate approval April 25.

To make life easier for Illinoisans with multiple sclerosis, Link led the fight to expand

insurance coverage for physical therapy. His proposal makes it more difficult for insurers to deny people who have the disease the coverage they need for treatment. It also requires insurers to offer an exceptions process for treatment limitation.

Building on his past work to ensure all Illinois children have a shot at a successful future, Link fought for state funding for YouthBuild, a program that enables low-income youth to simultaneously work toward their GED or high school diploma and learn construction skills through hands-on activities. Link sponsored legislation to devote \$12.5 million to YouthBuild because he believes the program teaches young people critical skills that prepare them for successful, productive futures.

And in April a measure he sponsored to make Illinois a

leader in wireless technology advancements and create 100,000 new jobs was signed into law. 5G wireless technology utilizes small cell transmitters on existing utility poles in communities throughout the state, which have been overseen by a patchwork of local regulations. Senate Bill 1451 cuts the red tape and streamlines the process so consumers can gain access to the fastest technology possible.

“As technology continues to advance and smartphone data use continues to increase, it’s important that we have the infrastructure in place to support those advancements,” Link said. “This measure will help ensure a smooth transition to 5G and allow Illinois to stay at the forefront of new wireless technology.”





Iris Y. Martinez

Assistant Majority Leader | 20th Senate District

State Senator Iris Y. Martinez started the spring legislative session with a new title – assistant majority leader – and an expanded leadership role in the Senate. But even with new responsibilities, her focus on fighting for Illinois’ most vulnerable citizens has not changed.

Martinez continued to fight for policies that benefit the immigrant communities she serves. She passed legislation making all qualified applicants eligible for state professional licenses, regardless of their immigration status.

“Immigrants contribute to our state by working hard and paying taxes,” Martinez said. “If someone wants to further their career by becoming a licensed professional, we need to do all we can to support that.”

Recognizing that many residents of Illinois primarily speak Spanish, she proposed a measure ensuring Spanish-speaking Illinoisans are kept up to date on changes to their phone service by requiring AT&T to provide notice in both English and Spanish before they disconnect a customer’s landline.

“Studies show that low-income and minority communities are more likely to use landline phone service,” Martinez said. “Everyone should get fair notice of a decision to terminate service

so they can either make other arrangements or appeal the decision.”

Martinez was the chief co-sponsor of the Safe Zones Act, which limits federal immigration enforcement in certain public buildings, such as schools, hospitals and courthouses. And she stood up to federal efforts to intimidate and ostracize immigrants by supporting a resolution asking Gov. Bruce Rauner to put the people of Illinois above politics and keep the National Guard in Illinois should the Trump administration call for the unit to be deployed to the border.

“Sending the military to the border is yet another example of the president’s racist attitude towards immigrants. He intends to treat them like dangerous criminals rather than hardworking people looking for a better life,”

she said. “And Gov. Rauner’s willingness to send troops from Illinois demonstrates his inability to stand up for what’s right and would only serve to further the president’s dangerous agenda against immigrants.”

Martinez also joined her Senate colleagues in tackling the issue of gun violence this spring.

She co-sponsored legislation to enact sensible gun laws, including increasing the waiting period to purchase an assault weapon, raising the age to buy assault weapons, regulating gun dealers at the state level, banning bump stocks and trigger cranks, and creating a lethal violence order of protection for family members or friends who are suspected to be dangerous and have access to firearms.





Antonio Munoz

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

When students throughout the country demanded action against gun violence, Assistant Majority Leader Antonio “Tony” Munoz was ready and willing to answer their call.

A former Chicago police officer, Munoz has spent much of his legislative career working to deter the gun violence he witnessed firsthand. His current proposal prohibits the sale or transfer of assault weapons and attachments, .50-caliber rifles and large-capacity magazines to individuals under the age of 21.

The measure is also a response to the growing prevalence of assault rifle use on the streets of Chicago, especially in some of the neighborhoods he represents.

“As a former police officer, I have seen firsthand the damage these weapons can do in the wrong hands. It’s horrifying,” he said. “We have to do better to prevent this violence, and this is a step in the right direction.”

In an effort to keep guns out of the hands of individuals who are a potential threat to public safety, Munoz worked with the Illinois State Police to ensure those who are placed in mental health facilities against their will, but not because of a court order, are properly reported.

Currently, officers are required to establish whether the person driving a stolen vehicle has “knowledge” that the vehicle is

stolen or converted in order to pursue charges. Knowledge is difficult to prove when the driver has the keys to a stolen vehicle, such as after a carjacking.

Addressing the recent carjacking spike throughout Chicago, Munoz led a measure that changes the law so “knowledge” that a vehicle is stolen may be inferred from facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe the vehicle was stolen.

The legislation also requires that minors charged with those crimes be evaluated and given access to counseling and other recommended services.

To give family of fallen police officers the opportunity to follow in their loved one’s footsteps, Munoz proposed offering hiring preference to Illinois State Police applicants who are immediate family members of law

enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

Continuing his commitment to immigrant communities, Munoz co-sponsored legislation that protects immigrants who are crime victims and cooperate with the police. Those who work with police on human trafficking or other serious crimes will receive paperwork certifying they were the victim of a qualifying crime, which is a requisite to apply for certain visas.

Munoz has dedicated his career to the safety and well-being of communities in his district and throughout Illinois as both an officer and a state senator. His track record shows he is willing to stand up for those who are most in need.





Mattie Hunter

Majority Caucus Chair | 3rd Senate District

State Senator Mattie Hunter is a proud champion of paying fair, livable wages to the home care workers who help 100,000 aging Illinois senior citizens remain in their homes where they are comfortable, rather than move into expensive nursing homes.

Currently, the average hourly wage for home care aides through the Illinois Department on Aging's Community Care Program is just \$10.98. Because of the low wages, home care agencies experience a 65 percent turnover rate, which disrupts the quality of care that seniors receive.

Dedicated and compassionate home care workers, who undertake challenging but essential work for some of Illinois' most vulnerable populations, have led the fight for higher wages. Hunter agrees they deserve better pay and proposed increasing their hourly wages to \$19.89 on July 1, 2018, and by \$1 each year after that.

"Home care aides provide valuable services that not everyone can handle or are willing to do," Hunter said. "No one who gets up and works as hard as they do every day should be relegated to living in poverty. No one who provides loving care and vital services should be left behind by our state."

This was just one of the many ways Hunter has worked this session to improve the lives of

Illinois residents.

For example, she sponsored legislation requiring schools to present parents and students with research materials about preventing influenza. According to reports, there have been 114 pediatric flu-related deaths – 30 of them this year alone – and doctors' offices and emergency rooms are experiencing visits at levels that rival the 2009 swine flu epidemic.

Hunter's sponsored Senate Bill 2654 to require the Illinois Department of Public Health to develop informational materials about influenza and flu vaccines for school districts. School boards would be required to provide the information to parents when notifying them about other health-related matters.

Hunter plans to continue being an outspoken health advocate. This summer, she will host her

15th Health, Fun and Fitness Fair, a free event she organizes for her constituents in the 3rd Senate District. The fair will offer free physicals for students, health screenings for adults, a shredding truck, free food and backpacks for students returning to school.

"As Chicagoans, we should remember to take care of our loved ones by doing everything we can to make our communities stronger and healthier," Hunter said. "Getting active, having fun and remaining safe are all possible when a neighborhood becomes a family."





Jacqueline Y. Collins

Majority Caucus Whip | Financial Institutions chair | 16th Senate District

State Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins has continued to advocate for the rights and interests of the community, and she is a tireless opponent of all forms of discrimination – whether it’s in government, housing or the financial system.

Collins has served as chair of the Senate Financial Institutions Committee since 2005. In 2018 she continued to sponsor and support key consumer protection legislation, as well as protest unfair practices at the local level. She joined protesters in November as they registered their complaints with bank security measures that singled out the African-American community in parts of Chicago. She also convened a hearing of the committee to address those same issues.

In addition, she led the charge to override the governor’s veto of House Bill 302, which sought to improve regulations surrounding unclaimed life insurance benefits – an issue on which she worked closely with Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs. Grieving Illinois families did not know about \$550 million in unclaimed life insurance benefits, all returned to them through the efforts of auditors that the governor’s veto would have disallowed.

Fighting for the enfranchisement of voters was another major priority for Collins,

who supported legislation that led to increased voter access with the governor’s signature in August. The new automatic voter registration framework ensures all eligible Illinois voters who do not choose to opt out of the process will be added to the rolls when they conduct business at state facilities such as driver services offices.

Collins also joined State Senators Kwame Raoul, Bill Cunningham, other state lawmakers and activists to call for Illinois to end its participation in the Crosscheck voter database, because the right to vote is the right to participate in a democracy without fear of reprisal.

As Illinois continues to recover from a two-year state budget stalemate, Collins is supportive of continued funding of important social safety net programs that have been threatened by the

governor’s proposed budget, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, mental health services, Redeploy Illinois for keeping youth out of prison, and after-school programs that seek to keep children off the streets.

And, in a year that saw a renewed push for sensible firearm regulation in the wake of the tragedy in Parkland, FL, Collins acted as one of the Senate’s leaders in a walkout March 14, coinciding with a nationwide protest by K-12 students. During the event, Collins called for three minutes of silence to honor the lives lost to guns in Illinois, and urged solidarity on the part of lawmakers in efforts to prevent further violence.

She also continues to support improvements and initiatives that address the causes of truancy and provide support for families with students at high risk of it.





Linda Holmes

Majority Caucus Whip | Commerce and Econ. Development chair | 42nd Senate District

State Senator Linda Holmes continued to be an advocate for public health initiatives, animals and local control in 2018.

To combat the growing obesity epidemic, she passed legislation requiring public school districts to offer 150 minutes of physical education to students from kindergarten through high school each week. As of 2016, more than 31 percent of Illinois adults were considered obese, ranking 18th in the United States.

Holmes believes that teaching students to make healthy choices during childhood will encourage them to lead healthy lives as adults. Although school districts previously were required to offer daily physical education classes, the new school funding formula Illinois approved in 2017 decreased the requirement.

Holmes worked to protect and educate male students from the human papillomavirus, or HPV. Currently, doctors are only required to inform female students in sixth grade about the HPV vaccine, despite the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommending the vaccination for boys since 2011.

Under Holmes' proposal, Illinois doctors would be required to inform both male and female students about the HPV vaccine. Holmes believes giving students and their families this information would help cut down on the

30,000 cancer diagnoses caused by HPV nationally each year.

As an avid animal supporter, Holmes worked to ban the sale of ivory in Illinois to fight illegal poaching abroad. According to the World Wildlife Foundation, tens of thousands of elephants are killed every year for their ivory tusks. In some areas, as much as 80 percent of elephant herds have been decimated by senseless poaching.

Under her proposal, people caught selling ivory in Illinois could be charged with a Class A misdemeanor and fined up to \$1,000. Guns and knives older than 100 years and less than 20 percent ivory would be exempt from the ban, as would musical instruments made before 1975.

To ensure Illinois is exploring opportunities to extend broadband to every corner of

the state, Holmes passed a plan through the Senate to create the Broadband Advisory Council.

"Just like electricity and running water, having access to broadband is a critical tool for creating growth in communities and businesses," she said.

And to give more power to voters in the western suburbs, Holmes passed a plan to allow them to choose the makeup of the Fox Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board. Currently, trustees are appointed by members of the General Assembly instead of being selected by local voters.

Holmes believes that by directly electing the trustees, they will be more responsible and provide better service to residents of the area.





Dave Koehler

Majority Caucus Whip | Environment and Conservation chair | 46th Senate District

For nearly 20 years, the former Hanna City work camp in Peoria County has sat dormant.

Formerly a U.S. Air Force radar station, the site was a minimum security state prison until its closure in 2002. In 2006, the county acquired the property, but it has sat unused since.

Seeing an opportunity to spur economic growth in rural Peoria County, State Senator Dave Koehler advanced a plan to allow private redevelopment of the property. The legislation, House Bill 4319, would allow Peoria County to sell the land to a developer and give the state 10 percent of the proceeds.

Koehler said he hopes the measure, which passed both houses of the Legislature with bipartisan support, will help create jobs and foster more opportunities in rural Peoria County.

Koehler also sponsored legislation to help families of fallen members of the U.S. armed forces. After a constituent reached out, Koehler worked with State Representative Mike Unes (R-East Peoria) to pass legislation allowing the immediate families of soldiers on active duty or killed in action to terminate their property leases. Current state law only allows service members to terminate a lease if they receive orders for a change in duty station or deployment longer

than 90 days.

Koehler also has championed measures to build on the progress made combating asthma among schoolchildren. According to the state Department of Public Health, 13.6 percent of Illinois children have asthma, making it a leading cause of absenteeism and contributing to an estimated 13.8 million missed school days nationwide in 2014.

After previously passing legislation requiring schools to have asthma action plans, Koehler passed Senate Bill 3015 out of the Senate allowing school nurses to administer emergency asthma medication. The plan also allows schools to keep backup inhalers on hand, similar to autoinjectors used to treat severe allergic reactions in an emergency.

Koehler has also continued to fight for the rights of working people. In 2016, CityLink, the

operator of the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District, attempted to use bathroom breaks as leverage against members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 416 during collective bargaining agreement negotiations.

After talking with members of ATU Local 416, Koehler proposed Senate Bill 2210, which would make it state law that transit workers are guaranteed up to 10 minutes of restroom breaks for every four hours worked. The proposal also guarantees workers are not docked pay for taking bathroom breaks.





Martin Sandoval

Majority Caucus Whip | Transportation chair | 11th Senate District

State Senator Martin A. Sandoval continued his role as an advocate for the progressive agenda and a leader in the Latino community this legislative session.

The co-chairman of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, Sandoval passed Senate Resolution 1593 objecting to Gov. Bruce Rauner's willingness to comply with a potential request from President Donald Trump to send Illinois National Guard Troops to the Mexican border.

"Sending the National Guard would be a waste of taxpayer money and a misuse of vital resources," Sandoval said. "This simply serves to further the president's agenda of treating immigrants like dangerous criminals rather than hardworking people looking for a better life, and we can't sit by and let it happen."

Sandoval continues to prioritize matters of equality and fairness. He co-sponsored legislation pertaining to rent control, gender equality and inclusive curriculum.

"Rent control provides community stability and gives certainty to those who are living pay check to pay check, allowing them to stay in one place," he said.

He also advanced a plan to help minority contractors get paid and helped pass Senate Bill 35, which would limit compliance with immigration enforcement

agents in safe zones such as public schools and libraries, state-funded medical treatment and health care facilities, and buildings operated by the Illinois secretary of state and state courts.

Above all, Sandoval maintains an open-door policy, taking time to speak with constituents, activists and groups from all walks of life. His engagement with constituents led to his advancement of Senate Bill 2562 giving law enforcement the authority to use drones to prepare for or monitor security at large-scale events like concerts and rallies. It passed the Senate May 2.

Sandoval said he was also spurred to act after the October massacre in Las Vegas that killed 58 and injured hundreds of outdoor concertgoers as a shooter rained down bullets from a hotel room above. Shortly after,

Chicago authorities discovered the same shooter had booked, but never checked into, a hotel room overlooking the Lollapalooza music festival in downtown Chicago earlier in the year.

"There are so many neighborhood festivals that we want to continue to enjoy without the threat of violence. This bill gives law enforcement another tool to keep people safe by monitoring crowd sizes and vulnerabilities while keeping watch for threatening behaviors," Sandoval said.

"The only thing that stopped an attack on Lollapalooza is that the shooter never checked into his room. My children were at Lollapalooza. Fate can't be our only protection from these shootings. We have to take action."





Omar Aquino

2nd Senate District

State Senator Omar Aquino entered the 2018 legislative session with the same mission as the day he began his career in public service as a bilingual case manager for low-income elderly residents – to uphold the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable members of our society and those who cannot actively fight for themselves.

Aquino issued a pledge to safeguard the Community Care Program following Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of legislation to protect it from cuts and ensure care for thousands of low-income Illinoisans.

He introduced legislation lowering the state sales tax on male and female condoms, incontinence products, diapers and baby wipes to make vital personal care products more affordable and ease the burden on low-income families. The measure passed the Senate in late April.

Because he believes society works best when all voices are heard, Aquino unveiled a plan to expand voting access to all 102 county jails in Illinois and provide voting materials to released convicts, ensuring inmates know their voting rights and are given a fair chance to register and cast ballots.

And as a firm believer that education is the best vehicle to achieving prosperity, Aquino sponsored proposals aimed at offering students a shot at success.

He introduced a plan requiring school districts to report classroom data to the Illinois State Board of Education and setting reduced class size goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

To provide useful skills to underserved students and meet the labor needs of the Illinois manufacturing industry, Aquino introduced a jobs program focused on advanced manufacturing technical skills at six Chicago-area high schools. And the Senate unanimously approved his plan to increase the number of bilingual teachers in Illinois schools by creating the Growing Future Educators Program, a pathway to a paraprofessional license.

Issues affecting the victims of Hurricane Maria especially hit home for Aquino, a second-generation Puerto Rican-American whose grandfather and extended family currently live on the island.

To assist families forced to relocate in the wake of the hurricane, Aquino passed legislation out of the Senate making individuals displaced by federally declared natural disasters eligible to receive a temporary disabled parking placard in Illinois.

In late May, he invited to Springfield the ComEd team that embarked on a month-long mission to restore power in Puerto Rico. He offered the linemen words of praise and gratitude, saying it's a very personal issue for him.

"These 72 ComEd linemen went above and beyond their mission to install power by pulling their own money together to assist struggling families and working extra hours to rebuild playgrounds and sports facilities," Aquino said. "Through their efforts, they were able to restore power and peace of mind for over 11,000 Puerto Rican residents."





Scott Bennett

Criminal Law chair | 52nd Senate District

State Senator Scott Bennett's priorities continue to be focused on the residents of the 52nd Senate District and addressing the needs of the communities in Champaign and Vermilion counties.

In February, he was appointed chairman of the Senate's Criminal Law Committee, a role that allows him to tap into his experience as an attorney and a former prosecutor. He pledged to use the position to fight for policies that guarantee safety and justice for families and communities throughout Illinois.

Bennett sponsored a measure to crack down on organized criminals who sell dangerous counterfeit airbags to consumers and suppliers with little regard for the deadly consequences. He proposed to increase the penalties for sale of defective, counterfeit airbags to deter criminals from selling them.

He also worked to prevent criminals from working at fairs and carnivals, passing a measure that requires all employers and ride operators to pass a criminal background check. His hope is to make fairs and carnivals even safer for families and children.

Access to higher education is important to Bennett, whose district includes the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the flagship campus of the U of I system. He worked with Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan to protect student loan borrowers from losing professional licenses

when they struggle to repay their loans. He proposed changing Illinois law to bar the state agencies that regulate 38 professions from denying, revoking or suspending the licenses of workers who fall behind on their student loans, which is common practice under current state law.

Bennett said that for many, the reward of a fulfilling career is what makes an investment in higher education worth it. He worked to protect that investment and help borrowers keep their licenses and their jobs so they can catch up on their payments – rather than severely punishing them when they fall behind.

Locally, Bennett worked with Carle Foundation Hospital on an initiative to help address poverty in the region by training people and putting them to work. The five-year, privately funded pilot program will allow hundreds of

people at the lowest income levels rise up and out of poverty through intense workforce training or multi-generational family support programs.

When flooding from heavy rain destroyed homes and property in Vermilion County in February, Bennett and his district office helped to connect residents with information about available assistance from the state and other sources.

Finally, he continued to prioritize agriculture and natural resources, teaming with the Illinois Farm Bureau to pass protections for farmland during commercial solar energy development. He also worked with the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force and with local leaders to maintain high-quality, clean drinking water for families in central Illinois.





Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant

Education chair | 49th Senate District

As chair of the Senate Education Committee, State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant has spent the legislative session working to end the statewide teacher shortage by supporting legislative measures and traveling the state on her “Chalk Talk Tour” so she can better understand how policies affect schools and students.

As a professional educator, Bertino-Tarrant knows children need strong and passionate teachers to empower them to be the future leaders. She has made it her mission to streamline Illinois’ teacher licensure process to get educators into classrooms without burdensome red tape.

She is a chief proponent of Illinois’ historic, bipartisan education funding reform initiative, which was signed into law last year, and she continues to push for fair and adequate funding of all public schools.

She proposed a plan to protect education funding by barring any diversion of public dollars for a private school tax credit scholarship program unless the state has set aside the money for public school funding as required under the new formula each year. She believes

the state has a constitutional responsibility to fund public education; this measure ensures the government meets that obligation without hurting support for private schools.

Higher education and college affordability also are priorities for Bertino-Tarrant. She worked in a bipartisan manner to increase the availability of dual-credit classes in Illinois. She sponsored Senate Bill 2838 to require public universities and community colleges to work with local high schools to grant dual credit to students who complete an accredited course.

As the mother of a high school student, she knows that as the cost of college escalates nationwide, dual credit offers an economic benefit for families

by empowering students to accumulate college credit while they are still in high school.

To give Illinois veterans with an entrepreneurial spirit access to state loans, she advanced a measure designed to encourage veterans to establish businesses in communities across the state. Expanding the scope of this vital loan program also will help encourage veterans to consider a profession in agriculture.

Because government works best when it is a true representation of the people, she has continued to provide excellent service to Will County residents by hosting multiple speaker series, family events and town halls throughout the year. Her office places constituent service above all duties.





Daniel Biss

Labor chair | 9th Senate District

State Senator Daniel Biss' career in Springfield has been a testament to the philosophy that government should serve all people, not just those who wield money and influence.

Since he entered the Illinois Senate in 2013, Biss has focused on legislation that seeks to curb the excesses of the financial industry, supports the rights of workers and protects and expands the rights of minorities and women.

As he closes out his term without seeking re-election, he leaves behind a legacy of serious and straightforward proposals that have resulted in important change for the people of Illinois.

This year alone, Biss supported numerous forward-thinking causes. But his efforts during the previous legislative session made Illinois the second state to ban the use of the "gay panic defense" in court, setting a precedent of protecting LGBT people.

Biss considers fair and accessible elections a priority. He 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 also passed his plan to require candidates to release five years' worth of income tax returns before they could appear on the ballot in Illinois.

He also supports labor rights and middle-class families, and he served

during the 100th General Assembly as chairman of the Senate Labor Committee. He pushed hard to create a not-for-profit option for worker's compensation insurance in Illinois, a move that would spur competition in the marketplace and help employers. To support students whose efforts help universities function every day, he sponsored legislation to extend employee labor protections to graduate students who often teach classes and perform duties that full-time, represented university personnel also perform.

As a freshman senator, he worked to protect survivors of domestic violence by passing legislation to protect the confidentiality of their medical records.

In 2014, he went after patent trolls, fought for warrant requirements for police monitoring of suspects' GPS signals and made

the case for automatic enrollment in portable 401Ks for all private-sector workers.

He's teamed with Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan to tighten the reporting requirements on companies who disclose credit card information breaches, fought to ban harmful gay conversion therapy in Illinois and pushed to expand SNAP benefits to families struggling with hunger.

His student loan bill of rights legislation, which overcame the governor's veto in 2017, will become law at the end of this year and provide important protections for borrowers at a time when more families find it harder to afford college.

Biss leaves behind a reputation as a lawmaker known for his intelligence, drive, accessibility and belief in the duties of state government to the people of Illinois.





Melinda Bush

Government Reform chair | 31st Senate District

Upon returning to Springfield in January, State Senator Melinda Bush began working on measures to enhance protections for victims of sexual assault, hold pharmaceutical and insurance companies accountable, tackle the opioid epidemic and increase access to mental health treatment.

After hearing #MeToo stories of sexual harassment, discrimination and assault experienced by women and men, Bush sponsored legislation that established a task force to conduct a comprehensive review of the legal and social consequences of sexual harassment and discrimination, and make recommendations on how to combat the acts in Illinois.

As chair of the Senate Task Force on Sexual Discrimination and Harassment Awareness and Prevention, Bush led monthly Senate hearings, during which individuals from a variety of fields, including professional sports, manufacturing and politics, shared their experiences with harassment and discrimination.

The testimony and the recommendations heard during the hearings led to the creation of numerous sexual harassment-related proposals, as well as a plan to reform the Legislative Ethics Commission and the office of the Legislative Inspector General to create more transparency, independence and accountability in the ethics investigation process.

Building on her past work to tackle the opioid crisis in Illinois, Bush sponsored numerous measures aimed at increasing access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

She sponsored legislation that requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to create two pilot programs for Medicaid beneficiaries. The first provides community-based services for treatment of mental health conditions in youth and young adults. The second is the Assertive Engagement and Community-Based Clinical Treatment Pilot Program to treat youth and young adults with substance use disorders.

Bush also sponsored legislation requiring insurers to cover evidence-based early treatment of serious mental illnesses and serious emotional disturbances.

And she sponsored legislation to ban price-gouging by prescription

drug manufacturers and allow the attorney general to investigate and take action if a drug company is found to have engaged in price gouging.

Building on her past efforts to relieve Zion's burden of housing nuclear waste, Bush proposed adding inactive nuclear powered electrical generation sites as a possible criteria to be certified as an enterprise zone.

"For years, Zion has shouldered the burden of housing spent nuclear waste – a burden that has led to a loss of jobs and tax revenue and 100 acres of lakefront property that has remained undeveloped," Bush said. "By adding spent nuclear waste sites to the list of qualifications for an enterprise zone, Zion can apply for tax breaks and incentives that can help attract new businesses to the area and make up some of the lost revenue."





Cristina Castro

22nd Senate District

As the spouse of a military veteran, State Senator Cristina Castro is using her position to advocate for policies that help current and former servicemen and women and their spouses.

Upon learning about the deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, Castro became a strong and outspoken critic of policies and missteps by the Rauner administration that contributed to 13 deaths at the facility since 2015 and caused numerous others to become ill.

She demanded greater transparency and accountability on behalf of the veterans and Illinois taxpayers, going so far as to call for the resignation of a senior official as lawmakers learned startling details about the administration's bungled response to the epidemic.

Castro also is a strong voice for children. She sponsored legislation to allow children in the care of the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services the opportunity to receive a scholarship to help with tuition and fees at any public university or community college in the state.

She also sponsored Ashley's Law to allow the administration of medical cannabis-infused products on school premises for students who are qualifying patients. The measure was prompted by the case of 11-year-

old Ashley Surin of Schaumburg, who uses medical cannabis products, including a lotion that alleviates the side effects of leukemia treatment, such as seizures from the epilepsy she developed because of chemotherapy treatment.

Although Surin was a qualified medical cannabis patient, her school legally could not allow her to use the treatment at school. Finding it unthinkable that a child would have to choose between pain relief and an education, Castro proposed an update to the law and garnered overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate so that other children will not face the same obstacles.

Castro is a champion for women's rights and equality. She supported ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution so Illinois could finally be on the right side

of history. The measure was approved by the Senate in April.

She also supported immigrants this session, sponsoring a plan to create the Immigrant Tenant Protection Act to prohibit landlords from harassing tenants about their immigration status.

To protect Main Street businesses, she proposed legislation to ensure out-of-state online companies pay their fair share of taxes, just like local brick-and-mortar business owners do.

Public safety is a priority for Castro, who established Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week for people of all ages to learn about the variety of distractions that can take their eyes off the road. She also passed a measure to crack down on texting and driving by making a driver's first offense a moving violation punishable with a fine.





Tom Cullerton

Veterans Affairs chair | 23rd Senate District

State Senator Tom Cullerton continues to hone his reputation as a government watchdog who calls attention to government waste, fraud and abuse on behalf of his constituents and the citizens of Illinois who deserve extraordinary service and the responsible use of their tax dollars.

A former U.S. infantryman and chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Cullerton objected to the Rauner administration's mishandling of the Legionnaires' disease crisis that resulted in 13 deaths of veterans or their spouses and left numerous people ill. He hosted hearings examining the crisis that required the administration to answer questions and forced it to make decisions instead of grandstanding at the victims' expense.

Cullerton passed House Bill 4278 to require state-run veterans homes to notify residents and their emergency contacts within 24 hours if two or more people at the home have been diagnosed with an infectious disease in period of one month or less. The measure was the result of the Rauner administration's failure to notify the public about Legionnaire's outbreak until nearly a week later, despite signs the bacteria had spread.

He also advanced a plan to expand the use of the Silver Alert system to search for missing veterans who are believed to have

physical or mental conditions related to their service. Illinois currently does not have a procedure in place to alert police and emergency professionals about missing veterans.

Cullerton has continued to work with the Better Government Association to pass a series of measures to end bloated severance deals doled out to public executives and employees on the taxpayer's dime. He passed Senate Bill 3604, which eliminates severance packages for employees that have been fired for misconduct and limits government-paid severance packages to an amount no greater than 20 weeks of compensation.

To bring transparency to the governor's yearly budget proposal, Cullerton advanced House Bill 5814, which requires the governor's office to record late interest payments as a separate

line item for its appropriations to state agencies. This paints a more accurate picture of the budget and slows the depletion of funding needed to run those agencies.

Cullerton advocated for the change because it will force future governors to be more realistic when presenting a budget to the General Assembly and to the public. Illinois needs to make sure every governor, regardless of political party affiliation, does not attempt to hide behind phony numbers.

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





Bill Cunningham

Telecommunications & Information Technology chair | 18th Senate District

Since his time in the Cook County Sheriff's office, State Senator Bill Cunningham has considered the advancement of public health and safety a fundamental responsibility of his public service, a principle that remained at the forefront of his legislative agenda this spring.

In response to growing fear about a possible cancer cluster in the 19th Ward community, Cunningham successfully helped lobby the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center to start a cancer and chronic disease study. The goal is to determine why certain population groups in the city of Chicago have higher rates of cancer and chronic diseases than others.

Citing the concrete science behind the effectiveness of flu vaccinations, Cunningham passed legislation out of the Senate to allow local health departments and other state-licensed facilities to implement more stringent flu vaccination policies to protect patients from flu exposure and improve vaccination rates.

Following an increase in carjacking incidents in Chicago, Cunningham proposed closing a loophole that carjackers have used to avoid prosecution.

"Violent offenders, regardless of their age, should not be able to escape accountability by lying to an officer about the source of

their stolen vehicle," Cunningham said. "Carjackers are aware that this outdated law allows a brazen lie to become a get out of jail free card. It's time to put a stop to it."

Cunningham also proposed a plan to require people who threaten gun violence against schools on social media to reimburse police departments for added security and emergency response costs. The legislation would give police the ability to seek a psychiatric evaluation for individuals who make threats against schools.

To ensure police spend their time and resources on essential duties, Cunningham sponsored a long-anticipated plan to bar police departments from requiring officers to fulfill ticket quotas and assessing officers based on the number of tickets they issue.

He also led multiple initiatives

to protect consumers' personal information amid growing concerns about cybersecurity breaches. He fought to end Illinois's participation in the controversial Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck program, a system criticized for its vulnerability to cybersecurity hacks and its use as a tool to suppress minority voters.

"The negatives of Crosscheck far outweigh any of the positives," Cunningham said. "By ending our participation in that system, we can guarantee that the personal information of Illinois voters won't be weaponized by anyone."

And in the wake of the Equifax breach, Cunningham acted to make it easier for consumers to protect their credit by introducing a plan to bar credit reporting agencies from charging a fee to place or lift a freeze on consumers' credit reports.





Napoleon Harris III

Agriculture chair | 15th Senate District

State Senator Napoleon Harris III continued to advocate for the residents of his district – especially those who live in high-need areas – at the Capitol this spring. His background as a student athlete, professional athlete and a business owner gives him a unique perspective on many of the challenges facing Illinois.

On April 10 Harvey city officials announced they would lay off 40 public employees – including nearly half of the municipality’s police and fire departments – because of a state law that intercepts payments from cities that don’t make required pension payments.

Harris, whose hometown is Harvey, got to work trying to find a way to make the process more manageable for distressed municipalities. Although the issue is local, he fights for the public safety of Harvey residents because he believes it is unfair for them to be penalized for living in a poor community.

He also introduced legislation to begin a discussion about why some black suburban communities pay more for drinking water than residents of Chicago and some wealthier non-black towns. Harvey, Ford Heights and Maywood do not have direct access to Lake Michigan water and get their water from other communities. Their residents pay some of the highest rates in Cook County.

“It’s not fair that the place that you are born – whether it’s Harvey, Ford Heights, Highland Park or Chicago – determines what your family pays for water. It should be a right of all people to have equal, reasonably-priced access to drinking water,” Harris said.

Too often, the contributions African Americans have made to society are muted or misrepresented. To combat negative stereotypes portrayed in the media, Harris proposed requiring community colleges and public universities to offer a course on the events of black history. Students would learn about the history of the African slave trade and the socioeconomic struggle African Americans have experienced in striving to achieve fair and equal treatment under the laws of the United States.

Harris, a former Northwestern football player and NFL

linebacker, also led the statewide conversation on the legalization of sports wagering in Illinois and sponsored a plan to allow casinos to offer in-person or online betting on professional, amateur or collegiate sports. This spring the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a federal law prohibiting sports wagering, which led to conversations nationwide about whether and how states may implement sports betting.

Harris serves as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. In response to conservation police officers’ concerns that hunting violations were not being pursued strongly and that often the state was not recovering the highest restitution possible, Harris worked with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to discourage hunting violations and encourage more uniform enforcement of penalties by the judicial system.





Michael E. Hastings

Energy and Public Utilities chair | 19th Senate District

State Senator Michael E. Hastings was tapped this year to lead the Illinois Senate's Committee on Energy and Public Utilities, a panel that considers proposals to help modernize and safeguard Illinois' energy infrastructure and ensure utility costs are affordable.

Hastings kicked off a statewide energy tour to help put his role as energy chairman into perspective. He believes the only way to make responsible, educated decisions is to tour energy facilities around the state. The visits enable him to learn more about operations and about how policy decisions made in Springfield affect families across Illinois.

Hastings previously served as chairman of the Senate's Criminal Law Committee, which enabled him to tackle issues such as enhanced gun sentencing and commonsense juvenile expungement laws to give children a second chance. This year he continued his efforts to help keep the southland safe.

He advocated for halting Illinois' participation in the controversial Interstate Voter Registration Data Crosscheck Program and bar the state from sharing voter information with any interstate voter registration program other than the Electronic Registration Information Center.

As chairman of the Senate's subcommittee on cybersecurity,

Hastings has continued to investigate the 2016 State Board of Elections security breach. He believes it is evident Crosscheck is an inferior program that makes Illinois citizens' personal information susceptible to hackers.

The right to vote is a fundamental component of the democratic values that Hastings put his life on the line to protect during his highly decorated military career. He understands it is the state's duty to protect voters' personal and sensitive information and promote impartial and honest elections. Voters should have peace of mind that the Illinois State Board of Elections is taking every precaution to protect their sensitive personal information.

Hastings has not forgotten his military brothers and sisters. After learning about the deaths

of 13 residents at the state-run Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, he quickly criticized the administration's response and has continued to speak up on behalf of veterans whose needs have not been met by the governor. He passed a measure that will raise the cap on Illinois Court of Claims awards to help families who wish to sue the state for its role in the deaths.

Hastings also believes the state budget should reflect the priorities of the people of Illinois by supporting working families, disabled populations and students. He knows the best way to ensure the state can offer stability and certainty for its citizens is to advocate for a budget that takes care of the most vulnerable residents while also supporting businesses and spurring economic growth.





Toi Hutchinson

Revenue chair | 40th Senate District

State Senator Toi Hutchinson continued her role as chair of the Senate Revenue Committee this year at a time of prolonged and challenging budget constraints.

Her knowledge and extensive experience as chair of the committee has helped Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle navigate complicated issues ranging from tax credits to revenue collection in the state of Illinois. It also has helped her serve an integral role in the bipartisan budget negotiations to ensure continued financial stability and certainty for the residents of Illinois.

Nearly three years ago, Gov. Bruce Rauner decimated a popular and highly praised program aimed at giving working families a hand up so they could afford the exorbitant and ever-increasing cost of child care. The governor slashed eligibility to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and eliminated eligibility for 90 percent of participants.

Although the governor's decision was reversed, the program continues to suffer because of the cuts. Hutchinson worked to bring stability to the program this year, passing a proposal to extend the eligibility for families and working to protect CCAP from drastic cuts at the whim of the governor in the future. She also worked to increase payment rates for

both home centers and day care providers.

Hutchinson continued her long-standing advocacy on behalf of sexual assault victims this year, passing legislation that would hold law enforcement officers who sexually abuse or rape individuals accountable to victims and the public. The measure comes after a highly publicized New York case in which a woman was raped in Brooklyn by two officers who later claimed consent as their defense.

"The general public should have complete faith that law enforcement officers are held to the same standards as everyone else in our society," she said. "No one person should be immune to consequences for their actions, and our laws should reflect that reality."

Hutchinson worked on behalf of victims of human trafficking,

passing a plan to allow the sealing of criminal records for human trafficking victims, giving survivors more ability to move past their abuse and exploitation toward recovery and a chance at a normal life. This measure furthers Hutchinson's continuous mission to empower survivors of sexual assault and abuse.

This summer, Hutchinson will be named president of the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan non-governmental organization providing policy assistance and support to state lawmakers and staff across the nation.

The organization provides vital information for states at a time of increased fiscal pressures and inaction in Washington. NCSL's expertise gives states the tools, resources and information needed to tackle often complex and ever-changing issues.





Emil Jones III

Licensed Activities and Pensions chair | 14th Senate District

State Senator Emil Jones of Chicago led the charge this spring to protect the state's 40 safety net hospitals, a vital source of medical care for thousands of low-income and uninsured Illinoisans.

In February, fixed payments to Illinois hospitals were set to sunset June 30. As the state renegotiated the hospital assessment program – a combination of state and federal funds that provides financial relief for safety net hospitals across the state – the facilities faced an uncertain future.

During a series of news conferences, Jones urged Gov. Bruce Rauner to be fair and compassionate while negotiating the new agreement. Safety net hospitals were losing millions of dollars because they could not subsidize the cost of providing care for Medicaid patients and also were fronting many of the costs of services for patients in need.

After months of negotiations, a new hospital assessment program was signed into law.

“For me, securing funding for our safety net hospitals was a top priority when finalizing the deal. Our safety nets provide quality health care to the poorest community, which is something all people in Illinois deserve,” Jones said.

“This legislation preserves and

protects \$3.5 billion in federal funding, bringing more money to Medicaid beneficiaries and jobs in the medical field. This is a big win, not only for our community hospitals but for the economy as well.”

As a member and former chairman of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, Jones has tackled issues and advocated on behalf of underrepresented individuals. He co-sponsored legislation to establish a bridge program for underrepresented students at Illinois universities to provide access, academic support and financial aid to students who show promise but haven't been offered admission.

Additionally, Jones proposed and passed Senate Bill 55 designating every Aug. 4 Barack Obama Day in Illinois. The day is set aside to honor the 44th president on his birthday and

acknowledge his contributions as an Illinois state senator, a U.S. senator from Illinois, president of the United States and as a public servant who dedicated his life to protecting the rights of Americans and building bridges across communities.





Steven Landek

State Government chair | 12th Senate District

State Senator Steven M. Landek maintained his reputation this spring as a level-headed centrist in tune with the needs of his constituents in the 12th Senate District.

As chairman of the Senate's State Government Committee, Landek remained on guard against wasteful legislation, fine-tuning bills to prevent too much government intrusion and unintended consequences.

He also pushed for several environmental protection measures, meeting with representatives of the Sierra Club to support green measures to protect the environment.

"Hearing all sides of the issue is very important to me," said Landek, a Bridgeview Democrat. "When I speak to proponents, I want to make sure I know what the opposition thinks as well. That way, we can work out the kinks on legislation and make sure the final product is productive and effective but not overly burdensome."

As the mayor of Bridgeview, Landek has a unique perspective and fights hard for his local municipalities.

"I represent my constituents and I take time to hear their concerns," he said. "Whatever my office can do to provide services to constituents and make sure they are being properly served by the state, we will do."

This session, he co-sponsored equality measures, inclusive curriculum and legislation capping Illinois' capacity to increase spending at the rate of economic growth.

Landek takes time to visit with school groups and other constituents who visit the Capitol in Springfield. In May, he hosted students from Berwyn South School District 100 for Tech Day 2018 to hear about the use of Snapchat in schools. He also spent time discussing the legislative process with participants in the Our American Voice program.

"It's amazing the questions some of the kids have about the legislative process. They are very sharp, and whenever I spend time with students, I always end up learning something from them," he said. "It is one of the highlights of my time in the Senate when

I can pass on any wisdom I have gained to future generations."

Landek met with students from six schools from Berwyn South 100 for Our American Voice Day, providing each school with a commemorative proclamation for their visit.

"The Capitol is the people's house," he said. "And I am happy to accommodate them when they come to visit."





Andy Manar

Appropriations II chair | 48th Senate District

State Senator Andy Manar devoted much of his first five years in the Senate to convincing legislators, taxpayers and policymakers something needed to be done about Illinois' unfair system of funding public schools.

The formula was so bad that Illinois consistently scored last on nearly every metric when it came to providing adequate resources to all schools. And because of its reliance on property taxes, the formula unfairly penalized rural and downstate school districts while rewarding those in wealthier parts of the state.

In August 2017, Manar's work – and that of a coalition of likeminded advocates – paid off when the General Assembly voted to overhaul the formula and make Illinois one of the most progressive school funding states in the nation.

One newspaper lauded it as “a big day for little people” in Illinois. The new formula, the evidence-based model, will help Illinois right-size funding for school districts based on specific criteria.

“We indicted the system. We put something in place that would correct all of the ills that surround it, and it is proof that even in a polarized system grassroots advocacy works,” Manar said.

Although the governor signed it into law Aug. 31, the political battle over school

funding continued into 2018. The comptroller began dispersing checks to schools reflecting the new formula this spring.

Unwilling to rest, Manar set out to learn about the needs of another vital resource in central Illinois. He toured every hospital and federally qualified health clinic in the 48th Senate District to highlight the importance of rural health care.

He learned about challenges to providing health care in central Illinois, including staffing shortages, the need for telehealth services, lagging adult and child dental care in rural Illinois and opioid abuse, as well as the benefits of the Affordable Care Act on rural health care and the implications of a rollback.

This spring Manar turned his attention to a threat against corner drugstores that provide frontline health care in rural

communities. Independent and small-chain pharmacies across Illinois are losing money because of the reboot of Illinois' managed care program and the influence of pharmacy benefit managers. When he learned some pharmacies in the 48th Senate District could close as a result, he began working on a solution.

After a series of meetings with educators in the 48th Senate District, Manar incorporated their suggestions into legislation he advanced to address the teacher and substitute teacher shortages plaguing rural and downstate Illinois school districts. He also passed legislation to increase Illinois' mandated minimum salary for teachers for the first time since 1980.

Finally, he won bipartisan approval for a plan to stop the practice of payroll “offshoring” by the governor's office.





Pat McGuire

Higher Education chair | 43rd Senate District

As chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, State Senator Pat McGuire kept his focus on addressing how the General Assembly can address the fallout Illinois' public colleges and universities have endured because of the state's two-year budget stalemate.

Following tireless calls by McGuire to end the stalemate and keep the bond ratings of Illinois public colleges and universities from falling into junk status, he joined the General Assembly on the Fourth of July 2017 in passing a spending plan that fully funded universities, colleges and the Monetary Award Program grants many students rely on to pay for higher education.

Reacting this year to the governor's proposed budget, McGuire opposed what he called a one-percenter's view of higher education and pledged to support efforts to increase stability and certainty for Illinois public universities and community colleges.

To that end, he joined a bipartisan, bicameral higher education working group to speak with public universities. Among the group's findings were that uncertainty continues to drive students from Illinois and that the exodus must be addressed.

In response to that and other findings, the Higher Education Working Group's 17 meetings

produced a slate of legislation that included new financial aid, a renewed commitment to seeking out ways to ensure that transferring from community college to university won't require redundant courses, counseling to keep students on track for success and relief for universities seeking to manage the maintenance of their facilities. McGuire and other members of the group hailed it as a successful exercise in bipartisan compromise.

McGuire also acted on behalf of K-12 students, joining with his legislative colleagues in overriding the governor's shortsighted veto of public school funding reform. McGuire supported the state's new school funding formula, which addresses the persistent inequity that prevents many students in communities all over Illinois from being well-positioned for college and careers.

McGuire continued his work supporting and seeking improvements in the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. He passed House Bill 4885, a measure to help families as they seek to remain together by broadening access to the state's Child Care Assistance Program and its Early Intervention Program. Making child care and development disability assistance available to more families is a key component in alleviating the strains that can cause a family unit to break down.

McGuire continued to work closely with the community and DCFS in addressing the ways the department can learn and improve in the wake of high-profile deaths of children whose families were being monitored by the state. McGuire will continue working to ensure DCFS can serve as a model of child and family care.





Julie Morrison

Human Services chair | 29th Senate District

When a gunman from Illinois opened fire on a Tennessee Waffle House in late April, State Senator Julie Morrison wanted answers. How did an individual who had exhibited signs of distress regain possession of his firearms? What caused the process to break down?

The tragic situation highlighted something had to be done to increase state oversight.

Morrison developed and passed legislation that requires people to sign an affidavit attesting they understand their legal responsibilities when they take possession of the firearms of someone who is deemed ineligible to have them. Her legislation would also make it a misdemeanor for anyone to transfer a firearm without first checking to see if the recipient of the firearm has a valid FOID card.

The proposal is just one of many pieces of gun safety legislation Morrison championed this year in response to increased mass shooting incidents in schools, concert venues and nightclubs across the nation.

She passed the Lethal Violence Order of Protection to empower family members to alert the courts when family members display dangerous behavior. She also passed a plan to increase to 72 hours the “cooling off” period to purchase an assault weapon – similar to the current waiting

period for handguns.

Morrison supported a ban on bump stocks, and she worked to allow municipalities to ban assault weapons.

She also worked this year to address the effects of smoking on the health of teenagers. With overall teenage tobacco use rates on the rise – due in large part to increased e-cigarette use – Morrison passed legislation to make Illinois the sixth state to raise the age to buy tobacco to 21. After Chicago raised the age purchase tobacco, teenage smoking rates decreased from 13.6 percent to 6 percent in just six years.

The popular proposal saw success after Evanston became the first Illinois municipality to raise the smoking age in 2014. Since then, 22 other Illinois municipalities have followed suit, including Chicago, suburban

Buffalo Grove and downstate Peoria.

Morrison continued using her role as chair of the Senate Human Services Committee to increase governmental accountability and oversight of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

She passed plans to ensure mandated reporters are aware of available training, to create specialized services for youth victims of sex trafficking, to ensure youth in care have necessary documents to function as independent adults, and to ensure abused or neglected children’s legal representation has access to important documents necessary to advocate on behalf of their young clients.





John G. Mulroe

Insurance chair | 10th Senate District

State Senator John Mulroe tackled issues this session that included increasing early breast cancer detection rates, support for disabled public safety officers, streamlining Illinois' court fee system and ensuring students with disabilities are not uprooted from their schools.

Mulroe proposed requiring mammography service providers to notify women if they have dense breast tissue, which can appear similarly to cancer cells on mammograms and make detection difficult.

The measure requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to update its published summary to recommend follow-up tests for patients with dense breast tissue. Women also would receive additional information to have more meaningful conversations with their doctors as a result of Mulroe's proposal.

Mulroe also sponsored a plan to help disabled firefighters, police officers, paramedics and first responders remain in their homes by making a \$5,000 homestead exemption available to them. The exemption would carry over to their surviving spouses under certain circumstances.

Mulroe said he was inspired to propose the legislation because of Chicago Police Officer Jim Mullen, who became a quadriplegic after being shot in the face while on duty, and the tragic case of Chicago

Police Commander Paul Bauer, who was shot and killed while on duty Feb. 13 near the Thompson Center.

"This is a modest effort to show officers and firefighters who risk their lives for us every day how much we appreciate them and their work," he said.

He also worked to streamline Illinois' patchwork of court fee and fine laws, sponsoring a measure to implement recommendations from the Statutory Court Fee Task Force. Because court fees in Illinois vary greatly among counties, the legislation aims to standardize them by establishing four categories for civil fees and fines and 13 categories for criminal and traffic cases.

"Court fees should not be so confusing that they prevent people from accessing the justice system," Mulroe said. "This measure creates a uniform system that will increase efficiency."

Recognizing that students with disabilities in his district were being left behind, Mulroe introduced a plan to allow students who attend a special-needs cooperative school to continue their education even if their home school district withdraws from the co-op.

The home district would be required to pay the costs of sending children to out-of-district cooperatives, and the withdrawing district would have to present evidence to its board and other member districts proving that withdrawing from the joint agreement is in the best interest of the students.

"Students with special needs who are thriving in their school should not be forced to change educational programs due to bureaucratic decisions," he said. "I think continuity in education is vitally important to the development of all children."





Laura M. Murphy

28th Senate District

During her third legislative session in Springfield, State Senator Laura Murphy worked on issues affecting women, veterans, pet owners, students and Lottery players. Protecting the middle class is a priority for the senator.

Moved by the vicious dog attack of a constituent's 10-year-old Yorkie named Buddy, Murphy passed legislation to restrict the activities of dangerous dogs and their owners. Recognizing that poor behavior in dogs is often a result of their training, Murphy sought to establish a "reckless dog owner" definition and penalty in state law. Under her proposal, individuals found guilty of being reckless dog owners would have their pets rehomed, and they would be prevented from owning other dogs for up to three years.

Because fame shouldn't necessarily accompany fortune, Murphy sponsored a measure to prevent Illinois Lottery winners' identities from automatically being disclosed to the public. It protects their right to privacy by allowing winners of more than \$250,000 to submit a written request that their names be kept confidential.

"The government should not force Lottery winners to disclose their identities just because they were lucky enough to win," Murphy said. "Though this legislation affects a small portion of the population, I think the right to privacy is an important principle."

Murphy introduced legislation to offer a tax credit to Illinois families that send their children to in-state colleges, universities and vocational schools. It's an attempt to reduce the number of students who leave Illinois to pursue higher education elsewhere. It also supports middle-class students who study at Illinois' public institutions. Murphy noted that many students never return, causing statewide brain drain with widely felt financial implications.

Recognizing the tremendous sacrifice that veterans make, Murphy sponsored a plan to support disabled veterans. Under her proposal, permanently disabled veterans would not have to recertify their disability each year to receive a property tax break.

She also co-sponsored numerous measures to support women and their families. She co-sponsored the Equal Rights Amendment to protect gender equality at the federal

level, supported legislation to allow nursing mothers to be excused from jury duty, and co-sponsored measures to expand eligibility for the state's Child Care Assistance Program and to inform women if they have dense breast tissue.

Beyond her work in Springfield, Murphy maintained an active presence in her Senate district by hosting regular satellite office hours. She also hosted several property tax seminars to help guide residents through the property tax appeals process.

Additionally, she hosted a clean energy town hall this spring to discuss the Future Energy Jobs Act. She plans to host several town hall meetings over the summer to discuss the state budget and update residents about developments in Springfield this year.





Kwame Raoul

Judiciary chair | 13th Senate District

State Senator Kwame Raoul returned to Springfield in January ready to tackle tough legislative topics like criminal justice reform, voting rights and workers' compensation reform.

He recognizes that criminal justice reform is a complex issue that needs a multi-faceted approach.

After the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 students and teachers dead, Raoul passed legislation banning the use of bump stocks and trigger cranks. He cautioned that, although it was a good first step, more work would be needed to address the problem of gun violence as a whole.

To that end, he co-sponsored legislation regulating gun dealers at the state level, putting in place a system for families to report individuals who pose a risk of using a gun to commit a violent crime, and increasing the waiting period to buy an assault weapon.

He scolded the governor for vetoing a sensible gun dealer licensing measure when gun violence plagues communities across the state.

"This is a personal issue for me. I have experienced gun violence just outside my front door on multiple occasions while my children were home, and I have close friends who lost children to gun violence within blocks of my home," Raoul said.

Recognizing that criminal justice reform is not limited to enacting gun control measures, Raoul worked with advocates to pass legislation providing additional protections and rights for survivors of sexual assault or abuse. His legislation created the Survivors' Bill of Rights, filling in gaps in current state law and bringing Illinois in line with federal guidelines.

Raoul continued his fight for voter rights by taking on the flawed Crosscheck voter registration system.

The Illinois Board of Elections subscribes to two national voter database systems designed to help election authorities identify voters who may be registered in more than one state: the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program and the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). Raoul

proposed removing Illinois from the Crosscheck system but allowing the state to remain in ERIC, widely viewed as the better system.

"We have heard from numerous experts that the Crosscheck system is unsafe and that it can be used as a tool to discriminate and suppress voters," he said. "There is no reason to continue using this system when we have a better option readily available."

Raoul has long been the Senate's go-to negotiator on workers' compensation reform, and this spring he passed legislation to improve the state's program. In a testament to Raoul's commitment to reaching across the aisle, the reform package is the result of bipartisan negotiations and reflects recommendations made by Gov. Bruce Rauner.





Ira I. Silverstein

Local Government chair | 8th Senate District

Throughout his tenure representing the 8th Senate District, State Senator Ira Silverstein has been an advocate for good government and a strong voice for making communities safer and protecting consumer rights.

Silverstein is closing out his final term in the Illinois Senate this year after serving his constituents for two decades. He came to Springfield as a freshman senator in 1998.

Outspoken on firearms safety and criminal justice, Silverstein stays at the leading edge of national trends in legislation. His work to curb assault-style weapons, imitation firearms such as 3D printed guns, and loopholes in gun dealer licensing and fingerprints for FOID card applicants were foremost in his mind when he joined this year's legislator walkout for gun violence victims.

"Gun manufacturers and the NRA have shown no willingness to even negotiate on commonsense changes in the law for our safety, so lawmakers must take action that will stop the massacre of innocents," Silverstein said. "Enough is enough."

Along with gun issues, Silverstein continues to seek protection for crime victims. He works on issues such as allowing domestic violence victims to keep their mobile phone number and account when they leave an abusive relationship, ending the statute of limitations for

sex crimes, and seeking privacy and security for judges.

His concern for public safety has overlapped with his commitment to higher education, as he championed legislation to prevent sex offenders from preying on college students. He also sought to make higher education more accessible by waiving GED exam fees for homeless teens.

Silverstein serves on the Senate's Executive, Financial Institutions, Executive Appointments, Insurance and Judiciary committees. He has prioritized legislation that advances consumer safety and protections.

For example, he has worked several years to prevent powdered alcohol known as Palcohol from reaching the market as yet another appealing product for minors. He sponsored a measure to curb life insurers' practice of retaining unclaimed benefits due to survivors. And he pushed to

limit the potentially deadly effects of "ice missiles" that fly off large trucks and injure or kill occupants of cars behind them in winter traffic.

Silverstein also spoke out against anti-Semitism and acts of violence or vandalism against Jewish culture. This spring, he condemned legislation signed by Polish President Andrzej Duda attempting to obfuscate history and Poland's role during the Holocaust. With the 70th anniversary of the state of Israel, he sponsored a resolution acknowledging the historic significance and ongoing cooperation between the United States, Illinois and Israel for 70 years.

As his final term with the Senate comes to a close, his colleagues and friends wish him the best.





Elgie R. Sims Jr.

17th Senate District

In January, State Senator Elgie Sims was sworn in to succeed retiring longtime State Senator Donne Trotter. Sims immediately got to work representing the people of the 17th District.

Growing up the son of a small business owner, Sims learned the importance of entrepreneurship within the community.

As a legislator – he was a state representative for nearly six years before joining the Illinois Senate – he has made economic development and good-paying jobs a priority, sponsoring legislation to help businesses throughout Illinois identify existing state services to help them better compete with companies in neighboring states.

He proposed directing the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to create a strategy for assisting municipalities along Illinois' borders. The information would be made available to Illinois businesses and the general public on the department's website.

Illinois' two-year budget stalemate under the Rauner administration created challenging conditions for many businesses. Sims' legislation is a way to help businesses take advantage of often underutilized resources.

"Running a business is hard work, and it's important that we make it easier for business owners to figure out what state resources are available to help them and their businesses be successful," he said.

Sims teamed up with the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois to ensure mothers' rights are protected in Illinois courtrooms by sponsoring legislation that requires circuit courts to make available a private room in which women can breastfeed their children. The room can't be a restroom, and it must include a chair, table, electrical outlet and a sink with running water.

Lactation rooms in courthouses will help mothers better balance their parental and civic responsibilities.

Sims continues to prioritize the needs of our young people. He is the chief Senate sponsor of a plan to help students develop the skills they need to be successful in the workforce. Many young people struggle with face-to-face interactions because they communicate largely by phone and computer.

Sims' legislation allows schools to teach lessons on emotional intelligence and creates the

Emotional Intelligence Education Task Force to develop curriculum guidelines for elementary and high schools, including how to recognize, direct and positively express emotions.

As one of the Senate's budget negotiators, Sims had a seat at the table as lawmakers worked to make difficult decisions that are necessary to craft a spending and revenue plan that is balanced but maintains services that reflect the priorities of the people of Illinois.

He continues to put working families and communities first, focusing on legislation that improves the quality of schools, strengthens the middle class by creating good jobs and brings fiscal discipline to Springfield.

In addition, he supports commonsense public safety initiatives that make Illinois streets safer.





Steve Stadelman

Gaming chair | 34th Senate District

State Senator Steve Stadelman came to Springfield with a strong pro-consumer agenda to benefit the Rockford area this year.

With college students facing sky-rocketing debt, he passed legislation requiring state universities to update students on the long-term cost of their loans. He hopes that by offering students information up front, they will be able to make smart financial decisions early on. The proposal was taken from a similar program in Indiana.

Stadelman introduced a proposal to create a College Student Credit Card Marketing and Debt Task Force. Made up of representatives from public universities, credit unions and banks, the task force will study students' payment histories, credit card marketing to students and other issues.

He said he hopes the task force will be able to find ways to cut down on the \$3,000 in credit card debt the average student takes with them upon graduating from college.

When news reports showed some students who were unable to pay for school lunch faced "lunch shaming," Stadelman passed legislation requiring schools to provide hot lunches to all students regardless of their ability to pay.

Lunch shaming is the controversial practice of schools

forcing students to wear special wristbands, sit by themselves or even go without lunch for the day. Under Stadelman's proposal, if a school is owed more than \$500 by a student's parents and the school has made a reasonable effort to collect, the district can request the Illinois comptroller withhold tax refunds to pay off the debt.

"Forcing students to go without lunch is punishing them for the mistakes of their parents," he said. "All students, regardless of their parents' status or income level, deserve to have a hot lunch."

Stadelman supported a proposal to prevent price gouging for prescription drugs following reports that Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, a global pharmaceutical company with U.S. headquarters in St. Louis, had hiked the price of Acthar, a prescription to treat babies suffering from a rare

seizure disorder. The reports surfaced after the Rockford city government, which is self-insured, was forced to pay nearly \$490,000 after two babies of city employees required the prescription. Previously, the prescription cost only \$40 per vial.

"As a result of these irresponsible actions by the drug company, Rockford taxpayers are forced to pay nearly half a million dollars that could have paid for crucial city projects," Stadelman said.

In the coming months, Stadelman will continue to work in his district on constituent outreach events. He is hosting an expungement seminar in June and his annual basketball tournament – Senator Stadelman's HoopStars – in the fall.





Heather Steans

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

State Senator Heather Steans worked on a variety of important measures this spring, including gender equality, teaching tolerance and a complete view of history in the classroom, revamping the Medicaid Hospital Assessment program and protecting consumers from junk insurance.

Steans sponsored legislation to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and secured its passage in the Senate. The ERA declares that equality of rights will not be denied by the United States or any state on account of sex.

From equal pay to equal health care access, women's rights are in jeopardy as long as women's equality is not cemented in the Constitution. Steans also sponsored an ERA measure in 2014.

She sponsored the Medicaid Hospital Assessment program, which is designed to leverage federal matching funds to cover the cost of services provided to Medicaid patients in private Illinois hospitals.

The new program will use more recent patient data and phase in a claims-based payment model over the next six years. The measure received bipartisan support and was signed into law by the governor in March. It must receive federal approval before it can take effect.

Steans sponsored legislation to promote an inclusive curriculum that celebrates the contributions

of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. By teaching students an inclusive curriculum, Illinois public schools will promote acceptance and a more accurate portrayal of history. She noted that people need to see their history to understand they are a part of our society.

Additionally, she championed legislation to protect consumers from a pending rollback to the Affordable Care Act. She sponsored legislation to encourage Illinoisans to enroll in comprehensive health insurance rather than remaining on a short-term plan. The proposal would limit short-term coverage to 100 days within a year.

The Trump administration has proposed extending short-term coverage plans to last up to a year. But short-term, limited-duration insurance plans are exempt from many of the Affordable Care Act's mandates and often provide less

coverage to consumers. Steans' proposal would require short-term policies to include a warning message to consumers that the plan might not cover all medical bills.

In addition to these legislative measures, Steans chaired one of the Senate's two appropriations committees and served as one of the Senate Democratic Caucus budget negotiators. She worked across party lines to negotiate a budget plan that supports communities and steers Illinois on a path toward fiscal stability.

She also became a founding member of the Senate's 17-member bipartisan women's caucus in the fall. The caucus was a driving force behind passage of Steans' ERA legislation.





Patricia Van Pelt

Public Health chair | 5th Senate District

State Senator Patricia Van Pelt returned to Springfield in January with a 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 combating racism and discrimination and ensuring all individuals are able to access justice.

After investigative reports uncovered the Chicago Police Department's questionable use of gang databases to track hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans labeled as suspected gang members, Van Pelt was moved to take action.

Van Pelt convened a subject matter hearing of the Senate Public Health Committee to get answers from the Chicago Police Department and hear from victims, criminal justice advocacy groups and legal organizations about how the use of gang databases affects communities of color. She then introduced legislation aimed at reforming the police use of gang databases.

"My goal is to reform the use of gang databases so that we can ensure the data is accurate and can be effective in helping reduce gang-related activity while still protecting people's rights," she said.

Van Pelt identified problems with the Chicago police database: law enforcement doesn't need a reason to add someone, it doesn't have to notify a person they've been added, and there is no process for removing a person's name from the database. Her legislation urges the Illinois State Police to create a notification and appeals process.

Her inquiry identified another problem – that information from the gang database can be used in employer background checks, making it more difficult for people of color to find employment. Her legislation would prevent gang database information from being used by anyone who is not a member of law enforcement.

"For too long, law enforcement has operated flawed databases with little oversight and questionable reasoning for adding names to the lists," Van Pelt said.

"This legislation will provide more oversight and help protect the rights of innocent individuals who shouldn't be on the list."

After two years of work on the Safe and Full Employment (SAFE) Zone Act, Van Pelt was able to pass the measure, which creates a process for identifying high-violence communities and prioritizing state dollars for communities to invest in addressing the underlying causes of crime and violence.

"It's clear that business as usual isn't enough to prevent crime and keep our neighborhoods safe," Van Pelt said.

"Neighborhoods hit hardest by crime and violence need special attention in order to address the root cause of violence. Prioritizing funding for areas with high levels of violence and crime is the best way to help struggling communities rebuild."





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100th General Assembly - Spring 2018

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES







2nd Amendment

- HB 4231 - Allow hunters to wear solid blaze pink colored clothing, in addition to blaze orange colored clothing, if they are hunting during either the deer or upland game bird seasons.
- HB 4783 - Combines the Youth Hunting License and the Youth Trapping License into one Youth Hunting and Trapping License. Defines "Youth" as persons under the age of 18 and makes conforming changes to statute.

HB 4231	Allow hunters to wear solid blaze pink colored clothing, in addition to blaze orange colored clothing, if they are hunting during either the deer or upland game bird seasons.
HB 4783	Combines the Youth Hunting License and the Youth Trapping License into one Youth Hunting and Trapping License. Defines "Youth" as persons under the age of 18 and makes conforming changes to statute.
HB 5440	Allows non-resident youth (18 and under) to apply for a Youth Hunting or Trapping License and provides that the fee for a resident youth and a non-resident youth shall be the same.
HB 5692	Removes the season limit for river otter.
HB 5693	Allows a trapper's Department of Human Services customer identification number to serve as a trap's "tag" or "mark."

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- SB 3082 - Redefines agribusiness. Expands benefits to established businesses that didn't qualify before.

HB 3418	Allows municipalities to give a tax abatement for property located within an 'urban agricultural area' that is owned by a qualifying farmer.
HB 4234	Creates the Farmer Equity Act. Requires the Department of Ag to include socially disadvantaged farmers in the development and enforcement of agricultural laws.
HB 4999	Requires the Director of the Department of Agriculture to call a meeting of the Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners annually and allows the Director to call additional meetings as deemed necessary.
HB 5027	Repeals the User Advisory Committee of the Illinois Geographic Information Council.
HB 5317	Raises the penalties for illegal hunting and possession of wildlife.
SB 2295	Allows state fishing licenses to be issued electronically.
SB 2298	Allows for the cultivation of industrial hemp.
SB 2380	Animal control facilities and animal shelters have to report intake and outcome statistics to the Department of Agriculture.
SB 2591	Requires the Department of Agriculture to create a standard agricultural mitigation agreement and requires such an agreement to be in place 45 days prior to the start of construction of a solar facility.
SB 2696	Conveys certain real property from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to the Fox Waterway Agency via quitclaim deed.
SB 2713	Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to plan, contract and construct recreational trails with public discourse and input.
SB 2752	Updates the definition of "adulterated" in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Act to adhere to changes in federal law.



SB 2875	States the Department of Agriculture can implement organic, identity-preserved and value-added certification processes which guarantee a buyer that the certified Illinois products have traits and qualities that warrant a premium price or an increase in value.
SB 3082	Redefines agribusiness. Expands benefits to established businesses that didn't qualify before.
SB 3241	Requires the Secretary of State to issue distinctive registration plates for all covered farm vehicles.

Budget

- HB 4290 - Makes appropriations totaling \$63.25 million GRF to various state agencies for personal expenses owed to state employees for back pay.
- HB 5814 - Requires the Governor, in his or her annual introduced budget, to include separate line item requests to appropriate moneys to each state agency for the purpose of costs pursuant to Prompt and Timely Pay interest.

HB 4290	Makes appropriations totaling \$63.25 million GRF to various state agencies for personal expenses owed to state employees for back pay.
HB 5121	Prohibits the Governor's office from using other agency appropriations to pay for Governor's office employees.
HB 5202	Creates the Youth Budget Commission within the Office of Management and Budget to present youth-centered budget analysis focused on youth ages 8-25.
HB 5814	Requires the Governor, in his or her annual introduced budget, to include separate line item requests to appropriate moneys to each state agency for the purpose of costs pursuant to Prompt and Timely Pay interest.
SB 1936	Budgeting for results commission's recommendations on mandate relief.
SB 2540	Requires the Comptroller and GOMB to establish a system to suspend grant payments.
SB 2857	Ensure the Treasurer's office has the necessary resources to preserve state funds, ensure necessary liquidity, and continue to maximize investment income for deposit in the state Treasury.

Business

- HB 4578 - Changes the late fee penalty for LLC annual report filing from \$300 to \$100.
- SB 2281 - Expands the Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot program to encourage and assist beginning entrepreneurs in certain business sectors by reimbursing them for state fees associated with starting a business.
- SB 2363 - Requires the state treasurer to encourage and promote the use of businesses run by qualified veterans, qualified service-disabled, minority persons, women, or persons with a disability.

HB 1910	Extends a TIF district in Normal.
HB 4118	Extends a TIF district sunset date in the Village of Table Grove.
HB 4129	Extends the Village of Caseyville's and Village of Posen's TIF districts.
HB 4275	Removes the contract cap of \$2,500 per person for basic physical fitness services contracts.
HB 4536	Extends the Village of Hanover's TIF district.
HB 4541	Adds credit unions to the list of financial institutions that municipalities may borrow from.
HB 4578	Changes the late fee penalty for LLC annual report filing from \$300 to \$100.



HB 4746	Changes the date of renewal for a consumer/payday loan license to Dec. 1.
HB 4757	Reduces the amount of local tourism funds the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities (DCEO) may reserve for operational use from 10 percent to 3 percent.
HB 4853	Extends the Village of Dalzell's TIF district.
HB 4897	Allows tap rooms to sell cider and beer from other manufacturers.
HB 4990	Extends the sunset of the Municipal Convention Center and Sports Facility Attraction Grant to July 1, 2022.
HB 5029	Separates and defines "cat breeder," "dog breeder," "boarding" and "day care operator" and makes conforming changes to the relevant statutes. Currently, "kennel operator" encompasses all 4 definitions.
HB 5210	Updates the Real Estate License Act of 2000 to clarify that a license may establish an LLC for purposes of receiving licensee compensation to allow real estate licensees more flexibility in selecting a business entity that fits their need.
HB 5502	Removes a provision of the Real Estate Appraisers Licensing Act of 2002 that requires passage of an examination before being licensed as an associate real estate trainee appraiser and removes a provision that limits licensees to 2 renewals.
SB 0335	Eliminates the educational and experience requirements to be a registered interior designer and requires registered interior designers to complete 24 continuing education units for renewal of registration.
SB 0424	Extends a TIF district in Litchfield.
SB 0457	Establishes requirements for a cottage food operation to can tomato products and adds additional foods to the authorized list that a cottage food operation may and may not sell.
SB 0748	Adds one seat to the State Banking Board of Illinois that is reserved for a member affiliated with a savings bank or their approved alternate.
SB 2281	Expands the Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot program to encourage and assist beginning entrepreneurs in certain business sectors by reimbursing them for state fees associated with starting a business.
SB 2303	Extends the TIF in the city of Marion from 23 years to 35 years.
SB 2304	Extends the TIF in the city of Monmouth, from 23 years to 35 years.
SB 2363	Requires the state treasurer to encourage and promote the use of businesses run by qualified veterans, qualified service-disabled, minority persons, women, or persons with a disability.
SB 2421	Liquor license exemption for Colectivo Coffee which is located within 100 feet of a church.
SB 2445	Extends a TIF for the city of Edwardsville.
SB 2569	Extends Springfield's Far East Side TIF District.
SB 2589	Adds additional counties to several regional development authorities.
SB 2877	Provides that an applicant for licensure as a barber or teacher of barbering may take the licensure examination after completing 1,200 hours in the study of barbering.
SB 3019	Removes the one sign limitation on temporary and permanent outside signage for retail liquor establishments and imposes a \$3,000 per manufacturer cost cap for permanent outside signs and \$1,000 per manufacturer for temporary outside signs.
SB 3109	Provides that all qualified applicants, regardless of immigration status, are eligible for Illinois professional licenses issued by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.



SB 3182	Changes the control requirements to allow the IDFP to analyze the future prospects of the bank seeking control of another bank in determining whether to approve the change of control.
SB 3392	Excludes religious based financing plans that do not accrue interest from the Installment Sales Contract Act.
SB 3464	Makes changes the current cable franchise fee audit process such as auditor contingency fees.
SB 3527	Expands the River Edge Historic Tax Credit.

Civil Law

- HB 4572 - Expands the Illinois Human Rights Act to cover employers with one or more employees during 20 or more calendar weeks in the year of or preceding an alleged violation of the Act.
- SB 2330 - Would allow victims of domestic violence to waive the publication requirement when filing a name change petition.

HB 2063	Allows a victim of sex trafficking and involuntary servitude to bring a civil action against a person who pleads guilty to or is convicted of his/her trafficking, to recover actual sustained damages, court costs, and punitive damages determined by the court.
HB 4572	Expands the Illinois Human Rights Act to cover employers with one or more employees during 20 or more calendar weeks in the year of or preceding an alleged violation of the Act.
HB 4594	Comprehensive rewrite of Illinois statutes establishing court fees and fines.
HB 4702	Creates the Uniform Powers of Appointment to codify the existing patchwork of state court cases that constitute the common law rules regarding the powers of appointment.
HB 4879	When a power of attorney exists, the agent of the principal must provide records to a representative of the Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman within 21 days of a request to be assessed costs and attorney fees by the court.
HB 4951	Requires that in a written residential lease, costs associated with damage to the property must be for damages beyond normal wear and tear and be reasonable to return the property to its initial condition when the lease began.
HB 5047	Expands the instances where the transfer of property is allowed without the transferor being held liable for damages due to an improper transfer because a third party has challenged the validity of the transferring instrument.
HB 5155	Updates the form of consent required for the adoption of a child by adding gender-neutral verbiage, expanding the use of email addresses and cell phones in providing notice, and changing the time frame for which a parent may void their consent for an adoption.
HB 5176	Requires that the lender publish public notice of sale of judicially foreclosed real estate in Cook County in two separate newspapers. The notice of sale shall be published in the legal notice section of one newspaper and in the real estate section of a different newspaper.
HB 5497	Makes changes to the Illinois Credit Union Act ("ICUA").
SB 0544	This is a trailer bill to HB 4594 that allows the City of Chicago to file actions to enforce administrative judgments without paying a filing fee up front, while giving the Clerk of Courts the right to collect a fee from every judgment debtor.



SB 0574	Waives the notice requirement for someone changing their name if the individual is changing their name in conjunction with treatment for a intersexed condition or for the purpose of gender transition.
SB 0682	Updates the Illinois Insurance Code to comply with National Association of Insurance Commissioners' model act.
SB 2274	Provides that a transfer between spouses does not disqualify wooded acreage from the provisions for the assessment of untransferred wooded acreage.
SB 2289	Updates the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act and the Illinois Domestic Violence Act.
SB 2330	Would allow victims of domestic violence to waive the publication requirement when filing a name change petition.
SB 2432	Provides that if a summons complies with Supreme Court Rules and is properly served, it isn't invalidated and the court's jurisdiction isn't affected by a formatting error.
SB 2437	If death occurs between spouses and the marriage is found to be invalid, a beneficiary designation made prior is void. A life insurance company will not be held liable.
SB 3052	Holds that a provision in a construction contract that provides for the withholding of retainage in excess of 5 percent from payments is against public policy and unenforceable.
SB 3108	Expands trafficking definition and provides a civil remedy for human trafficking victims.
SB 3120	The 4th class of claims in court will include the reasonable and necessary medical, hospital and nursing home expenses accrued during the year leading up to the death of the decedent.
SB 3295	Provides pleadings, affidavits or other certified documents will not be required to be sworn before an authorized person.

Consumer Protection

- HB 4095 - Prohibits credit report companies from charging people for freezing their credit report.
- HB 4922 - Prohibits the sale or issuance of a rebate that is provided on a stored value card that charges dormancy fees or other post-issuance fees under the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act.

HB 4095	Prohibits credit report companies from charging people for freezing their credit report.
HB 4268	Expands the consumer rights brochure to include the rights of consumers under the Mechanics Lien Act.
HB 4589	Repeals section 9014 of the Savings Bank Act, which outlines audit requirements for savings banks. Savings banks chartered in Illinois are subject to the same bank examinations by IDFPB as bigger banks and credit unions. .
HB 4710	Creates the College Student Credit Card Marketing and Debt Task Force, an eight-member task force that will seek to reduce the amount of credit card debt Illinois students face after graduating from institutions of higher education in the state.
HB 4922	Prohibits the sale or issuance of a rebate that is provided on a stored value card that charges dormancy fees or other post-issuance fees under the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act.
HB 4923	Makes changes the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Act.
HB 5752	Creates the Broadband Advisory Council, a council to expand access to broadband services and technology.



SB 1737	An insurance omnibus bill that includes: 1) regulation of short-term, limit-duration plans; 2) allows an insurer that is a domestic stock company to divide or merge into two companies; 3) rewrites the captive insurance law; 4) adopts the 2017 NAIC model reinsurance law; 5) worker's compensation rate review.
SB 2332	Raises the age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21.
SB 2433	Caps the service fees on check cashing services and lays out criteria for considering the impact of any future increases.
SB 2522	Prohibits a rental car company from charging a fee of more than \$2 each day for the use of an electronic tolling transponder.
SB 2615	Provides that mortgage loan advertisements must reference the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry's Consumer Access website, except where exempted by the Secretary of Financial and Professional Regulation.
SB 2908	Requires a telecommunications provider that is seeking relief from carrier-of-last resort obligations to provide notice to customers in Spanish and English.
SB 3131	Makes a variety of changes to the Public Utilities Act.
SB 3170	Allows a prescription for medication other than controlled substances to be valid for up to 15 months from the date issued unless the prescription states otherwise.
SB 3392	Excludes religious based financing plans that do not accrue interest from the Installment Sales Contract Act.

Criminal Law

- SB 1830 - Regulates the use of incriminating testimony in courts.
- SB 2826 - Expands coverage of Illinois Human Rights Act and gives victims of workplace stalking and harassment further protections by creating provisions such as a reasonable, unpaid leave for court dates.
- SB 3404 - Creates the Survivor's Bill of Rights, which guarantees additional rights and protections to survivors of sexual assault.
- SB 3509 - Extends the ban on ticket quotas to Chicago.

HB 3342	Provides a set of common rehabilitative and mitigating factors for the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to consider before making a denial when making licensing decisions for applicants with prior convictions.
HB 3920	Lowers the penalty for driving with a driver's license that was suspended for unpaid parking fines, automated camera enforcement or unpaid child support to a petty offense.
HB 4554	Makes driving the wrong way on a one-way an aggravating factor for DUIs.
HB 4741	Provides that each inmate in the Department of Corrections is entitled to seven in-person visits per month. Each inmate may submit a list of 30 people that are authorized to visit. The bill requires DOC to maintain visitation list electronically beginning on August 1, 2019.
HB 4796	Expands the Order of Protection for foster parents/guardians who are caring for a child that has been subject to abuse or harassment by that child's birth parents family members or previous household members.
HB 4843	Bans the sale of ivory.
HB 4888	Mandates the Illinois Department of Corrections to quarterly collect and publish data on violence within correctional institutions and the release and status of previously institutionalized persons.



HB 5077	If minors are committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Court Clerk must forward a copy of the committing petition and an accurate reporting of minor's criminal history to DJJ.
HB 5104	Prohibits the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) from requiring a committed person to pay an co-payment for receiving medical or dental services.
HB 5267	Adds two offenses for which victims are eligible to receive compensation under the Crime Victims Compensation Act: 1) posting identifying or graphic information on a pornographic website and 2) revenge porn.
HB 5303	Makes changes to disciplinary measures prescribed by the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board.
HB 5341	Prohibits any State court from denying petitions due to outstanding costs, fines, assessments or fees imposed or established by a court, law enforcement agency or unit of state or local government.
HB 5494	Creates a petition process that allows trafficking victims to petition for immediate sealing of criminal records upon completion of the last sentence, if the underlying offense was a direct result of human trafficking.
HB 5573	Allows crime victims to have support persons present and eligible to testify at trial and prohibits substantive issues from being decided at status hearings.
HB 5597	Expands custodial sexual misconduct to include law enforcement officers who engage in sexual conduct or sexual penetration with persons in the custody of law enforcement.
SB 0034	Require state and local law enforcement agencies to complete within 90 business days visa certification requests from human trafficking or crime victims who are seeking federal immigration relief based on their assistance with law enforcement's investigation of those crimes.
SB 0035	Requires the Attorney General to create safe zones where immigration enforcement is limited, such as state-funded schools, state funded medical treatment and health care facilities, public libraries, facilities operated by the Secretary of State, and state courts.
SB 0558	Provides methods for obtaining and issuing protective orders and emergency orders and renames "order of protection" to "domestic violence order of protection."
SB 0564	Trailer bill to the civil asset forfeiture re-write. Specifically corrects drafting errors, renumbers sections and provides clarity.
SB 1830	Regulates the use of incriminating testimony in courts.
SB 2271	Provides that a prosecution for any offense involving sexual conduct or sexual penetration in which the victim was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense may be commenced within one year after the offense is discovered by the victim.
SB 2341	Adds synthetic cannabinoids to the Controlled Substances Act.
SB 2560	Requires any website that displays a subject's individual's criminal record be required to remove the information upon written request.
SB 2579	Requires the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts to study the fiscal impact of legislation (PA100-285) that expanded juvenile expungements and clarified juvenile record confidentiality requirements on probation departments.
SB 2641	Allows a car rental company to void a damage waiver if the vehicle is stolen and the renter does not cooperate in the investigation.
SB 2826	Expands coverage of Illinois Human Rights Act and gives victims of workplace stalking and harassment further protections by creating provisions such as a reasonable, unpaid leave for court dates.
SB 2891	Provides a five-year (up from three years) statute of limitations for prosecution of some forms of fraud or kickbacks.



SB 2915	Provides that the parents, guardians and counsel of a minor who is the subject of record shall have the right to inspect and copy law enforcement records. Also makes changes to the juvenile court and law enforcement juvenile records expungement procedures.
SB 3004	A one-time fee waiver for birth certificates if discharged or on parole.
SB 3388	Allows people with probation-level offenses to be included in Adult Redeploy Illinois programs.
SB 3404	Creates the Survivor's Bill of Rights, which guarantees additional rights and protections to survivors of sexual assault.
SB 3489	Registrants of Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act may petition for removal from the list.
SB 3504	Provides that no repossession agency employee may be issued a recovery permit if the person has been convicted of specified crimes.
SB 3509	Extends the ban on ticket quotas to Chicago.

Economic Development

- SB 2281 - Expands the Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot program to encourage and assist beginning entrepreneurs in certain business sectors by reimbursing them for state fees associated with starting a business.
- SB 3285 - Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall develop an economic plan to assist businesses and municipalities located geographically close to bordering states.

HB 1910	Extends a TIF district in Normal.
HB 4118	Extends a TIF district sunset date in the Village of Table Grove.
HB 4129	Extends the Village of Caseyville's and Village of Posen's TIF districts.
HB 4536	Extends the Village of Hanover's TIF district.
HB 4578	Changes the late fee penalty for LLC annual report filing from \$300 to \$100.
HB 4757	Reduces the amount of local tourism funds the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities (DCEO) may reserve for operational use from 10 percent to 3 percent.
HB 4853	Extends the Village of Dalzell's TIF district.
HB 4990	Extends the sunset of the Municipal Convention Center and Sports Facility Attraction Grant to July 1, 2022.
HB 5253	Modifies provisions in the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act requiring State agencies to issue an economic impact analysis when proposing new rules or amendments to rules that affect small businesses.
SB 0424	Extends a TIF district in Litchfield.
SB 2281	Expands the Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot program to encourage and assist beginning entrepreneurs in certain business sectors by reimbursing them for state fees associated with starting a business.
SB 2303	Extends the TIF in the city of Marion from 23 years to 35 years.
SB 2304	Extends the TIF in the city of Monmouth, from 23 years to 35 years.
SB 2421	Liquor license exemption for Colectivo Coffee which is located within 100 feet of a church.
SB 2569	Extends Springfield's Far East Side TIF District to expire in 2030 instead of 2018.
SB 2589	Adds additional counties to several regional development authorities.
SB 2773	Makes multiple changes to the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act.



SB 2899	Provides that money required to be deposited into the Tourism Promotion Fund from the proceeds of the tax imposed under the Hotel Operators' Occupation Tax Act will be deposited directly into the Tourism Promotion Fund.
SB 3182	Changes the control requirements to allow the IDFPR to analyze the future prospects of the bank seeking control of another bank in determining whether to approve the change of control.
SB 3222	Requires that the governor appoint to the Workforce Innovation Board two persons who self-identify as individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and who are engaged in advocacy for the rights of individuals with disabilities.
SB 3285	Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall develop an economic plan to assist businesses and municipalities located geographically close to bordering states.
SB 3527	Expands the River Edge Historic Tax Credit.

Education

- HB 4658 - Expands existing training for teachers in the identification of warning signs of mental illness and suicidal behavior.
- HB 4870 - Creates "Ashley's Law" which would allow the administration of a medical cannabis-infused product on school premises or on the school bus to a student who is a qualifying patient under the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act.
- SB 2428 - Creates the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights. Requires schools to provide a federally reimbursable lunch to students at who wish to eat lunch, regardless of ability to pay.
- SB 2892 - Sets the minimum annual salary for a full-time teacher in Illinois at \$40,000 after a graded increase.

HB 0751	Allows retired teachers to return to teaching in subject shortage areas without impairing their retirement status.
HB 1262	Requires waiver requests from districts that are related to levies, funds and expenditures to be transmitted directly to the full General Assembly.
HB 1265	Allows Wolf Branch SD 113 to exceed its debt limit and incur debt on any bonds for the purpose of rebuilding a middle school building that was damaged by an abandoned mine.
HB 2040	Allow students at Soaring Eagle Academy to be transported in a multi-function school activity bus (MFSAB) for curriculum-related school activities rather than requiring they be transported on a school bus.
HB 3784	Removes provisions that allow a school or school district to deny enrollment to a student 17 years of age or older for one semester for failure to meet minimum academic standards if certain conditions are met, and provides that no child may be denied re-enrollment.
HB 3792	Requires all public school students in grade 6 receive education on work ethics, including, but not limited to, learning how to be reliable, be professional, take initiative, be positive, respect authority, and have integrity.
HB 4193	Makes changes to the special education due process hearings to require that written decisions of a hearing officer following the conclusion of a due process hearing must be submitted within 10 calendar days, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and any state holiday.
HB 4208	Authorizes ISBE to award school safety grants to school districts that implement alternatives to law enforcement involvement for school-based offenses.
HB 4284	Requires that three of the nine board members of the State Board of Education be representatives of the educator community.



HB 4346	Requires each community college and public institution of higher education in Illinois to offer a course studying Black History.
HB 4369	Requires ISBE to develop and maintain a handbook to be made available on its website that provides guidance for pupils, parents or guardians, and teachers on the subject of dyslexia.
HB 4409	Simplifies the qualifications to be a school psychologist to holding a valid Nationally Certified School Psychologist credential.
HB 4442	Requires ISBE to implement and administer a three-year pilot program to provide support to school districts that utilize a unit of instruction on parenting education.
HB 4467	Provides that a natural child of a disabled police officer, firefighter, or correctional officer is not required to be born prior to the incident that resulted in a 90-100 percent disability in order to receive the Police Officer or Fire Officer Survivor Grant.
HB 4514	States that only a person with a school counselor endorsement on a Professional Educator License (PEL) may use the title "school counselor."
HB 4658	Expands existing training for teachers in the identification of warning signs of mental illness and suicidal behavior.
HB 4706	Allows school boards to require new substitute teacher employees to provide evidence of physical fitness.
HB 4742	Addresses the substitute teacher shortage by allowing schools to use recruiting firms to recruit substitutes.
HB 4768	Adds 6 new statements to the oath of office that all school board members in the State of Illinois are required to take.
HB 4799	Requires school districts with any students grade K-8 to adopt a policy on educating students on the effective methods of preventing and avoiding traffic injuries related to walking and bicycling.
HB 4860	Makes the electronic learning pilot program permanent by removing the program's sunset date.
HB 4870	Creates "Ashley's Law" which would allow the administration of a medical cannabis-infused product on school premises or on the school bus to a student who is a qualifying patient under the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act.
HB 4883	Allows IDFPR to administer licensure examination for four professions under the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985 after students in those professions complete a set number of hours of study.
HB 4908	Requires all children entering the ninth grade of any public, private or parochial school to have a dental examination. Currently, this is only required of students entering kindergarten, second grade and sixth grades.
HB 4927	Requires Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to provide copies of teacher evaluations to the Chicago Teachers' Union (CTU) within 7 days after issuing the evaluations.
HB 5005	States that CMS is not required to verify the state educator license of a teacher employed by the Department of Juvenile Justice if the license is verified by the State Board of Education.
HB 5136	Require joint committees, which review teacher evaluation plans, to meet at least once annually.
HB 5148	Requires course material and instruction on sex education to include, with an emphasis on the workplace and life on a college campus, discussion on what constitutes sexual consent and what may be considered sexual harassment or sexual assault.
HB 5153	Eliminates the sunset date on a provision in the Personnel Code 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 5175	Increases the minimum salary for full-time teachers to \$40,000 per year beginning July 1, 2019.



HB 5195	Allows schools to provide transportation to students living within 1.5 miles of the school that would have to walk through dangerous areas.
HB 5196	Reduces the renewal fee for an Educator License with paraprofessional educator stipulations from \$50 to \$25.
HB 5247	Adds a new section to the School Code establishing registered apprenticeship programs.
HB 5481	requires all school districts to report various class size data to ISBE each year and requires ISBE to publish the data on its website no later than Dec. 1 each year. Sets class size goals for the 2020 school year.
HB 5588	Makes a variety of changes in order for the State Board of Education to implement the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.
HB 5627	Includes a number of provisions that are intended to address the teacher shortage in Illinois.
HB 5696	Allows for the establishment of a bridge program for underrepresented students at Illinois universities.
HB 5721	Requires additional information to be included in Chicago Public Schools' master education facilities plan, capital improvement plans, and school transition plans. Also requires CPS to utilize under-enrolled schools in an effort to avoid school closures.
HB 5750	Appropriates \$16.3 million from the School Infrastructure Fund to the State Board of Education to provide grants for school district broadband expansion.
HB 5754	Allows four years' teaching experience in a school under the supervision of the Department of Corrections to count as experience toward qualification for a Principal Endorsement.
HB 5770	Requires school boards to notify students and their parents or guardians that a student with a mental health diagnosis may be eligible to receive supportive health services from the school district.
HB 5771	Requires state-funded early childhood education programs to collect and review chronic absence data and determine what systems of support and resources are needed to encourage daily attendance.
HB 5786	Provides that, beginning with the 2018-19 school year, an in-school suspension for any students in grades K-12 may focus on non-violent conflict resolution and positive interaction with other students and school personnel.
HB 5795	Changes the definition of "truant" in the School Code to a student who is absent without valid cause from attendance for more than 1 percent, but less than 5 percent, of the past 180 school days.
hb 5812	Trailer bill to PA 100-465, the school funding reform law that established the evidence-based funding formula for Illinois public schools. Includes changes recommended by the State Board of Education.
SB 0452	Allows Lyons Township High School District 204 to withdraw from the jurisdiction of Lyons Township Trustees of Schools and Lyons Township School Treasurer's Office but not before final judgment of a lawsuit filed by the Lyons Township School Treasurer's Office against the District.
SB 0454	Requires IEP's to explain why an application for assistive technology was denied.
SB 0650	Allows school districts and regional offices of education to file mandate waiver requests electronically.
SB 0863	Provides that three members of the State Board of Education must represent the educator community.
SB 1829	Creates an alternative certification process for preschool teachers teaching in a programs at a place other than a public school.
SB 2344	Allows students with disabilities that attend a special education cooperative in a different school district than their own to continue to attend that co-op if the district withdraws from the co-op.
SB 2345	Requires the Illinois School Report Card to report for each public school whether or not the school has participated in the Illinois Youth Survey.



SB 2428	Creates the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights. Requires schools to provide a federally reimbursable lunch to students at who wish to eat lunch, regardless of ability to pay.
SB 2527	School boards cannot limit the number of dual credit courses a student may enroll in or the number of credits a student may receive from dual credit courses. Cannot limit student enrollment in online courses.
SB 2541	Requires DPH to make revisions to the Child Health Examination form coinciding with new requirements related to social and emotional screening.
SB 2572	Provides that an approved waiver from or modification to a physical education mandate may remain in effect for a period not to exceed two school years (rather than five school years like other mandate waivers) and may be renewed no more than 2 times upon application by an eligible applicant.
SB 2654	Requires school boards to include information about influenza and flu vaccinations to parents and students when giving information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications or other health issues.
SB 2658	A provisional educator endorsement for a service member or spouse of a service member is valid until June 30 immediately following three years of the license being issued.
SB 2838	Addresses the substitute teacher shortage by allowing schools to use recruiting firms to recruit substitutes.
SB 2844	Requires the State Board of Education to establish and maintain the Growing Future Educators Program to train high school English learner graduates to become secondary language educators.
SB 2892	Sets the minimum annual salary for a full-time teacher in Illinois at \$40,000 after a graded increase.
SB 2900	Provides that if a school board fills a vacancy due to a lack of candidates for election, the district's voters can elect a board member without restriction by area of residence in the district at the next general election.
SB 2939	Allows out-of-state students and students who have completed the eighth grade to enroll in the Illinois Math and Science Academy. Charges out-of-state students tuition.
SB 2941	A school district may participate in the ISBE competency-based high school graduation requirements pilot program for some or all of its schools (instead of for some or all of its schools serving grades 9 through 12).
SB 3015	Allows school nurses to keep asthma medication prescribed in the school's name.
SB 3220	Provides that the State Board of Education shall not approve a course of study under the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for Teachers unless the State Board can demonstrate there is a need for a particular type of licensed educator offered by the course of study.
SB 3236	Requires school report cards to include the most current data possessed by the State Board of Education regarding a school district's administrative costs.
SB 3466	Adds as a valid cause to not attend school a circumstance when a person who has custody of a child withholds the child from school due to a bona fide dispute over special education services or placement.
SB 3536	Requires early childhood education programs to collect and review chronic absence data and recommend fixes.

Elections

- HB 2477 - Allows patients in hospitals and mental institutions for 180 days or more to change their voter registration to the facility's address.
- SB 2273 - Ends Illinois' participation in the controversial Crosscheck voter registration system.



HB 2477	Allows patients in hospitals and mental institutions for 180 days or more to change their voter registration to the facility's address.
HB 4395	Allows a candidate for elective office who is required to file a statement of economic interests in relation to his or her candidacy to use the Internet to file said statement.
HB 4469	Increases voter access for individuals incarcerated but not convicted.
HB 5123	Amends the Election Code to allow a county board to dissolve its election commission and transfer its functions to the county clerk.
SB 2223	Changes the time period covered by an audit of a political committee's financial records to two years from the close of the most recent reporting period or the period since the most recent audit, whichever is shorter.
SB 2273	Ends Illinois' participation in the controversial Crosscheck voter registration system.
SB 2651	Requires all election jurisdictions to submit information on their current voting equipment to the Illinois State Board of Elections; creates a cyber security program providing direction to the election authorities regarding available federal election funding; Establishes requirements for vote by mail applications.
SB 2884	Allows the IMRF to adopt rules for Internet balloting or phone balloting in addition to election by mail.

Environment and Energy

- HB 4735 - Designates the month of May each year to be observed as "Monarch Month".
- HB 5741 - Requires the Prairie Research Institute to conduct a research study on the available scientific literature, along with any applicable federal and state laws or regulations, in order to identify chemicals found in wastewater effluent and the recommendations for remediation.

HB 1439	Exempts facilities that place CRT glass in storage cells for future retrieval from the accreditation requirement under the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act.
HB 3248	Adds rules to provide antitrust protections for a manufacturer clearinghouse and manufacturers that participate in a clearinghouse.
HB 4415	Extends the sales tax exemption for coal and aggregate exploration, mining, off-highway hauling, processing, maintenance and reclamation equipment until July 1, 2023.
HB 4508	Removes the Water Systems Viability Act's limitations on customer population, thereby eliminating size restrictions on the water and sewer utilities eligible for acquisition by a large public utility.
HB 4569	Increases the amount of fuel that can be kept in above ground storage tanks to 12,000 gallons subject to regulation by the state fire marshal.
HB 4724	Streamlines tax exemptions for small oil and gas producers.
HB 4735	Designates the month of May each year to be observed as "Monarch Month".
HB 4920	States that proceeds from the sale of oil or gas from non-coal formations held in non-trust estates shall be deemed income.
HB 5741	Requires the Prairie Research Institute to conduct a research study on the available scientific literature, along with any applicable federal and state laws or regulations, in order to identify chemicals found in wastewater effluent and the recommendations for remediation.
HB 5752	Creates the Broadband Advisory Council, a council to expand access to broadband services and technology.
SB 0486	Establishes a state-wide standard for valuing commercial solar farms in counties other than Cook County.



SB 2376	Creates the Cook County Water Infrastructure Fund that would be used by EPA to make grants to municipalities to fund infrastructure improvements to facilitate water supplies from Lake Michigan for residents of Cook County.
SB 2618	Extends the repeal date of the Illinois Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP) Act for an additional 10 years and provides modernizations necessary to implement more streamlined and efficient regulation of this profession in order to ensure public safety.
SB 2817	Increases the bid threshold for two sanitary districts and allows sanitary districts to work with local governments to perform non-emergency construction.
SB 3135	Bans the IEPA from requiring a permit for an individual to use an algicide (or algaecide) in his or her private pond.
SB 3156	Requires the EPA to publish Compliance Commitment Agreements in a searchable online format within 30 days after they are entered into.
SB 3214	Creates the Pollinator Friendly Solar Site Act that allows the owner or manager of a solar site to claim that the site is "pollinator friendly".
SB 3309	Updates the Illinois Abandoned Mined Lands and Water Reclamation Act to make it consistent.

Ethics

- HB 138 - A package of reforms to the Legislative Ethics Commission and the Legislative Inspector General that would lay out how an inspector general is selected and ensure any allegations of sexual harassment are investigated properly.
- HB 4243 - Prohibits the use of state funds from being paid to any person in exchange for his or her silence or inaction related to an allegation or investigation of sexual harassment.
- SB 3604 - Requires that severance pay from a local government contract does not exceed more than 20 weeks of compensation and prohibits severance pay when the employee has been fired for misconduct.

HB 0138	A package of reforms to the Legislative Ethics Commission and the Legislative Inspector General that would lay out how an inspector general is selected and ensure any allegations of sexual harassment are investigated properly.
HB 4242	Requires local governments, school districts, community college districts or other local taxing bodies to publish information about severance agreements with employees or contractors who have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual discrimination.
HB 4243	Prohibits the use of state funds from being paid to any person in exchange for his or her silence or inaction related to an allegation or investigation of sexual harassment.
HB 4661	Allows any elected or appointed downstate police or fire trustee who completed 32 hours of certification training and 16 hours of annual continuing education to be considered to have fulfilled 8 hours of ethics training annually.
HB 4953	Requires IDFPR to provide a sexual harassment training program and require each applicant and license renewal applicant to complete this training.
HB 5121	Prohibits the Governor's office from using other agency appropriations to pay for Governor's office employees.
SB 0405	Requires a sexual harassment policy for all companies that make a bid under the state's procurement code and requires companies that claim EDGE credits to include their sexual harassment policy in their annual report to the State.



SB 2299	Provides that a person elected to any township position cannot be employed by the township in any other capacity other than their elected position.
SB 3139	Requires the legislative branch, and advises the executive and judicial branches, to use plain language when drafting legislation, executive orders, and other public facing documents when practicable.
SB 3604	Requires that severance pay from a local government contract does not exceed more than 20 weeks of compensation and prohibits severance pay when the employee has been fired for misconduct.

Family

- HB 4909 - Allows birth record fees to be waived for children who were in youth care until they reach age 27.
- HB 5745 - Amends the Jury Commission Act to provide that any mother nursing her child shall be excused from jury service upon request.
- SB 2498 - Expands visitation rights for non-parents.

HB 1042	Requires the Board of the Capitol Architect and the Secretary of State to designate at least 1 mothers' lactation and wellness room in the Capitol Building, Howlett Building and the Stratton Building.
HB 1464	Provides that if the court reasonably believes that a pre-trial detainee will give birth while in custody, the court shall order an alternative to custody.
HB 2617	Requires insurers to provide coverage for medically necessary expenses for standard fertility preservation services when a necessary medical treatment may directly or indirectly cause iatrogenic infertility to an enrollee.
HB 4309	Creates the Frail Individual Family Visitation Act allowing people to petition courts for visitation when a caregiver has refused to let them see their frail family member and requires caregivers to notify the individual's family of hospitalizations and relocations.
HB 4377	Requires any child under the age of 2 years old to be properly secured in a rear-facing child restraint system.
HB 4687	Expands who may petition a court for visitation of a ward of the state after the ward's guardian has denied it to include a spouse, adult grandchild, parent or adult sibling. Current law only allows an adult child to petition for visitation.
HB 4754	Provides that a court or a disabled person may assign resources to an ABLE account or a discretionary trust. Also, that upon the death of the beneficiary of an ABLE account the proceeds of that account shall be transferred to the estate of the decedent.
HB 4885	Families with children under 5 who have an open DCFS case (intact family services) would be eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program.
HB 4909	Allows birth record fees to be waived for children who were in youth care until they reach age 27.
HB 4965	Redetermines eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) every 12 months instead of the current policy of redetermining every 6 months.
HB 5157	Allows that temporary custodian to serve as a surrogate decision maker for the minor in end-of-life decision-making, if the courts determines by clear and convincing evidence that granting such authority is in the best interest of the child.
HB 5745	Amends the Jury Commission Act to provide that any mother nursing her child shall be excused from jury service upon request.
SB 1246	Exempts student savings accounts from debt collection agencies similar to ABLE accounts.
SB 1851	Changes "long-term care facilities for persons under 22 years of age" to "medically complex for the developmentally disabled facilities".



SB 2309	Removes the requirement that a trustee must accept the transfer of real property to a trust before a legal conveyance may be recognized.
SB 2498	Expands visitation rights for non-parents.
SB 2516	Requires employers of mandated reporters to inform their employees of available mandated reporter training.
SB 2655	Allows DCFS to provide services to reunite and strengthen a minor's connections with family, fictive kin and other responsible adults until the court determines the minor's permanency goal.
SB 2660	Allows the proceeds of an ABL account, upon the death of the beneficiary, to be transferred to their estate, providing federal law does not prohibit its transference.
SB 3503	Requires every facility that houses a circuit court room to include at least one lactation room or area for members of the public.

Gaming

HB 5459	Makes various changes to the Illinois Horse Racing Act.
HB 5513	Creates a scratch-off lottery game for the benefit of police memorials.
SB 0211	Allows for Lottery prize winners who collect a prize of \$250,000 or more to keep their personal information confidential.
SB 2868	Creates an income tax return checkoff for the Hunger Relief Fund.
SB 3452	Extends the authorization for advance deposit wagering on horse racing to Dec. 31, 2022.

Health

- HB 4226 - Requires the Department of Public Health, subject to appropriation, to publish and disseminate a brochure to educate the general public on the warning signs and effects of concussions in children.
- HB 4392 - Requires every provider of mammography services to notify a patient if they have dense breast tissue.
- HB 4515 - Creates the Lauryn Russell Lyme Disease Prevention Act and exempts physicians from disciplinary action by DFPR based solely upon a physician's recommendation or provision of a treatment method for Lyme disease (or other tick-borne disease) if specific criteria are met.
- HB 4707 - Creates the 19-member Prescription Drug Task Force to study the extent of over-prescription of opioids to patients and make recommendations to address the issue.
- HB 5070 - Amends the Telehealth Act to include clinicians licensed to provide medical services under Illinois law in the definition of "health care professional."

HB 1336	Protects voluntary EMS providers from automobile insurance premium increases, policy cancellations or non-renewals if they have an accident responding to a call to duty.
HB 1338	Redefines "unused medication" to include both liquid form and suspensions to the list of other types of unused medications.
HB 1443	Creates the Right of Minors to Consent to Counseling Services or Psychotherapy on an Outpatient Basis Act by removing current provisions from the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code and placing it into its own Act; correcting the misplacement of the language.



HB 1447	Changes the Hospice Program Licensing Act to allow hospice residences to have up to 20 persons served in a residence.
HB 2617	Requires insurers to provide coverage for medically necessary expenses for standard fertility preservation services when a necessary medical treatment may directly or indirectly cause iatrogenic infertility to an enrollee.
HB 2624	Creates the Short-Term, Limited Duration Health Insurance Coverage Act, which will protect consumers and encourage enrollment into comprehensive health insurance.
HB 2984	Allows healthcare employees at health departments with a jurisdiction of 500,000 or more to opt out of the flu vaccination for medical or religious reasons.
HB 4096	Prohibits the Department of Healthcare and Family Services from requiring Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to utilize a preferred drug list and from negotiating drug pricing concessions or rebates on any drug with pharmaceutical companies.
HB 4100	Creates the Healthcare Violence Prevention Act.
HB 4146	Prevents insurers from changing coverage terms during a plan year for patients on a regularly prescribed drug.
HB 4165	Prohibits the State from applying for any federal waiver that would reduce/eliminate any protection/coverage required under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).
HB 4226	Requires the Department of Public Health, subject to appropriation, to publish and disseminate a brochure to educate the general public on the warning signs and effects of concussions in children.
HB 4392	Requires every provider of mammography services to notify a patient if they have dense breast tissue.
HB 4428	Requires that DPH or the enforcing agency shall provide a dairy farm with a paper copy of the dairy farm's inspection report at the time of inspection.
HB 4440	Requires the Department of Public Health to provide all nursing home facilities with educational information on all vaccines recommended by the CDC.
HB 4515	Creates the Lauryn Russell Lyme Disease Prevention Act and exempts physicians from disciplinary action by DFPR based solely upon a physician's recommendation or provision of a treatment method for Lyme disease (or other tick-borne disease) if specific criteria are met.
HB 4516	Mandates that insurers cover prescribed hearing aids and medically necessary related services and repairs for minors under the age of 18.
HB 4643	Allows physical therapists to establish a relevant diagnosis within the scope of their medical practice and begin physical therapy treatment of a patient without a health care professional referral or re-evaluation.
HB 4645	Extends the repeal date of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act from Dec. 31, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2029.
HB 4650	Expands access to the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) to pharmacists in Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) for clinical review purposes.
HB 4688	Makes technical corrections and modifications within the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing and Disciplinary Act.
HB 4707	Creates the 19-member Prescription Drug Task Force to study the extent of over-prescription of opioids to patients and make recommendations to address the issue.
HB 4736	Prohibits DHFS from requiring enrollment in the state's managed care medical assistance program for children on Medicaid through any home- and community-based waiver for medically fragile and technology-dependent persons or children receiving in-home shift nursing services.
HB 4745	Exempts from the procurement code all expenditures necessary for the IDPH to provide timely newborn screening services.



HB 4771	Provides provisional eligibility and coverage if the state delay for LTC Medicaid eligibility exceeds the federal requirement of 45 days.
HB 4821	Prohibits insurers from imposing step therapy upon drugs treating stage 4 cancers.
HB 4848	Requires a health care facility or practitioner to provide, without charge, one complete copy of a patient's records if the patient is an indigent homeless veteran.
HB 4892	Allows the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the transfer of an existing permit without regard to whether the permit has yet been financially committed.
HB 4907	An individual designated by a licensed prescriber/pharmacist to access the Prescription Monitoring Program must be a licensed or non-licensed designee employed in that prescriber/pharmacist's office and must have received training in the federal HIPAA laws.
HB 4911	Amends the Health Care Services Lien Act to authorize ambulatory surgical treatment facilities ("ASTF") to place a lien on any damages that may be paid to a patient for the injury necessitating the ASTF's treatment of that patient.
HB 4949	Bans the practice of "Patient Brokering," where companies use false or misleading advertising to direct patients to mental health or addiction recovery facilities outside the state where the patient's insurance may not be accepted.
HB 5011	Extends the validity of any Food Service Sanitation Manager Certificate issued by IDPH prior to Jan. 1, 2018 until the expiration date stated on the certificate.
HB 5069	Repeals the End Stage Renal Disease Facility Act and removes mention of the Act from other parts of statute.
HB 5070	Amends the Telehealth Act to include clinicians licensed to provide medical services under Illinois law in the definition of "health care professional."
HB 5110	Allows IDFPR to issue a license to a clinical social worker, social worker, professional counselor, or clinical professional counselor through endorsement if the applicant was licensed in another United States jurisdiction for 10 years.
HB 5111	Creates the Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center Task Force to address Illinois' mental health professional shortage.
HB 5251	Merges the Health Maintenance Organization Guaranty Association with the Illinois Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association in order to conform with the 2017 NAIC Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Model Act Amendments.
HB 5351	Telehealth policies must provide coverage for licensed dietitian nutritionists and certified diabetes educators to counsel senior diabetes patients in patients' homes to remove the hurdle of transportation for patients to receive treatment.
HB 5463	Provides that each individual in a community integrated living arrangement shall receive a client assessment by a web-based screening tool.
HB 5868	Permits insurers to provide residential extended care services and support for people battling addiction.
SB 00193	Requires insurance companies to cover medically necessary physical therapy for patients with multiple sclerosis with no treatment limitations or calendar year maximums.
SB 0336	Gives physicians who prescribe opioids and patients who take opioids an alternative. Furthermore, patients will be allowed to apply for the Medical Cannabis Pilot Program for one year.
SB 0456	Requires the IDPH to additionally test for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) during the newborn screening test beginning Jan. 1, 2019.
SB 1573	Allows individuals on Medicaid to receive a new pair of eyeglasses following a surgical procedure.



SB 1707	Requires that anyone providing services to a medical cannabis cultivation center must be a Certified Medical Cannabis Cultivation Center Agent.
SB 1773	Allows nursing facilities to offer additional documentation during appeals hearings to refute the state's findings during appeals hearings regarding changes in Minimum Data Set rates.
SB 2332	Raises the age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21.
SB 2419	If a person is already certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants then that person qualifies for registration as a surgical assistant.
SB 2446	Requires HFS to reimburse psychiatrists and FQHC's for mental health services provided by advanced practice nurses to medical assistance recipients via telepsychiatry.
SB 2447	Requires the Auditor General to conduct a performance audit of DHFS regarding compliance with certain requirements of Medicaid Managed Care Entities.
SB 2491	Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to reimburse dental hygienists at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) at the same rate as dentists for services provided to Medicaid recipients.
SB 2524	Requires the Department of Public Health and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to collaborate and recommend new state laws for the disposal of unused antibiotics and submit their recommendations to the General Assembly by January 2020.
SB 2587	Amends the Telehealth Act and adds dentists to list of health care professionals.
SB 2631	Changes references to restricted faculty licenses to faculty licenses within the Dental Practice Act.
SB 2777	Requires that every prescriber of controlled substances to complete 10 hours of continuing education in safe opioid prescribing practices.
SB 2851	Creates the inclusion of dental service plans on uniform health care benefit information cards.
SB 2866	Provides that IDPH must provide written information about the link between human papillomavirus and specified kinds of cancer to all students entering sixth grade and their parents or legal guardians.
SB 2889	Creates the Epinephrine Administration Act and defines epinephrine injectors to include both auto injectors and pre-filled syringes.
SB 2904	Removes the limitation that a collaborating physician may only collaborate with a maximum of five full-time physician assistants to help address the physicians shortage in Illinois.
SB 2952	Allows for licensed and non-licensed employees designated by a pharmacist or licensed prescriber to consult the Prescription Monitoring Program and clarifies the rules around the PMP so that each patient's HIPPA data is safe.
SB 2996	Clarifies lead poisoning definition and rules for when professionals must report elevated blood lead levels.
SB 3062	Requires the Department of Public Health to develop a plan and disseminate information about the National Bone Marrow Registry, such as "Be the Match".
SB 3093	Makes changes concerning the maximum reduction under the general homestead exemption for life care facilities.
SB 3116	Restores the ability of podiatric physicians to collaborate with advanced practice registered nurses.
SB 3170	Allows a prescription for medication other than controlled substances to be valid for up to 15 months from the date issued unless the prescription states otherwise.
SB 3290	Expands the Nursing Home Residents' Managed Care Rights Law to include MCOs.
SB 3395	Makes changes to the Illinois Occupational Therapy Practice Act and the Illinois Physical Therapy Act.



SB 3491	Amends the Network Adequacy and Transparency Act. Provides that the Act does not apply to an individual or group policy for dental or vision insurance.
SB 3532	Creates the Sepsis Review Task Force to study sepsis early intervention and the prevention of loss of life from sepsis.

Higher Education

- SB 2354 - Reduces excess academic credit hours by requiring each public institution to make a reasonable attempt to inform a student of the prerequisites for the degree program offered by the institution of interest once the student completes 30 academic hours.
- SB 2439 - Prevents licensing boards from denying, revoking or suspending individual professional licenses due to student loan default in Illinois.
- SB 2559 - Requires the Board of Higher Education to develop a three-year education loan information pilot program for students at each public university and community college.
- SB 2927 - Creates the AIM HIGH Institutional Matching Grant – Provides a \$25 million in matching grants to public universities for additional student financial aid for scholarships to undergraduate Illinois Residents.

HB 3185	Expands the State Universities Civil Services Act, which establishes rules and procedures governing the employment of professional technical and support staff at Illinois public universities.
HB 4397	Amends the Student Loan Servicing Rights Act providing that a law firm or licensed attorney that is collecting post-default debt is not considered a "student loan servicer."
HB 4710	Creates the College Student Credit Card Marketing and Debt Task Force, an eight-member task force that will seek to reduce the amount of credit card debt Illinois students face after graduating from institutions of higher education in the state.
HB 4751	Updates the College Savings Pool in accordance with new federal tax laws and improves the Illinois Bright Start/Bright Directions program.
HB 4882	Creates the Grow Your Own Teacher Education initiative and provides that a participating institution of higher education may offer a high school student a dual credit course under the program.
HB 5019	Clarifies a section of statute regarding college savings withholding, makes a change to involuntary withholdings, and provides a definition of veteran in the Comptroller's Merit Employee code.
HB 5020	Provides that ISAC shall set a priority deadline for applicants renewing their MAP grants for up to four years.
HB 5021	States that in the event a public institution of higher education proposes to discontinue its operations, the chief administrative officer of the institution is required to submit a plan to IBHE for permanent retention of all academic records.
HB 5122	Allows certain youth who do not receive a scholarship or fee waiver from the Department of Children and Family Services to receive a tuition and fee waiver to assist them in attending and completing their post-secondary education at a state school.
SB 0351	Extends SNAP (food stamp) eligibility to low-income adults enrolled in community college or pursuing a career or technical education; Also requires ISAC work with DHS to identify all college students eligible to receive the program.
SB 1758	Adds expenses related to special needs services and computer equipment as qualified expenses for the College Savings Pool.



SB 2354	Reduces excess academic credit hours by requiring each public institution to make a reasonable attempt to inform a student of the prerequisites for the degree program offered by the institution of interest once the student completes 30 academic hours.
SB 2362	Amends the Procurement Code to exempt the University of Illinois at Chicago from the current 10-year cap on leases if certain requirements are met.
SB 2439	Prevents licensing boards from denying, revoking or suspending individual professional licenses due to student loan default in Illinois.
SB 2546	Classifies research assistants and grad students as employees and provides them all rights and remedies under labor laws, including right to unionize. Effective immediately.
SB 2559	Requires the Board of Higher Education to develop a three-year education loan information pilot program for students at each public university and community college.
SB 2693	Prohibits an institution of higher learning from requiring an applicant for a professional educator license to complete ISBE's test of basic skills prior to the semester before student teaching or starting the final semester of an internship.
SB 2693	Prohibits an institution of higher learning from requiring an applicant for a professional educator license to complete ISBE's test of basic skills prior to the semester before student teaching or starting the final semester of an internship.
SB 2905	Makes a series of technical and statutorily-conforming changes to the Public Community College Act that affect the authority of the Illinois Community College Board and local boards of trustees.
SB 2921	Modifies the College Savings Pool to make it applicable under new federal tax laws.
SB 2927	Creates the AIM HIGH Institutional Matching Grant – Provides a \$25 million in matching grants to public universities for additional student financial aid for scholarships to undergraduate Illinois Residents.
SB 3138	Provides that the identity and address of a scholarship, grant or financial assistance applicant or recipient under the Higher Education Student Assistance Act is private information exempt from inspection and copying under FOIA.

Housing

- SB 3081 - Requires Public Housing Authorities to provide a list of all applicants waiting for admission to any public housing or housing project operated by the Housing Authority, including information on each applicant's position on the waiting list, upon request by the state.
- SB 3103 - Prevents a landlord from intimidating, harassing or evicting a tenant on the basis of a person's immigration or citizenship status.

HB 4404	Provides that any entity which is engaged solely in providing loan processing services through the sponsoring of a mortgage loan originator is exempt from the licensure requirements imposed by the Residential Mortgage License Act of 1987.
SB 0065	States all residential title policies for a property sale should be made through the same policy issuing entity.
SB 2615	Provides that mortgage loan advertisements must reference the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry's Consumer Access website, except where exempted by the Secretary of Financial and Professional Regulation.



SB 3081	Requires Public Housing Authorities to provide a list of all applicants waiting for admission to any public housing or housing project operated by the Housing Authority, including information on each applicant's position on the waiting list, upon request by the state.
SB 3103	Prevents a landlord from intimidating, harassing or evicting a tenant on the basis of a person's immigration or citizenship status.
SB 3261	Authorizes mobile home park owners (instead of municipalities) to obtain a judgment to remove abandoned mobile homes under certain conditions by commencing a proceeding in the circuit court.

Human Services

- HB 4965 - Redetermines eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) every 12 months instead of the current policy of redetermining every 6 months.
- SB 0351 - Extends SNAP (food stamp) eligibility to low-income adults enrolled in community college or pursuing a career or technical education; Also requires ISAC work with DHS to identify all college students eligible to receive the program.
- SB 2461 - Requires the DCFS to enter into contracts with agencies or to complete development for specialized placements for youth in the Department's care who are victims of sex trafficking.
- SB 3023 - Allows law enforcement to develop and implement deflection programs that offer alternatives to the traditional criminal justice system and create immediate pathways to substance use treatment and other services.

HB 4223	Requires DHFS to accept applications for licensure of Supportive Living Facilities where some of the apartments of a specific site are designated for purposes other than supportive living services.
HB 4340	Requires massage establishments, organizers of public events that require a permit, and all primary and secondary schools to post notices informing employees and other members of the public of a helpline to assist any person who is subject to human trafficking.
HB 4383	Allows a Medicaid enrollee to switch managed care organizations if their current MCO terminates a contract with their primary care provider in order for the Medicaid enrollee to stay with their primary care provider.
HB 4665	Requires DHS to implement a direct support person credential pilot program to assist and attract persons into the field of direct support.
HB 4686	Prohibits an employee of an agency directly providing residential services to a ward of the state from serving as guardian over the ward.
HB 4795	Changes the Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse and Dependency Act and renames it to the Substance Use Disorder Act. It also renames the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse to the Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery.
HB 4847	Allows Adult Protective Services (APS) to investigate claims of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation (ANE) for adults who reside in assisted care facilities if the suspected abuser is a non-employee, including family members, and, the abuse occurs outside of the facility.
HB 4867	Prohibits a court from appointing an individual the guardian/person/estate of an adult with disabilities until the potential guardian discloses the number of adults the person already has guardianship over.
HB 4885	Families with children under 5 who have an open DCFS case (intact family services) would be eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program.



HB 4887	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to assist a youth in care in identifying and obtaining documents necessary to function as an independent adult prior to the closure of the youth's case to terminate wardship.
HB 4936	Requires DHS to allow a person who has completed a psychiatric training program certification from any branch of the United States Armed Forces with at least one year of experience in a mental health setting to be recognized as a mental health professional.
HB 4965	Redetermines eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) every 12 months instead of the current policy of redetermining every 6 months.
HB 5109	Provides loan repayment assistance to mental health professionals who practice in under-served or rural, federally-designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas.
HB 5122	Allows certain youth who do not receive a scholarship or fee waiver from the Department of Children and Family Services to receive a tuition and fee waiver to assist them in attending and completing their post-secondary education at a state school.
HB 5257	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to provide a minor's guardian ad litem or a minor's appointed attorney with a copy of each significant event report.
HB 5288	Requires the Department of Human Services to develop and maintain an voluntary online registry for Illinois recovery residences to serve as a referral resource for individuals seeking recovery assistance.
HB 5537	Eliminates language from the Community-Integrated Living Arrangements Licensure and Certification Act that requires the Department of Human Services to adopt a plan for the distribution of community living arrangements throughout the state.
HB 5551	Amends the Community-Integrated Living Arrangements Licensure and Certification Act to require the Office of the State Fire Marshal to provide the necessary fire inspection to comply with licensing requirements of community-integrated living arrangements.
HB 5558	Amends the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code and requires every mental health or developmental disabilities facility to post in public areas the contact information for the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission (GAC) and the agency designated by the Governor.
HB 5599	Requires the income eligibility threshold for the Child Care Assistance Program for working families with very low incomes must be no less than 185 percent of the current federal poverty level.
HB 5636	Requires Equip for Equality to submit to DHS an annual report to be made available to the public that includes the number of visits made by the designated agency to developmental disability facilities; which entities were visited; and the nature of each visit.
SB 0293	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to maintain all unfounded reports for at least five years following the date of the final finding.
SB 0351	Extends SNAP (food stamp) eligibility to low-income adults enrolled in community college or pursuing a career or technical education; Also requires ISAC work with DHS to identify all college students eligible to receive the program.
SB 1453	Creates a program to offer short-term employment to individuals with physical or mental disabilities.
SB 1573	Allows individuals on Medicaid to receive a new pair of eyeglasses following a surgical procedure.
SB 2407	Transfers the power to appoint members of the Child Death Review Team from the Director of DCFS to the DCFS's Inspector General and prohibits funding cuts.
SB 2424	Requires the DHS to establish the Diversion from Institutionalization Homes Program to address the needs of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are at-risk of institutionalization by providing a community-based residential alternative.



SB 2461	Requires the DCFS to enter into contracts with agencies or to complete development for specialized placements for youth in the Department's care who are victims of sex trafficking.
SB 2609	Prevents the administration of psychotropic medication and electroconvulsive therapy, psychotropic medication or electroconvulsive therapy against the will of an individual who has not revoked power of attorney.
SB 2662	Creates the Task Force on Human Services Contracting Act to study State contracting with private nonprofit human service providers and the challenges faced by those providers.
SB 2835	Removes the Family Assistance Law for Children with Mental Disabilities Article of the Developmental Disability and Mental Disability Services Act.
SB 2913	Works to to reduce the backlog of pending long-term care Medicaid applications by establishing an expedited LTC eligibility and enrollment system, triaging applications, and investigating how other states target eligibility caseworkers to high-medicare LTC facilities.
SB 2951	Creates the Early Mental Health and Addictions Treatment Act and requires HFS to create two pilot programs for Medicaid beneficiaries, one to provide community-based services for young people with mental health conditions and one for young people with substance use disorders.
SB 3023	Allows law enforcement to develop and implement deflection programs that offer alternatives to the traditional criminal justice system and create immediate pathways to substance use treatment and other services.
SB 3048	Allows DHFS or managed care organizations to require Medicaid recipients to purchase used or refurbished durable medical equipment if it is less expensive than new and can last at least three years.
SB 3049	Expands the medical providers that can bill Medicaid for telehealth and expands the allowable telehealth services to include clinical psychology, clinical social work and more.
SB 3105	Requires law enforcement officers to accompany DCFS investigators to assist the DCFS in child protective investigations in its response to reports of child abuse or neglect.
SB 3179	Codifies the process of group homes consolidating in response to staffing shortages. Requires inspectors in the Office of Inspector General to receive training on community-based models of care.
SB 3232	Creates a five-year demonstration project to provide an intensive workforce training program for entry-level workers and a multi-generational healthy family initiative.
SB 3237	Creates a process for a victim, guardian, employee, group home or similar entity to file an appeal against the Office of Inspector General's findings.

Labor

- HB 0109 - Pays back wages owed to state employees dating back to FY12.
- HB 4743 - Amends the Equal Pay Act to prohibit wage discrimination against African-Americans.

HB 0109	Pays back wages owed to state employees dating back to FY12.
HB 0127	Provides health coverage and educational benefits for firefighters and their families if a paramedic or EMT suffers catastrophic injury or is killed in the line of duty.
HB 1595	Requires that employers provide paid break time for nursing mothers.
HB 4100	Creates the Healthcare Violence Prevention Act.
HB 4677	Alters the Amusement Ride and Attraction Safety Act by removing a provision requiring all fees collected under the Act to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.



HB 4743	Amends the Equal Pay Act to prohibit wage discrimination against African-Americans.
HB 5595	The bill changes the due date for the Department of Labor's demographics in trade apprenticeships report from March 1 to March 31.
HB 5689	Requires the employee members of the State Mining Board and the Miners' Examining Board to be representatives of a labor organization recognized under the National Labor Relations Act.
SB 0200	Exempts on-call employees licensed under the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act from meal break requirements in the One Day Rest in Seven Act.
SB 2546	Classifies research assistants and grad students as employees and provides them all rights and remedies under labor laws, including right to unionize. Effective immediately.
SB 2637	Changes the date for which the Department of Labor must produce their annual report concerning demographic trends in the state's building trades apprenticeship programs from March 1 to March 31.
SB 2707	Allows the Illinois Civil Service Commission to remand appeals from state employees challenging adverse employment actions back to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for further fact-finding.
SB 2999	Requires employers to reimburse employees for their necessary costs incurred in order to fulfill their job responsibilities, including for "bring your own device" policies which require employees to use personal cell phones, tablets or computers for work purposes.
SB 3075	Requires the Department of Human Services to submit a quarterly report for at least each state-operated mental health center and state-operated developmental centers.
SB 3394	Reduces the minimum age requirement for licensure as a community association manager, supervising community association manager, home inspector, broker, or managing broker to 18 years of age from 21.

Local Government

- HB 4319 - Allows Peoria County to sell the abandoned Hanna City Work Camp to a private developer with the state getting 10 percent of the proceeds.
- HB 5777 - Allows for the consolidation of two or more contiguous municipalities into one city or village.

HB 0128	Allows a village to lease or sell a formerly state-owned property for private purposes. If leased, the village must pay 50 percent of proceeds after expenses to the state.
HB 1190	Allows a sanitary district to combine and jointly operate the district's waterworks and sewerage system by ordinance.
HB 2222	Establishes qualifications for library district trustee nominees. They must live in the library district for at least one year, not owe any taxes or other debts to the library district and not have been convicted in any court in the US of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury or other felony.
HB 3648	Requires the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations administrative hearing officers to be licensed attorneys in Illinois, accepting of legal precedent and impartial in cases to come before the commission.
HB 4253	Allows an appointing authority to remove a public water district trustee for misconduct, official misconduct or neglect of office.
HB 4282	Prohibits land owners from disconnecting their property from a municipality if it is within the municipality's TIF district.
HB 4319	Allows Peoria County to sell the abandoned Hanna City Work Camp to a private developer with the state getting 10 percent of the proceeds.



HB 4711	Clarifies that counties, townships and municipalities, as well as the officials serving them, cannot be sued based on zoning violations for acts relating to the enforcement, administration, or implementation of zoning regulations unless the violation relates to county-owned property.
HB 4748	Expands the authority for counties to manage the effects of urbanization on storm water management to an additional 10 counties and allows all other counties to gain this authority through referendum.
HB 4765	Cook County Board would establish a predictable fee schedule for the recording of standard documents, similar to how the rest of Illinois counties operate.
HB 4822	Creates the Local Government Electronic Notification Act with the purpose of facilitating communication from units of local government or county officers to residents and taxpayers.
HB 5197	Requires all fire departments to have a foreign fire insurance board. Under current statute, only municipalities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants are required to do so.
HB 5690	Transfers an 80-acre parcel of farmland located in Morgan County, as well as the money remaining in the Kaskaskia Common Fund, to the Kaskaskia Island Drainage and Levee District.
HB 5777	Allows for the consolidation of two or more contiguous municipalities into one city or village.
SB 0427	Allows board members of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority to serve up to three terms.
SB 1451	Restricts local authorities ability to prohibit, regulate or charge for the location of small wireless facilities.
SB 2297	Allows rescue squad districts to levy a special tax within the district to provide or support an existing ambulance service to their citizens.
SB 2299	Provides that a person elected to any township position cannot be employed by the township in any other capacity other than their elected position.
SB 2313	Creates a County Animal Pop Control Fund.
SB 2368	Allows St. Clair County and IDNR to exchange parcels of property in St. Clair County.
SB 2436	Allows a local liquor control commissioner to grant exemptions to the prohibition of the issuance or renewal of licenses to sell alcohol at retail within 100 feet of churches, schools, hospitals and certain other buildings.
SB 2459	Allows the Lake County Board to dissolve the Seavey Drainage District by resolution.
SB 2471	Amends the definition of a "volunteer emergency worker" to mirror federal definition which prohibits compensation but allows for a volunteer to receive expenses, reasonable benefits or a nominal fee.
SB 2488	A nonresident who owns or leases property that is taxed for library service will not be charged a non-resident fee, so long as they provide a copy of the commercial lease of the taxable property.
SB 2520	Extends the window for a land acquisition request for the Prairie Wind Trail Property Transfer Act to Dec. 31, 2018.
SB 2543	Allows for the consolidation of mosquito abatement districts.
SB 2544	Requires that a referendum be submitted to the voters of Lake County on the question of whether the Chief Assessment Officer of Lake County should be converted from an appointed position to an elected office.
SB 2598	Allows a home rule municipality to disconnect territory from a fire protection district if the municipality provides fire service to at least 80 percent of the territory.
SB 2619	Stipulates that a home rule municipality may not appoint a fire chief that is responsible for the day-to-day operations of a fire department or fire protection district for greater than 180 days unless they meet the statutorily required qualifications.



SB 2629	Allows an elected or appointed member of the board of trustees of a fire protection district to satisfy the training requirements of the Open Meetings Act by participating in a course of training sponsored by an organization that represents fire protection districts.
SB 2638	Requires cash audits to conform with generally accepted accounting principles.
SB 2830	Requires that the trustees for the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District be elected at consolidated elections.
SB 2923	Requires the Township Clerk to attest to all payouts from a township treasury.
SB 3009	Alters the notification process when a vacancy occurs in a cemetery association in DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties.
SB 3017	Exempts local government from low-level radioactive waste fee.
SB 3036	Extends the Terms of five boards.
SB 3086	Modifies the qualifications for Directors of the governing body of a Municipal Joint Action Water Agency to include an appointed official of a member municipality, public water district, township, state university, or county.
SB 3134	Creates flood control commission to study flooding in collar counties.
SB 3212	Trailer bill to the Natural Disaster Income Tax Credit which moves a section regarding local government officials' disclosure ability from the FOIA Act to the Income Tax Act.
SB 3291	Gives power to regulate drones exclusively to the state, preempting home rule.
SB 3304	Makes multiple changes to the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act regarding reimbursements and standards.

Pensions

- HB 0751 - Allows retired teachers to return to teaching in subject shortage areas without impairing their retirement status.

HB 0751	Allows retired teachers to return to teaching in subject shortage areas without impairing their retirement status.
HB 4412	Requires that the Board of Trustees for the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) make best efforts to ensure that the racial and ethnic makeup of the System's senior administrative staff represents the racial and ethnic makeup of the System's membership.
HB 4684	Enhances State University Retirement System's (SURS' or the System) ability to collect outstanding amounts owed to the System beyond statutory payment periods.
HB 4811	Allows the Retirement Board of MEABF to have the authority to waive the requirement for annual proof of disability in individual cases, at the discretion of the Board.
HB 5137	Changes the Teachers Retirement System Article and the State Universities Retirement System Article of the Pension Code by providing that TRS and SURS must create an optional defined contribution benefit plan for active members of each system.
HB 5177	Requires Chicago Police Annuity and Benefit Fund to reconsider applications denied service credit for time spent performing safety or investigative work for Cook County or the State of Illinois, federal government or Chicago Police Department as a civilian employee of the Department.
HB 5342	Makes changes to the Chicago Firefighters' Annuity and Benefit Fund (FABF) Article of the Pension Code by providing that elected aldermen of the Chicago City Council may participate in FABF instead of the Chicago Municipal Employees', Officers' and Officials' Annuity Benefit Fund (MEABF).



SB 2578	Provides guidelines for when the Cook County Pension board can pay benefits due to a legally disabled person to a nursing home, hospital or mental institution for their care.
SB 2954	Provides that if an employer fails to transmit required contributions to the SURS or TRS for more than 120 days after the payment of those contributions is due, the Board may certify to the State Comptroller the amount of those delinquent employer contributions.
SB 3046	Allows TRS and community college benefit recipients and their beneficiaries to opt out of CMS health benefit programs.
SB 3119	Excludes the Police Chief from being an employee under IMRF.

Public Safety

- HB 1468 - Raises the waiting period to purchase an assault weapon to 72 hours from the current 24.
- HB 1671 - Requires a vehicle transporting a police dog to be equipped with a heat sensor that remotely alerts law enforcement if the vehicle reaches 85 degrees and a safety mechanism to lower the interior temperature.
- HB 5245 - Improves medical treatment for sexual assault survivors by outlining new measures and trainings for health care professionals.
- SB 3256 - Provides that a firearm shall not be transferred until 72-hours have elapsed since application for purchase.

HB 1273	Makes several changes to the Gun Dealer Licensing Act.
HB 1468	Raises the waiting period to purchase an assault weapon to 72 hours from the current 24.
HB 1671	Requires a vehicle transporting a police dog to be equipped with a heat sensor that remotely alerts law enforcement if the vehicle reaches 85 degrees and a safety mechanism to lower the interior temperature.
HB 1853	Regulates the day to day practice of psychological services using telecommunication services, otherwise called telepsychology, across state boundaries.
HB 2354	Creates the Firearms Restraining Order Act.
HB 4345	Designates the third Friday of May every year as "First Responder Mental Health Awareness Day" in Illinois.
HB 4348	Makes several changes to the Missing Persons Identification Act with regard to law enforcement assisting with the identification of human remains.
HB 4846	Makes cell phone use while driving a moving violation instead of a warning.
HB 4855	Makes more individuals ineligible to hold a FOID card by expanding the definition of "patient" and makes other changes to the FOID Card Act.
HB 5203	Requires the Illinois State Police and the Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to include age-sensitive interview techniques in their training curriculum.
HB 5221	Extends benefits under the Public Employee Disability Act to full-time paramedic or firefighter who performs paramedic duties.
HB 5231	Provides that possession of a FOID card shall not be a condition of employment for Peace Officers under the Uniform Peace Officers' Disciplinary Act.
HB 5245	Improves medical treatment for sexual assault survivors by outlining new measures and trainings for health care professionals.
HB 5632	Requires ambulances or rescue vehicles to use their siren and lamps only when it is reasonably necessary to warn civilians while responding to an emergency or transporting a critical patient in need of immediate medical intervention.



SB 1657	Creates the Gun Dealer Licensing Act.
SB 2226	A police officer who administers an epi-pen is not held liable as a result if death or injury are caused.
SB 2265	Individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities would be covered under the Endangered Missing Person Advisory program, which provides a regional system for the rapid information alerts regarding missing persons.
SB 2270	Allows a law enforcement officer to take temporary custody of a dog or cat if the animal is exposed in a manner that is life-threatening or may result in injury.
SB 2350	Requires schools to conduct at least one law enforcement drill that addresses an active threat or an active shooter within a school building no later than 90 days after the first day of each school year.
SB 2378	Requires all law enforcement agencies to have an independent agency conduct investigations of officer-involved deaths.
SB 2386	Creates a "reckless dog owner" determination if the owner's dog is deemed dangerous for killing another dog and is found running at large twice within 12 months of being deemed dangerous. A "reckless dog owner" is prohibited from owning dogs for between 12 and 36 months.
SB 2482	Allows yellow school buses equipped with flashing lights and stop arms to transport children under the age of 18 to any activity.
SB 2514	Allows state law enforcement agencies to enforce the Smoke Free Illinois Act and changes all fines associated with violations to civil penalties.
SB 2640	Establishes a program allowing an Illinois State Police Officer to purchase their service weapon and State Police badge at the end of their service period.
SB 2642	Requires any former peace officer who continues to perform services in an armed capacity to obtain a permanent employee registration card.
SB 2808	Cleans up language to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Services Act.
SB 2864	Requires individuals applying pesticides to engage in or complete training requirements.
SB 2925	Requires the Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to develop or approve a curriculum for a certified training program for school resource officers.
SB 3024	Allows a first responder to use a cell phone for the sole purpose of receiving information about an emergency situation while en route to performing his or her official duties.
SB 3105	Requires law enforcement officers to accompany DCFS investigators to assist the DCFS in child protective investigations in its response to reports of child abuse or neglect.
SB 3136	Allows the discharge of employment for any person employed by the Department of State Police or the Department of Corrections who tests positive for any prohibited substance.
SB 3148	Increases the fee for a restricted driving permit from \$8 to \$12 which shall be imposed annually until the expiration of the two-year permit.
SB 3240	Requires all carnivals, amusement enterprises or fairs to conduct background checks on all of their employees.
SB 3255	Makes changes to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act.
SB 3256	Provides that a firearm shall not be transferred until 72-hours have elapsed since application for purchase.
SB 3263	Prohibits the Director of State Police from appointing auxiliary state policemen.
SB 3411	Allows places of employment, places of worship, or schools to petition for an order against a person stalking their locations. Once an order is granted, that person may have to give up their firearms and FOID card.



Revenue and Taxes

HB 4751	Updates the College Savings Pool in accordance with new federal tax laws and improves the Illinois Bright Start/Bright Directions program.
HB 4858	A local school district or community college may apply for DCEO grants for the acquisition of land, construction of facilities, and purchase of equipment, dedicated solely to the instruction of occupations in manufacturing.
HB 5141	Provides that within one year after the Secretary of Financial and Professional Regulation's first published notice in a local newspaper regarding a community currency exchange filing for termination, the owners of the debts, liabilities, and lawful demands against such community currency exchange will be redeemed by the Secretary on demand in writing.
HB 5214	DCEO initiative that is a trailer bill to their omnibus Angel Investment credit bill, SB 2012, which passed in spring of 2017. Revises definitions of "applicant" and "related member," and clarifies the utilization timeline for "set-aside" credits.
HB 5513	Creates a scratch-off lottery game for the benefit of police memorials.
SB 0585	Makes changes to three different property tax sales fees: expands the automation fee that the purchaser pays each year for subsequent taxes; clarifies that the indemnity fee is set by the county collector and allows counties to charge less than the current rate of \$20 per item purchased; allows county boards, by resolution, to impose a fee for payment of interest and costs.
SB 1461	Removes a contradiction in the Film Production Services Tax Credit Act of 2008, which states that the Film Office must report quarterly on each film production vendor used in a project.
SB 2385	Creates a notarized form for applicants of Medicaid and LTC Medicaid to provide to financial institutions.
SB 2539	Amends the Property Tax Code and requires a date-stamped receipt from the County Clerk acknowledging receipt of a notice of extension of the redemption period.
SB 2667	DCEO's omnibus Enterprise Zone initiative.
SB 2675	Allows chief procurement officers, in consultation with their agencies, the ability to establish rules regarding federally recognized HUBZone small businesses and their eligibility in receiving preferences.
SB 2868	Creates an income tax return checkoff for the Hunger Relief Fund.
SB 2919	Repeals the requirement for the Department of Revenue to submit the annual Unified Economic Development Budget.
SB 2921	Modifies the College Savings Pool to make it applicable under new federal tax laws.
SB 2958	Provides the notice of tax lien shall include the county or counties where the real property of the debtor is located.
SB 3041	Allows for local resources to be invested in local developmental disability programs and permits voters to decide through referenda to financially support locally operated services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.
SB 3085	Requires a notice for the judgment and sale of a drainage or retention basin serving a residential common to be given to each residential homeowner whose property is served by that basin.
SB 3141	Allows the Department of Revenue to impose monetary penalties for the failure to keep books and records.
SB 3215	Makes changes to provisions concerning sales in error in the Property Tax Code.



Seniors

- SB 1979 - Provides that in all counties, the county board may by resolution provide that if a person has been granted a Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption, the qualifying person does not need to reapply for the exemption.

SB 1979	Provides that in all counties, the county board may by resolution provide that if a person has been granted a Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption, the qualifying person does not need to reapply for the exemption.
SB 2469	Requires from the Director of the Department on Aging to submit an annual report detailing the progress under the Respite Program Act to the Governor and General Assembly.

State Government

- HB 4295 - Makes Springfield and Sangamon County the default location for employees of most state agencies and the governor's office.
- HB 4953 - Requires IDFPR to provide a sexual harassment training program and require each applicant and license renewal applicant to complete this training.
- HB 5121 - Prohibits the Governor's office from using other agency appropriations to pay for Governor's office employees.

HB 0066	Creates the Illinois Route 66 Centennial Commission Act for the centennial anniversary of the creation of Route 66.
HB 0138	A package of reforms to the Legislative Ethics Commission and the Legislative Inspector General that would lay out how an inspector general is selected and ensure any allegations of sexual harassment are investigated properly.
HB 0489	Designates Dec. 3 each year as "Illinois Statehood Day".
HB 1010	Makes elected offices gender neutral, ex: committeeperson or chairperson rather than committeeman or chairman.
HB 2571	Amends the Flag Display Act and requires that the State of Illinois Capitol Building shall fly a 21-star United States flag to commemorate Illinois as the 21st state to join the Union in its bicentennial year.
HB 4135	Extends the date by which the Flue Gas Desulfurization Task Force will report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly to Dec. 31, 2018, rather than Dec. 31, 2017.
HB 4213	Requires that any state-owned vehicle in need of an oil change be subject to the recommendations of the vehicle's manufacturer, allowing CMS to use that information to consider policy adjustments.
HB 4295	Makes Springfield and Sangamon County the default location for employees of most state agencies and the governor's office.
HB 4345	Designates the third Friday of May every year as "First Responder Mental Health Awareness Day" in Illinois.
HB 4420	Extends the deadline for the Protection of the Individuals with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System Task Force report to March 31, 2019.
HB 4424	Clarifies that non-Real ID cards issued to a person 65 or older are permanent and will not expire, clarifies that non-Real ID Illinois Person with a Disability Identifications Card expire 10 years after issuance and removes a \$2 fee.
HB 4507	Designates March 5 each year as the Day of the Horse.



HB 4568	Deletes the June 30, 2019 sunset for the Healthy Local Food Incentives Program.
HB 4573	Allows public agencies to invest in highly rated U.S. corporations with bonds that mature within 3 years.
HB 4657	Creates the Emotional Intelligence Task Force to develop curriculum and assessment guidelines on emotional intelligence.
HB 4689	Makes technical and clarifying changes to Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) in order to conform with federal law.
HB 4790	Requires agencies doing landscaping projects to request a base bid with an alternative for compost-amended soil.
HB 4805	Changes the basis for Surety Bonding requirements for Transmitters of Money Act (TOMA) licensees. The bill requires applicants of licensees to post a Surety Bond of \$50,000 or amount equal to 1 percent of all Illinois-based activity, whichever is greater when applying for money transmitter license.
HB 4953	Requires IDFPR to provide a sexual harassment training program and require each applicant and license renewal applicant to complete this training.
HB 5000	Provides that upon written request, the Office of Inspector General may share unredacted investigative reports, as well as raw data, with a local law enforcement entity, a State's Attorney's office or a county coroner's office.
HB 5019	Clarifies a section of statute regarding college savings withholding, makes a change to involuntary withholdings, and provides a definition of veteran in the Comptroller's Merit Employee code.
HB 5031	Repeals the section concerning cross-agency prequalification and master service agreements in the Department of Human Services Act.
HB 5121	Prohibits the Governor's office from using other agency appropriations to pay for Governor's office employees.
HB 5201	Establishes a mechanics lien demand and referral pilot program that is intended to resolve invalid or expired mechanic liens by referring those liens to an administrative judge for resolution.
HB 5242	Makes various changes to the Brownfields Redevelopment and Intermodal Promotion Act.
HB 5447	Creates the First 2018 General Revisory Act and combines multiple versions of Sections amended by more than one public act, renumbers sections of various acts to eliminate duplication, corrects obsolete cross-references and technical errors and makes stylistic changes.
HB 5544	Creates the Illinois Council on Women and Girls, which is required to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policy issues impacting women and girls in this State.
HB 5547	Requires the Auditor General to conduct a performance audit, on biennial basis, of state agencies and their cyber-security practices, with a focus on agencies holding large volumes of personal information.
HB 5611	Creates the Department of Innovation Technology within the Office of the Governor.
HB 5686	Implements abolishment of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and transfers IHPA's duties to DNR.
SB 0020	Supersedes the governor's executive order consolidating the Department of Human Rights and the Human Rights Commission.
SB 0331	Lowers the fine IDFPR can impose on private ATM owners to \$100 for each violation of the Electronic Funds Transfer Act.
SB 0405	Requires a sexual harassment policy for all companies that make a bid under the state's procurement code and requires companies that claim EDGE credits to include their sexual harassment policy in their annual report to the State.
SB 0904	Creates an advisory council within the State Insurance Department to study continuing education possibilities.
SB 1008	Removes the Illinois State Police from a diesel-powered vehicle emission inspection report requirement.



SB 1901	Allows the Capital Development Board to publish 14-day notice of construction management services projects in the online procurement bulletin, instead of mailing the notice to pre-qualified firms.
SB 2254	Designates May 17 of each year Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Giloma (DIPG) Awareness Day.
SB 2328	Allows a political subdivision to waive the public hearing, evaluation procedure and selection procedure for projects expected to cost less than \$150,000.
SB 2513	Creates a continuing education advisory council for the Department of Insurance.
SB 2540	Requires the Comptroller and GOMB to establish a system to suspend grant payments.
SB 2606	Creates a food donation policy for all procurement contracts for food services. The food donation policy requires every procuring agency to create a policy to donate all leftover foods procured with state funds.
SB 2617	Amends the Appraisal Management Company (AMC) Registration Act to implement the federal Appraisal Subcommittee's requirements for expanded regulation of appraisal management companies.
SB 2620	Requires the Capital Development Board to provide on its website all State agency proposals that adopt new building or construction requirements or that change existing requirements.
SB 2628	Creates the Strengthening the Child Welfare Workforce for Children and Families Act to study the compensation and workload of child welfare workers.
SB 2644	Allows service by email in administrative proceedings.
SB 2661	Allows the State Treasurer to invest in county and municipal bonds and invest up to 5 percent of certain administrative funds in common or preferred stocks of publicly-traded corporations.
SB 2721	Requires that any entity looking to sell or issue payment instruments of the U.S. or a foreign government submit an application for licensure and include the fingerprint in electronic format of the applicant to the Department of State Police.
SB 2765	Transfers responsibility of the Tobacco Enforcement Program from the Illinois Liquor Control Commission to the Department of Human Services.
SB 2853	Requires Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to put on its website general information on how the Department uses criminal history information in its decisions on licensure applications.
SB 2858	Allows the State Treasurer to invest or reinvest any state money in the Treasury that is not currently needed whenever the total amount of vouchers presented to the Comptroller exceeds the funds available in the general funds by \$1 billion.
SB 2903	Requires the Secretary of State to issue standard Illinois Identification Cards and limited-term Illinois Identification Cards to persons upon conditional release or absolute discharge from the custody of the Department of Human Services with specified requirements.
SB 2907	Allows agencies and entities currently authorized by law to conduct or obtain national criminal history background checks on individuals to participate in the FBI's Federal Rap Back Service.
SB 2940	Allows electors of a township to delegate the power to purchase, sell or lease property to the township board for a period up to 12 months.
SB 3022	Moves the Liquor Control Commission from its reorganization under the Department of Revenue (DOR) and makes it a stand-alone agency.
SB 3031	Requires all new state-funded building construction and major renovations to achieve silver certification of LEED rating system.
SB 3046	Allows TRS and community college benefit recipients and their beneficiaries to opt out of CMS health benefit programs.



SB 3072	Sets term limits for members of the Board of State Fair Advisors.
SB 3106	Ensures the Comptroller has information from the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women and Persons with Disabilities to report annually on the progress of the initiative.
SB 3143	Requires the Department of Central Management Services to submit an annual report regarding installment purchases or lease purchases of buildings, land or facilities.
SB 3192	The Governor shall annually designate, by official proclamation, the day before Gold Star Mother's Day as Gold Star Family Day.
SB 3195	Abolishes the Farmer's Market Task force.
SB 3205	Enables the State Treasurer to allocate up to 5 percent (rather than 2 percent) of the State Portfolio, on a recurring basis, in the Technology Development Account II for the purpose of providing capital to technology businesses seeking to locate, expand, or remain in Illinois.
SB 3217	Exempts certain records that relate to or affect the security of detention facilities from FOIA law.
SB 3223	Repeals provisions permitting the Child Death Review Teams Executive Council to establish in the Southern Region of the state a special Child Death Investigation Task Force.
SB 3398	Makes changes to the Professional Service Corporation Act.
SB 3488	Creates the Anti-Registry Program Act and provides that no agent or agency shall use any moneys, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel of the agency to participate in or provide support for the creation, publication, or maintenance of a registry program.
SB 3560	Places the Vendor Payment Program (VPP) in statute (it currently exists only in administrative rule) and increases VPP transparency.
SB 3561	Extends the sunset date for design-build provisions in the Public Building Commission Act from June 1, 2018 to June 1, 2023.

Transportation

- HB 4259 - Permits the Secretary of State to register motor vehicles for a two-year period. An applicant for a two-year registration must apply online or by completing and mailing the appropriate registration application form.
- HB 4846 - Makes cell phone use while driving a moving violation instead of a warning.
- SB 2285 - Allows the Secretary of State to issue a one-time vehicle decal or device to any non-resident of Illinois with a disability displaced by a natural disaster as defined by the federal government. Decal or device not to be valid for more than six months.

HB 2040	Allow students at Soaring Eagle Academy to be transported in a multi-function school activity bus (MFSAB) for curriculum-related school activities rather than requiring they be transported on a school bus.
HB 4259	Permits the Secretary of State to register motor vehicles for a two-year period. An applicant for a two-year registration must apply online or by completing and mailing the appropriate registration application form.
HB 4416	Amends the Transportation Network Provider Act and adds a requirement that individuals applying to become a ride-sharing service driver must include his or her full legal name, social security number, and date of birth.
HB 4472	Prohibits an out-of-state driver from operating a vehicle without insurance. The operator of the vehicle must keep proof of insurance within the vehicle at all times.



HB 4476	Makes various changes to the Vehicle Code and removes the requirement that a driver sign a citation when cited for a petty offense.
HB 4576	Creates license plates for the Combat Action Badge and Combat Action Ribbon.
HB 4846	Makes cell phone use while driving a moving violation instead of a warning.
HB 4944	Allows truck tractors, semitrailers, or property-carrying vehicles weighing 10,000 to 26,000 pounds to be safety tested every 12 months.
HB 5056	Secretary of State omnibus clean-up bill. Creates a "C" class plate for flat weight taxes, requires color copies or scans of IDs from vehicle dealers; allows for vanity plates for funeral homes; allows owners to apply for a junk title without surrendering a certificate of title if there is no lienholder.
HB 5057	Amends a section of the Vehicle Code regarding overweight permits.
HB 5143	Requires the "Dutch Reach" method to be included in the Rules of the Road publication.
HB 5206	Allows IDOT to lease locomotives, passenger railcars, and other rolling stock equipment to any state or state agency, public or private entity or quasi-public entities. .
HB 5749	Allows the Department of Transportation and local authorities to issue special permits for vehicles hauling agriculture commodities. The permit would provide for an 10 percent above the gross vehicle weight and 10percent above axle weight limit.
HB 5856	Exempts vehicles owned and operated by a Mass Transit District from paying tolls on the Toll Highway system.
SB 2225	Creates the Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm license plate. The plate may be issued to any Illinois resident who has earned the Southwest Asia Service Medal from the United States Armed Forces.
SB 2285	Allows the Secretary of State to issue a one-time vehicle decal or device to any non-resident of Illinois with a disability displaced by a natural disaster as defined by the federal government. Decal or device not to be valid for more than six months.
SB 2291	Requires that the Toll Highway Authority posts the agenda for its board meetings at least two business days prior to when the meeting is held. Requires that the agenda is posted at the Authority's headquarters and online on their website.
SB 2511	Requires that additional vehicle back-up lights emit a white or amber light.
SB 2585	Requires that permanent vehicle registration plates be issued to State Police vehicles at no charge beginning in the 2018 calendar year.
SB 2804	Allows the governor to appoint three commissioners to enter into a compact between Illinois and Indiana creating the New Harmony Bridge Bi-State Commission.
SB 3010	Reduces the penalty for a tow truck operator who fails to display a "tow truck" plate on a towed vehicle to a Class C misdemeanor.
SB 3024	Allows a first responder to use a cell phone for the sole purpose of receiving information about an emergency situation while en route to performing his or her official duties.
SB 3028	Removes a section of the Vehicle Code that requires paper applications to be submitted for overweight IDOT permits.



Veterans

- HB 4212 - Allows for the use of the Endangered Missing Person Advisory (Silver Alert) system for any veteran who is believed to have physical or mental health conditions related to his or her service.
- HB 4317 - Allows family members of armed service members killed in action to terminate a lease.
- HB 5784 - Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to submit a quarterly report to the general assembly about the health and welfare of the residents at each veterans home as well as any information on an epidemic or cases involving a communicable disease.
- SB 1437 - Prevents disabled veterans from having to apply for homestead exemptions every year.

HB 3040	Modernizes the State Guard Act by exempting guard members from administrative proceedings and permits members to be considered state employees.
HB 4212	Allows for the use of the Endangered Missing Person Advisory (Silver Alert) system for any veteran who is believed to have physical or mental health conditions related to his or her service.
HB 4278	Requires an Illinois Veterans Home to notify facility residents and their emergency contacts within 24 hours if two or more residents in the home have been diagnosed with an infectious disease in period of one month or less.
HB 4288	Allows all state National Guard members the protections afforded to all other branches of the military.
HB 4317	Allows family members of armed service members killed in action to terminate a lease.
HB 4332	Allows an identification card issued under the federal Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015 to be an acceptable form of proof to verify an applicant for a veterans designation on his or her Identification Card or license.
HB 4576	Creates license plates for the Combat Action Badge and Combat Action Ribbon.
HB 4781	Creates the College and Career Interest Task Force to determine the process by which Illinois public high school student college or career data may be collected and shared among public institutions of higher education.
HB 4849	Allows indigent homeless veterans one free complete copy of their patient records if those records are being used in support of a claim for federal veterans' disability benefits.
HB 4954	Designates Nov. 4 each year as "G.I. Bill of Rights Day" in Illinois.
HB 5682	Allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to make expenditures from the Members Benefits Fund for recognition and appreciation programs for volunteers who assist the veterans homes.
HB 5683	Expands the definition of "Veterans Home" to include any facility operated and maintained by the Department in the City of Quincy that provides housing to residents of the Veterans Home at Quincy to allow Sycamore Facility in Quincy to temporary house of veterans from the Quincy veterans home.
HB 5784	Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to submit a quarterly report to the general assembly about the health and welfare of the residents at each veterans home as well as any information on an epidemic or cases involving a communicable disease.
SB 0043	Clarifies how the IFA administers loans to veterans, minorities, women and disabled individuals who own and operate small businesses.
SB 1437	Prevents disabled veterans from having to apply for homestead exemptions every year.
SB 2225	Creates the Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm license plate. The plate may be issued to any Illinois resident who has earned the Southwest Asia Service Medal from the United States Armed Forces.



SB 2278	Adds veterans/active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces to the definition, "high-risk missing person" and allows for the use of the Endangered Missing Person Advisory for veterans who have mental or physical health conditions related to their service.
SB 2306	Provides that the disabled veterans homestead exemption will be prorated beginning in the first full month of occupation of the qualified residence if the disabled veteran occupies the residence after Jan. 1 of the applicable tax year.
SB 2481	Removes the \$100,000 limit on awards in tort cases for all claims against the state.
SB 3128	Gives the Capital Development Board and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs authority to address public health crisis at the Quincy Veterans' Home.
SB 3191	Allows the Department of Veterans' Affairs to make expenditures from a members benefits fund, subject to approval by the Director of Veterans' Affairs, for recognition and appreciation programs for volunteers who assist the Veterans Homes.
SB 3192	The Governor shall annually designate, by official proclamation, the day before Gold Star Mother's Day as Gold Star Family Day.
SB 3193	A non-veteran spouse shall have the same priority for admission to a Veterans Home as a veteran if they are admitted at the same time to live together.
SB 3547	Creates the Illinois Service Member Employment Rights & Reemployment Act.