



SENATE IN REVIEW

A LOOK AT THE 2022
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
THE ILLINOIS SENATE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

DON HARMON, SENATE PRESIDENT
Communications Department • www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com





Table of contents

Legislative accomplishments

Protecting all communities	5
Providing tax relief	7
Combatting the mental health crisis.....	7
Addressing the teacher shortage	8

Spreading the news

By the numbers.....	11
Telephone town hall meetings.....	11
Illinois Senate Democrats: Social Media Report.....	12-15
Black Caucus: Improving equity, justice for underserved residents.....	16-17
Senate Latino Caucus: Producing tangible results for underrepresented groups	18-19
Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus: Offering more support to immigrant communities ..	20-21
Senate Women's Caucus: Strengthening health care access and protections for survivors ..	22-23

Featured stories

Senator Fine prioritizes suicide prevention with new 9-8-8 hotline	27
Senate Democrats pass legislation to protect all communities	28-29
Legislators introduce initiatives to address teacher shortage in Illinois	30-31
Villivalam champions legislation to reverse COVID-19 job losses	32
Hunter seeks an end to hair discrimination in the workplace	33
Interesting New Laws 2020-2021.....	34-36

Your accomplishments

Senate President Don Harmon	39
Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford.....	40
President Pro Tempore Bill Cunningham	41
Deputy Majority Leader Emil Jones, III	42
Deputy Majority Leader Laura M. Murphy	43
Assistant Majority Leader Jacqueline Y. Collins.....	44
Assistant Majority Leader Linda Holmes.....	45
Assistant Majority Leader David Koehler	46
Assistant Majority Leader Antonio Munoz	47
Majority Caucus Chair Mattie Hunter	48
Majority Caucus Whip Omar Aquino	49
Majority Caucus Whip Napoleon Harris, III.....	50
Majority Caucus Whip Michael E. Hastings	51
Majority Caucus Whip Julie A. Morrison.....	52
Senator Christopher Belt.....	53
Senator Scott Bennett.....	54
Senator Melinda Bush.....	55
Senator Cristina Castro	56
Senator John Connor	57
Senator Rachelle Crowe	58
Senator Laura Ellman	59
Senator Sara Feigenholtz	60
Senator Laura Fine	61
Senator Ann Gillespie.....	62
Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton	63
Senator Adriane Johnson	64
Senator Patrick J. Joyce	65
Senator Steven Landek	66
Senator Meg Loughran Cappel.....	67
Senator Robert F. Martwick	68
Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas	69



Senator Robert Peters.....	71
Senator Mike Simmons	72
Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr.....	73
Senator Steve Stadelman	74
Senator Doris Turner.....	75
Senator Patricia Van Pelt.....	76
Senator Karina Villa.....	77
Senator Celina Villanueva	78
Senator Ram Villivalam	79

ISDC Communications Staff 80

Legislative Issues 82

2nd Amendment.....	82
Agriculture	82
Budget.....	83
Business	83
Civil Law	83
Constitutional Offices	83
Consumers	84
Criminal Law	84
Economic Development.....	85
Education	85
Elections.....	88
Energy and Public Utilities	88
Executive.....	88
Family.....	89
Financial Institutions.....	89
First Responders.....	90
Gun Control.....	90
Gun Safety.....	90
Health	91
Higher Education.....	93
Housing	94
Human Rights.....	94
Human Services	94
Insurance	96
Labor	97
Licensed Activities.....	98
Local Government.....	99
Mental Health	100
Opioid Addiction Prevention and Treatment	101
Pensions.....	101
Public Safety.....	103
Redistricting.....	104
Revenue and Taxes.....	104
Seniors	105
State Government.....	105
Teacher Shortage	107
Tourism	107
Transportation	107
Veterans.....	110
Veterans Affairs.....	110
Women's Issues.....	110



SENATE IN REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DON HARMON, SENATE PRESIDENT
Communications Department • www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







Legislative Accomplishments

The 2022 spring legislative session was shortened by more than seven weeks, yet that didn't stop the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus from passing hundreds of measures to serve and assist Illinoisans in all corners of the state.

The General Assembly focused its efforts on protecting all communities through public safety measures, providing hardworking families with much-needed assistance through direct tax relief, and combatting the ongoing mental health crisis by addressing the workforce shortage.

Protecting all communities

Receiving strong bipartisan support for many of its proposals, the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus passed over a dozen public safety measures and allocated more than \$500 million toward the efforts during the spring legislative session, pegged as their Protecting All Communities plan.

State Senator Robert Peters (D-Chicago) led efforts to create the Crime Reduction Task Force. The task force – advanced as House Bill 4736 – will be made up of a bipartisan group of legislators, law enforcement and legal and criminal justice professionals, as well as

crime victims and witnesses. The task force will develop a plan of action to reduce crime across the state and report its findings to the General Assembly and the governor.

The measure also creates a Co-Responder Pilot Program in East St. Louis, Peoria, Springfield and Waukegan. The program's primary focus will be to provide crisis intervention, case management, advocacy and ongoing emotional support to survivors of all crimes, particularly to survivors of crimes that cause a high level of trauma.

One of the crimes seeing an uptick in cases in recent years is carjackings. Senators passed legislation to crack down on the rise



and provide victims with support.

State Senator Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) championed House Bill 3772, which will provide protections for victims of carjackings who receive red light or speed camera violations after their vehicle has been hijacked. Under the measure, if a person receives a citation due to one of these camera violations, the court or hearing officer will be able to consider whether the vehicle was hijacked before the violation occurred or the victim was not under the control of or possession of the vehicle at the time of violation.

The measure also allows victims to receive reimbursement for towing and storage fees under the Crime Victims Compensation Act.

Law enforcement officers need additional tools and support to be able to find tangible solutions to reduce carjackings, State Senator Robert Martwick (D-Chicago) believes. That led him to sponsor House Bill 3699, which expands

the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Act to include vehicle hijackings.

Under the legislation, the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council – made up of representatives from the insurance industry, state’s attorneys and law enforcement – will be tasked with working together to reduce carjackings. The Council currently provides grant funding to three task forces – composed of law enforcement and state’s attorneys – which investigate and prosecute motor vehicle threat and similar crimes.

Martwick’s bill will also provide law enforcement with additional resources to coordinate efforts to put a stop to carjackings.

Further, State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs) passed a measure to curb organized retail crime and hold ringleaders accountable. House Bill 1091 defines organized retail crime as a criminal

charge and gives prosecutors additional resources to charge crime ringleaders. Specifically, the measure codifies organized retail crime as the theft of retail merchandise with the intent to sell.

Under the Illinois Senate Democrats’ Protecting All Communities plan, a Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Fund will be created through State Senator Julie Morrison’s (D-Lake Forest) House Bill 3863 to support departments through the hiring and training process and help retention strategies. The budget included \$10 million for this purpose.

The Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus also passed legislation to address ghost guns, expressway crimes, fentanyl deaths and more. The FY 23 Budget – found within House Bill 900 – also allocated more than \$500 million for public safety.





Providing tax relief

As the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus' budget negotiators began conversations surrounding the plan for the upcoming fiscal year, one major item stood out – the sizeable surplus and the need to give back to Illinoisans who have endured two years of financial strain.

The tax relief plan – found within Senate Bill 157 and led by State Senator Michael E. Hastings (D-Frankfort) – prioritizes working families, single parents and vulnerable communities.

The majority of Illinoisans – more than 95% of taxpayers – will receive a one-time tax refund by the fall of 2022. Individual filers will receive \$50 and joint filers will receive \$100, with an additional \$100 for up to three dependents. It also provides up to \$300 in property tax relief for homeowners.

To give consumers an economic boost for back-to-school shopping, the plan includes a state sales tax reduction on clothing, shoes and school supplies for 10 days in August. The sales tax would be lowered to 1.25% from 6.25% from Aug. 5 to Aug. 14. Further, teachers could see up to \$500 in tax credits for classroom materials.

The plan also addresses inflation by suspending the 1% state grocery tax for one year and delays the state's portion of the gas tax increase for six months to help with rising prices at the pump.

Tax exemptions for breast pumps, microchip manufacturers and more were also part of the plan.



Combating the mental health crisis

In response to a deepening mental health crisis across the state, Senate Democrats also prioritized mental health support for individuals in Illinois.

State Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview) sponsored a measure aimed at growing the mental health professional workforce in Illinois.

As the current workforce continues to struggle to keep up with increasing demand, Fine's proposal – Senate Bill 3617 – will accelerate the process for out-of-state clinicians applying for licensure in Illinois, as well as suspend requirements for social workers, professional counselors and clinical psychologists with licenses that have been inactive for five years.

Additionally, the legislation includes initiatives to support

diversity in the mental health field, establish tax credits, and much more, all of which will encourage the development of more quality, accessible care to those seeking assistance.

State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood) also spearheaded legislation – Senate Bill 3889 – to add a council within the Children's Mental Health Partnership in Illinois.

The council will look for ways to expand the number of beds in the state, make it easier for out-of-state residential facilities to be approved with the Illinois State Board of Education, and offer recommendations on how the state can provide better support for children with mental health issues in an annual report to the governor and General Assembly.



Addressing the teacher shortage

As school districts around the state continue struggling to fill teaching positions, Senate Democrats championed legislation to help address the void.

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, there are more than 4,000 unfilled positions in schools. In an attempt to fill the vacancies and increase the substitute teacher pool, Loughran Cappel passed a plan – Senate Bill 3915 – that would waive the application fee for short-term substitute teaching licensees when the governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency.

Additionally, State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago) passed legislation – Senate Bill 3988

– to lower the age requirement for teacher assistants from 19 to 18 for those who work in pre-K to eighth grade classrooms.

State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) also brought forth legislation – Senate Bill 3907 – to allow short-term substitute teachers to teach up to 15 consecutive days instead of five for any one licensed teacher under contract in a school district. Additionally, if a teacher is absent for longer than six days, a school district would be able to hire a person holding a short-term teaching license if it is during a period of time in which the governor has declared a public health emergency.

Lastly, Martwick introduced a measure to address Illinois’ ever-growing teacher shortage by

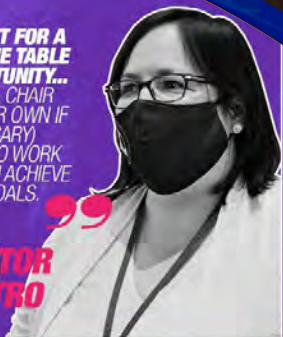
bringing back retired educators.

Senate Bill 3465 would allow retired Chicago Public School teachers to return to work without it affecting their pensions. Schools would be able to submit documentation with their regional superintendent to request help from retired educators in a “subject shortage area.”

DONALD TRUMP
NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

DON'T WAIT FOR A
SEAT AT THE TABLE
OF OPPORTUNITY...
PULL UP A CHAIR
BRING YOUR OWN IF
NECESSARY
AND GET TO WORK
TO YOU CAN ACHIEVE
YOUR GOALS.

SENATOR
CASTRO



who
house
are not

Senator C
of the 16th District



Holidays: 67%



SHOW US



SENATE IN REVIEW

SPREADING
THE NEWS

ILL
UNNINGHAM+



DON HARMON, SENATE PRESIDENT

Communications Department • www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







By the numbers...

iConstituent, a constituent relationship management database, gives the caucus one centralized location to house constituent data and communicate with people in the districts.

The COVID-19 pandemic proved just how vital constituent communication is. With fewer in-person events, the Senate Democrats relied heavily on newsletter and email updates to keep constituents up to date on the latest news surrounding the public health crisis.

By tracking these constituent relationships and making records quickly and easily accessible, district and Capitol staff were able to use this tool to deliver support to area residents.

This year, staff used iConstituent to send out **341** e-newsletters and targeted e-blasts to **2,009,864** constituents.

- Total Number of E-Newsletters Sent: **341**
- Total Number of Individuals Who Received E-Newsletters: **2,009,864**

Tele-Town Hall meetings

This year, Senate Democrats participated in telephone town halls reaching a total of **19,458** 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. With the shortened session we weren't able to get to as many town halls, but that didn't stop constituents from picking up the phone and asking questions. The average number of participants was **2,780**. Senator Julie Morrison had the most successful call this year with a total of **3,014** people. We look forward to continuing to offer this service next year.

Top 10 Issues - 2022 Session

1.	Healthcare
2.	Budget
3.	Education
4.	Economic Development
5.	Human Rights
6.	2nd Amendment Issues
7.	Public Safety
8.	Environment
9.	Licensing
10.	Housing

Tele-Town Halls

Total called	244,934
Active participants	19,458
Live questions	60



TWITTER

twitter.com/ilsendems

TOP 5 TWEETS

SEN. FINE SB2945

Jan. 11, 2022

SB 2945 creates the Statewide 9-8-8 Trust Fund to establish and maintain a statewide 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis system pursuant to the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020.



7,175 Impressions

SEN. KOEHLER HB4089

March 23, 2022

A measure from @SenatorKoeHLer to bring more plant-based lunch options to Illinois students moves forward from the Senate Education Committee.



<https://ilsendems.co/3D4rkVU>

6,897 Impressions

SEN. PACIONE-ZAYAS SB101

Oct. 28, 2021

@SenPacioneZayas measure to empower local school councils heads to governor's desk.



<https://ilsendems.co/3jLHATx>

5,961 Impressions

LEADER LIGHTFORD PA101-1

Dec. 20, 2021

@LLCoolK_4 Lightford announces Jan. 1 increase in minimum wage.



<https://ilsendems.co/33MJL40>

4,064 Impressions

SEN. COLLINS HB4383

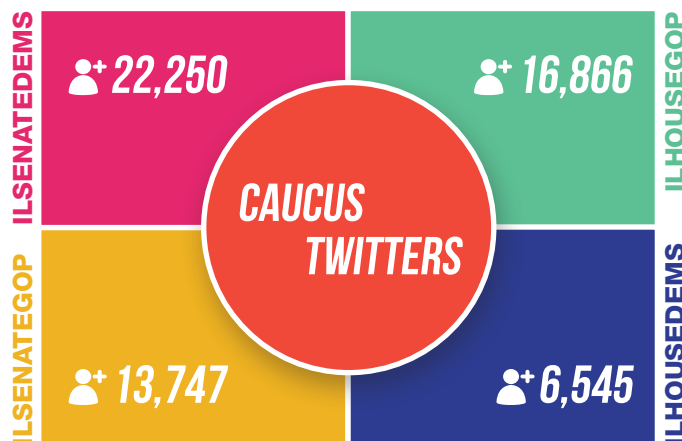
April 9, 2022

Illinois Senate Democrats will outline a plan to crack down on the growing threat of serialized firearms with legislation banning the production and distribution of "ghost guns" – a measure filed by State Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins.



<https://ilsendems.co/3Jr5r4C>

1,923 Impressions



TOP 5 ISDC ACCOUNTS





facebook.com/IllinoisSenateDemocraticCaucus

TOP 5 POSTS

SEN. BELT March 16, 2022

An empty lot in East St. Louis will become the home of a solar field to power 500 homes, thanks to the efforts of State Senator Christopher Belt and stakeholders.

<https://ilsendems.co/3KMlpaN>



2,477 Hits

SEN. VILLIVALAM + SEN. TURNER March 16, 2022

NEW PODCAST: State Senator Ram Villivalam and Senator Doris Turner discuss the recent visit of the Mobile Museum of Tolerance to Springfield, the importance of the history it covers, and more in this episode of the Sound of the State podcast. LISTEN:



<https://ilsendems.co/3icBydc>

1,865 Hits

IDOT Jan. 31, 2022

Keep your eyes on the skies, and on Getting Around Illinois.

<https://ilsendems.co/3KMlpaN>



1,376 Hits

SEN. SIMMONS Feb. 11, 2022

Senator Mike Simmons championed the Jett Hawkins Act through the Senate in 2021. Now, Jett Hawkins is teaming up with Dove to take the effort nationwide.

<https://ilsendems.co/3gBqw0f>



1,337 Hits

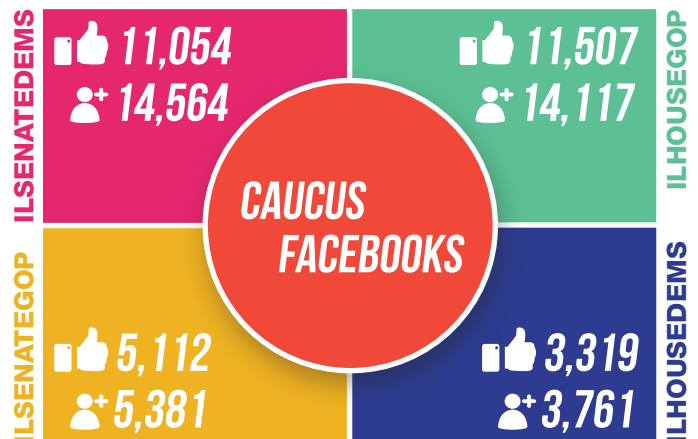
SEN. FINE + SURVIVOR HARRIS Jan. 27, 2022

NEW PODCAST: As we recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day, join State Senator Laura Fine, along with one of the youngest survivors of concentration camps, Samuel R. Harris, for a moving discussion about his experiences in this episode of our Sound of the State podcast. LISTEN:

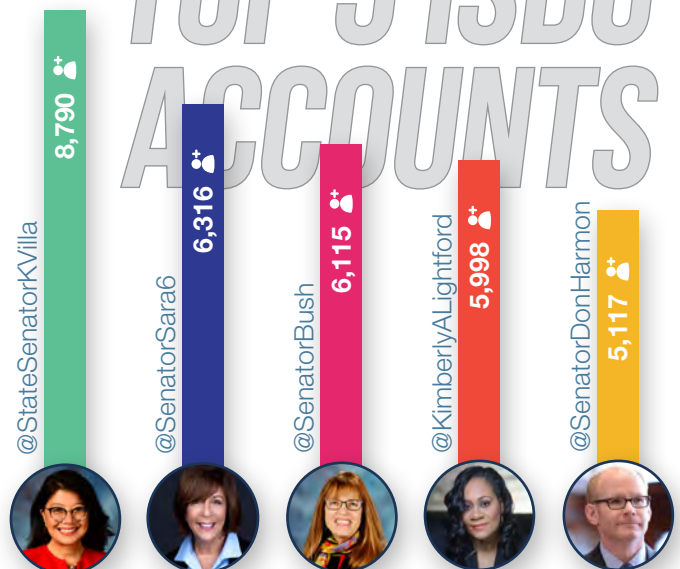
<https://ilsendems.co/3g0gMN6>



1,292 Hits



TOP 5 ISDC ACCOUNTS





INSTAGRAM

@ilsenatedems

THIS YEAR WE FOCUSED ON ESTABLISHING OUR BRAND AND GROWING OUR FOLLOWING AND ENGAGEMENT. WE'VE POSTED ABOUT IMPORTANT ISSUES AND WORKED TO FULLY REFLECT THE VIBRANCY AND DIVERSITY OF OUR CAUCUS. OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE'S GROWTH CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

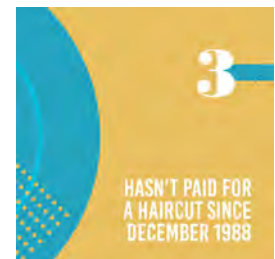
978 POSTS

1,933 FOLLOWERS

1,459 FOLLOWING



SHOW US YOUR GOOD SIDE





VIDEO



100%
ACCESSIBLE

225 VIDEOS PRODUCED FOR FB, TWITTER AND IG
UP 81% FROM 2021!



AUDIO AND PODCASTS



DURING THE 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WE INCREASED THE NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF OUR PODCASTS WITH MORE SENATORS AND ADVOCATES DISCUSSING IMPORTANT LEGISLATION, ISSUES AND EVENTS.



132 PODCASTS PRODUCED
UP 20% FROM 2021!



Black Caucus: Improving equity, justice for underserved residents

The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus continued its mission to identify problems that Black Illinoisans face and worked to create pathways toward success through new policies and collaborative efforts during this year's shortened 102nd General Assembly.

After more than two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois is finally back on strong financial footing and investing more into communities than ever before. This year, the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus secured the largest budget appropriation in the state's history for Black communities to continue building on the efforts of the 2019 Black Caucus Four Pillar Agenda which focused on eliminating

systemic racism in Illinois.

Through these efforts, Majority Caucus Chair Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) continued her nearly two-decade career in Springfield by championing the Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair – or CROWN – Act, which amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to provide that the term “race” includes traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locs and twists.

The CROWN Act was filed in response to a Dove study that found bias against Black women with natural hairstyles in job recruitment. Black women with

natural hairstyles were perceived to be less professional, less competent and less likely to be recommended for a job interview than Black women with straightened hairstyles and white women with either curly or straight hairstyles.

Furthering her efforts to end discrimination across state systems, Hunter was the Senate sponsor of House Bill 3988, which creates the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Chicago Women Act. The task force will examine and report on the systemic causes behind violence that Chicago women and girls experience.

State Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D-Chicago) also championed legislation to streamline the



missing person's identification process. Senate Bill 3932, or the Jelani Day Bill, will require a coroner or medical examiner with custody of human remains that are not identified within 72 hours of discovery to immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation for assistance in identification.

The legislation was filed to address the devastating death of Jelani Day, a 25-year-old African American graduate student at Illinois State University. Day was reported missing on Aug. 24, 2021, discovered on Sept. 4, 2021, and wasn't identified until nearly a month later by the LaSalle County coroner.

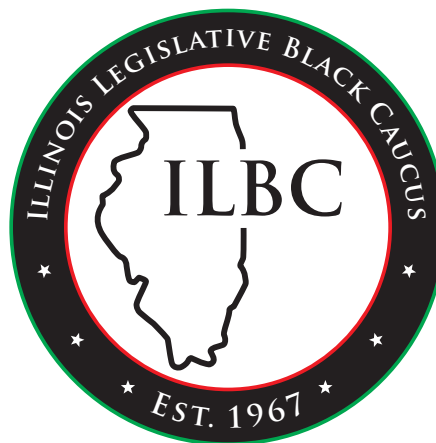
To better serve the health and needs of disadvantaged residents, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) championed House Bill 5549. The measure amends the African American HIV/AIDS Response Act by striking the repeal date and specifying that for every \$3 millions of available funding, the Illinois Department of Public Health must award a community-based organization a grant to create a Center of Excellence Biomedical Resource Hub for HIV/AIDS.

Aside from leading legislation, Lightford also announced a \$17 million grant to create the first-ever state-funded Freedom Schools network. Because of the monumental education package to rid Illinois of systemic racism – which Lightford sponsored – the Phillip Jackson Freedom School

Grant was created to ensure Black students receive quality education across the state. The grant will offer students a wide range of academic and social learning opportunities, provide quality teaching experiences, and create a progressive school climate and an equitable curriculum.

Senate Black Caucus Chairman Robert Peters (D-Chicago) spent the first few months of 2022 on a mission to dispel myths about the SAFE-T Act, participating in several televised interviews and hosting a town hall with advocates from organizations representing victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking in order to help Illinoisans better understand the needs of communities when it comes to public safety for all.

In an effort to create a safer Illinois for every resident, Peters worked to secure \$235 million



in new money for the Reimagine Public Safety Act. The plan allocates the money toward both community-based services and additional tools and training for law enforcement.

State Senator Adriane Johnson

(D-Buffalo Grove) proudly serves as the first Black State Senator to represent the 30th Senate District and has proven her willingness and ability to take on the tough issues that serve not just Lake County and its surrounding cities, but the entire state of Illinois.

As a longtime environmental health advocate, Johnson has led several measures aimed to achieve environmental justice in the state of Illinois. Senate Bill 3073 is an effort to clean up the ponds of coal ash created by the Waukegan Power Generating Station along Lake Michigan. The legislation aims to hold the company accountable for its pollution by restoring safety to the area and offering environmental protection.

Over the years, a mountain of evidence has brought to light the stark injustice that people of color suffer disproportionately more than non-Black individuals from exposure to pollution. Johnson believes that coal-fired power plants have caused irreparable damage to the area and fights for environmental solutions.

These are just a few examples of the hard work the Black Caucus has undertaken on behalf of their communities during the 102nd General Assembly. The caucus will not stop fighting until the government not only supports minority communities, but provides an environment for every Illinoisan to thrive in society.



Senate Latino Caucus: Producing tangible results for underrepresented groups

The Senate's Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus (ILLC) had a busy spring session turning a comprehensive legislative agenda into tangible benefits for Latino communities across the state. The ILLC set an ambitious plan in the document "Raíces"—Spanish for roots—grounded in the caucus' legislative priorities.

The ILLC focused on increasing political representation and engagement in the Latino community. Latino Senators

understand that to serve their communities, they need to make sure their constituents' voices are heard.

One hard-learned lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic was that many Latinos, especially older adults, had little to no access to quality health care. To address the health care needs of many low-income and non-citizen immigrants, the ILLC was proud to play a role in expanding Medicaid coverage for non-citizen residents

of Illinois to people age 42 and older through House Bill 4343. This builds upon the recent expansion of coverage to people 55 and older, opening the door for even more Illinois residents, especially those disproportionately impacted by inequities in the health care system, to have access to Medicaid coverage.

Additionally, the Latino Caucus was paramount in securing the permanent expansion of the state Earned Income Tax Credit from



18% to 20%, found within Senate Bill 157 and led by State Senator Omar Aquino (D-Chicago). Further, taxpayers 18-24 years of age, 65 and older, and taxpayers who use an individual taxpayer identification number will be able to claim the EITC if they would otherwise qualify for the federal EITC, which excludes these groups.

Investing in communities means investing in the future. The Latino Caucus recognized the ways community and educational investments could play a role in both the betterment of communities through violence prevention, and also individuals as they work to build a better life for themselves and their families. ILLC members rallied behind increasing investments in a number of community-based programs, such as Health Families Illinois, Teen REACH After School

program, Redeploy Illinois and more.



Additionally, a \$122 million investment in the Monetary Award Program will open the door to more low-income and Latino students to enter into the world of higher education.

Ensuring Latino voices are represented means supporting Latino businesses and putting diversity at the forefront. Like in

prior years, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will receive funds to connect the Hispanic business community, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will receive an additional appropriation for the office of Minority Economic Empowerment.

From balancing our budget, to fully funding education across the state, and everything in between, this year's budget and legislative successes will benefit Latino communities for years to come. The Senate's Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus is proud to serve and are excited to continue their work representing their communities.





Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus: Offering more support to immigrant communities

This year, the Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus rolled up their sleeves and advocated for the resources their communities need to fully recover from the pandemic. Whether negotiating funding for essential programs in the state budget, expanding access to health care or creating a task force to better meet the needs of growing communities, the Asian American Legislative

Caucus delivered results.

The Illinois Welcoming Center Program offers immigrant and limited English proficiency communities several one-stop human service centers across the state to help navigate state services and coordinate with local non-profits. The Asian American Caucus pushed for additional funding for welcoming centers, which received a combined \$105

million in state funds.

The Chinese American Mutual Aid Association's Pan Asian Community Center is set to receive an additional \$6 million in funding, thanks to the advocacy of the Asian American Caucus. Funds will be administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through the Rebuild Illinois construction program to help the Pan Asian



Community Center make necessary improvements to their facility.

To expand access to culturally competent care for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, the caucus supported legislation to expand Medicaid-like benefits to more Illinoisans than ever before. House Bill 4343 expands Medicaid-like benefits to individuals ages 42-54, regardless of immigration status, so long as they would otherwise be eligible. The legislation also expands Medicaid coverage to include acupuncture and other medical services that were previously excluded.

Indian Americans are the largest Asian American and Pacific

Islander ethnic group in Illinois, with more than 270,000 calling our state home. State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago), co-chair of the Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus, passed House Bill 4070 to create the Indian American Advisory Council. The

council will recommend policy on issues facing the Indian American community in Illinois and will consist of 21 members with experience in higher education, business, trade, law, social services, immigrant and refugee services, community development or health care.

Members of the Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus helped to secure the resources their communities need for an equitable recovery. Looking forward to next year, the caucus stands ready to continue their advocacy.





Senate Women's Caucus: Strengthening health care access and protections for survivors

This year, members of the Senate Women's Caucus got to work and passed legislation to honor the service of women veterans, expand maternal health care and protect survivors of domestic violence.

To streamline the detection process and determine hereditary risks for breast and ovarian cancers for women in Illinois, State Senator Rachelle Crowe (D-Glen Carbon) advanced legislation to require insurance companies to cover the cost of genetic testing kits.

According to the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, the genes most commonly affected in hereditary breast and ovarian cancer are the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. About 3% of breast cancers, approximately 7,500 women per year, and 10% of ovarian cancers, an estimated 2,000 women per year, result from inherited mutations.

To support the wellbeing of expecting mothers and their children, Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) sponsored legislation to expand insurance coverage to prenatal vitamins. Prenatal

vitamins are essential to preventing avoidable health concerns in unborn children and pregnant women. House Bill 4338 requires insurers who cover prescription drugs to also cover prenatal vitamins when prescribed by a doctor.

Villanueva also fought to expand access to breastfeeding supplies – which was included in the new tax relief package to assist Illinois families.

The package includes a sales tax exemption for breast pumps and other supplies used to collect



and maintain a mother's milk supply. Earlier this session, Senator Villanueva passed the stand-alone legislation for the exemption.

Mothers use pumps and related breastfeeding supplies to generate and store breast milk for a variety of reasons. However, financial barriers can inhibit a mother's access to these necessities and prevent her from providing the best care she can to her child. With the help of Parity for Pumps, a coalition working to remove any restrictions to breastfeeding, Illinois aligns its practices with those of eight other states who already provide such exemptions.

Further, House Joint Resolution 64, introduced by Senator Ann Gillespie (D-Arlington Heights),

declares June 12, 2022 as Women's Veterans Day in Illinois. June 12 marks the anniversary of the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, which formally allowed women to serve as regular members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Women have served in the military in an official capacity since the formation of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in 1901. However, they have served informally since the



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

inception of our nation's military during the American Revolution. The resolution was adopted by both chambers to honor the more than 50,000 women veteran in Illinois and their service to our nation.

In this year's state budget, members of the Senate Women's Caucus supported an expansion of funding for survivors of domestic violence. Thanks to their advocacy, an additional \$50 million was allocated to preventative and support services

As the Women's Caucus looks forward to the next year, they have already begun discussing new policies and initiatives that would support women, families and communities throughout Illinois.





Communications Staff

102nd General Assembly - Spring 2022





SENATE IN REVIEW

FEATURED STORIES

DON HARMON, SENATE PRESIDENT

Communications Department • www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







Senator Fine prioritizes suicide prevention with new 9-8-8 hotline



Published: January 11, 2022

SPRINGFIELD – Individuals in crisis nationwide will soon be able to utilize a 9-8-8 universal hotline number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which would be funded and maintained in Illinois under legislation sponsored by State Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview).

“A fully functioning and well-funded crisis hotline is critical to prevent suicides nationwide,” Senator Fine said. “Mental health is as important as physical health, and 9-8-8 will soon become a household number that is as easily

remembered in times of crisis as 9-1-1.”

Senator Fine’s measure would create the Statewide 9-8-8 Trust Fund in the State Treasury, which would be used by the Department of Human Services to establish and maintain a statewide 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis system.

“The 9-8-8 Lifeline will prioritize suicide prevention by increasing access to behavioral and mental health resources and treatments,” Senator Fine said. “This legislation

will provide people with the support they need and save lives.”

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s 9-8-8 number will be live across the nation by July 2022, pursuant to the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020. However, people in crisis should continue to call the Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) until then.

SB 2945 passed the Behavioral and Mental Health Committee on Tuesday and now goes to the full Senate.



Senate Democrats pass legislation to protect all communities

Published: April 14, 2022



SPRINGFIELD – Receiving strong bipartisan support for many of its proposals, the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus passed over a dozen public safety measures and allocated more than \$500 million toward the efforts during the spring legislative session, pegged as their Protecting All Communities plan.

“Everyone in every ZIP code should feel comfortable being able to walk down the street,” said State Senator Robert Peters (D-Chicago). “No matter where

you are, or who you are or where you live you should deserve to feel comfortable and safe.”

Peters is a strong advocate of finding the root cause of rising crime rates. The Crime Reduction Task Force – which will be created under his House Bill 4736 – will be made up of a bipartisan group of legislators, law enforcement and legal and criminal justice professionals, as well as crime victims and witnesses. The task force will develop a plan of action to

reduce crime across the state and report its findings to the General Assembly and the governor.

His measure also creates a Co-Responder Pilot Program in East St. Louis, Peoria, Springfield and Waukegan. The program’s primary focus will be to provide crisis intervention, case management, advocacy and ongoing emotional support to victims of all crimes, particularly to victims of crimes that cause a high level of trauma.

One of the crimes seeing an



uptick in cases in recent years is carjackings. Senators passed legislation to crack down on the rise and provide victims with support.

State Senator Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) championed House Bill 3772, which will provide protections for victims of carjackings who receive red light or speed camera violations after their vehicle has been hijacked. Under the measure, if a person receives a citation due to one of these camera violations, the court or hearing officer will be able to consider whether the vehicle was hijacked before the violation occurred or the victim not under the control of or possession of the vehicle at the time of violation.

HB 3772 also allows victims to receive reimbursement for towing and storage fees under the Crime Victims Compensation Act.

Law enforcement officers need additional tools and support to be able to find tangible solutions to reduce carjackings, State Senator Robert Martwick (D-Chicago) believes. That led him to sponsor House Bill 3699, which expands the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Act to include vehicle hijackings.

Under the legislation, the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council—made up of representatives from the insurance industry, state’s attorneys and law enforcement—will be tasked with working together to reduce carjackings.

The Council currently provides grant funding to three task forces—comprised of law enforcement and state’s attorneys—which investigate and prosecute motor vehicle threat and similar crimes.

In addition, Martwick’s bill will provide law enforcement with additional resources to coordinate efforts to put a stop to carjackings.

“I am pleased that the General Assembly has taken this step to equip our law enforcement officers with additional ways to protect our communities,” Martwick said. “This measure is a very practical step we can take to address the issue of carjacking and put us one step closer toward addressing this critical public safety issue across our state.”

Under the Illinois Senate Democrats’ Protecting All Communities plan, a Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Fund will be created through House Bill 3863 to support departments through the hiring and training process and help retention strategies. The budget included \$10,000,000 for this purpose.

“Our law enforcement officers protect and save lives by enforcing our laws and being present in the community,” said State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood). “Ensuring they have the support they need to do their jobs will make for a safer community for all.”

Further, State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western

Springs) passed a measure to curb organized retail crime and hold ringleaders accountable. House Bill 1091 defines organized retail crime as a criminal charge and gives prosecutors additional resources to charge crime ringleaders. Specifically, the measure codifies organized retail crime as the theft of retail merchandise with the intent to sell.

“The measure targets individuals stealing for profit, not anyone engaging in petty shoplifting,” Glowiak Hilton said. “Deterring retail crime starts with supporting law enforcement, holding criminals responsible and making it tougher to resell stolen goods.”

The Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus also passed legislation to address organized retail crime, ghost guns, expressway crimes, fentanyl deaths and more. The FY 23 Budget—found within House Bill 900—also allocated more than \$500 million for public safety. For a full list of Protecting All Communities bills passed by the Senate, visit IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com/PublicSafety.



Legislators introduce initiatives to address teacher shortage in Illinois

Published: February 24, 2021



SPRINGFIELD — As school districts around the state continue struggling to fill teaching positions, Senate Democrats hosted a press conference in Springfield on Thursday announcing a number of legislative measures that would help address the void.

“Illinois is facing an overall teaching shortage and an immediate staffing shortage in schools,” State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood) said. “Over the past two years, we’ve seen school districts take an all-hands-on-deck approach and our schools can no longer operate under that system.

We need to take steps toward alleviating the teacher shortage through legislative action.”

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, there are more than 4,000 unfilled positions in schools. In an attempt to address the vacancies and increase the substitute teacher pool, Loughran Cappel introduced a plan – Senate Bill 3915 – that would waive the application fee for short-term substitute teaching licensees when the governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency.

“Staffing is one of the most

important, if not the most important, challenges that our schools are facing during this awful pandemic,” Loughran Cappel said. “We have a responsibility to do all we can to ensure our students have access to teachers, and it’s my goal to get them there.”

Additionally, State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago) introduced legislation – Senate Bill 3988 – to lower the age requirement for teacher assistants from 19 to 18 for those who work in pre-K to eighth grade classrooms.

“Not only will this measure give new graduates interested in careers



in education an opportunity to do so even quicker, it will also help address the need for teachers and teacher assistants,” Pacione-Zayas said. “The ongoing teacher shortage is hurting students, especially those who might need individualized support, so allowing more interested candidates to apply is more important than ever.”

State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) also brought forth legislation – Senate Bill 3907 – to allow short-term substitute teachers to teach up to 15 consecutive days instead of five for any one licensed teacher under contract in a school district. Additionally, if a teacher is absent for longer than six days, a school district would be able to hire a person holding

a short-term teaching license if it is during a period of time in which the governor has declared a public health emergency.

“The past couple of years has taken a great toll on our teachers and students,” Turner said. “I am confident that Senate Bill 3907 will help keep kids in the classroom and provide an extra level of support for our school districts.”

Lastly, State Senator Robert Martwick (D-Chicago) introduced a measure to address Illinois’ ever-growing teacher shortage by bringing back retired educators.

Senate Bill 3465 would allow retired Chicago Public School teachers to return to work without it affecting their pensions. Schools would be able to submit

documentation with their regional superintendent to request help from retired educators in a “subject shortage area”.

“Although our students have returned to in-person learning, we will not make up for pandemic learning loss without teachers in classrooms to guide and support them,” Martwick said. “I am pleased that we are one step closer to removing the barriers that prevent retired professional educators from returning to schools during this epic shortage.”

Senators Loughran Cappel, Martwick, Turner, Pacione-Zayas, Belt, Harris and Joyce will continue to work on these initiatives during the legislative spring session to be considered by the Illinois Senate.





Published: January 21, 2022



Villivalam champions legislation to reverse COVID-19 job losses

CHICAGO – To bring working people back into the job market, State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) is leading an initiative to offer businesses a tax credit to hire employees who lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Over one and a half million people across Illinois have filed for unemployment since the start of the pandemic,” Villivalam said. “We must do right by working people and our small business community by incentivizing growth during this difficult time.”

SB 2490 offers small- and medium-sized businesses an income tax credit for hiring full-time employees who were previously unemployed due to the pandemic. Businesses with 100-500 employees would receive a credit of \$2,500 per qualified hire, and businesses with under 100 employees would receive a credit of \$5,000 per qualified hire.

An additional credit of \$500 may be added if the new hire or business is from a Disproportionately Impacted Area. The legislation is

an initiative of the Small Business Advocacy Council.

“Our plan supports both job creators and working people,” Villivalam said. “Reversing job losses brought on by the pandemic must be a top priority for an equitable recovery.”

SB 2490 awaits consideration in the Senate Revenue Committee.



Hunter seeks an end to hair discrimination in the workplace

SPRINGFIELD – A 2019 Dove study found that African American women face the highest rates of hair discrimination and are more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair. State Senator Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) introduced legislation to end that practice in Illinois.

“No one should have to miss out on a job opportunity or miss a school graduation because of the hair that grows naturally out of their head,” Hunter said. “It’s 2022. As a nation, we should be past this petty discrimination.”

Senate Bill 3616 – also known as the Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act – amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to provide that the term “race” includes traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks and twists.

The Dove study also uncovered that 80% of African American women felt they needed to switch their hairstyle to align with more conservative standards in order to fit in at work.

Hair discrimination occurs not only in the workplace, but in schools across the country, as well. Last year, the Jett Hawkins Act was passed in response to a four-year old boy in Chicago was told his braids violated the private school’s



Published: February 10, 2022

dress code.

“Black people should have the right to be expressive and creative with their hair, and not worry about being ‘unprofessional’ or violating a conduct because of it,” Hunter said. “If it is wrong to judge by the color of one’s skin and not the content of their character, isn’t it also wrong to judge by the way one styles their hair?”

The Dove study also noted a bias against Black women with natural hairstyles in job recruitment. Black women with natural hairstyles were perceived to be less professional,

less competent and less likely to be recommended for a job interview than Black women with straightened hairstyles and white women with either curly or straight hairstyles.

Black women with natural hairstyles received more negative evaluations when they applied for a job in an industry with strong dress norms.

The CROWN Act passed out of the Human Rights Committee Thursday and awaits further consideration before the full Senate.



INTERESTING NEW LAWS

FOR

2022

1

1. TRANSPARENCY IN PRESCRIPTION PRICES

■ SB 1682 - BENNETT

You have a right to know your options when picking up a prescription – pharmacies are now required to post a notice informing customers they can request the retail price of brand name or generic prescription drugs.



2. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

■ HB 0576/SB 1577 - MARTWICK

Students endure intense stress induced by tests, homework and extracurricular activities throughout the school year, which is why students in Illinois now have up to five excused absences to prioritize their mental health.



2



3

3.

MADE IN AMERICA

■ HB 0605 - STADELMAN

Supporting our local manufacturers is essential – there is no reason to purchase our state or nation's flag from other countries. State agencies and institutions now may only purchase Illinois and American flags made right here in the U.S.A.



4.

WEAR YOUR DO

■ SB 0817 - SIMMONS

Children should not be singled out for sporting their natural hair. The Jett Hawkins Act prohibits discrimination against natural and ethnic hairstyles – including locs, braids, twists and afros.



5

5.

HAYLI'S LAW

■ SB 0119 - JOYCE

One of the many ways kids can learn responsibility is through lemonade stands. These and other means of nonalcoholic sale operated by a person under the age of 16 can no longer be regulated or shut down by public health authorities.

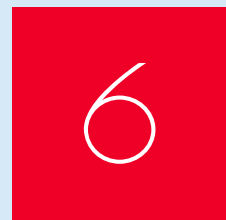


6.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

■ HB 3922 - LIGHTFORD

Illinois joins four other states in recognizing June 19 as an official holiday celebrating the end of slavery in the U.S., a day long celebrated by many in the Black community.





7

7.

KEEPING OUR FURRY FRIENDS SAFE

■ HB 0168 - HOLMES

An animal abuser has no place in a home with animals. People who have a record of felony offense like torture or animal fighting cannot own or live with animals.



8.

FREE FROM FEES

■ HB 0122 - LOUGHRAN CAPPEL

Families have enough to worry about when a loved one passes. Illinois is ending early termination fees on utility contracts for deceased residents.

8



9.

REDUCING REGISTRATION COSTS

■ SB 0058 - MUNOZ

Traveling by automobile can be expensive, but Illinois is lowering the registration fee for trailers weighing less than 3,000 lbs. from \$118 to \$36.



9

10.

TEST SCORES CLOSE DOORS

■ HB 0226 - BELT

To increase enrollment among students with diverse backgrounds, Illinois public universities will make admissions decisions regardless of students' ACT/SAT scores. Students can now choose whether to submit a standardized test score when applying to Illinois public institutions.

10





SENATE IN REVIEW

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DON HARMON, SENATE PRESIDENT

Communications Department • www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







Don Harmon

Illinois Senate President | 39th Senate District

Senate President Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) and the Senate Democrats began their condensed spring 2022 legislative session facing down two unexpected situations: one very good and one very bad.

As the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic reached a close, the state's economy was, surprisingly, booming. Despite dire expectations, unemployment was down and revenues were up, painting a relatively rosy picture for budget negotiations.

Session began, however, during the peak of the Omicron wave that swept the country, causing record-high COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

After just one in-person session day, the Senate once again relied on the framework put in place in 2021 to allow for committees to meet remotely. Thanks to President Harmon's embrace of technology, committee work continued, and people enjoyed an unprecedented level of transparency, as they were once again able to participate in committee hearings from the safety of their own homes.

As Omicron eased, Senate Democrats returned to the Capitol after hearing their high hopes for the budget confirmed in Gov. JB Pritzker's budget address.

Expecting a surplus, Senate Democrats knew they wanted to continue their practice of responsible budgeting.

The budget they passed paid off

\$1.2 billion in state debt, added \$1 billion to the rainy day fund and paid an unprecedented extra \$500 million into the state's pension system.

It increased funding for P-12 education, higher education and human services.

To build on the hard work Senate Democrats have done over the past two years on criminal justice reform, this budget included more than \$500 million for public safety, including body cameras for officers, new expressway cameras, mental health and child care for first responders, and enough funds to recruit 300 new Illinois State Police cadets.

After taking care of those priorities, Senate Democrats still found themselves with revenue left over.

With inflation hitting the state hard, especially at grocery stores and gas pumps, they decided to put that money back into the pockets of

hard working Illinoisans.

The budget package includes nearly \$2 billion in tax relief. More than 95% of Illinoisans will receive a direct check: \$50 for individuals and \$100 for dependents, up to three. The state grocery tax is suspended for a year, and the motor fuel tax is frozen for six months, providing millions in savings. Homeowners can receive up to \$300 in a property tax rebate. And to help with back-to-school shopping, Senate Democrats created a tax free holiday on school supplies and clothing from Aug. 5-14.

To provide relief to those who need it the most, Senate Democrats permanently expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit.

By practicing strength through stability, Senate Democrats set Illinois up to weather any future storms while giving back to the resilient citizens who carried Illinois through the past two difficult years.





Kimberly A. Lightford

Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 4th Senate District

Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) spent the spring legislative session building upon the successes of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' four pillar agenda – particularly the Education and Workforce Development Pillar, better known as the Education and Workforce Equity Act.

To better serve the health and needs of disadvantaged residents, Lightford championed House Bill 5549. The measure amends the African American HIV/AIDS Response Act by striking the repeal date and specifying that for every \$3 million of available funding, the Illinois Department of Public Health must award a community-based organization a grant to create a Center of Excellence Biomedical Resource Hub for HIV/AIDS.

Lightford fought for more funding for early childhood programs and opportunities that prioritize the state's young students. She worked

diligently to allocate additional money for Department of Human Services programs such as Early Intervention, Parents Too Soon and Healthy Families. Further, to better serve our students' success, she increased the state's early childhood education appropriation by more than ten percent and expanded our evidence-based funding model for K-12 students.

When students struggle with reading comprehension, they often struggle in other areas of education. To address this issue, Lightford led a measure to increase students' literacy and reading comprehension. Senate Bill 3900 would create the Right to Read Act in the School Code to help students achieve greater levels of literacy and reading comprehension at an early age through evidence-based literacy instruction. She believes that children with strong reading abilities oftentimes have a more confident approach to their education, and

it's critical for educators to focus on developing a child's literacy development during the early stages.

Lightford has seen the struggles grandparents face when they're tasked with raising their grandchildren. She sponsored Senate Bill 3808 to create the Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren Task Force. The task force would be responsible for reviewing benefits and other available support services provided to grandparents through the Department of Children and Family Services.

Aside from leading legislation, Lightford also announced a \$17 million grant to create the first-ever state-funded Freedom Schools network. Because of the monumental education package to fight against systemic racism in Illinois – which was led by Lightford – the Phillip Jackson Freedom School Grant was created to ensure Black students receive quality education across the state. The grant will offer students a wide range of academic and social learning opportunities while providing quality teaching experiences, a progressive school climate and an equitable curriculum.

To close out the 2022 spring legislative session, Lightford continued her effort to enhance the Illinois Black Caucus' agenda. She will spend the summer months working to ensure all children receive a quality education, increase reading literacy, and help the strong grandparents who raise their grandchildren as their own.





Bill Cunningham

President Pro Tempore | Assistant Majority Leader | 18th Senate District

During this legislative session, Senate President Pro Tempore Bill Cunningham – a Democrat who represents portions of Chicago and the southwest suburbs – continued his efforts to improve public safety, push for tax relief for families and bring protections to Illinois workers.

Correctional officers and deputies got a major victory under legislation championed by Senator Cunningham. House Bill 4667 modernizes Illinois law to include correctional officers and deputy sheriffs as qualified law enforcement officers. The change would give those individuals certain rights and protections under federal law, with the most notable change being the right to carry a firearm while off duty. The change also includes retired correctional officers. The measure has full support from the Illinois Sheriffs Association and the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council.

Cunningham was a key player in the passage of important legislation to help the families of fallen first responders. House Bill 4161 aims to increase donations to the 100 Club of Illinois by making a convenient donation option on individual state income tax returns. The 100 Club of Illinois is a nonprofit that provides resources, financial support, training and moral support to both the families of first responders killed in the line of duty and active duty first responders. All sworn

federal, state, county and local first responders stationed in Illinois are included.

Cunningham also supported the FY 23 budget and tax relief plan to offer \$1.83 billion in relief to working families. An average family of four could receive \$600 in direct relief. By putting money back in people's pockets with a direct payment, our state is making an effort to support families with inflation-related burdens, create opportunity and set money aside for a rainy day.

After hearing calls from concerned residents about the rise of carjacking in the community, Cunningham spearheaded efforts to pass meaningful anti-carjacking legislation. House Bill 3699 will allow Metropolitan Enforcement Groups, or cooperatives of law enforcement, to work together to target carjacking. Further, it will allow the Metropolitan

Enforcement Groups to receive state grants to assist in enforcement and provide additional resources to law enforcement to target and capture these offenders.

As session ends, Cunningham looks forward to getting back to the 18th district to host community events and talk with small business owners and working people alike. This legislative session has shown his commitment to making the community safe and providing real relief to working families.





Emil Jones, III

Deputy Majority Leader | Licensed Activities chair | 14th Senate District

State Senator Emil Jones III (D-Chicago) continued fighting for constituents and working hard to improve the health and well-being of the people of Illinois throughout the legislative session.

Continuing to push for better health practices in businesses in an effort to protect customers, Jones passed legislation that helps to curb the chance of an allergic reaction when visiting restaurants and hospitals. House Bill 209 will prohibit food service establishments, EMS personnel and health care facility personnel from using latex gloves when handling and preparing food. Many health care workers are at risk of developing an allergic reaction due to the common use of latex gloves. Around 10% of the seven million health care workers in the country have become sensitized to latex and this legislation works to curb these allergen buildups.

Jones also pushed for more

access to health care, fighting for people's right to be covered for certain medical exams and practices. House Bill 5318 will require private insurers to provide all qualifying male policyholders with an annual prostate cancer screening upon the recommendation of a physician. Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer in men, and its risk increases with age.

Along with pushing for more personal health practices, Jones also moved legislation aimed at creating uniform punishments when it comes to the health and well-being of those on the roads. House Bill 5328 will make the offense of speeding in a park zone the same as that of speeding in a school zone. Additionally, it clarifies that school zone speed limits apply to local, county and state roadways.

Aside from his legislative accomplishments, Jones also worked to secure funding for local businesses

throughout the community to spur job growth and help businesses continue to recover. Businesses in the 14th District received over \$1 million in Back to Business grants thanks to Jones' support. In the district he represents, 61 businesses were awarded grants to help them cover the costs of safely staying open in these unpredictable times, from barber shops to hotels and more.

Noticing the need for aid for public libraries, Jones also worked to secure money through the state's library grant program. In Jones' district, the Blue Island Public Library received \$20,500 in grants toward pandemic recovery. Grants were awarded to include workforce development for projects focused on providing essential resources so job seekers can access employment services and training to build the necessary skills to become job ready.

In addition to his continued work to aid and assist the community, Jones continued his commitment to fighting for equity and diversity in the workplace. As a member of the Illinois Black Caucus he continues to help advance the caucus' agenda for diversity and equality, and works each day to erase the legacy of racism from Illinois' laws and policies.

In the months to come, Jones plans to meet with the community to hear their needs and discuss ways he can help make a change in their lives when he returns to Springfield.





Laura M. Murphy

Deputy Majority Leader | Executive Appointments chair | 28th Senate District

State Senator Laura Murphy (D-Des Plaines) experienced firsthand the challenges of supporting a college student during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students pursuing higher education faced unprecedented challenges because of the pandemic, all while the cost of their tuition increased.

To address this issue, Senator Murphy aimed to provide middle-class families some financial relief. This session, she introduced Senate Bill 1145, which would give tax credits of up to \$1,000 for each student attending an Illinois university. She also supported the unprecedented investment in MAP grants for Illinois students.

In addition to supporting Illinois students, Senator Murphy introduced legislation to address issues impacting many communities in Illinois. Working with musical therapists in her community, Senator Murphy introduced Senate Bill 2243, which gave musical therapists formal accreditation as licensed therapists. Her bill encourages children suffering from traumatic brain injuries, seniors, stroke survivors and veterans experiencing PTSD to try this form of therapy and get relief for these conditions.

Her work in the legislature this session will also protect renters from having their vehicles towed with little notice. While property owners were required by law to give residents a printed, physical notice, renters in Senator Murphy's own community still had their cars towed without their knowledge because they were

out of town and could not collect the physical notice. Her bill, Senate Bill 3629, will require property owners to provide notice via a telephone call, text message, or email at least three hours before the vehicle is towed, and ensure that the vehicle owner has received the notice. This will help renters avoid their cars being towed without their knowledge, and save them the costly inconvenience of getting their car back.

Senator Murphy also advocated for greater public safety measures. Expanding on a bill to finance expressway cameras to assist law enforcement in solving crimes that happen on expressways, Murphy introduced HB 4481, which allows many counties to apply for expressway cameras, not just Cook County. Senator Murphy knows Illinoisians across the state are concerned with rising rates of crime, and she is hopeful that this initiative will assist law enforcement across the state solve and prevent crimes, giving residents more peace

of mind.

The Senator celebrated the role of Irish-American immigrants and their descendants in Illinois by supporting House Bill 4811, which adds to the existing statute establishing April 18 as Republic of Ireland Day by officially designating official events being held in the honor of the day. Given the immense contributions Irish-American immigrants and their descendants have made to the state, Murphy wanted to celebrate their culture by formally recognizing Republic of Ireland Day through this bill, and looks forward to celebrating this community on April 18.

With this and her other measures this session, Senator Murphy is hopeful that the investment in Illinois students and their education will lead them to greater opportunities for future success, and let them know their state supports them pursuing their dreams here in Illinois.





Jacqueline Y. Collins

Assistant Majority Leader | 16th Senate District

This spring session, Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins (D-Chicago) sponsored critical legislation aimed at confronting public safety concerns presented by the proliferation of guns and the influx of violent incidents throughout the state. It has long been her mission to tackle disingenuous initiatives that fail to effectively support Illinois residents facing systemic disenfranchisement, and this year she did that through meaningful measures to support these groups while also bringing equity to Illinois' health care, economic and social systems.

After hearing the tragic story of Mychal Moultry, a four-year-old boy who was fatally shot in his home while getting his hair done, Collins was moved to help families going through such difficult times. She sponsored House Bill 2985, creating the Funeral and Burial Assistance Act to provide relief to families who

lost children to gun violence. Collins also passed House Bill 4383, which will help the state take unserialized firearms off the streets.

In addition to addressing crime, Senator Collins prioritized the protection and support of victims of violent attacks with House Bill 4645. This measure creates the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Chicago Women Act to investigate institutional contributors to the dangers facing women. With this vital information, legislators can continue to adopt measures that promote safe spaces for at-risk populations in Illinois.

Collins championed House Bill 4645 to provide loan repayments and scholarships for specified health care professionals, particularly in medically underserved areas. This aims to bring diversity to these areas, ensuring more competent care for residents in need of medical services. She also accomplished

this goal by introducing Senate Bill 3017, which expands the reach of Illinois' Underserved Physician Workforce Act. Additionally, Collins helped Illinois respond to the high proportions of new HIV diagnoses among Black people by supporting House Bill 5549, which invests in the creation of community-based supportive services, workforce development and preventative care to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Keeping up with her commitment to consumer protection, Collins sponsored Senate Bill 1099, creating the Consumer Legal Funding Act to improve litigation financing standards. This initiative provides consumers with built-in safety measures that further protect them from predatory business practices.

Her protection of vulnerable populations is also highlighted by Senate Bill 1633, a bill that helps long-term care facilities maintain the highest level of care by outlining the rights of patients and mandating notice of fair grievance procedures. Along with this action, Collins carried House Bill 4392 in the Senate, which prohibits the denial of a felony conviction expungement or sealing due to a drug test that shows positive for the presence of cannabis.

Looking forward to more opportunities to improve the lives of the people she represents, Collins returns to Chicago to continue her advocacy in the 16th district and beyond.





Linda Holmes

Assistant Majority Leader | Labor chair | 42nd Senate District

After the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the 2020 and 2021 legislative sessions, Assistant Majority Leader Linda Holmes was enthusiastic about returning to a more normal session pace.

Holmes got to work right away, focusing on public safety, law enforcement and the criminal justice system. She also fought to provide tax relief for working families and business assistance for those who faced immense financial strain during the pandemic.

Holmes was a steadfast supporter of providing law enforcement with more tools and resources. The items she fought for included allocating funds to bring forth the largest class of cadets in state history, recruitment and retention tools, more training opportunities and funding to address mental health concerns.

After the state's major efforts to eliminate the bill backlog and boost the pension system, it was also time to pay something back to Illinoisans, and the budget and tax relief plan Holmes supported establishes the framework to provide that and invest in further growth and recovery.

As families continue to face financial burdens brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, she fought tirelessly to bring them relief. Senate Bill 157 includes direct relief for 95% of Illinois taxpayers through relief checks and tax breaks. Among the items Holmes

specifically fought for within the tax relief plan was a tax break of up to \$500 for teachers who spend their own money for classroom supplies.

Alongside the budget were several pieces of legislation on issue areas she is frequently engaged in. As an advocate for women's health, Holmes passed House Bill 5254, which requires insurance providers to cover hormone therapy treatments after a woman has a hysterectomy. This treatment makes up for lost estrogen due to menopause.

Holmes remains a leader in the unemployment working group on unemployment insurance after the Illinois Department of Employment Security saw record-setting unemployment and fraud during the pandemic. They continue to negotiate to resolve the outstanding federal loan owed by the trust fund and reach solvency. Holmes' Senate Bill 2803 appropriates \$2.7 billion

to the Unemployment Trust Fund to bring the debt from \$4.5 billion to \$1.8 billion, saving the state money on interest. The measure also allocates \$898 million to be used to pay off old group health insurance bills, \$230 million to pay off the College Illinois Program and \$300 million in extra pension payments.

Holmes will use the summer months to continue working with her colleagues and stakeholders on ways to keep Illinois on positive financial footing.





Dave Koehler

Assistant Majority Leader | 46th Senate District

State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) has always had a passion for the environment and sustainability, and during the legislative session, he passed a measure to increase renewable energy in Illinois, as well as incentivize the use of electric motorcycles. Senate Bill 3790 establishes the Renewable Energy Component Recycling Task Force, which is responsible for investigating options for recycling, renewable generation components and energy storage devices. The task force will be required to report its findings to the General Assembly by March 1, 2023. This will help to address the projected one million tons of solar panel waste by 2030 in Illinois, and implement strategies to address this excess waste. Koehler also sponsored Senate Bill 2940 to offer a \$1,500 incentive to purchase electric motorcycles, ensuring they are equally incentivized as other electric vehicles in the previously passed 2021 Climate and

Equitable Jobs Act.

Koehler's legislation also expanded opportunities for students across the state. Through Senate Bill 3474, students with disabilities and their families will now be more fully informed of the resources available to them. The legislation requires school districts to provide informational material to the parent or guardian of students with disabilities about the Achieving a Better Life Experience account program, a program aimed at encouraging and assisting individuals and families in saving private funds to support individuals with disabilities. He also advanced House Bill 4089, which requires plant-based lunch options to be offered to students who ask in advance. This will ensure students with religious, health or choice-based dietary needs are able to receive a nutritional school lunch.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping the needs of working families across the state in mind,

Koehler passed significant legislation to give communities a helping hand and keep Illinoisans safe. He stood in strong support of Senate Bill 157, a caucus-wide initiative to put money back in pockets across Illinois and offer tax relief for families who may be struggling. The legislation includes tax credits for 95% of taxpayers, property tax relief, a six-month suspension on state grocery and gas tax increases, a back-to-school sales tax holiday and increased tax credits for teachers. He also strongly backed House Bill 4736, an initiative to establish the Co-Responder Pilot Program in conjunction with the Peoria Police Department, which will offer crisis management and emotional support to victims of crime.

In an effort to protect families suffering from infertility and seeking reproductive treatment, Koehler also championed Senate Bill 4199, the Illinois Fertility Fraud Act. This legislation would allow people to bring action against health care providers, embryologist or any other person who knowingly or intentionally use their own reproductive cells without the patient's informed written consent, establishing the action as criminal sexual assault.

Following the adjournment of the spring legislative session, Koehler is eager to get back to work in the district he represents, speaking with community members on ways to best address their needs and build a bright future for the 46th District.





Antonio Munoz

Assistant Majority Leader | 1st Senate District

During his final year in the General Assembly, Assistant Majority Leader Antonio “Tony” Munoz (D-Chicago) continued his advocacy for veterans and police officers.

Senator Munoz championed a measure that would prohibit a street sideshow that causes traffic to slow or stop on any street or highway. Eisenhower Expressway was shut down in December 2021 with drivers blocking the on- and off-ramps and every lane while a group of people engaged in dangerous stunts, such as doing donuts with their cars and dancing on the expressway. Without House Bill 5439, law enforcement officials could not stop this incident from happening. Munoz knew that situations like these put residents in unnecessary danger, and it is important that law enforcement officials are able to protect people in any situation.

Illinois ranks third in the nation for catalytic converter thefts with an over 300% increase since 2019. To reduce the number of stolen car parts, Munoz spearheaded a measure that would require people to keep record of the sale of catalytic converters. House Bill 107 adds catalytic converters to the definition of recyclable metal, requiring record keeping on the purchase of catalytic converters. It would require the license plate number of the vehicle, photographs or video of the seller, a verified

name and address of the seller, and a signed declaration by the seller stating that the catalytic converter was not stolen. In addition, the measure prohibits a recyclable metal dealer from purchasing a catalytic converter with a value over \$100 with cash.

As a former Chicago police officer, Munoz understands the oath law enforcement officials take when they put on the badge. Munoz supported a proposal to make the week of May 15-21, 2022 Police Appreciation Week in Illinois. Senate Resolution 914 recognizes the dedication and sacrifice of local, state and federal police officers and their service to the state. Additionally, the families of the state’s law enforcement officers deserve to be duly recognized for their endless sacrifices and commitment to keeping the state’s neighborhoods safe and ensuring the general welfare of society.

A veteran himself, one of Munoz’ top priorities has always been the men and women who serve our country. To protect survivors of military sexual violence and hold perpetrators accountable, Munoz sponsored legislation that would strengthen the state’s response to military sexual violence. Senate Bill 257 extends the authority of military protection orders beyond military locations, ensuring survivors receive full protection no matter where they are and that perpetrators can be held accountable for violations. The measure also provides survivors with additional employment protections as they recover.

Senator Munoz has represented the 1st district since 1999. As spring session comes to an end, he reminisces on his time spent in Springfield, holding close countless memories with his colleagues over the years and the positive impacts he has made across Illinois.





Mattie Hunter

Majority Caucus Chair | Revenue chair | 3rd Senate District

Majority Caucus Chair Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) continued her nearly two-decade career in Springfield by championing the Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair Act, which amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to provide that the term “race” includes traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locs and twists.

Furthering her efforts to end discrimination across state systems, Hunter was the Senate sponsor of House Bill 3988, which creates the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Chicago Women Act. The task force will examine and report on the systemic causes behind violence that Chicago women and girls experience.

The report will explore methods for tracking and collecting data on violence against Chicago women

and girls, policies and institutions that impact violence against them, measures necessary to address and reduce violence against them, and ways to help victims and their families and communities.

Another initiative led by Hunter in the Senate—House Bill 4410—creates the Real Estate Valuation Task Force, a response to an unresolved history of federal housing agencies. Both the Federal Home Owners’ Loan Corporation and the Federal Housing Administration have a history of discriminating against Black and Brown people when underwriting real estate loans, and this measure would be a big step in rectifying the many years of systemic harm.

Further, Hunter sponsored Senate Resolution 828 to establish April 1, 2022 as day of remembrance and honor for those who have lost their lives to the COVID-19 pandemic and front-line workers.

Since the fall of 2021, Hunter has hosted monthly vaccination clinics, helping to immunize over 500 people in Chicago’s Southside against COVID-19. Hundreds of food packages are also given out at these events.

Building on efforts to make health care more affordable, Hunter sponsored House Bill 4595, protecting access to low cost “340B” prescription drugs for uninsured and low-income patients by prohibiting pharmacy benefit managers and third party payers from using certain contractual provisions in contracts they enter into with safety-net healthcare providers.

In March, Hunter hosted a public safety town hall with Sheriff Thomas Dart. His office presented valuable information on the increase in carjackings in Chicago neighborhoods and gave residents tips on what to do if they are victims of a vehicular theft. She supported measures to address the issue, including House Bill 3699, which will allow Metropolitan Enforcement Groups, or cooperatives of law enforcement, to work together to target carjacking.

Hunter remains active in her district, hosting an annual health fair and providing excellent service to Southside Chicago residents.





Omar Aquino

Majority Caucus Whip | 2nd Senate District

Working families across Illinois continue to suffer from the immense struggles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation. State Senator Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) understands the urgency of providing relief to those struggling to make ends meet.

Aquino led a plan to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit in Illinois – a policy deemed one of the best anti-poverty measures. When the Senate adjourned the spring session, the EITC was expanded permanently to 20% of the federal credit. The policy – found within Senate Bill 157 – also expands the EITC to taxpayers who have an Individual Identification Number rather than a Social Security number.

Crime incidents are on the rise nationwide, and Illinois is no exception to this trend.

Aquino worked to improve public safety. He supported investing over \$200 million in technology, training and recruitment in law enforcement agencies. He also supported the Community Investment and the Community Involvement plans that channel \$240 million into violence prevention programs to tackle the root causes of social unrest.

Carjackings are among the crimes on the rise across the state. Just in the last year, Chicago saw more than 1,800 of these incidents. Aquino sponsored House Bill 3772, which makes sure that victims of a car hijacking are not liable for traffic

violations, fees, fines and other penalties incurred after the vehicle was stolen. The goal is to protect traumatized victims who suffered a terrible experience from facing consequences of traffic violations committed while they weren't in possession of the vehicle..

Part of Aquino's initial proposal was to also wave towing fees if a person's care was taken to impound following a carjacking. While that part of his plan didn't pass, because of conversations he led, the City of Chicago implemented that ordinance just weeks after the legislative session.

Aquino is also a champion of providing health care coverage to underserved communities. He is part of a coalition to expand Medicaid services to non-citizen residents in Illinois. In the spring session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 4343, which includes medical services for non-

citizens 42 to 54 years old. This is the third Medicaid expansion in the last three years in Illinois. Aquino believes that health care is a human right, and he will continue fighting to provide the means for a healthier, more prosperous Illinois.

During the summer months, Aquino vows to continue his work to make Illinois a more inclusive and diverse place that helps people of all backgrounds thrive.





Napoleon Harris, III

Majority Caucus Whip | Insurance chair | 15th Senate District

State Senator Napoleon Harris, III (D-Harvey) spent the spring legislative session advocating for greater access to health care and more assistance for local businesses.

He championed House Bill 5585, which will require all health insurance plans governed by state law issued on or after Jan. 1, 2024, to provide coverage for access to home health services for the duration of medically necessary care. Home health services will be offered to any individual at their residence to treat significant illnesses or conditions diagnosed by a licensed physician.

Through this legislation, Harris works to ensure all state insurance plans cover home services, and Illinois can play a tremendous role in protecting the most vulnerable among us, including older residents, the chronically ill and individuals with disabilities.

As a previous collegiate athlete, Harris strives to work in the best interest of student-athletes. With House Bill 1175, he created the Student-Athlete Endorsement Rights Act, which allows student-athletes to earn compensation for the use of their names, images, or likenesses – not their athletic ability. The bill permits colleges to prescribe the time and manner in which student-athletes disclose a publicity rights agreement, removes the prohibition on a person conditioning a student-athlete's compensation for attending a particular university and allows a college to arrange for a third party to provide compensation to a student-athlete.

Harris is also an advocate for uplifting Black businesses. To support these businesses around the state, he sponsored House Bill 378. The measure would require state agencies, local governments,

school districts and community colleges to hire Black-owned media services for at least 10% of the total spent for advertising.

To ensure abusive partners do not receive alimony, Harris also passed House Bill 861 out of the Senate. This legislation would create the Domestic Violence Maintenance Task Force. The task force would review divorce cases involving domestic violence and maintenance awards, also known as alimony. The task force would issue evidence-based recommendations for improvements to court procedures regarding alimony when a spouse has been convicted of domestic battery.

As the ongoing teacher shortage persists, Harris also took the lead on a measure to allow retired teachers to return to the classroom for a longer period of time. Senate Bill 3201 would allow retired teachers to return to the classroom for 150 days or 750 paid hours. Currently, retired teachers are only allowed back in the classroom 120 days per year.

Harris was also proud to support the Fiscal Year 23 budget, which brings forth stability and safety for working families through a \$1.8 billion tax relief plan.

Harris will spend the summer months continuing to fight for the state's most vulnerable populations.





Michael E. Hastings

Majority Caucus Whip | Energy and Public Utilities chair | 19th Senate District

Senate Energy Committee Chair Michael E. Hastings (D-Frankfort) helped negotiate groundbreaking legislation last fall to spark Illinois' energy sector and preserve and create thousands of good-paying jobs.

This new law will make Illinois a national leader in reducing carbon emissions and fighting climate change. The law – known as the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act – is projected to preserve nearly 28,000 direct and indirect jobs and have a \$149 million impact on the local economy.

To assist and provide financial assistance to all Illinoisans, Hastings championed a bipartisan relief package – found within Senate Bill 157 – that includes a state sales tax reduction on clothing, shoes and school supplies for 10 days in August to give consumers an economic boost as they go back-to-school shopping.

Hastings' plan also includes property tax relief checks of up to \$300 and relief checks valued at \$50 per person and \$100 per child to state taxpayers, and provides educators with a tax credit of up to \$500 for supplies bought for their classrooms. It also includes an Organ Donation Tax Credit for employers, a sales tax exemption for breast pumps and other breast pump supplies, a freeze on the state's sales tax on groceries for a year and a halt to a planned gas tax increase.

During Hastings' time in the

Senate, Illinois has received multiple credit rating upgrades, including Moody's Investors Service, S&P and Fitch. Illinois has also paid back most of its bill backlog and has been paying its bills in about 15 business days since July 1, 2021 – all thanks to Hastings' support.

A veteran himself, Hastings prioritizes providing aid to families who have already made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. This session he passed Senate Bill 3762 to create greater access to the MIA/POW Scholarship for children of veterans.

Hastings also created the First Responders Mental Health Grant Program to expand access to behavioral health services to first responders, law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency medical services personnel and public safety telecommunicators.

He also joined Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart to help outline

a plan to create a 24/7 recovery hotline to help law enforcement quickly track stolen vehicles as the rise of carjackings continues.

Hastings is the sponsor of Senate Bill 4205, which would allow law enforcement to obtain this information when a vehicle has been carjacked or is being used in other violent crimes. Law enforcement would be able to contact auto manufacturers around the clock to ping where the car is located – allowing police to find the perpetrator and arrest them before they get away. Hastings looks forward to working on this legislation and continuing negotiations this summer.





Julie A. Morrison

Majority Caucus Whip | Health chair | 29th Senate District

State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) has fought year-round to protect the safety and lives of the young, vulnerable children within the care of the Department of Children and Family Services since first entering the General Assembly – and this year was no different.

Morrison passed a number of bills to prioritize youth in care, including Senate Bill 3853, which will provide families who receive Extended Family Support services from DCFS with additional resources through a three-year pilot program.

Additionally, Morrison's House Bill 5418 will give children access to intervention and counseling services within the first 24 hours after removal from a home and require the DCFS division of child protection to assess a child's wellbeing each month. Further, she passed House Bill 4304, which will require the department to conduct

an exit interview for every child, age five and over, who leaves foster care within five days of removal.

Morrison also continuously works to ensure Illinoisans with developmental disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else.

Drivers with autism or other disabilities that impede effective communication would have the peace of mind that an officer would recognize their condition during a traffic stop, thanks to a measure sponsored by Morrison.

Morrison's House Bill 4825 would create the opportunity for drivers to disclose a medical condition or disability that could impede effective communication with a police officer.

Meanwhile, Senate Bill 829 will allow voters with a print disability to receive and mark their ballot electronically on an assistive device. It will be printed, sealed

and signed before being returned through the mail.

As chair of the Senate Health Committee, Morrison sees the health struggles plaguing families across the state.

Under Morrison's Senate Bill 2969, insurance plans would be required to include coverage for continuous glucose monitors, which are regularly used to help people manage their diabetes through a wearable device rather than pricking their finger. Any person with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes who requires insulin would be provided coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2024.

Morrison is a member of the Appropriations Committee and was actively involved in budget negotiations to push for greater funding to support law enforcement. She negotiated funding for the Illinois State Police to obtain ballistics testing equipment, which received a \$4 million allocation.

She also passed House Bill 3863, which will provide grants to law enforcement agencies for hiring and retention of officers. Funds could also be used for mental health care for officers, safety equipment and training, or improvements in jails.

Senator Morrison passed a number of other pieces of legislation – from limiting single-use plastics in recreational areas to making local government more efficient.





Christopher Belt

Education chair | 57th Senate District

During his fourth year in the General Assembly, State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea) was a strong voice for equal and equitable education, employment and economic opportunity for the residents of the 57th District and throughout Illinois. He sponsored legislation that would help recruit more volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel, expand the donor registry, protect students under a threat and ban incinerating toxic chemicals.

To thank those who give back to their communities, Belt sponsored a measure to provide a \$500 income tax credit for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel when they served at least nine months in a volunteer capacity. The shortage of volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel has created a public safety crisis statewide. Senate Bill 3027 gives back to those who protect us in a time of crisis.

As chair of the Senate Education Committee and a former school board member, Belt understands the struggles schools face when it comes to addressing emergency situations. Belt was the Senate sponsor of House Bill 4994, a measure that improves student safety by ensuring their local school board's threat assessment procedures are filed with local law enforcement agencies. Many school districts already have some type of procedure in place. Putting specifics into law ensures all local

school boards are on the same page when an unexpected threat occurs.

Belt also sponsored House Bill 4818, which aims to protect the health of residents in the Metro East and across Illinois by banning the burning of toxic synthetic chemicals. Under this measure, the Veolia Environmental Services waste incinerator in Sauget will be prohibited from incinerating firefighting foams, a product that often contains PFAS chemicals, which have been known to cause cancer. Belt introduced this measure as the risk PFAS chemicals pose to people and the environment has become more prevalent.

Belt knows firsthand the lifesaving impact organ donors can have on someone's life. After living on dialysis for a year, Belt received a kidney transplant in January 2010. This year, he championed House Bill 4696, a measure that will give people another option to

become organ donors. The bill will allow the Department of Natural Resources to offer online hunting license holders the opportunity to be redirected to the First Person Consent Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. In 2020, there were seven million Illinoisans registered as organ donors. More than 4,700 Illinois residents are waiting for an organ or tissue donation.

Belt understands the struggles students and educational professionals face on a daily basis. He plans to spend the summer months continuing to advocate for the needs of the residents of the district he represents.





Scott M. Bennett

Higher Education chair | 52nd Senate District

State Senator Scott Bennett (D-Champaign) has been a steadfast advocate for college affordability in Illinois since first joining the General Assembly – and his fight to ease the financial burden of higher education continued again during the 2022 legislative session.

Bennett – who serves as chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee – championed legislation to reduce the cost of course materials and make them more accessible to Illinois students.

Under Bennett’s initiative, House Bill 4724, students would receive digital access to their online course materials at a significantly reduced cost. These materials could be viewed on their computer, laptop, phone or computer lab on the first day of class.

Bennett worked closely with the University of Illinois to ensure students are set up for success with this legislation offering students

maximum choice in selecting the learning resources that are right for them at the lowest market price.

In an effort to break down barriers for Illinois students seeking a college education, Bennett also spearheaded Senate Bill 3856, which would require public universities and community colleges to provide all necessary coursework materials to rent free of charge for Illinois students. Bennett intends to continue working on this initiative throughout the summer and find other solutions to incentivize students to stay here in Illinois for a college education.

As Illinoisans get back on their feet following a difficult two years, Bennett led a more than \$1.8 billion inflation-addressing relief plan that would wipe out state taxes on back-to-school shopping and groceries, stop rising gas taxes and deliver income and property tax refund checks statewide.

Under the plan, direct checks of \$50 per individual and \$100 per child, up to three children per family, will be sent to families. The income limits for eligibility to receive the funds are \$200,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for joint filers, allowing over 95% of taxpayers to receive these checks.

Giving money back to people maximizes utility and gives Illinoisans the opportunity to use the money how they see fit, helping families, businesses and the Illinois economy as a whole.

To improve officer safety and the safety of Illinois communities, Bennett passed a measure through the Senate addressing the reality of Illinois’ rollout of officer-worn body cameras.

Under House Bill 4608, state funds intended to purchase body cameras could be used to purchase data storage and personnel costs related to the rollout of body cameras. The measure would also allow officers to flag videos they believe may have evidentiary value and to clarify when an officer is and is not required to have the camera rolling.

Bennett looks forward to hosting regular events and workshops throughout the community this summer.





Melinda Bush

Environment and Conservation chair | 31st Senate District

For nearly a decade, State Senator Melinda Bush (D-Grayslake) has prioritized combatting the opioid epidemic, protecting women's health, and making Illinois a cleaner, greener and more equitable state – all of which she continued to fight for during her last spring session in the General Assembly.

A career-long advocate for the fight against the ongoing opioid epidemic, Bush led a measure to make an opioid overdose reversal drug more accessible. House Bill 4408 will prohibit insurers and Medicaid from charging a copay for naloxone – an opioid suppressant. Naloxone can be lifesaving for people overdosing on opioids, but can often be inaccessible with a cost of up to \$140 for two doses.

Bush also believes opioid education will save lives – which led her to champion Senate Bill 2535. The measure will require pharmacists to inform the patient that opioids are addictive and offer to give the patient naloxone – a common opioid reversal medication. Further, under the legislation, if a patient is discharged from the hospital after an overdose of a controlled substance, they will be provided with naloxone.

More than 2,000 people in Illinois lost their lives to opioids in 2019 alone, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Furthermore, Cook County has recently seen more than double the number of overdose deaths

– potentially caused by isolation and lack of support during the pandemic.

Bush also sponsored Senate Bill 3024, which will allow authorized employees of the Illinois Department of Public Health and county and municipal health departments to access the Prescription Monitoring Program patient databases, which determines if patients may be at risk of opioid addiction.

Throughout her time in the General Assembly, Bush has worked to ensure women and families feel heard and understood. She passed Senate Bill 3120 to expand the Child Bereavement Act by providing up to 10 days of unpaid leave following a pregnancy loss, stillbirth or an unsuccessful intrauterine insemination, among other issues negatively impacting pregnancy or fertility.

One in six women who have a miscarriage or an ectopic

pregnancy suffer from long-term post-traumatic stress, and approximately 15% of those who experience pregnancy loss develop severe depression or anxiety. Pregnancy loss not only has physical impacts, but mental and psychosocial implications. It also causes immense emotional stress for their spouses.

Bush's bill will allow those impacted by these traumatizing circumstances to take time off work to address both their physical and emotional needs.

Senator Bush is looking forward to continuing efforts to make Illinois more equitable and inclusive during the summer months while keeping in contact with her colleagues and stakeholders in an effort to prepare strong legislation to bring forth during the fall session.





Cristina Castro

Executive chair | 22nd Senate District

Following two unprecedented years of the COVID-19 pandemic, State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) worked diligently on legislation to help residents of the 22nd district and Illinoisans across the state. From her ongoing support for women and mothers' health, to advocating for the needs of the Latino community, Castro continued to be a strong voice in the Illinois Senate.

In an effort to further promote ways to address racial disparities in maternal health, Castro supported multiple measures to reduce financial barriers for new and expecting mothers. She co-sponsored House Bill 4338 to provide insurance coverage for prenatal vitamins to help promote health and development for mothers and babies.

Building on last year's passing of the Licensed Certified Professional Midwife Practice Act, Castro

supported House Bill 4343 to gain Medicaid coverage for midwifery services for mothers seeking a home birth experience.

Castro has also been a continuous advocate for fair labor practices. She negotiated with stakeholders over multiple years to pass House Bill 5412. Under House Bill 5412, if a subcontractor fails to pay an employee, goes bankrupt or cannot pay their employee for any other reason, that employee can file a legal claim with the general contractor for any unpaid wages and benefits. Additionally, it requires the subcontractor to compensate the general contractor if this happens.

She also passed House Bill 4647, which will require developmental services licensed through the Illinois Department of Human Services to certify that all legislatively or administratively mandated wage increases are passed on to the

employees. While funding for these services has increased over recent years, starting wages remain barely above minimum wage, and vacancies remain high. This disparity is because the state does not always require community agencies to pass wage increases on to the workers.

As the cannabis industry continues to grow in Illinois, Castro championed a measure to ensure prospective employees at dispensaries or cultivation centers have an equitable application process. House Bill 2380 would make it simpler for prospective dispensary and cultivation center employees to receive their identification cards by consolidating the application process. Additionally, this measure would bring the current medical cannabis guidelines in line with the state law that deals with adult-use cannabis dispensaries by removing certain drug and other offenses as "excluded offenses" for obtaining a medical dispensary license.

As legislators return to their home districts following session, Castro looks forward to hosting health improvement clinics, shred days and other community events for residents of the 22nd District.





John Connor

Criminal Law chair | 43rd Senate District

During the spring legislative session State Senator John Connor (D-Lockport) continued to prioritize the needs of those who live in the community he represents. He focused on a variety of issues such as changing Illinois law to allow the elderly access to pre-paid funeral services, addressing local concerns like school construction grants and continuing to improve Joliet's clean water supply.

Connor sponsored House Bill 4979, which allows older adults to use their insurance benefits toward funeral and burial expenses. People on Medicaid in Illinois were being denied the dignified burial they had set aside for. This bill changes the current law requiring individuals and their families to cash in their policies and receive little funds back to pay for their services. Instead, families are saved from that heartbreak by having the funeral services being taken care of.

Connor also led efforts to support construction projects throughout the state. House Bill 3637 improves affordability for schools needing to make facility repairs. Several schools in the district Connor represents will see long-awaited upgrades thanks to this measure.

Illinois drivers may soon have the opportunity to have their license on their phone thanks to Senate Bill 3096, also sponsored by Connor. The bill requires the Secretary of State to lay the foundation for the

implementation of digital driver's licenses in Illinois, with a report laying out the choices and features of systems available, along with an analysis of national standards and how other states are preparing for this feature. The Secretary of State will report the findings to the General Assembly by the end of 2022.

This term, Connor also addressed a looming water crisis in the Joliet region and ensured a clean and reliable water source for years to come. Connor's Senate Bill 280 establishes the Regional Water Commissions Act, which will allow municipalities to form a regional commission to build, own and operate a water system.

Connor also introduced Senate Bill 3488 to allow Joliet to have a River Edge Redevelopment Zone to receive the River Edge Tax Credit. Providing this credit would help Joliet pursue additional needed

housing development in their downtown area.

Connor resigned from the Senate in April to care for a family member. Reflecting on his time in the Senate, he was incredibly proud to represent the members of the 43rd district.





Rachelle Crowe

Judiciary chair | 56th Senate District

Continuing her efforts to improve public safety for Illinois residents, offer protections for law enforcement officers and promote tourism throughout the region, State Senator Rachelle Crowe (D-Glen Carbon) thoroughly advocated for the needs of the district she represents throughout the spring legislative session.

To streamline the detection process and determine hereditary risks for breast and ovarian cancers in women, Senator Crowe championed House Bill 5334 to require insurance companies to cover the cost of genetic testing kits. Early detection through genetic testing is essential for women with a family history of breast or ovarian cancers.

As a steadfast advocate for law enforcement, Senator Crowe partnered with police stakeholders to lead a legislative package through the Senate aimed at supporting

officers and improving the state's criminal justice system. To help promote fair compensation across the state, House Bill 4228 would require a county sheriff's salary to equal at least 80% of the county's state's attorney's salary. House Bill 3863 creates the Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Fund to support departments through the hiring and training processes and help them retain officers.

Body cameras are critical for keeping officers safe as well as improving evidence quality and reducing liability for agencies. House Bill 4608 would allow for video retention for evidentiary value and allows grant funds to be used for data storage costs. To help improve the correctional system and reduce recidivism, House Bill 4364 would create the Fund Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention Fund to allow the Department of Human Services

to offer grants and programs in county jails to provide mental health services and substance abuse prevention for incarcerated individuals or people who have been recently discharged.

With this effort, Illinois is continuing to assist law enforcement departments by creating new grant opportunities, retaining quality officers and more. Due to Senator Crowe's unwavering support, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police named her the 2022 Public Official of the Year.

In her position as vice-chair of the Senate Tourism and Hospitality Committee, Senator Crowe made pandemic-related relief a priority for struggling small businesses across the state. Illinois' wine industry endured several pandemic-related hits due to a business model built almost exclusively on social visits, tastings and in-person sales. To offer financial relief to local wine makers, Senator Crowe advanced Senate Bill 1001 to lower licensing fees for first-class manufacturers. Wineries play a critical role in developing local economies and tourism, and Senator Crowe looks forward to exploring additional initiatives to help producers grow their operations.

Senator Crowe resigned from the Senate in June to become U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois.





Laura Ellman

Financial Institutions chair | 21st Senate District

Excited to be back in Springfield alongside her colleagues, State Senator Laura Ellman (D-Naperville) focused her time during the 2022 legislative session on lifting up individuals and families across Illinois. This spring, Ellman worked tirelessly to advocate for veterans, especially women veterans, and children across the state, as well as help Illinois down the path toward a brighter, more sustainable future.

In an effort to celebrate and recognize Illinois' veterans and the sacrifices they've made, Ellman supported legislation and hosted events geared toward sharing the stories of veterans across the state and uplifting families of heroes killed in the line of duty. Ellman sponsored House Bill 5078 to expand the current eligibility list for Gold Star Family license plates to include stepchildren, adopted children and half-siblings of veterans who lost their lives serving in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, and waive the registration fee for children in Gold Star Families. She was also a staunch supporter of House Joint Resolution 64, which declares June 12, 2022, as Women's Veterans Day in Illinois.

This spring, Ellman also advanced a measure to collect additional information for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in an effort to strengthen support and care for children in the foster system. House Bill 4304 requires exit interviews

to be conducted within five days of removal for every child age five and older who leaves a foster home. Information gathered during these interviews will include asking the child if their basic needs were met in the home, if they had access to a caseworker or therapist, if they felt safe and comfortable in the home, and whether they felt included by their foster family.

Ellman also worked to uplift the voices of students through her measure to establish Dolostone as the official rock of the State of Illinois. The legislation was initiated by Naperville students who discovered Illinois did not have a state rock. They carried out their own research, developed a ballot and held a vote among students from across the state. Dolostone was declared the winner, and brought to the General Assembly. The rock has been used in the construction of significant structures, such as the

Old Illinois State Capitol.

In an effort to set Illinois on a path toward a cleaner, more sustainable future, Ellman brought forth Senate Bill 3613, which establishes the Hydrogen Economy Task Force. The task force will be responsible for publishing a plan to create a Hydrogen Hub in Illinois, identifying opportunities to integrate hydrogen into the economy, analyzing barriers to hydrogen development and recommending policies to catalyze deployment of hydrogen in the state economy with the goal of putting Illinois in a position to become a Clean Hydrogen Hub.

Now, back in her district for the summer, Ellman looks forward to partnering with community leaders to bring important information and resources to the community and lifting up those most in need. She is also eager to return for veto session in the fall to take up more significant legislation.





Sara Feigenholtz

Tourism and Hospitality chair | 6th Senate District

During her 27th year in the General Assembly, State Senator Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) was a strong advocate for foster children, small businesses, firefighters and more in the 6th District and across Illinois. Her top priorities this legislative session were to address the rise in crime on expressways, bring emissions testing back to Chicago and protect restaurants and bars from fraudulent third-party delivery services.

One of Feigenholtz's primary concerns for the 2022 session was protecting restaurants, bars and retailers from deceptive delivery services. Several reports indicated that delivery services listed menus and items without the knowledge or consent of the restaurant or retailer. Feigenholtz spearheaded House Bill 3205, prohibiting third-party delivery companies from posting a menu, registered trademark or any intellectual

property without the express written consent of restaurant, bars and retail establishments.

An adoptee herself, Feigenholtz has worked tirelessly throughout her tenure to protect foster children. Feigenholtz championed Senate Bill 3130 to create a process so that former foster children may get in contact with their former foster parents and siblings by utilizing existing search and reunion services provided at the Department of Children and Family Services. DCFS would be required to provide youth in care with an explanation of available search and reunion services within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

One of the most prominent Feigenholtz-sponsored initiatives this year was Senate Bill 1234, which would restore vehicle emissions testing sites within the City of Chicago. The sites were removed more than five years

ago, requiring Chicago residents to travel to the suburbs to have their vehicles emission tested. Feigenholtz's measure would require the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to report a plan to restore emissions testing sites.

Feigenholtz worked with local police departments to address the increase in crime in Chicago by ensuring law enforcement officers have sufficient resources and technology to identify and solve crimes. House Bill 260 will allow any municipal law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive, in addition to Cook County expressways, the ability to use images from expressway cameras to investigate shootings, carjackings, terrorism and forcible felonies. The measure will require the agencies to create a webpage with details about the program objectives and counties where the program is operational. Feigenholtz's initiative will help law enforcement solve crimes, improve clearance rates and keep communities safer.

As the spring session came to an end, Feigenholtz returned to the 6th District to continue meeting with constituents and attending neighborhood events. Her dedication to Chicago residents informs her legislative agenda as she fights for restaurants, bars and the tourism industry to continue recovering from the pandemic.





Laura Fine

Behavioral and Mental Health chair | 9th Senate District

As the Chair of the Behavioral and Mental Health Committee, Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview) has heard firsthand from the community and health care providers about the rising mental health crisis in Illinois. This session, she worked tirelessly to increase access to mental health care for people across the state—especially as the COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on people’s mental health.

To address these issues, Fine passed Senate Bill 3617, which will expand the mental health care workforce in Illinois while also fighting against health care providers being overworked and underpaid. The legislation will accelerate the process for out-of-state clinicians applying for licensure in Illinois. It will suspend requirements for social workers, professional counselors and clinical psychologists with licenses that have been inactive for five years to ensure there are more mental health professionals able to take on patients. Further, it includes initiatives to support diversity in the mental health field, and establishes tax credits to encourage more quality, accessible care to those seeking assistance.

In an effort to make mental health care even more accessible, Fine also introduced a bill funding the 9-8-8 suicide hotline. Senate Bill 2945 would fund and maintain a 24-hour suicide hotline to provide people experiencing a mental

health crisis with immediate, high-quality care. As suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the country, this hotline has the potential to save lives by giving more people access to health care during a mental health emergency. The Fiscal Year 23 budget includes \$5 million in funding for Crisis Response services for individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis and call into the hotline.

Fine also passed House Bill 1780, the Drug Take-Back Act, which requires pharmaceutical drug companies to create and fund safe sites to take back unused medications. This initiative aims to keep unused prescription drugs out of the hands of children and away from drinking water, which will both fight the opioid epidemic and promote environmental stewardship.

Fine also tackled issues impacting

seniors and students.

To ensure patients living with dementia and Alzheimer’s are being treated by providers trained to respond to specific needs and sensitive issues related to their conditions, Fine introduced Senate Bill 3707. The measure requires all direct caregivers of Alzheimer’s and dementia patients receive training on these conditions prior to the start of their employment.

To help students and families afford higher education, Fine sponsored Senate Bill 819, which will give students the flexibility to use their MAP grant funding to pay for housing expenses, electronics and textbooks.

Fine will continue her efforts to protect and support the state’s most vulnerable residents during the summer months.





Ann Gillespie

Ethics chair | 27th Senate District

State Senator Ann Gillespie (D-Arlington Heights) continued her mission to find practical solutions to the problems facing working families in 2022. This year, Senator Gillespie led efforts to improve conditions at nursing homes across Illinois, build a justice system that believes and supports survivors, and address the social worker shortage.

Even after record investment in public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, many long-term care facilities across Illinois remain woefully understaffed. Senator Gillespie passed House Bill 246 to reform how the state assesses and reimburses nursing facilities, and link funding to staffing levels and quality of care. The legislation transitions the state to a Patient Driven Payment Model to more accurately account for patient needs, rather than making payments based on the number of

patients receiving services. The bill also provides incentives to retain and promote certified nursing assistants who have struggled during the course of the pandemic.

Further building on her legislative accomplishments on health care, Senator Gillespie carried this year's Medicaid omnibus package under House Bill 4343 to expand services and cut red tape for re-enrollment. The legislation creates an automatic renewal process for qualifying individuals covered under Medicaid and expands coverage to include midwife services. It also increases available funding for existing services, like dental care and non-emergency transportation services. In addition to making Medicaid more accessible, the measure creates new programs under the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to screen students for mental health conditions in partnership with their local

school districts, and offer clinical consultation for behavioral health providers in need of assistance with providing care to their patients.

Because survivors of sexual assault deserve a justice system that believes and supports them, Senator Gillespie passed legislation to strengthen consent laws in Illinois. House Bill 5441 clarifies the existing definition of "unable to give knowing consent" by adding that the survivor remains unable to consent if they voluntarily consumed an intoxicating substance.

Expanding on her previous work to help school social workers earn and pay off their degrees, Senator Gillespie introduced two pieces of legislation to allow municipal social workers to be eligible for existing social work scholarships and debt forgiveness programs. Senate Bill 3912 would expand the Post-Master of Social Work Professional Educator License scholarship to municipal social workers, and Senate Bill 3761 expands the School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program to them. Both measures give priority to those underrepresented in the social work field.

In her fourth legislative session, Senator Gillespie once again proved that she is willing to take on the tough issues and deliver results for every community in Illinois.





Suzy Glowiak Hilton

Commerce chair | 24th Senate District

Following two unprecedented years and challenges induced by the pandemic, State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs) quickly got to work advocating for the needs of the 24th District. With a rational approach and bipartisan support on many measures, Senator Glowiak Hilton successfully passed legislation to assist workers, offer relief to businesses and promote statewide economic growth.

Organized retail crimes across the state have disturbed residents, wreaked havoc on businesses and stunted recovery in local economies. To support retailers and update prosecuting resources, the Illinois Senate adopted a measure, House Bill 1091, led by Senator Glowiak Hilton, to curb organized retail crime and hold ringleaders accountable. The proposal addresses concerns raised by prosecutors and retail advocacy groups to bring offenders to justice. Glowiak Hilton's initiative defines organized retail crime as a criminal charge and gives prosecutors additional resources to charge crime ringleaders.

In response to concerns heard from community members, Senator Glowiak Hilton championed Senate Bill 670, which would require the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue state licenses in a more timely manner. Workers in health care, accountancy, speech pathology and a variety of other occupations are ready to enter their respective

industries but are waiting months for their professional licenses to be issued by the state. Under the legislation, IDFPR would be required to process applications within four weeks as long as there were no deficiencies submitted.

Nationally, the semiconductor chip supply chain has been fragile for years and has hindered manufacturing across the United States. To promote economic security, Glowiak Hilton pushed to incentivize bringing chip manufacturing back to local production. To increase microchip operations and attract companies to invest in Illinois, Senator Glowiak Hilton advanced an initiative through the state's tax relief omnibus plan to create a series of tax credits to support the semiconductor industry. Semiconductor supply chain and worker shortages were intensified by the pandemic, and Illinois can use this opportunity

to serve local production, build the industry throughout the state and create job opportunities for residents.

Finding reliable child care can be difficult for first responders and other third shift emergency workers. The Illinois Senate adopted House Bill 1571, sponsored by Senator Glowiak Hilton, which invests in child care services for workers with non-traditional schedules, such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel and more. By creating the Off-hours Child Care Program Fund, Illinois is working to increase accessibility for parents in public service who work non-traditional hours.

Senator Glowiak Hilton delivered on her promise to serve the people of the 24th District by passing a successful agenda to support workers, businesses and local economies. She looks forward to getting back out in the community.





Adriane Johnson

30th Senate District

State Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove) remained committed to her mission of expanding opportunities for students and families while creating an eco-friendly environment in Illinois. This year, Johnson championed efforts to protect Lake Michigan's shore, reduce school fees for students and lessen crime rates across the state.

As a longtime environmental health advocate, Johnson sponsored Senate Bill 3073, an effort to clean up the ponds of coal ash created by the Waukegan Power Generating Station along Lake Michigan. The legislation aims to hold the company accountable for its pollution by restoring safety to the area and offering environmental protection.

With requirements outlined under the Environmental Protection Act, the initiative would require coal combustion residual, or coal ash,

stored in ponds on Lake Michigan's shore at the Waukegan Generating Station to be removed from the site. The plant's owner must also conduct a site investigation to identify and characterize the scope and extent of coal ash pollution on the site.

Johnson believes that coal-fired power plants have caused irreparable damage to the area and its ecosystems.

In an effort to support our country's heroes and their families through difficult financial times, Johnson advanced legislation to waive school fees for low-income students with veteran or active duty military parents.

Senate Bill 3867 will allow school boards to waive fees for students with a parent who is a veteran or an active member of the military with an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, which is an estimated \$55,500 for an average

family of four.

Further building on her legislative accomplishments on education, Johnson championed another initiative aimed to reduce financial burdens for children and families. House Bill 4243 will prohibit public high schools from withholding a student's grades, transcripts or diploma due to unpaid balances on their account.

It's no secret that increased crime rates have plagued almost every corner of our state. This year, Johnson led efforts to support the Waukegan Police Department in creating a Co-Responder Pilot Program to address crime reduction efforts in the area.

House Bill 4736 will create the Crime Reduction Task Force composed of a bipartisan group including legislators, law enforcement, and legal and criminal justice professionals, as well as crime victims and witnesses.

The task force will develop a plan of action to reduce crime across the state and report its findings to the General Assembly and the governor. Additionally, the legislation will create a statewide anonymous tip hotline.

Johnson proudly serves as the first Black State Senator to represent the 30th District and has proven her willingness and ability to take on the tough issues that serve not just Lake County and its surrounding cities, but the entire state of Illinois.





Patrick J. Joyce

Agriculture chair | 40th Senate District

State Senator Patrick Joyce (D-Essex) rolled up his sleeves and passed a number of measures to improve the lives of 40th district residents, including a plan to revitalize the Southland, a bill to help families of fallen first responders and a proposal to expand the use of biodiesel.

Joyce worked with his House colleagues to pass the Southland Reactivation Act. The Act – found within Senate Bill 3189 – creates a tax abatement incentive to property developers who purchase commercial and industrial property in the Southland. The bill targets commercial and industrial properties that have shown a clear pattern of economic stagnation or decline of real estate taxes as a result of depressed conditions. The property must be located in either Bloom, Bremen, Calumet, Rich, Thornton or Worth Townships in Cook County. The bill aims to expand the local tax by investment in overlooked properties, which will in turn bring down property taxes.

Joyce also carried important legislation to help the families of fallen first responders. House Bill 4161 aims to increase donations to the 100 Club of Illinois by making a convenient donation option on individual state income tax returns. The 100 Club of Illinois is a nonprofit that provides resources, financial support, training and moral support to both the families of first responders killed in the line of duty

and active duty first responders. All sworn federal, state, county and local first responders stationed in Illinois are included.

Joyce continuously works to put Illinois on a path toward a cleaner environment – and did so this session with the passage of his biodiesel bill – Senate Bill 1146. This legislation increases the threshold that biodiesel blend levels need to be above in order to qualify for a tax incentive to above 19% biodiesel by April 1, 2026. Incentivizing the use of higher biodiesel blends will help the Illinois economy by increasing soybean demand while supporting a cleaner-burning fuel for the environment. Biodiesel produces 78% less carbon dioxide than petroleum-based diesel fuel, and the higher the percentage of biodiesel blend levels, the better the air we have to breathe in Illinois. Putting Illinois on a path towards more biodiesel usage is

good for the environment, Illinois farmers and the Illinois economy

Joyce prides himself on advocating for fiscal responsibility. He was proud to support the General Assembly's decision to make an additional \$500 million pension payment and put \$1 billion in the state's Rainy Day fund. Joyce believes that stabilizing Illinois' budget now will help provide economic stability for years to come.

Joyce delivered for working families this legislative session through bringing property tax relief, supporting first responders and helping the environment. Joyce will continue to have an active presence in the 40th district by hosting regular events throughout the community this summer.





Steven M. Landek

State Government chair | 12th Senate District

State Senator Steve Landek (D-Bridgeview) continued his commitment to good government that works for all Illinoisans.

As the mayor of Bridgeview, Landek brings a unique perspective on the needs that local governments have. Landek fought to increase Local Government Distributive Funds for municipalities and made sure that when federal dollars came in to deal with the pandemic, local governments got their fair share.

In his role as chair of the Senate State Government Committee, Landek ensured that the legislation that passed the Senate did not place additional financial pressure on local governments. The committee consistently provided bipartisan solutions to some of the state's most pressing issues. Landek has followed through on his commitment to hear from all sides of an argument, ensuring commonsense solutions and

legislation that helps the most people.

Landek understands the pressure pension debt places on local governments and services across Illinois, so he fought for the \$4.1 billion payments Illinois made toward its debt. Landek put in effort this legislative session so that working families will see the benefits of federal recovery dollars through responsible fiscal management, support for small businesses, workforce development, infrastructure jobs and investing in violence prevention.

Landek also takes pride in helping his colleagues move their most important pieces of legislation, and as such, he co-sponsored several measures on a variety of issues. Some of those issues include bills on public safety, consumer protections and reducing red tape for local school districts.

A good example of legislation Landek supported is House Bill 4173, which changes the makeup of the Board of School Trustees for Lyons Township. The measure also ensures fair representation on the school boards and allows more people the chance to get on the ballot. Landek believes that if someone wants to step up and become a public servant, the state should do everything it can to help them reach this goal.

To combat the rise in organized retail theft across Illinois, Senator Landek supported House Bill 1091. The measure aims to crack down on smash and grabs and targets the organizers of retail crime. Additionally, the bill creates the INFORM Act which would allow a Statewide Grand Jury may investigate, indict and prosecute violations of organized retail crime.

Landek says the future for Illinois is looking bright as this year's passage of the budget and tax relief plan will go a long way for families in the 12th District. He is confident that fiscal responsibility demonstrated by Illinois legislators will help provide economic stability for years to come.





Meg Loughran Cappel

49th Senate District

In her second year in the General Assembly, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood) hit the ground running, introducing legislation to address the teacher shortage.

She advocated tirelessly to address the vacancies and increase the substitute teacher pool by championing House Bill 4246, which reduces the renewal fee for substitute teachers' licenses, as well as Senate Bill 3915, which waives the application fee for short-term substitute teaching licensees when the governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency.

Additionally, Loughran Cappel passed House Bill 4798, expanding the pool of substitute teachers to currently enrolled educator students with 90 credit hours. As a former teacher, she knows that real work experience can help transition student teachers into professionals, and this legislation will allow students to substitute teach and give schools additional resources for finding short-term teachers.

Loughran Cappel knows firsthand the financial hit that families take when they go back-to-school shopping, and that's why she supported a tax relief plan that would create a state sales tax holiday on clothing, shoes and school supplies to give consumers a financial boost as they go back-to-school shopping.

Loughran Cappel also prioritized mental health for individuals in Illinois. To give children living with mental health conditions and their families a voice to be heard by their state officials, she sponsored Senate Bill 3889, creating a council within the Children's Mental Health Partnership in Illinois.

Low residential placements for children with mental disabilities can leave them staying in emergency rooms or at home where they may not be safe. This council would look for ways to expand the number of beds in the state, make it easier for out of state residential facilities to be approved with the Illinois State Board of Education, and offer recommendations on how the state can better support children with mental health issues.

Loughran Cappel worked on a variety of other measures this year. House Bill 5304 will reduce the vehicle registration fee for vehicle

owners and their spouses from \$24 to \$10 if they qualify or have been approved for benefits under the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disability Property Tax Relief Act. This legislation provides savings that can keep more money in people's pockets.

Aside from her legislative accomplishments, Loughran Cappel remains active in her district, holding town halls and informative events on services and programs available to residents.

Over the summer, she plans to continue her traditional open community outreach, providing assistance and services to residents of the district she represents.





Robert F. Martwick

Pensions chair | 10th Senate District

During the spring legislative session, Senator Robert Martwick (D-Chicago) hit the ground running to deliver for people across the district he represents.

To address the ongoing teacher shortage crisis, Martwick advanced Senate Bill 3465, which will allow retired Chicago Public School teachers to return to work without it affecting their pensions. Schools are able to submit documentation with their regional superintendent to request help from retired educators in a subject shortage area. This emergency measure will remain in effect until June 30, 2024.

As the legislative session continued, Martwick fought to provide additional support for first responders and their families. Senate Bill 4053 will change the Chicago police and Chicago firefighter articles of the Illinois Pension Code to increase the minimum annuity for widows. It

is currently set at 125%. In 2022, the Federal Poverty line is set at a mere \$13,590 for a single person. The loss of a loved one who sacrificed so much to serve their community is unimaginable, and their family shouldn't have to struggle financially as a result. This measure aims to tackle the disparity that comes with this tragedy and provide basic dignity to the families who have lost a loved one.

Further, Senate Bill 3127 amends various laws already on the books to include emergency medical dispatchers in reference to first responders. Emergency medical dispatchers are special trained call-takers who identify complaints, triage patients' severity and provide pre-arrival instructions to callers.

Meanwhile, Senate Resolution 926 declares May 4, 2022, as Firefighters Day in Illinois to honor the fearless men and women who selflessly risk their lives to save

others. Illinois has over 1,300 fire departments that serve our citizens and communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, firefighters have served and continue to serve on the front lines to protect the safety and well-being of Illinoisans.

In order to provide law enforcement with additional resources to combat the uptick in carjackings, Martwick championed House Bill 3699. The measure expands the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Act to include vehicle hijacking. Under the legislation, the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council—made up of representatives from the insurance industry, state's attorneys and law enforcement – will be tasked with working together to reduce carjackings. Additionally, the measure provides law enforcement with additional resources for coordination against carjackings.

Martwick continues to commit his time to supporting the people of Illinois through these difficult years by leading legislation to improve the lives of working families and by helping get state resources into the hands of his neighbors. With the spring session over, Martwick will get back into the community to host town halls and job fairs and share governmental resources with residents in collaboration with other state and local elected officials.





Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas

20th Senate District

State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago) stayed true to her goal of collaborating with residents of the 20th District, organizations and other stakeholders, as well as her colleagues in the General Assembly to address many issues as the state continued toward recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. From her monthly virtual town halls to her 20th District Policy Roundtables with experts in various fields, Pacione-Zayas has always recognized the importance of working together.

From her time working in schools and on educational policy, Pacione-Zayas has long been a champion for early childhood education, essential school funding and more. This year, she spearheaded the Too Young to Test Act, Senate Bill 3986, to prohibit the Illinois State Board of Education from developing or administering standardized tests for the state's youngest children from Pre-K through second grade.

Additionally, Pacione-Zayas advanced measures to provide students with more options after high school graduation and help the state address the ongoing teacher vacancy issue. Senate Bill 3990 requires school counseling services to include Career and Technical Education to help students consider secondary education plans following high school, while Senate Bill 3988 lowers the age for paraprofessionals in Pre-K through eighth grade classrooms to 18 years old, rather than 19.

Building on last year's legislation to allow for the designation of cultural districts throughout the state, Pacione-Zayas spearheaded House Bill 5581, which designates a section of Milwaukee Avenue from Sangamon Street in Chicago to Greenwood Road in Niles as the Milwaukee Avenue Polish Heritage Corridor.

Recognizing the importance of funding programs that help Illinoisans, Pacione-Zayas has been a champion for issues included in the budget like allowing for seed deposits in Child Savings Accounts to help families afford college for their children. She championed Senate Bill 3991 to allow the state treasurer's office to supplement CSAs for financially insecure households with additional funds.

Pacione-Zayas, a strong advocate for early childhood education, supported the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, which includes more than

\$592 million going toward that sector. It restores funding for early intervention services for children with developmental delays and disabilities and increases funding for home visiting. Additionally, it includes an additional \$350 million to fund K-12 student success through the evidence based funding model.

When not in session, Pacione-Zayas partnered with local health clinics to use her district office on the northwest side of Chicago as a near-weekly vaccination clinic, getting about 2,000 vaccines into the arms of residents in the area, as well as collecting and distributing N95 and KN95 masks to children during the height of the Omicron surge.

Following the spring legislative session, Pacione-Zayas looks forward to meeting with residents at events throughout the 20th District to learn how to best address the needs of her community.





Diane Pappas

23rd Senate District

After her March 2022 appointment, Senator Diane Pappas (D-Itasca) hit the ground running by supporting legislation to help people not only in the district she represents, but in all corners of the state. Pappas is an advocate for Illinois seniors, working families and public safety. Even during her short time in the Senate, her voting record reflects her commitment to these critical issues in our state.

With just a month remaining in regularly scheduled session, Pappas got to work and passed her first bill. House Bill 5098 aims to help municipalities receive a full payment from the motor fuel tax fund. Under current law, a municipality initiating a road annexation, disconnection and annexation, or disconnection must report the action to the local election authority and post office branches serving the territory within 30 days. Her measure adds

the Department of Transportation to the list of entities that must be notified so they can make proper adjustments to the Motor Fuel Tax formula.

Other measures that Pappas supported include House Bill 5304, which reduces vehicle registration fees for older Illinoisans. The measure will reduce the vehicle registration fee for vehicle owners and their spouses from \$24 to \$10 if they qualify or have been approved for benefits under the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disability Property Tax Relief Act.

Pappas voted for the responsible FY23 budget and tax relief plan. This budget provides \$1.83 billion in relief for working families, makes fiscally responsible investments into the state's Rainy Day Fund and pension payments, and includes record funding to the Local Government Distributive Fund. Overall, Pappas believes

this is a responsible, balanced and compassionate budget.

To address the rising rate of crime and the need for greater public safety initiatives, the budget invests millions of dollars to support such public safety measures, invest in the tools law enforcement needs to prevent and solve crimes and strengthen investments in violence prevention programs that keep communities safe.

Another measure Pappas pushed for is the Senate Democrats' tax relief plan. Under this plan, the majority of Illinoisans – more than 95% of taxpayers – will receive a one-time tax refund by the fall of 2022. Individual filers will receive \$50 and joint filers will receive \$100, with an additional \$100 for up to three dependents. It also provides property tax relief for homeowners. Property owners making up to \$250,000 individually and \$500,000 jointly are eligible for the tax credit of 5% of property taxes paid, with a maximum check of \$300.

Pappas looks forward to a busy summer getting out into the district and hosting constituent events that can help people throughout the community she represents.





Robert Peters

Public Safety chair | 13th Senate District

As soon as the Illinois Senate convened in January, State Senator Robert Peters (D-Chicago) got to work, introducing Senate Bill 3038 to promote transparency in local government contracts. Following through on his commitment to hold big corporations accountable, the measure would prevent the state and local governments from entering into non-disclosure agreements in economic development deals.

Peters also remained steadfast in his advocacy for equity in government services by advancing measures such as Senate Bill 3470, which will require the Department of Children and Family Services to save or invest a minimum percentage of a youth's benefits once they reach the age of 14. When DCFS no longer serves as the financial representative of the child, this measure ensures they will have money to help them transition into a successful adult life.

Working with advocates for people who are disabled, Peters also fought to make the Capitol grounds more accessible. Senate Bill 180 requires the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to each appoint an accessibility coordinator to work in consultation with the Architect of the Capitol to address accessibility needs for each chamber. After the task force completes its recommendations, the General Assembly will be able to make our Capitol grounds more

accessible to all.

As chair of the Public Safety Committee, Peters helped pass House Bill 4165, which requires owners of piers or drop-offs on Lake Michigan to install public rescue equipment. The measure also establishes tracking and reporting requirements for local governments that own a pier or drop-off on Lake Michigan. The measure originated from a controversy between residents of the Rogers Park neighborhood and the Chicago Park District over a lack of life-saving rings on lakefront piers.

Building on his commitment to help create real public safety for all, Peters also helped pass a measure that helps combat the ongoing opioid crisis by expanding access to fentanyl testing strips. House Bill 4556 increases the number of persons and professions in the medical community who would

not be penalized for possessing a limited residual amount of a controlled substance as part of the drug testing process.

Peters also spent the first few months of 2022 on a mission to dispel myths about the SAFE-T Act, participating in several televised interviews and hosting a town hall with advocates from organizations representing victims of domestic violence and sex traffic in order to help Illinoisans better understand the needs of communities when it comes to public safety for all.

With the spring session over, Peters is excited to get back into the community to host town halls and job fairs and share governmental resources with residents in collaboration with other state and local elected officials.





Mike Simmons

7th Senate District

State Senator Mike Simmons (D-Chicago) spent the spring legislative session working to be a voice for the voiceless and advocate for those who have systemically been cast aside.

To give people greater, more accessible access to HIV preventative care, Simmons advanced House Bill 4430 to allow pharmacists to provide HIV tests and preventative medications to help reduce new HIV infections. Simmons' measure will allow pharmacists to dispense and administer drugs, order laboratory tests, and consult individuals about HIV pre-exposure drugs and post-exposure drugs.

Simmons also introduced a measure to advocate for children with incarcerated parents, Simmons led House Bill 5525, which creates the Commission on Children of Incarcerated Parents. Children whose parents have been incarcerated experience

unspeakable trauma that has the chance to hinder their potential in life. The Commission, housed within the Department of Human Services, will be tasked with implementing and coordinating the recommendations of the Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Parents within state agencies. The task force will propose the changes, and the Commission will work with agencies on how to properly implement the changes.

Clean drinking water is a basic need – but not everyone in Illinois has access. Simmons championed House Bill 4369, which looks to strengthen lead mitigation procedures. The measure will require the Illinois Department of Public Health to follow up on lead mitigation notices by carrying out inspections to ensure the work has been completed. The current law merely permits an inspection, while this legislation will require

and enforce lead mitigation efforts.

To better recognize the historic injustices that Black farmers face in the agriculture industry, Simmons sponsored House Bill 5201, a measure to create the Agriculture Equity Commission. For far too long, Black farmers have been systemically pushed out of the agriculture sector of Illinois. Simmons' goal is to see this commission address the root issues and find actionable solutions to give Black farmers justice in the largest job producing sector in Illinois.

Further, in an effort to support seniors and provide them with greater access to the resources they rely on, Simmons initiated a measure that will create the Senior Housing Residents' Advisory Council. Senate Bill 702 will create the Senior Housing Residents' Advisory Council to evaluate available resources, services and state outreach for seniors and review the impact of COVID-19 on senior living arrangements.

This summer, Simmons plans to spend time in the community he represents to speak with his neighbors to learn how he can best help them during his return to Springfield.





Elgie R. Sims, Jr.

Appropriations chair | 17th Senate District

The 102nd Legislative Session was a successful one for Illinois State Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D-Chicago).

For his second year as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sims worked diligently to bring forth a budget that takes on a fiscally responsible approach and moves Illinois forward on its upward mobility track toward success. This year's budget prioritizes working families, the state's commitment to its pension payments and public safety in every community regardless of ZIP code.

Many families and businesses have endured unimaginable financial distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Sims vowed to support those struggling the most during this unprecedented time. In part of the state's 2022 restoration plan post pandemic, families are not only set to receive major tax breaks, but will also receive financial relief checks in the mail.

Additionally, under Sims' leadership, Illinois received two major credit upgrades, which come as a result of responsible spending decisions.

In an effort to build safer communities, Sims' worked to secure \$235 million in new money to the Reimagine Public Safety Act. The plan allocates money toward both community-based services and additional tools and training

for law enforcement.

Further, the budget allocates funding for three new Illinois State Police cadet classes. This is noted to be the largest allocation in state history. The goal is to hire and train 300 new troopers to address the rising need of law enforcement officers across the state, particularly in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Building upon providing law enforcement with new resources, Sims sponsored Senate Bill 3932, or the Jelani Day Bill, to provide county coroners and local medical examiners federal assistance in identifying missing persons.

Senate Bill 3932 will require a coroner or medical examiner with custody of human remains that are not identified within 72 hours of discovery to immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation for assistance in identification.

The legislation was filed to address the devastating death of

Jelani Day, a 25-year-old graduate student at Illinois State University. Day was reported missing on Aug. 24, 2021, discovered on Sept. 4, 2021, and wasn't identified by the LaSalle County coroner until Sept. 24, 2021.

Another public safety initiative championed by Sims this year, is Senate Bill 3936, the Student Confidential Reporting Act. The legislation establishes a partnership between the Illinois State Police, the Illinois State Board of Education and other state agencies, to create a hotline for threats and reports of potential self-harm or criminal acts directed at schools, students and or staff.

Throughout the summer months, Sims will continue to his work to enhance public safety and equal opportunities for all.





Steve Stadelman

Local Government chair | 34th Senate District

To provide relief to the state's communities in a time of need, State Senator Steve Stadelman (D-Rockford) picked up right where he left off – bringing forth legislation to protect survivors of abuse, ensure every resident knows their health care options, and provide financial relief.

To start out the 2022 legislative session, Stadelman led an effort to provide better means of protection for survivors of abuse. Under Senate Bill 3667, survivors would no longer be forced to show up in person for a protective order hearing. Stadelman's measure gives people the option to file a protective order online in addition to in person. Providing people with the flexibility to file protective orders from their home at any time will allow them to take the courageous step on their own time.

Stadelman also worked to ensure residents know their options

when it comes to medical services, especially medical insurance plans, and what is available to them. People without health insurance will soon receive information on available state health insurance with a check of a box. House Bill 5142, sponsored by Stadelman, will establish a health insurance "easy enrollment" program by including a box on all Illinois income tax forms that taxpayers may check to request more information on available health insurance options and prices. The implementation of this simply requires the printing and mailing of enrollment options to those who request the information by checking the box on their tax form.

To help service members who are transitioning from active duty to the workforce, Stadelman also passed House Bill 5385 to designate the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs as the primary assistance

agency under the U.S. Department of Defense's SkillBridge Program that helps employers find skilled workers.

The SkillBridge program partners with employers across the state. This program helps active duty members gain job experience and transition to civilian workforce by matching service members with opportunities at participating businesses where their skill sets match.

Further, to create an equitable and responsible spending plan that helps people in all corners of the state, Stadelman was pleased to support a \$1.8 billion tax relief plan to give Illinois residents the financial assistance they need. The plan will send direct relief checks to 95% of taxpayers, suspend grocery and gas sales taxes for up to a year and create a back-to-school shopping tax holiday in August.

Stadelman will spend the summer months working to ensure families and businesses continue to receive the relief they need to fully bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.





Doris Turner

48th Senate District

As a lifelong public servant and champion of workers, State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) went into the spring session with a plan to support businesses and help working families bounce back from the strain they felt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Schools across the state have faced unprecedented staffing shortages. To address the issue and provide students with a better learning experience, Turner introduced Senate Bill 3907. The measure will raise the cap on consecutive days a short-term sub can teach from five to 15 days. That buys an extra two weeks of time for school districts to assist their teachers in getting back on staff and finishing out the school year.

People in rural parts of the state often struggle to find quality, accessible health care. To encourage more people in those parts of the state to enter the health care field, Turner introduced a measure to provide loan forgiveness to physicians who perform medical services in rural areas. Senate Bill 3017 will seek to assist physicians who provide much needed medical care in private health clinics. More private rural health clinics have opened in recent years, providing the same quality care as hospitals in communities across the state.

One of the major themes of the spring legislative session was protecting all communities through comprehensive public

safety measures. Turner was proud to support measures to codify organized retail crime, crack down on carjackings, and give law enforcement officers more training and tools to best do their jobs.

Further, when news struck of the heinous death of Deidre Silas, a Springfield Department of Child and Family Services investigator, Turner rolled up her sleeves to work with her colleagues to pass comprehensive measures to better protect DCFS workers. Under the Public Safety and Police Benefits Act, if a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty, his or her spouse and children under the age of 18 are eligible to receive health insurance benefits.

Previously an employee was required to have eight years of service to receive survivor benefits. Senate Bill 3197 – championed by Turner – changes the State Employee Group Insurance Plan by

expanding the occupational death benefit to ensure that any family members of DCFS caseworkers or investigators killed in the line of duty receive survivor benefits, regardless of how long they've worked for the agency.

Turner was also proud to help usher in the Illinois 250 Commission. As the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States nears, House Bill 5015 will establish a commission to carry out celebrations in Illinois leading up to and commemorating the day.

This summer, Turner plans to spend quality time with her family and travel throughout the district she represents to meet community members and hear their needs.





Patricia Van Pelt

Healthcare Access and Availability chair | 5th Senate District

The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating effect on many people who deal with substance abuse disorders. State Senator Patricia Van Pelt (D-Chicago) continued her advocacy in expanding access to treatment and resources against the opioid epidemic. Van Pelt supported the 2022 State of Illinois Overdose Action Plan, a comprehensive, equity-centric outline to change how Illinois deals with overdoses.

This plan prioritizes outreach to and engagement with individuals who are at risk for both fatal and non-fatal overdoses due to drugs like synthetic opioids, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and other substances.

Acknowledging the harsh realities for those navigating reentry into society following incarceration, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Van Pelt hosted a virtual job fair in conjunction with the Illinois Department of

Corrections. The first day offered job application and resume workshops. The second day offered employer panel and breakout sessions. The Illinois Department of Employment Security, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Alderman Walter Burnett and Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer were also sponsors of the event.

Van Pelt was a proud champion of the Violent Crime Witness Protection Program, which will receive additional funding in Fiscal Year 23. This program is crucial to the work to end the violence that plagues many communities.

Building upon efforts to address maternal and infant mortality in the state of Illinois, Van Pelt sponsored a measure to expand access to prenatal services. House Bill 5013 requires a managed care organization to pay for preventative prenatal services, perinatal healthcare services, and

postpartum services rendered by a non-affiliated provider, as long as that the provider has not rejected a contract offered in good faith within the last twelve months or had a contract terminated for cause.

Maternal mortality rates increased by 14% since the beginning of the pandemic, with Black women facing maternal mortality rates nearly three times that of white women. Regular prenatal care helps to reduce the risk of pregnancy complications, keep track of the baby's development and more.

Van Pelt was also a leading cosponsor of House Bill 4645, which creates the Equity and Representation in Health Care Workforce Repayment Program that will provide loan repayments and scholarships for health care professionals who agree to serve in Illinois medical facilities for a specified period of time. The program prioritizes increasing diversity in the health care sector, particularly in medically underserved areas.

As chair of the Senate Health Access and Availability Committee, Van Pelt remains focused on expanding health care access throughout the state and advocating for reforms to better disenfranchised communities.

Van Pelt looks forward to spending time in her district connecting more with residents on the city of Chicago's Westside.





Karina Villa

25th Senate District

Wrapping up her second legislative session in the Illinois Senate, State Senator Karina Villa (D-West Chicago) focused her legislative efforts this spring on uplifting underserved and underrepresented communities across Illinois by increasing protections and resources available to them.

Villa spent a great deal of time advocating for some of the most vulnerable residents across Illinois, including children and older residents. She advanced Senate Bill 3720, which establishes a three-year pilot program to maintain safety and eliminate risks for minority children in DuPage and Williamson counties. The program will promote unbiased decision making in the child removal process by removing all demographic information including but not limited to, the child's name, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs and political affiliation. Villa also sought to protect children across Illinois through her support of House Bill 4316, a measure that builds upon existing legislation to prevent teachers who have been found guilty of misconduct from being hired in other districts by ensuring accurate and up-to-date information about the situation is provided when they apply for new positions.

Senate Bill 4024, another Villa-backed piece of legislation, will create transparency and ease for older adults seeking long-term care facilities in Illinois. Villa's measure will offer residents additional

information on services offered by facilities, including memory care, transportation, dialysis, multilingual staff and more.

Villa also supported a package of legislation to provide more resources to visitors, immigrants and refugees in Illinois. Under House Bill 4797, Illinois visitors and out-of-state students will be able to continue to receive their established therapeutic services via telehealth from an out-of-state certified social worker. Current law requires clinicians to be licensed in the state where their client is physically located at the time of care, not the state where they reside, but this legislation would allow non-residents to continue receiving care from their trusted and established therapists. She also advanced House Bill 5214 to expand the availability of interpreters to parents of Illinois students who are deaf or have limited English proficiency. Villa's measure will help

ensure non-English speaking parents are not left feeling confused or misguided regarding the important outcome of their child's education.

Villa also championed House Bill 1567 to address integration issues in Illinois through the establishment of a New American Statewide Plan. Under the legislation, the Governor's Office of New Americans will be required to put together a plan to ensure immigrants and refugees in Illinois are welcomed and supported, and they have the resources necessary to successfully integrate into the social, cultural, economic and civic life of the United States, including access to quality English language learning programs.

Now back in the district, Villa looks forward to continuing to advocate for underserved and underrepresented communities in her community and across the state by offering resources to Illinois families.





Celina Villanueva

Human Rights chair | 11th Senate District

State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) upheld her defense of Illinois workers this legislative session and was a strong advocate for the rights of vulnerable populations, the well-being of expectant mothers, and access to supportive resources for children and students.

To ensure the wellness of women and children, Villanueva worked diligently to create a sales tax exemption for breast pumps and associated supplies used to collect, store and maintain breast milk. This was accomplished through the state's tax relief plan—Senate Bill 157. Because mothers face a variety of obstacles in accessing nursing tools, Villanueva helped give mothers autonomy over their chosen method of feeding their children. She also brought expansions to prenatal vitamin coverage to Illinoisans aiming for healthy pregnancy and fetal development with House Bill 4338. This measure requires

insurance policies already covering prescription drugs to cover prenatal vitamins, which enhance nutrition and growth for both mother and child.

As a proud proponent of education and community investment, Villanueva championed a measure to increase students' chances of success by helping them balance the demands of parenthood and higher education. Senate Bill 3149 brings awareness of child care assistance resources to the nearly 100,000 students with dependents in Illinois by requiring that they are notified of these support opportunities on college campuses. Villanueva hopes to build up the next wave of leaders and active community members by fortifying their access to assistance programs.

Having a background in community organizing and supporting unions, Villanueva is always finding ways to fight for the working population

of the state. With Senate Bill 3146, she modernized the One Day Rest in Seven laws, which are responsible for defining the rights workers are entitled to in the workplace. Some of these rights include meal breaks, at least one day of rest during a work week and notice of employees' freedoms.

The effects of Villanueva's worker protections also extend to the state's older population, who will be provided with more competent care thanks to House Bill 4388, a measure requiring Emergency Medical Services personnel to complete training on the care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Villanueva also led an initiative to investigate universal representation of immigrants in court proceedings. Senate Bill 3144 creates the Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Act and establishes the Task Force on Counsel in Immigration Proceedings. These will allow Illinois to take steps toward ensuring its non-citizen residents are provided quality legal representation, making court proceedings more equitable for those whose release from detention and relief from removal are often barred due to ineffective representation.

Now that the spring session has come to a close, Villanueva returns to Little Village to be an anchor for community initiatives on the ground.





Ram Villivalam

Transportation chair | 8th Senate District

During the spring legislative session, State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) prioritized protecting tenants from housing discrimination, streamlining how business is done on infrastructure improvements, keeping places of worship and community services safe, and forming the bipartisan, bicameral Illinois Assyrian Caucus.

Because no one should be denied housing when they have the means to make rent, Senator Villivalam passed House Bill 2775 to add “source of income” to the Illinois Human Rights Act’s protections against discrimination in real estate transactions. The measure will protect more than half of households in Illinois, all who receive non-wage income such as social security, retirement income, veterans’ benefits, child support and more. In addition to non-wage earners, the 99,000 households who receive Housing Choice Vouchers to pay their rent will be protected.

As chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Senator Villivalam understands the importance of timeliness for government contractors to get to work on delivering infrastructure improvements. Senate Bill 2981, the Innovations for Transportation Infrastructure Act, authorizes the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Tollway Authority to use the design-build delivery method on highway construction projects. Currently, the Department of Transportation uses the design-bid-build project delivery

method, where the department designs a plan in-house then reviews bids from contractors. Design-build would expedite that process by allowing a single entity to both design and start construction on the project.

To help keep places of worship and community service providers safe, Senator Villivalam led negotiations to include \$20 million in this year’s budget for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The program is designed to assist nonprofit organizations with purchasing security enhancements, such as cameras, bulletproof glass and reinforced doors – offering safety training to staff and, under certain circumstances, hiring or contracting security professionals. Hate crimes in the U.S. reached their highest point in over a decade in 2020, with over 7,500 incidents formally reported to the FBI. However, most law enforcement experts believe hate crimes are dramatically underreported. The full funding of the NSG Program will ensure

that the religious institutions and community-based service providers our communities rely on have the means to protect themselves against hate-motivated violence.

To live up to Illinois’ commitment to being the most welcoming state, Senator Villivalam formed the first-in-the-nation statewide Assyrian Caucus to uplift the voices of the over 100,000 Assyrian-Americans who call our state home. The caucus will bring together members of the General Assembly to advocate for the Assyrian community in Illinois by providing a unified platform to educate the public on Assyrian-American identities and issues.

Senator Villivalam delivered results for both his own community and communities across Illinois. He remains committed to upholding the values of transparency and equity on the Senate Transportation Committee, and in his legislative work in the Senate.





Brandy Renfro
Director

Communications Staff

102nd General Assembly - Spring 2022



Reena Tandon
Deputy Director



Thomas Alessio



Lauren Barry



Shawn Berry



Zach Braun



Sarah Doerr



Eliza Glezer



DeVonte Fuller



Jake Handley



Celeste Holmes



Taylor Horton



Colby Huff



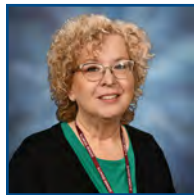
Jennifer Jennings



Taeveon Johnson



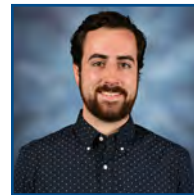
Maggie Lenkart



Deb McCarver



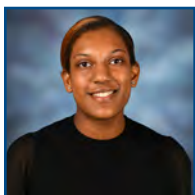
Spencer McGowan



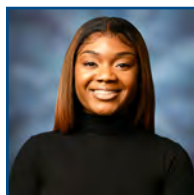
Andrew McPike



Craig Miller



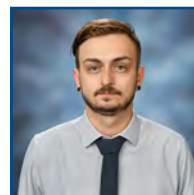
Halie Owens



Sherrie Phipps



Adrianna Pitrelli



Seth Rollins



Antonio Rosas-Landa



Antonio Rosas-Landa



Cassie Thomas



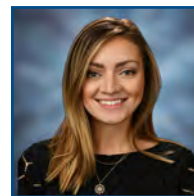
Max Umansky



Chelsea Varela



Ajara Yakoubou



Lexi Yoggerst

District Outreach Specialists



Nick Giannini
Dist. Outreach Manager



Michael Bailey



Priyanka Khanna



Hannah Miracle

SENATE IN REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
(BY CATEGORY)

DON HARMON, SENATE PRESIDENT
Communications Department • www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com





2nd Amendment

HB 4386	Allows single fire rifles to be used for deer hunting in Illinois. Brings Illinois into parity with other mid-western states.
HB 4667	Deems correctional officers as qualified law enforcement officers.
HB 4696	Provides that online hunting license holders will have the opportunity to be redirected to First Person Consent Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.

Agriculture

HB 2382	Expands access to healthy foods in eligible areas throughout Illinois by providing assistance to grocery stores, corner stores, farmers' markets and other small food retailers.
HB 3118	Prohibits commercial applicators from applying a barrier mosquitocide between Oct. 16 and April 14 unless it's for public health purposes or the Department of Agriculture determines there is a significant unmet need.
HB 3717	Allows commercial fisherman to take up more space in a stream who take certain steps in order to catch more carp.
HB 4680	Allows Illinois veterans to apply from home for fishing, hunting, and sportsmen's combination licenses.
HB 5201	Establishes the Agriculture Equity Commission to bring equity to the top job-producing industry in the state.
HB 5400	Allows the Illinois Department of Agriculture to issue Future Farmers of America decals for universal special license plates.
SB 1693	Establishes the Industrial Biotechnology Public-Private Partnership to promote and market Illinois as a destination for research, development, and commercialization for industrial biotechnology.
SB 3103	Clarifies the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authority to provide permits to take plants or animals from State property.
SB 3178	Creates the Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council Act and adds the Illinois State Water Survey as a voting member to the Council.
SB 3184	Changes the professional standards to become a conservation officer by adding education standards and exemptions.
SB 3482	Requires all revenue from the operation and use of any facilities of the Illinois State Fair at Springfield, the Springfield State Fairgrounds, the DuQuoin State Fair, and the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds be deposited in the Illinois State Fair Fund.
SB 3838	Allows local health departments to use a specific Farmers Market Permit to regulate the sale of certain potentially hazardous foods as well as products raised or grown on the farm of the farmer selling the food product.



Budget

HB 0900	The fiscal year 2023 budget for the State of Illinois.
HB 4700	The FY2023 Budget Implementation bill.
SB 0157	A comprehensive revenue package to provide tax and financial relief to families throughout the state.

Business

HB 2382	Expands access to healthy foods in eligible areas throughout Illinois by providing assistance to grocery stores, corner stores, farmers' markets and other small food retailers.
HB 3205	Prohibits a third-party delivery service from posting a restaurant, bar or retail establishment's menu without the express written consent of that business and no delivery services can be arranged using the third-party's online platform or app without the written consent of the merchant.
HB 4230	Bus driver's licenses cannot be suspended within a three year period as a result of failing to pay child support.
HB 4281	Prohibits non-utility companies from using the name or logo of a public utility company to market, solicit, sell or bill for home insurance, home maintenance or home warranty products.

Civil Law

HB 0625	Allows counterclaims to be brought despite the statute of limitations to expand those provisions to include any applicable statute of repose applying to claims initiated after the effective date or filed to preclude a defendant a reasonable opportunity to file within the original limitations period.
HB 4270	Provides a form that may be used by parties for special warranty deeds in real estate transactions.
HB 4322	Modernizes the Residential Real Property Disclosure Act by making various changes for buyers when signing a real estate purchase agreements.
HB 5047	Clarifies that in the event a person needs to delegate powers of attorney to an agent in a health care setting, the agent may present an electronic copy of the document creating the health care agency as proof of the delegation and the health care provider must accept the digital document.
SB 0257	Deletes the confidentiality provision that prevents any communications during court-ordered counseling sessions from being used during a court proceeding.
SB 1099	Introduces a distinct regulatory institution responsible for overseeing financial agreement activities between companies and consumers.
SB 3667	Provides that a petition for a protective order may be filed at any time, in-person, by email, or online, and that a county with a population above 250,000 must offer the option of a remote hearing.

Constitutional Offices

HB 0568	Allows the Comptroller's Office to establish an interactive map on the Comptroller's website that provides the location and annual financial information of taxing bodies.
---------	--



Consumers

HB 2910	Requires grocery stores to display the original and discounted price of goods at check out.
HB 3205	Prohibits a third-party delivery service from posting a restaurant, bar or retail establishment's menu without the express written consent of that business and no delivery services can be arranged using the third-party's online platform or app without the written consent of the merchant.
HB 4281	Prohibits non-utility companies from using the name or logo of a public utility company to market, solicit, sell or bill for home insurance, home maintenance or home warranty products.
SB 3609	Reduces the vehicle registration fees for cars and small trucks if it was manufactured in Illinois.
SB 3838	Allows local health departments to use a specific Farmers Market Permit to regulate the sale of certain potentially hazardous foods as well as products raised or grown on the farm of the farmer selling the food product.
SB 3971	Provides that a bank should disclose financial records only after the bank sends a copy of the subpoena, summons, warrant, citation, or court order to the person establishing the relationship with the bank at the person's last known address.

Criminal Law

HB 3465	Requires the Department of Corrections to hire reentry specialists for every jail and correctional institution or facility, regardless of whether these institutions or facilities have access to a reentry program.
HB 3512	The second trailer bill to the SAFE-T Act (P.A. 101-652) that makes various technical changes and addresses implementation challenges with body camera footage labeling, detainee phone calls, officer decertification and officer training.
HB 4392	Allows a person to apply for felony expungement or sealing despite a positive cannabis test within 30 days of the filing of the petition.
HB 4559	Provides a person committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections and the attorney of a person committed to the Department of Corrections may each request a summary of the committed person's master record file once per year.
HB 4593	Repeals the provisions that provide that it is defensible if someone accused of solicitation of a sexual act reasonably believed the person was of the age of 18 years or over or was not a person with a severe or profound intellectual disability at the time of the act giving rise to the charge.
HB 4741	Provides that certain sentence credit provisions apply to the Department of Juvenile Justice.
HB 5016	Allows alternative learning opportunity programs to include high school completion programs for students to complete their education while incarcerated by the Department of Corrections.
HB 5441	Clarifies the existing definition of "unable to give knowing consent" by adding that the survivor remains unable to consent if they voluntarily consumed an intoxicating substance.
HB 5525	Creates the Commission on Children of Incarcerated Parents to work with the task force on Children of Incarcerated Parents.
SB 2565	Permits drug, mental health and veterans courts to allow the state's attorney to file to expunge records and convictions of individuals who complete the programs.
SB 2942	Provides that when a victim of a criminal sexual offense was under 18 at the time of the offense, but is over the age of 18 at the time of providing testimony in the prosecution, the judge has the authority to clear the courtroom of all visitors who have no interest in the outcome.
SB 3157	Strengthens protections for petitions under an emergency no contact order.



Economic Development

HB 2825	Authorizes the Village of Lemont to trade a portion of the Illinois & Michigan Canal with a private entity in exchange for a nearby piece of property of similar value to allow an economic development project to proceed.
HB 5225	Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to develop a program to award grants to organizations to distribute subsidies to individuals participating in an apprenticeship program, pre-apprenticeship program, or work-based learning program.
SB 1711	Sets a \$3 million cap on the Historic Preservation Tax Credit and makes properties ineligible for this tax credit if they are already receiving tax credits under the River Edge Redevelopment Program.
SB 2984	Adds youth entrepreneurs to the list of individuals eligible for training and mentorship programs offered by entrepreneurship assistance centers.
SB 3613	Creates the Hydrogen Economy Task Force, which must establish a plan to create a Hydrogen Hub in Illinois, identify opportunities to integrate hydrogen into the economy, identify barriers to hydrogen development, and recommend policies to catalyze deployment of hydrogen Illinois' economy.
SB 3930	Expands the Illinois Home Grown Business Opportunity Act to include notices of funding opportunities to small businesses and municipalities along the border of Illinois. Requires DCEO to notify small businesses and municipalities of new COVID-19 restrictions.
SB 3938	Removes the requirement for Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology to assist client agencies in identifying funding opportunities and ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and grant terms.

Education

HB 1167	Requires school districts, universities and community colleges to provide paid administrative leave for fully vaccinated employees who need to isolate/quarantine due to COVID-19. Employees must be fully vaccinated within 5 weeks of enactment.
HB 3296	Requires school boards to establish a career and technical education pathway program for grades 6 through 12.
HB 3637	The School Construction Task Force will create recommendations for revising the School Construction Law and implement a capital program supporting education programs.
HB 4089	Requires school districts to provide a plant-based school lunch option to students who submit a prior request.
HB 4126	Makes changes to the Invest In Kids Act by prioritizing students who received a scholarship in the previous year and allows qualified schools to establish their own maximum scholarship amount.
HB 4243	Prohibits public high schools from withholding a student's grades, transcripts, or diploma because of an unpaid balance on the student's school account and requires school districts to report and catalogue the totals that remain unpaid to the Illinois State Board of Education.
HB 4246	Reduces the reinstatement of a lapsed Professional Educator License payment to a \$50 penalty from a \$500 penalty.
HB 4256	Pauses teacher, principal and assistant principal evaluations for the 2021-2022 school year and the 2022-2023 school year if the governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency.



HB 4257	Removes the requirement for the annual Illinois Administrators Academy Course for the 2021-2022 school year for individuals holding a Professional Educator License with an administrative endorsement.
HB 4316	Teachers found to have engaged in sexual misconduct won't be able to teach elsewhere and the school boards hiring said teachers will have up to date information on their misconduct at previous schools and institutions. Schools will also provide parents and guardians with sexual misconduct policies.
HB 4365	Codifies the Illinois State Board of Education's emergency rules on special education program placement and financial responsibilities.
HB 4580	Re-evaluate CPS High School district boundaries every five years based on demographics and enrollment.
HB 4688	Allows six school districts to hold a referendum to allow them the ability to issue bonds that would normally be above the allowed debt limit for the school districts.
HB 4690	Removes provisions which allowed a tenured teacher or principal, who was charged with engaging in misconduct, to pause pre-hearing procedures or dismissal hearings due to a governor's declared public health emergency.
HB 4716	Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to work with the Secretary of State, education professionals, an association representing teachers, and students to update the state's learning standards for driver education for students under the age of 18.
HB 4728	Changes how an organizational units equalized assessed value is calculated and lays out three different ways it can be calculated.
HB 4798	Allows currently enrolled educator students in Illinois with 90 credit hours will be qualified for a substitute teaching license.
HB 4813	Exempts contracts pertaining to school food services from requirements to use the lowest contract bidder.
HB 4994	Ensures that the local school board's threat assessment procedures and the members of their threat assessment team are filed with the local law enforcement agencies and the appropriate regional educational authority.
HB 5003	Provides clarity on accessing royalty funds that are generally used for curriculum development related to agriculture in K12.
HB 5016	Allows alternative learning opportunity programs to include high school completion programs for students to complete their education while incarcerated by the Department of Corrections.
HB 5127	Increases the amount of days school boards have to organize officers and meeting times. Aims to help ease pressure on school districts organizing after the election of directors and the consolidated election.
HB 5265	Requires school districts to waive all school fees for students experiencing homelessness.
HB 5488	Allows every public middle or high school student at least one school day excused absence per school year to engage in a civic event.
HB 5506	Allows partnership agreements between community colleges and school districts to allow high school students to enroll in a dual credit course and collect demographic data.
SB 3474	Requires a school district to provide informational material about the Achieving a Better Life Experience account program to the parent or guardian of a student.
SB 3663	Reduces the required professional development hours for educators by 20% for renewal cycles that are included in the 2021-2022 school year.



SB 3709	Creates school code changes to include special education cooperatives like school districts so when they are being dissolved or reorganized, these staffers' contracts would transfer to the newly formed districts.
SB 3792	Makes changes to multiple articles of statute by changing all references of the high school equivalency certificate to State of Illinois High School Diploma, and ensures that out of state high school equivalency certificates are equivalent to the State of Illinois high school diploma.
SB 3793	Adds community service to the list of penalties for speeding in a school zone.
SB 3845	Requires the Gender Equity Advisory Committee to provide recommendations to ensure that historically disadvantaged males receive academic equity before December 15, 2023.
SB 3867	Permits all school boards to waive fees for each student with a parent who is a veteran with an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
SB 3893	Changes the School Code so substitute teachers may teach 120 school days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same school year.
SB 3902	Combines various school code language concerning high school graduation requirements from the 101st and 102nd GA.
SB 3907	Provides that a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may teach up to 15 (instead of 5) consecutive days per licensed teacher who is under contract.
SB 3914	Requires that the school board of each school district shall include mental health as part of the currently negotiated sick days for full time employees of the district.
SB 3915	Provides that the application fee for a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License shall be waived when the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency.
SB 3936	Creates within the School Code the Student Confidential Reporting Act, which requires state agencies to establish a hotline for receiving reports and information from the public regarding potential self-harm and criminal acts directed at students, school employees.
SB 3954	A teacher may accept employment without it affecting their retirement if it is less than 10 days in length and they make less than \$2,000.
SB 3972	Creates a program to provide high school students with experience relating to work in the intellectual and developmental disabilities field.
SB 3986	The Too Young to Test Act prohibits standardized testing for students in Pre-K to 2nd Grade except for diagnostic purposes.
SB 3988	Provides that a paraprofessional educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who is at least 18 years of age and will be using the Educator License with Stipulations exclusively for elementary education.
SB 3990	Provides that school counseling services may include the promotion of career and technical education.
SB 4000	Provides that retired members of Chicago Teachers Pension Fund may be re-employed as a teacher or administrator for up to 140 days on a temporary non-annual basis without his or her retirement annuity being canceled.
SB 4028	Creates a mental health council that works to figure out how to help children in school to find a mental health provider and how to access the mental health system. Puts into school curriculum lessons and teachings about mental health. Amendment clarifies who can sit on council.
SB 4056	Changes the School Code and other provisions concerning school and school district operations by making technical changes, deleting outdated or obsolete language and adds a new section to the bullying prevention policies.



Elections

HB 0716	Establishes campaign contribution limitations for judicial elections.
HB 1953	Expands petition circulator affidavit information, changes the LPU blackout date to make it consistent with other date changes previously made to correspond to the June 2022 primary.
HB 4173	Changes the makeup of the Board of School Trustees for Lyons Township and the petition signature requirement for townships over 20,000 inhabitants.
SB 0829	Creates a process to allow people with disabilities to receive and mark their ballot electronically and without the need for assistance.

Energy and Public Utilities

HB 4382	Changes the month when the Illinois Commerce Commission conducts their annual assessment of the Public Utility Fund from October to June. Requires the ICC to examine the balance of the fund in the next fiscal year, rather than the current year.
HB 4973	Gives the Illinois Commerce Commission greater oversight authority over alternative retail electric suppliers and alternative gas suppliers and expands their disciplinary abilities.
HB 4988	Requires public water supply operators to notify all health care facilities served by the public water supply of a planned water disruption event within 14 days or two hours after any unplanned event.
HB 5502	Updates the Emergency Telephone System Act to make it compliant with federal law. Makes it easier for callers to reach 911 and for emergency services to locate those callers.
SB 2940	Makes highway-legal electric motorcycles eligible for a \$1,500 rebate, expands eligibility for rebates for all electric vehicles statewide, and increases the rebate for non-motorcycle electric vehicles to \$1,500 in the year 2028.
SB 3005	Permits four new members for the Electric Vehicle Permitting Task Force to represent municipalities, automobile manufacturers, labor organization, and component parts manufacturing to consider EV charging stations.
SB 3613	Creates the Hydrogen Economy Task Force, which must establish a plan to create a Hydrogen Hub in Illinois, identify opportunities to integrate hydrogen into the economy, identify barriers to hydrogen development, and recommend policies to catalyze deployment of hydrogen Illinois' economy.
SB 3790	Establishes a Renewable Energy Component Recycling Task Force, which must investigate options for recycling and other end of life methods for renewable generation components and energy storage devices.
SB 3866	Creates various changes to ensure a secure green future in Illinois.

Executive

HB 4489	Provides that requirements established under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act do not apply to awards, including capital funds, made by Illinois Department of Transportation to units of local government for the purposes of transportation projects using state and federal funds.
HB 5093	Allows that any subpoena, notice of hearing, or other process or notice of the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board issued under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act may be served by one of the methods permitted in the board's rules.



SB 3720	Creates the Bias-Free Child Removal Pilot Program Act, which requires the Department of Children and Family Services to establish a three year pilot program to promote unbiased decision making in the child removal process, while maintaining the safety of children and reducing risk, to reduce disparity in this process.
---------	---

Family

HB 2985	Provides assistance up to \$10,000 for funeral or burial services costs to families of minors killed by a violent crime.
HB 4242	Makes parenting youth in care automatically eligible for CCAP, regardless of income, employment, or education/training status, and provide an additional eligibility period after their DCFS case closes.
HB 4243	Prohibits public high schools from withholding a student's grades, transcripts, or diploma because of an unpaid balance on the student's school account and requires school districts to report and catalogue the totals that remain unpaid to the Illinois State Board of Education.
HB 4284	Reduces the tax on vehicle transfers made pursuant to a living trust where the grantor has died and the beneficiary is anyone other than a surviving spouse to \$15.
HB 4304	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to conduct exit interviews with every child, age 5 and over, who leaves a foster home within five days of the removal.
HB 4349	Requires state-regulated health insurance policies to provide care for children under 19 seeking treatment for cleft lips and palates.
HB 5214	Expands the instances that interpreter services may be needed for parents who are deaf or do not communicate via spoken language to include IEP meetings, due process hearings and more.
SB 2974	Updates definitions to the Health Care Surrogate Act.
SB 3036	Allows life insurance to be used to secure child support obligations.
SB 3130	Creates a process by which former foster youths may get in contact with their former foster parents and former foster siblings.
SB 3161	Allows child performers to work until 10 p.m. without a waiver and give the Department of Labor more discretion in allowing or denying waivers for children to work between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
SB 3163	Allows the parents or legal guardian of a child or child once he or she becomes an adult to redact the name of the attending physician from a certified copy of the child's birth certificate.
SB 3833	Adds physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and athletic trainers in the list of mandated reports under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Financial Institutions

HB 4462	Empowers credit unions to more effectively serve low-income and under-resourced communities, among other things.
HB 5194	Permits a local government board to establish a banking development district in the city or county.
HB 5220	Moves the oversight and regulation of collection agencies from IDFPR's professional regulation division to its financial regulation division.
SB 0062	Provides that funds held in payroll card accounts will not be considered abandoned if wages are continually deposited into the account via recurring ACH credits.



First Responders

HB 4161	Requires a check box on State individual income tax returns with the option to donate to the 100 Club of Illinois Fund.
HB 4163	Money in the Illinois Police Association Fund shall be used to provide benefits for the families of members of the Illinois Police Association dying of natural causes.
HB 4209	Opens a window to transfer service credit accrued in Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund if the service was as a sheriff's law enforcement employee, person employed for police duties, a full time forest preserve district law enforcement officer or an employee performing administrative police duties.
HB 4435	Provides that any active Chicago firefighter who has completed seven or more years of service and is unable to perform their duties because of a contagious staph infection resulting from their service shall receive an occupational disease disability benefit.
HB 4667	Deems correctional officers as qualified law enforcement officers.
HB 5447	Allows a spouse of a downstate police officer to receive survivor benefits if he or she was married to the officer for at least 5 years prior to their death.
SB 1486	Authorizes child protective investigators within the Department of Children and Family Services to carry and use personal protection spray devices.
SB 3127	Recognizes emergency medical dispatchers as first responders.
SB 3177	Allows Chicago Firefighters to withdraw their pension contributions from the Fireman's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago if he or she were to leave to go to a different department or he/she meets certain age and service requirements.
SB 4053	Provides that beginning Jan 1, 2023, the minimum widow's annuity for Chicago police and fire cannot be lower than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level for people receiving widow's annuities.

Gun Control

HB 5193	Adds safe gun storage to the required topics for safety education instruction that may be conducted by public school boards and all boards in charge of educational institutions.
---------	---

Gun Safety

HB 4383	Bans the creation, sale and distribution of ghost guns and requires existing unserialized firearms or assembly parts to be serialized.
HB 4729	Tasks the Illinois Department of Public Health with developing and implementing a statewide firearm storage and safety campaign that will include public messaging, distribution of gun locks and safes and buyback programs in partnership with law enforcement.



Health

HB 0246	Redesigns the state's nursing home assessment and reimbursement methodologies by increasing the nursing per diem base rate and incentive payments to encourage staffing and quality of care.
HB 0836	Requires the Department of Insurance to conduct an actuarial analysis of health insurance plans on the Illinois individual marketplace to determine whether premiums are properly aligned with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act.
HB 1167	Requires school districts, universities and community colleges to provide paid administrative leave for fully vaccinated employees who need to isolate/quarantine due to COVID-19. Employees must be fully vaccinated within 5 weeks of enactment.
HB 1780	Requires pharmaceutical companies that manufacture prescription and non-prescription drugs to establish, implement, maintain, and pay for all costs of an approved drug take-back program.
HB 1950	Extends the Hospital Assessment Program to December 31, 2026 and includes significant changes to the assessment program, such as increasing graduate medical education payments and fee for service supplemental payments for inpatient and outpatient services.
HB 4343	Provides continuous coverage for people enrolled in Medicaid and expands coverage to include midwife and acupuncture services. Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to create a mental health screening program in schools.
HB 4369	Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to follow up on lead mitigation notices to ensure the work has been completed.
HB 4388	Requires regular Alzheimer's and dementia training for Emergency Medical Services personnel.
HB 4408	Prohibits insurers and Medicaid from imposing a copayment for naloxone hydrochloride, an opioid suppressant.
HB 4430	Allows pharmacists to dispense and administer HIV prophylactics, which prevent HIV infections.
HB 4589	Directs the Illinois Department of Public Health to create a Division of Men's Health.
HB 4629	Allows athletic trainers to provide services to individuals who are not part of a sports team.
HB 4645	Creates an Equity and Representation in Health Care Workforce Repayment Program to provide loan repayments and scholarships for health care professionals who serve in Illinois medical facilities for a specified period of time. Prioritizes increasing diversity in medically underserved areas.
HB 4666	Makes various changes to nurse staffing agencies regarding competition, fees, recording data, rate transparency, and various other changes.
HB 4674	Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to establish continuing education guidelines for nursing home surveyors and requires surveyors to complete at least 10 hours of continuing education annually.
HB 4703	Protects people covered under group and individual health plans from receiving surprise medical bills after receiving most emergency services.
HB 4825	Requires the Secretary of State to provide a space for voluntary disclosure of a medical condition or disability that impedes or may impede effective communication with a peace officer.
HB 4929	Allows for optometrists to administer COVID-19 vaccines, flu vaccines or shingles vaccines to patients who are 17 or older.
HB 5012	Modifies and updates language in the Licensed Certified Professional Midwife Practice Act that is consistent with other Acts. This bill also adds licensed advanced practice registered nurses to the Illinois Midwifery Board.



HB 5013	Requires a managed care organization to pay for preventative prenatal services, perinatal healthcare services, and postpartum services rendered by a non-affiliated provider.
HB 5014	Establishes a partnership between the Illinois Department of Public Health and Governor's State University's College of Health and Human Services to develop a public awareness campaign that promotes stroke recognition and prevention strategies.
HB 5196	Creates modified definition language for the term "developmental disability" and "intellectual disability" in the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code.
HB 5465	Creates the Task Force on Internationally-Licensed Health Care Professionals Act to focus on professionals who are already licensed and are practicing in another country and are looking to work in Illinois.
HB 5549	Strikes the repeal date for the African American HIV/AIDS Response Act and specifies for every \$3 million of available funding, the Department of Public Health must award a community based organization a grant to create a Center of Excellence Biomedical Resource Hub for HIV/AIDS.
SB 0180	Requires the Speaker of House and the Senate President to appoint an accessibility coordinator to work with the Architect of the Capitol. Establishes the General Assembly Accessibility Task Force.
SB 1435	Permits hospitals in mid-sized counties to operate another hospital in a neighboring low-population county under the same license.
SB 2535	Requires that before a licensed pharmacist dispenses an opioid, he or she must inform the patient that opioids are addictive and offer to dispense an opioid antagonist.
SB 2969	Requires state health insurance coverage for continuous glucose monitors when medically necessary for individuals with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes.
SB 2993	Strikes the repeal date on the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Services Act.
SB 3011	Makes changes to drafting errors made within a previously passed evacuation of surgical smoke plume bill.
SB 3017	Permits physicians providing obstetrical care at a privately owned rural health clinic to qualify for assistance under the Loan Repayment Assistance for Physicians Services.
SB 3023	Provides that survivors of sexual assault can receive access to healthcare services free of charge for 180 days following their initial forensic visit.
SB 3024	Allows medical director or a public health administrator to have access to the Prescription Monitoring Program database.
SB 3132	Requires the Division of Rehabilitation Services to allow a recipient's spouse to serve as his or her provider of personal care or similar services.
SB 3682	Requires written reports to be provided to patients after cervical cancer screenings and requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to create a pilot program for the administration of HPV vaccines to individuals enrolled in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.
SB 3819	Requires private insurers to cover pediatric palliative care and permit children and families to continue pursuing curative treatment while receiving pediatric palliative care.



Higher Education

HB 0722	Changes the effective date of HB 1175, regarding student-athlete endorsement tights, to immediate.
HB 1175	Permits colleges to prescribe the time and manner in which student-athletes disclose a publicity rights agreement or an agreement for representation by an agent and removes the prohibition on a person conditioning a student-athlete's compensation for attending a particular university.
HB 2770	A procurement omnibus that deals with some issues raised by the universities, vendors and others.
HB 4201	Requires each public university and community college's Board of Trustees to designate a benefits navigator who can assist students with benefit eligibility and how to apply.
HB 4645	Creates an Equity and Representation in Health Care Workforce Repayment Program to provide loan repayments and scholarships for health care professionals who serve in Illinois medical facilities for a specified period of time. Prioritizes increasing diversity in medically underserved areas.
HB 4724	Permits higher education institutions to credit student accounts for books at registration.
HB 4797	Provides that a person who is not an Illinois resident is not to be prohibited from performing social work via telehealth in Illinois for a nonresident of Illinois or a college student who is not a resident of Illinois.
HB 5464	Updates the statutes governing higher education throughout the state.
HB 5506	Allows partnership agreements between community colleges and school districts to allow high school students to enroll in a dual credit course and collect demographic data.
SB 3032	Prohibits an institution of higher learning from withholding or charging a higher fee for academic transcripts from a student because they owe a debt.
SB 3149	Expands the accessibility of information regarding higher education student assistance.
SB 3761	Allows Illinois Student Assistance Commission to receive and consider applications from eligible social workers working for an Illinois municipality, who do not report directly to a police department, for the School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program.
SB 3925	Creates the Human Service Professional Loan Repayment Program to provide loan repayment assistance to eligible direct service professionals practicing in a community-based, human service agency that contracts with or is grant funded by a state agency.
SB 3991	Makes changes concerning the Illinois Higher Education Savings Program like proving that the State Treasurer may make supplementary deposits to children in financially insecure households if sufficient funds are available and more.



Housing

HB 2775	Aims to make it easier for low-income families to find housing by declaring that it is a civil rights violation for any person engaging in real estate transactions to discriminate based on source of income.
HB 4158	Requires a homeowner or condominium association that conducts a reserve study to maintain the study as a part of its books and records.
HB 4322	Modernizes the Residential Real Property Disclosure Act by making various changes for buyers when signing a real estate purchase agreements.
HB 4410	Creates the Real Estate Valuation Task Force to help resolve the history of discrimination in the housing industry.
HB 4605	Allows a plaintiff to seek a jury trial for housing complaints and increases available remedies.
HB 4639	Gives the Illinois Secretary of State more authority to regulate manufactured home dealers by modifying certain dealer application requirements, expanding consideration and increasing the licensing fee from \$500 to \$1,000 for all manufactured home dealers.
HB 5018	Creates the Cook County Housing Fund to finance a variety of housing projects, such as new construction, rehabilitation of property fees, loans to project owners, and more.
HB 5246	Caps the amount of fees condominium associations may charge to retrieve and copy records for mortgagees and their representatives in the event there is the resale of a unit covered by an association.
SB 1097	Updates mobile home lease disclosures and provides additional legal protection for tenants.
SB 3069	Permits condominium and homeowner associations to file appeals with the Property Tax Appeal Board.

Human Rights

SB 3144	Creates the Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Act to investigate how to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration proceedings.
SB 3490	Creates a commission to make recommendations to address disparities in treatment and overall well-being faced by LGBTQ older adults and older adults living with HIV.
SB 3616	The Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act changes the Illinois Human Rights Act to include traits historically associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists, to combat hair discrimination in the workplace.
SB 3865	Removes the term “alien” when used in legal reference to people in Illinois.

Human Services

HB 1567	Outlines the duties of the Governor’s Office of New Americans.
HB 1571	Requires the Department of Human Services to establish and administer an Off-Hours Child Care Program to help first responders and other workers identify and access to off-hours, night, or sleep time child care.
HB 1592	Requires the Department of Human Services to create a plan that addresses improvising access to inpatient psychiatric beds in State-operated mental health facilities for individuals needing a hospital level of care.



HB 2775	Aims to make it easier for low-income families to find housing by declaring that it is a civil rights violation for any person engaging in real estate transactions to discriminate based on source of income.
HB 3949	Defines homeless service provider and ensures that they are eligible to receive the same benefits as other frontline public health workers during a pandemic, including federal relief funding, personal protective equipment and vaccines.
HB 4070	Creates the Illinois Indian American Advisory Council to advise on issues impacting Asian Indian Americans and immigrants.
HB 4242	Makes parenting youth in care automatically eligible for CCAP, regardless of income, employment, or education/training status, and provide an additional eligibility period after their DCFS case closes.
HB 4304	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to conduct exit interviews with every child, age 5 and over, who leaves a foster home within five days of the removal.
HB 4306	Creates the Holistic Mental Health Care for Youth in Care Task Force to review and make recommendations regarding mental health and wellness services provided to youth in care.
HB 4332	Allows a federal taxpayer identification number to be used as a personal identifier on the Illinois Department of Public Health's Health Care Worker Registry as an alternative to a social security number.
HB 4343	Provides continuous coverage for people enrolled in Medicaid and expands coverage to include midwife and acupuncture services. Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to create a mental health screening program in schools.
HB 4365	Codifies the Illinois State Board of Education's emergency rules on special education program placement and financial responsibilities.
HB 4647	Requires developmental service licensees to submit an annual report to the Illinois Department of Human Services certifying that all legislatively or administratively mandated wage increases to benefit workers are passed through in accordance with the legislative or administrative mandate.
HB 4979	Allows people entering a long-term care facility and applying for Medicaid benefits to use those benefits toward a funeral home for pre-paid funeral or burial services.
HB 4998	Requires Illinois Department of Human Services to track and report data on homeless veterans using their homelessness programs.
HB 4999	Establishes a timeline for the delivery of early intervention services.
HB 5418	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to educate youth on inappropriate acts from others.
SB 1405	Allows residents in Illinois Department of Public Health living facilities to have visitors during a disaster proclamation or contagious disease outbreak.
SB 1486	Authorizes child protective investigators within the Department of Children and Family Services to carry and use personal protection spray devices.
SB 3130	Creates a process by which former foster youths may get in contact with their former foster parents and former foster siblings.
SB 3166	Requires hospitals, establishments, or facilities to ensure nurses are aware of the Illinois Professionals Health Program and also requires one hour of continuing education training on substance abuse and disorders.
SB 3172	Extends the intergovernmental agreement for the Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Illinois State Board of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Public Health for 5 additional years.



SB 3197	Adds caseworkers from the Department of Children and Family Services to the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act to allow dependants access healthcare in the event of their family member's death.
SB 3470	The Department of Children and Family Services must save a minimum percentage of the youth's benefits so they have money to get their feet on the ground.
SB 3645	Requires Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to administer the Pat McGuire Child Welfare Fellowship Stipend Pilot Program to a diverse pool of eligible social work students.
SB 3853	Creates the Extended Family Support Pilot Program that provides additional resources for families receiving Extended Family Support Program services from DCFS for the purpose of supporting relative caregivers.
SB 3925	Creates the Human Service Professional Loan Repayment Program to provide loan repayment assistance to eligible direct service professionals practicing in a community-based, human service agency that contracts with or is grant funded by a state agency.
SB 4001	Repeals a provision requiring the Department of Human Services to collect and publicly report statistical data on the racial and ethnic demographics of program participants for each program administered by the department.
SB 4006	Requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the General Assembly regarding access to applied behavior analysis therapy for people diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Insurance

HB 0836	Requires the Department of Insurance to conduct an actuarial analysis of health insurance plans on the Illinois individual marketplace to determine whether premiums are properly aligned with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act.
HB 2739	Requires insurance companies to notify the Department of Insurance at least 30 days before beginning to write flood insurance policies.
HB 4271	Medically necessary breast reduction surgery must be covered by private insurance that is covered by state laws.
HB 4313	Permits the Department of Insurance to provide the Illinois Insurance Guaranty Fund with advanced access to confidential claims information before insolvency proceedings begin.
HB 4324	Permits an insurance producer's active membership in a professional insurance association to provide the producer with up to four hours of continuing education credit per biennial reporting period.
HB 4338	Expands insurance coverage for prescription drugs to include prenatal vitamins after Jan. 1, 2024.
HB 4349	Requires state-regulated health insurance policies to provide care for children under 19 seeking treatment for cleft lips and palates.
HB 4433	Allows insurers to use copay accumulators to calculate an insured's deductible contributions only for high-deductible health plans with health savings accounts.
HB 4595	Protects access to low cost "340B" prescription drugs for uninsured and low income patients by prohibiting pharmacy benefit managers and third party payers from using certain contractual provisions in contracts they enter into with safety-net health care providers.
HB 4703	Protects people covered under group and individual health plans from receiving surprise medical bills after receiving most emergency services.
HB 4797	Provides that a person who is not an Illinois resident is not to be prohibited from performing social work via telehealth in Illinois for a nonresident of Illinois or a college student who is not a resident of Illinois.



HB 4941	Requires health insurance companies to give health care providers 60 days notice before a non-routine change to fees, except for insurers with previous notice requirements to the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services.
HB 5142	Establishes a health insurance “easy enrollment” program by including on Illinois income tax forms a checkbox which taxpayers may use to request information about health insurance eligibility.
HB 5254	Requires health insurance plans to cover medically necessary hormone therapy treatments for women who have induced menopause by undergoing a hysterectomy.
HB 5318	Requires health insurance coverage for annual prostate cancer screenings upon the recommendation of a physician.
HB 5334	Requires health insurance coverage for genetic testing to detect risks for breast and ovarian cancers upon the recommendation of a health care provider.
HB 5585	Requires health insurance coverage for access to home health services for the duration of medically necessary care.
SB 1571	Permits fees paid to foreign fire insurance board by institutions not incorporated under statute to be 2% of gross receipts with allowance for legal action if this does not occur.
SB 2963	Addresses a potential gap in the continuation of group life insurance coverage, in the event that an old group policy is replaced by a new policy.
SB 2969	Requires state health insurance coverage for continuous glucose monitors when medically necessary for individuals with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes.
SB 3819	Requires private insurers to cover pediatric palliative care and permit children and families to continue pursuing curative treatment while receiving pediatric palliative care.
SB 3910	Provides that a uniform prescription drug information card issued by a health benefit plan shall display on the card the regulatory entity that holds authority over the plan, whether the plan is fully insured or self-insured, and other important information.

Labor

HB 1208	Cleans up rules governing the administration and the requirements of commissioners to the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission.
HB 1449	Extends the sunset of the Elevator Safety and Regulation Act and the Fire Equipment Distributor and Employees Regulation Act of 2011 to Jan. 1, 2028.
HB 4251	Provides that specified contracts related to materials, supplies or work that is more than \$30,000 must be contracted in townships.
HB 4600	Cleans up a previously passed measure that provided workers with additional remedies from wage theft by correcting a drafting error, adding an exemption for rehabilitation work on residential property, and more.
HB 4604	Allows post-inspection notices and communications to be sent via email. Updates regulation for federal OSHA standards, increases violation penalties up to \$10,000, and amends discrimination provisions for consistency with similar existing labor and employment laws.
HB 5408	Requires the Merit Board to establish minimum requirements for institutions and agencies standards for hours of work, holidays, sick leave, overtime compensation and vacation.
HB 5412	Makes the primary contractor liable for the failure of a sub-contractor to pay wages to its workers.
SB 0645	Clarifies the Employee Sick Leave Act to include the minimum threshold of sick leave benefits for purposes of a collective bargaining agreement.



SB 2803	Invests in Illinois' fiscal stability with appropriations to the UI Trust Fund, extra pension payments, pays off old group health bills and the College Illinois program.
SB 3120	Allows women who have a miscarriage, other diagnosis or event that impacts pregnancy or fertility, or death of a family member to take 10 days of unpaid leave.
SB 3146	Updates the penalties for violations of the One Day Rest in Seven Act and provides clarifying language for worker's rights during the work day.
SB 3161	Allows child performers to work until 10 p.m. without a waiver and give the Department of Labor more discretion in allowing or denying waivers for children to work between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
SB 3416	Provides that an employee's work hours, days of work, and rest periods are established through the collective bargaining process.
SB 3616	The Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act changes the Illinois Human Rights Act to include traits historically associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists, to combat hair discrimination in the workplace.

Licensed Activities

HB 4501	Updates the definition of teledentistry to only include limited patient diagnosis and treatment planning and to only be used under the direction and authority of an Illinois licensed dentist.
HB 4665	Extends the repeal date of the Dietitian Nutritionist Practice Act from 2023 to 2028.
HB 4715	Clarifies that an interior designer may be hired instead of an architect or engineer or a non-structural, non-loadbearing, interior design projects in code-regulated spaces.
HB 4769	Allows the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue a license to a certified behavior analyst seeking licensure as a licensed assistant behavior analyst and a certified behavior analyst seeking licensure as a licensed behavior analyst.
HB 4922	Allows for the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue a certified registered nurse anesthetist license to an advanced practice registered nurse who does not have a graduate degree.
HB 5167	Makes changes to ensure consistent statutory language and regulatory standards across the Division of Real Estate statutes and jurisdictions.
HB 5576	Prohibits the state from regulating professions, occupations, industries, businesses, or trades in a way that hurts a competitive market of equitable access to job and economic opportunities.
SB 0145	Expands authority and removes practice barriers for physician assistants.
SB 2243	Creates the Music Therapy Licensing and Practice Act, allowing for the licensure of musical therapists, as well as creates a Musical Therapy Advisory Board and lays out requirements and disciplinary measures for licensees.
SB 3092	Allows electronic signatures for crematories to file annual reports with the Comptroller's Office.
SB 3127	Recognizes emergency medical dispatchers as first responders.
SB 3216	Changes the Illinois Vehicle Code by adding licensed physical therapists to the list of persons who can determine that a person has a disability for purposes under the Vehicle Code.
SB 3498	Allows a medical certification to be completed and signed by a physician assistant in the absence of a certifying health care professional or with his or her approval.
SB 3833	Adds physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and athletic trainers in the list of mandated reports under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.



Local Government

HB 2379	Extends the deadline for the Bensenville Park District to sell the White Pines Golf Course from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
HB 2825	Authorizes the Village of Lemont to trade a portion of the Illinois & Michigan Canal with a private entity in exchange for a nearby piece of property of similar value to allow an economic development project to proceed.
HB 4114	Allows the Kaskaskia Regional Port District to own and lease buildings for specific use.
HB 4170	Allows Rockford Park District to sell property containing the Elliot Golf Course, at fair market value, with the Park District Board of Commissioners to authorize the sale by a majority vote.
HB 4173	Changes the makeup of the Board of School Trustees for Lyons Township and the petition signature requirement for townships over 20,000 inhabitants.
HB 4219	Authorizes the Illinois Treasurer to transfer property to the City of Collinsville for tourism and hospitality purposes for \$1. If the property is not used for tourism and hospitality, it will automatically revert to State ownership.
HB 4251	Provides that specified contracts related to materials, supplies or work that is more than \$30,000 must be contracted in townships.
HB 4326	Mandates 1% of county tax revenue generated from the school facility and resources occupation tax be distributed to the regional superintendent of schools to cover administration and enforcement costs, and 1% (currently 2%) be deposited into the State Tax Compliance and Administration Fund.
HB 4461	Requires a municipality to reimburse a fire protection district for costs incurred by the district, alongside the amount due, if the payment is not made within 30 days.
HB 4677	Allows the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to issue up to \$600 million in bonds for the purpose of depositing the proceeds into their pension system and requires the district to make pension contributions, starting in FY2032.
HB 4772	Authorizes counties to utilize design-build contracts for public projects and require proposals from contractors to include their plan to comply with diversity, equity and inclusion requirements.
HB 4785	Changes the dates for the Cook County Forest Preserve District to levy taxes to match those of other Forest Preserve Districts in the State.
HB 5018	Creates the Cook County Housing Fund to finance a variety of housing projects, such as new construction, rehabilitation of property fees, loans to project owners, and more.
HB 5283	Requires a library board of trustees to fill a vacancy within 90 days of it being declared, and allows the Treasurer of Public Library District Boards to be appointed by the board, not elected.
HB 5316	Allows the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board of Commissioners to appoint an Inspector General or enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the appointment of an Inspector General.
HB 5532	Expedites the process to obtain property tax exemptions for the Cook County Land Bank, the South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority, and the Northern Illinois Land Bank Authority by permitting these entities to bypass the standard application process.
SB 0658	Creates statutory requirements for the validity and proper purposes of an annexation.
SB 1016	Updates the requirement for a chairperson of a water commission to state they must be a resident of the home county.
SB 1734	Allows the Village of Forest View to engage in permanent easement on specified property for the purpose of installing a traffic light in a busy intersection.



SB 3050	Specifies that for competitive bids for park district contracts, the allowed expenditure amount for contracts for materials/labor is raised from \$25,000 to \$30,000.
SB 3187	Changes the Counties Code and clarifies that an electronic or physical image of the county recorder's stamp does satisfy the signature requirement for record instruments.
SB 3433	Allows municipalities to adopt an ordinance to eradicate common types of buckthorn on all public and private property within its geographic boundaries.
SB 3467	Prohibits land lease agreements that require a park district, conservation district, or other local public entity with recreation department and facilities that is leasing land from a public utility to assume all liability.
SB 3497	Eliminates non-resident fees for children living in unincorporated areas to allow them access to local libraries.
SB 3737	Allows the Kendall County Board, with the approval of the presiding judge, to charge an additional filing fee, of \$30 or less, on civil and criminal cases filed with the court to raise money to build additional courthouse facilities.
SB 3789	Mandates local governments to form a committee once every 10 years to evaluate efficiencies, accountability, and possible consolidation with another governmental unit.

Mental Health

HB 1321	Creates within the Department of Human Services a First Responder Behavioral Health Grant Program.
HB 1592	Requires the Department of Human Services to create a plan that addresses improving access to inpatient psychiatric beds in State-operated mental health facilities for individuals needing a hospital level of care.
HB 4306	Creates the Holistic Mental Health Care for Youth in Care Task Force to review and make recommendations regarding mental health and wellness services provided to youth in care.
HB 5196	Creates modified definition language for the term "developmental disability" and "intellectual disability" in the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code.
SB 1633	Prohibits nursing home residents from performing labor for a facility unless for therapeutic purposes. Requires outpatient mental health service facilities have a written internal grievance procedure.
SB 3156	Establishes a direct support professional credential pilot program within the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Human Services.
SB 3617	A multifaceted approach to increase the workforce in the mental and behavioral health field.
SB 3889	Creates the Children's Mental Health Council to which would provide recommendations to the General Assembly and the governor each year regarding children with mental health.
SB 3914	Requires that the school board of each school district shall include mental health as part of the currently negotiated sick days for full time employees of the district.
SB 4028	Creates a mental health council that works to figure out how to help children in school to find a mental health provider and how to access the mental health system. Puts into school curriculum lessons and teachings about mental health. Amendment clarifies who can sit on council.



Opioid Addiction Prevention and Treatment

HB 1780	Requires pharmaceutical companies that manufacture prescription and non-prescription drugs to establish, implement, maintain, and pay for all costs of an approved drug take-back program.
HB 4408	Prohibits insurers and Medicaid from imposing a copayment for naloxone hydrochloride, an opioid suppressant.
HB 4556	Provides that pharmacists, physicians, physician assistants and nurses would no longer be charged for possession of drug adulterant testing supplies.
SB 2535	Requires that before a licensed pharmacist dispenses an opioid, he or she must inform the patient that opioids are addictive and offer to dispense an opioid antagonist.
SB 2565	Permits drug, mental health and veterans courts to allow the state's attorney to file to expunge records and convictions of individuals who complete the programs.
SB 3024	Allows medical director or a public health administrator to have access to the Prescription Monitoring Program database.
SB 3166	Requires hospitals, establishments, or facilities to ensure nurses are aware of the Illinois Professionals Health Program and also requires one hour of continuing education training on substance abuse and disorders.

Pensions

HB 4209	Opens a window to transfer service credit accrued in Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund if the service was as a sheriff's law enforcement employee, person employed for police duties, a full time forest preserve district law enforcement officer or an employee performing administrative police duties.
HB 4292	Authorizes \$1 billion in bonds to pay for cost of living adjustments for statewide pension funds and also extends the accelerated pension benefit programs through June 30, 2026.
HB 4320	Overload work at State Universities resulting from an emergency declaration will be exempt from additional pension contributions from July 1, 2020.
HB 4435	Provides that any active Chicago firefighter who has completed seven or more years of service and is unable to perform their duties because of a contagious staph infection resulting from their service shall receive an occupational disease disability benefit.
HB 4646	Requires that trustees of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund be given at least 20 days of paid leave from their employer for the purpose of attending meetings of the Board of Trustees.
HB 4924	Removes a requirement for the treasurer of a municipality to be bonded in their capacity as a custodian of a Downstate Firefighter Article 3 pension fund.
HB 4926	Changes the State Employee Article of the Illinois Pension code by establishing tier 2 investigators with the Office of the Attorney General are eligible for the SERS alternative retirement formula.
HB 5295	Requires employees covered by the Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago that are injured from secondary employment to have these benefits reduced by any amount they receive from Worker's Compensation or the Workers' Occupational Diseases Act.
HB 5447	Allows a spouse of a downstate police officer to receive survivor benefits if he or she was married to the officer for at least 5 years prior to their death.
HB 5472	Allows retired teachers to be reemployed for up to 140 days or 700 hours until June 30, 2022.



SB 1571	Permits fees paid to foreign fire insurance board by institutions not incorporated under statute to be 2% of gross receipts with allowance for legal action if this does not occur.
SB 2952	Allows the Chicago City Treasurer to appoint a designee to act in the absence of the Treasurer on all matters pertaining to the administration of the Retirement Board of the Laborers' and Retirement Board Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund.
SB 2958	Establishes a service credit contribution formula for participants on leave from the Laborers' and Retirement Board Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago.
SB 2989	Allows Chicago teachers to establish up to 2 years of service credit for time spent as a teacher or administrator employed by a private school that is registered with or recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education.
SB 2991	Establishes that the State University Retirement System may recover over payments regardless of the date discovered plus interest from the date of the over payment to the date of recovery.
SB 3177	Allows Chicago Firefighters to withdraw their pension contributions from the Fireman's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago if he or she were to leave to go to a different department or he/she meets certain age and service requirements.
SB 3465	Allows retired Chicago teachers to return to work through June 2024 without it affecting their pensions in designated subject shortage area.
SB 3651	Provides when the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund is addressing employer contributions for certain earning increases, it excludes any increase resulting from a member being paid through workers compensation.
SB 3652	Provides that employers participating in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund that creates early retirement incentive programs must include language specifying that a person retiring early under the program should lose those incentives if employed later by the IMRF.
SB 3778	Opens a six month window for investigators from the Illinois Department of Revenue, Gaming Board, Secretary of State or arson Investigators to transfer up to five years of service credit to SERS alternative formula.
SB 3785	Opens up a six month window for members of the Downstate Police Pension funds to transfer service credit from the Municipal Retirement Fund for service as a county correctional officer or for performing administrative duties related to law enforcement while being employed by certain municipalities.
SB 3954	A teacher may accept employment without it affecting their retirement if it is less than 10 days in length and they make less than \$2,000.
SB 3957	Changes the Pension Code to create flexibility in when elections and appointments are to be conduct for board members of the Teacher Retirement System's Board.
SB 4000	Provides that retired members of Chicago Teachers Pension Fund may be re-employed as a teacher or administrator for up to 140 days on a temporary non-annual basis without his or her retirement annuity being canceled.
SB 4053	Provides that beginning Jan 1, 2023, the minimum widow's annuity for Chicago police and fire cannot be lower than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level for people receiving widow's annuities.



Public Safety

HB 0107	Requires record keeping on the purchase of catalytic converters. Prohibits a recyclable metal dealer from purchasing a catalytic converter with cash.
HB 0260	Allows any municipal law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over Cook County expressways and Lake Shore Drive to use images from expressway cameras to investigate vehicular hijackings, terrorism, forcible felonies and firearm offenses.
HB 0601	Expands the definition of the crime of possessing burglary tools to include devices to unlock or start a vehicle without a key and duplicating a signal from a key fob of a vehicle.
HB 1091	Codifies the crime of Organized Retail Crime as the theft of retail merchandise with the intent to sell. Creates the INFORM Act and also gives prosecutors additional resources to charge perpetrators.
HB 1321	Creates within the Department of Human Services a First Responder Behavioral Health Grant Program.
HB 1568	Creates the Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Fund, Board, and permits employees of the Sheriff's Department, Department of Corrections security, and parole agents who retire to purchase any badge previously issued, and if valid FOID Card, their service firearm issued previously.
HB 1571	Requires the Department of Human Services to establish and administer an Off-Hours Child Care Program to help first responders and other workers identify and access to off-hours, night, or sleep time child care.
HB 2985	Provides assistance up to \$10,000 for funeral or burial services costs to families of minors killed by a violent crime.
HB 3512	The second trailer bill to the SAFE-T Act (P.A. 101-652) that makes various technical changes and addresses implementation challenges with body camera footage labeling, detainee phone calls, officer decertification and officer training.
HB 3699	Provides additional resources to law enforcement to combat carjackings.
HB 3772	People whose car was stolen will not be liable for violations, fees, fines or penalties when caught on red light camera or speed camera.
HB 3863	Creates the Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Fund, to award grants for the purposes of hiring and retaining law enforcement officers.
HB 3893	Extends sunset date for an eavesdropping exemption which permits law enforcement to use a device to record a conversation during an investigation of qualified offenses, such as drug and sex offenses, for four years to January 1, 2027. Extends "RICO" laws by one year to June 11, 2023.
HB 3988	Creates the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Chicago Women Act to examine and report on the systemic causes behind violence that Chicago women and girls experience.
HB 4165	Public rescue equipment must be installed on all piers on Lake Michigan. Local governments must establish reporting requirements for publicly owned piers.
HB 4383	Bans the creation, sale and distribution of ghost guns and requires existing unserialized firearms or assembly parts to be serialized.
HB 4481	Increases access to expressway camera funding for counties across the state, not just Cook County, to help law enforcement monitor crimes on expressways.
HB 4556	Provides that pharmacists, physicians, physician assistants and nurses would no longer be charged for possession of drug adulterant testing supplies.
HB 4736	Creates the Crime Reduction Task Force and allows Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to provide grants for witness protection programs to allow more persons to qualify. Should include a representative from an organization that supports defendants, victims, or witnesses.



SB 3019	Bans a child sex offender from working at a carnival, amusement enterprise, or fair.
SB 3932	Require a coroner or medical examiner with custody of human remains that are not identified within 72 hours of discovery to notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
SB 4025	Requires the Inspector General to report the identity of employees against whom there is an investigative report that contains a substantiated allegation of physical or sexual abuse, financial exploitation, or egregious neglect of an individual.

Redistricting

HB 3138	The Judicial Circuits Districting Act of 2022.
---------	--

Revenue and Taxes

HB 0568	Allows the Comptroller's Office to establish an interactive map on the Comptroller's website that provides the location and annual financial information of taxing bodies.
HB 4132	Exempts the parking excise tax for the Illinois State Fair and DuQuoin State Fair, state owned property, tenants, state employee parking and a governmental entity that rents or leases the parking space to the public.
HB 4161	Requires a check box on State individual income tax returns with the option to donate to the 100 Club of Illinois Fund.
HB 4284	Reduces the tax on vehicle transfers made pursuant to a living trust where the grantor has died and the beneficiary is anyone other than a surviving spouse to \$15.
HB 4326	Mandates 1% of county tax revenue generated from the school facility and resources occupation tax be distributed to the regional superintendent of schools to cover administration and enforcement costs, and 1% (currently 2%) be deposited into the State Tax Compliance and Administration Fund.
HB 4362	Requires the Department of Revenue to submit all of its matters for publication on a quarterly basis.
HB 4452	Addresses local concern by making a change to the Community Mental Health Act proposition clarify on referendums the intent to levy less than the maximum, which is up to 0.15%.
SB 0157	A comprehensive revenue package to provide tax and financial relief to families throughout the state.
SB 1975	Permits the chief county assessment officer in counties of more than 3 million to automatically renew the homestead exemption without application for any eligible person with a disability.
SB 2990	Extends the completion date for the Downtown Area TIF in the Village of Palatine from December 2022 to December 2034.
SB 3097	Requires the purchaser of a tax certificate to file notice with the circuit court clerk, regarding the expiration of the redemption period, between 6 months and 111 days prior.
SB 3189	Allows properties zoned for commercial or industrial use in six townships in Cook County to certify as a southland reactivation property.
SB 3215	Validates certain tax levies for community mental health boards and clarifies that these levies are subject to PTELL if their establishing unit of local government is also subject to PTELL.
SB 3685	Requires retailers, whose annual gross receipts average \$20,000 or more, to file their sales tax returns electronically for motor vehicles, watercraft, aircraft, and trailers required to be registered with an agency of the state.
SB 3895	Makes various technical changes to the Property Tax Code in regard to assessed value of property.



Seniors

HB 5304	Reduces the vehicle registration fee for seniors from \$24 to \$10.
SB 0702	Creates the Senior Housing Residents' Advisory Council to evaluate available resources, services, and state outreach for seniors and review the impact of COVID-19 on senior living arrangements.
SB 1633	Prohibits nursing home residents from performing labor for a facility unless for therapeutic purposes. Requires outpatient mental health service facilities have a written internal grievance procedure.
SB 3490	Creates a commission to make recommendations to address disparities in treatment and overall well-being faced by LGBTQ older adults and older adults living with HIV.
SB 3707	Requires employees or contractors with the Illinois Department on Aging who provide direct services to individuals enrolled in the Community Care Program to complete at least two hours of training on Alzheimer's and dementia prior to the start of employment.

State Government

HB 0568	Allows the Comptroller's Office to establish an interactive map on the Comptroller's website that provides the location and annual financial information of taxing bodies.
HB 1449	Extends the sunset of the Elevator Safety and Regulation Act and the Fire Equipment Distributor and Employees Regulation Act of 2011 to Jan. 1, 2028.
HB 1567	Outlines the duties of the Governor's Office of New Americans.
HB 4261	Establishes Dolostone as the official state rock of Illinois.
HB 4333	Clarifies language to ensure that all State entities receiving workers' compensation services from the Illinois Department of Central Management Services are required to authorize payments to the Workers' Compensation Revolving Fund for the cost of such services.
HB 4362	Requires the Department of Revenue to submit all of its matters for publication on a quarterly basis.
HB 4366	Requires all counties to complete the Guardianship Training Program.
HB 4493	Changes multiple acts to correct errors, bring statutes in line with current practices by the Department of Insurance and insurance companies, and increase or establish fees to cover the department's administrative costs.
HB 4568	Folds the duties of the Miners' Examining Board into the duties of the State Mining Board.
HB 4739	Changes the procurement code by allowing agencies to submit quarterly reports and changes the deadline for agencies to submit the office's "acts and doings" report to January 7.
HB 4740	Provides a bilingual pay supplement must be processed within 30 days of an employee presenting certification to CMS. CMS and community colleges must also set standards for linguistic ability.
HB 4766	Designates August 1 as Sweet Corn Appreciation Day.
HB 4783	Defines "disaster" in the Disaster Relief Act to have the same definition as the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.
HB 4811	Establishes April 18 as Republic of Ireland Day.
HB 4821	Makes the Eastern Milksnake the official State snake of the State of Illinois.
HB 4986	Designates "Theatre in the Park" as the Official State Theatre of Illinois.
HB 5015	Creates the Illinois 250 Commission that will coordinate with the American 250 Commission to organize, promote, and carry out inclusive celebrations and observances in Illinois leading up to and commemorating the USA's 250th anniversary.



HB 5064	Creates requirements for purchase of service agencies that have contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services to provide transportation services.
HB 5098	Provides that if a municipality lengthens, disconnects or annexes a roadway, the corporate authority of the municipality initiating the action must notify the Illinois Department of Transportation.
HB 5186	Cleans up redundant, obsolete and/or out of date language from statute.
HB 5192	Allows the Budgeting for Results Commission, by a majority vote, to choose to hold one virtual meeting (open to the public and over the Internet) in lieu of the currently required two in-person public meetings.
HB 5501	Cleans up various statutes through out the entirety of the Illinois Compiled Statutes to make technical and conforming changes.
HB 5525	Creates the Commission on Children of Incarcerated Parents to work with the task force on Children of Incarcerated Parents.
HB 5575	Creates a task force to study the barriers to licensure for historically and economically disadvantaged populations.
HB 5581	Designates a section of Milwaukee Avenue in Niles as the Milwaukee Avenue Polish Heritage Corridor.
SB 0302	Transfers duties of the State Historian to the Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.
SB 2984	Adds youth entrepreneurs to the list of individuals eligible for training and mentorship programs offered by entrepreneurship assistance centers.
SB 3082	Adds members from several specific journalist organizations to the Local Journalism Task Force. Includes new representatives from agencies that are part of the larger local journalism apparatus.
SB 3108	Allows the Illinois State Museum to assist the Illinois Department of Natural Resources with managing any of its 56 historic sites.
SB 3174	Raises the maximum value of unclaimed property that can be returned to a property owner, without a filed claim, to \$5,000 and raises the maximum value of unclaimed property that can be returned to a deceased person's heir or representative to \$250.
SB 3179	The Illinois Center for Geographic Information would be created within the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois to evaluate proposals, in consultation with the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee, and make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.
SB 3180	Requires a designated point of contact must immediately and efficiently monitor and review complaints, suggestions and other requests made by visitors of Illinois Department of Corrections facilities and by other members of the public.
SB 3597	Transfers two properties from the Illinois Department of Corrections to the Village of Hopkins Park and to the Lockport Township Fire Protection District in a sale.
SB 3625	Extends the repeal of the Design-Build Procurement Act from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2027.
SB 3626	Requires certified Solid Waste Site Operators and Special Waste Site Operators to take an initial exam for certification then maintain 15 hours of continuing education thereafter, rather than retaking the same certification exam every three years.
SB 3661	Exempts motor truck, motor tank, and water transportation companies from having to report motor fuel transported within Illinois to the Illinois Department of Revenue.
SB 3777	Makes various changes to the Technology Development Account to help earn greater investment returns for the state and support technology related jobs in Illinois.
SB 3786	Changes the State Treasurer Act to further define a "designated representative" to align the ABLE program with Federal Treasury regulations adopted in November 2020.



SB 3787	Allows the Secretary of Illinois Financial and Professional Regulation may accept an examination from the National Credit Union Administration or a private insurer of share deposits, rather than a private insurer, instead of an examination conducted by the department or by a public accountant registered by the department.
SB 3832	Provides that tangible personal property sold by or on behalf of the State Treasurer is exempt from sales taxes.
SB 3847	Makes technical changes to the Community Development Loan Guarantee Act.
SB 3939	Establishes a cybersecurity liaison program within the Department of Innovation & Technology to advise and assist local governments and school districts in identifying cyber threats. It also requires cybersecurity training for every municipal and county employee.
SB 4013	Extends the sunset of the Professional Counselor and Clinical Professional Counselor Licensing and Practice Act until January 1, 2028 and makes various modifications to update and modernize the language in the Act and to conform its terminology with that contained in other statutes.
SB 4014	Changes the Regulatory Sunset Act to extend the sunset of the Wholesale Drug Distribution Licensing Act until January 1, 2028. Also makes various modifications to update and modernize the language in the Act and to conform its terminology with that contained in other statutes.
SB 4016	Extends the sunset of the Naprapathic Practice Act until January 1, 2028. Also makes various modifications to update and modernize the language in the Act and to conform its terminology with that contained in other statutes.
SB 4017	Changes the Regulatory Sunset Act to extend the sunset of the Funeral Directors and Embalming Licensing Code until January 1, 2028. Also makes various modifications to update and modernize the language in the Act and to conform its terminology with that contained in other statutes.
SB 4018	Changes the Regulatory Sunset Act to extend the sunset of the Pharmacy Practice Act until January 1, 2028. It also makes various modifications to update and modernize the language in the Act and to conform its terminology with that contained in other statutes.
SB 4024	Changes the Illinois Act on Aging by removing a reference to the hyperlink titled "Resident's Right to Know," which shared the Consumer Choice Information Reports on long-term care facilities produced by the Department on Aging since identical resources appear online in other locations.

Teacher Shortage

HB 4246	Reduces the reinstatement of a lapsed Professional Educator License payment to a \$50 penalty from a \$500 penalty.
HB 4798	Allows currently enrolled educator students in Illinois with 90 credit hours will be qualified for a substitute teaching license.
HB 5472	Allows retired teachers to be reemployed for up to 140 days or 700 hours until June 30, 2022.
SB 3465	Allows retired Chicago teachers to return to work through June 2024 without it affecting their pensions in designated subject shortage area.
SB 3663	Reduces the required professional development hours for educators by 20% for renewal cycles that are included in the 2021-2022 school year.
SB 3893	Changes the School Code so substitute teachers may teach 120 school days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same school year.
SB 3907	Provides that a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may teach up to 15 (instead of 5) consecutive days per licensed teacher who is under contract.



SB 3914	Requires that the school board of each school district shall include mental health as part of the currently negotiated sick days for full time employees of the district.
SB 3915	Provides that the application fee for a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License shall be waived when the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency.
SB 3954	A teacher may accept employment without it affecting their retirement if it is less than 10 days in length and they make less than \$2,000.
SB 3988	Provides that a paraprofessional educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who is at least 18 years of age and will be using the Educator License with Stipulations exclusively for elementary education.
SB 4000	Provides that retired members of Chicago Teachers Pension Fund may be re-employed as a teacher or administrator for up to 140 days on a temporary non-annual basis without his or her retirement annuity being canceled.

Tourism

HB 4219	Authorizes the Illinois Treasurer to transfer property to the City of Collinsville for tourism and hospitality purposes for \$1. If the property is not used for tourism and hospitality, it will automatically revert to State ownership.
---------	--

Transportation

HB 3124	Removes the exemption for municipalities with a population of more than 1 million from the requirement to maintain and utilize a Tow Rotation List when a law enforcement agency authorizes the towing of a vehicle.
HB 4163	Money in the Illinois Police Association Fund shall be used to provide benefits for the families of members of the Illinois Police Association dying of natural causes.
HB 4230	Bus driver's licenses cannot be suspended within a three year period as a result of failing to pay child support.
HB 4434	Allows the Secretary of State to issue special license plates for professional sports teams, including the Chicago Sky, the Chicago Red Stars, and the Chicago Fire.
HB 4434	Allows the Secretary of State to issue special license plates for professional sports teams, including the Chicago Sky, the Chicago Red Stars and the Chicago Fire.
HB 4990	Clarifies the Downstate Public Transportation Act to allow participants to submit independent audits no later than 180 days after the end of a participant's fiscal year, rather than the State's fiscal year.
HB 5026	Removes "Susan G. Komen Foundation" from mammogram license plates and rather sends the money collected to be paid to the Illinois Department of Public Health for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program to provide patient navigation services.
HB 5035	Allows the Department of Transportation to implement a 5-year pilot program to allow a contractor to provide a non-diminishing irrevocable bank letter of credit in lieu of a surety bond for certain contracts in order to reduce barriers of entry that diverse and small businesses may face.
HB 5078	Expands the list of persons eligible to receive a Gold Star Family License Plate to include stepchildren, adopted children, and half-siblings of veterans who lost their lives serving in a branch of the United States Armed Forces.



HB 5098	Provides that if a municipality lengthens, disconnects or annexes a roadway, the corporate authority of the municipality initiating the action must notify the Illinois Department of Transportation.
HB 5205	Changes the Highway Code to allow local municipalities, counties, and townships where excess property is located to purchase excess property from the Department of Transportation before the property is offered for sale in a public sale, by auction or sealed bidding process.
HB 5304	Reduces the vehicle registration fee for seniors from \$24 to \$10.
HB 5328	Changes school zone speed limits to apply to local, county, and state roadways. Additionally, permits a “park zone street” to apply to state or local streets.
HB 5400	Allows the Illinois Department of Agriculture to issue Future Farmers of America decals for universal special license plates.
HB 5439	Prohibits a person from engaging in a street sideshow on any roadway that disturbs traffic. In addition, the Secretary of State must automatically process salvage or junking certificates to a salvage dealer who posts an annual bond of \$100,000.
HB 5463	Allows the Department of Transportation to provide grants or permits for vegetation control around a permitted advertising sign on land under the department’s jurisdiction.
HB 5496	Clarifies that not all collisions are accidents and replaces “accident” with “crash” on all relevant state documents.
SB 1233	Creates the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure Funding and Policy to examine and recommend alternative funding mechanisms for transportation projects and operations in Illinois.
SB 2981	Allows for design-build and construction manager-general contractor project delivery methods on Illinois Department of Transportation and Tollway projects.
SB 3006	Updates the Collateral Recovery Act to better regulate the collateral recovery industry.
SB 3007	Makes a variety of technical changes to the Illinois Vehicle Code.
SB 3096	Permits a person to operate a motor vehicle if in possession of a digitized driver’s license.
SB 3495	Provides that a fire department or protection district may authorize a fire chief, assistant fire chief, or deputy fire chief’s vehicle for department use and that vehicle may use oscillating lights only when responding to a bona fide emergency.
SB 3609	Reduces the vehicle registration fees for cars and small trucks if it was manufactured in Illinois.
SB 3629	Provides that if a vehicle owner has a legal agreement with the owner of private property to park on the property, the owner should provide notice of a tow of the vehicle at least 3 hours before vehicle is towed.
SB 3793	Adds community service to the list of penalties for speeding in a school zone.
SB 3848	Requires the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning along with the Regional Transit Authority to submit a report of legislative recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding changes that will ensure long term financial viability for a regional public transportation system.



Veterans

HB 2991	Requires the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs to set up a contract for a market research analysis of veterans' field services in Illinois and provide a report on the agency's plans for service delivery.
HB 4680	Allows Illinois veterans to apply from home for fishing, hunting, and sportsmen's combination licenses.
HB 4682	Expands the services for which Veterans' Cash grants can be used and makes grants directly available to veterans for emergency financial assistance.
HB 4998	Requires Illinois Department of Human Services to track and report data on homeless veterans using their homelessness programs.
HB 5078	Expands the list of persons eligible to receive a Gold Star Family License Plate to include stepchildren, adopted children, and half-siblings of veterans who lost their lives serving in a branch of the United States Armed Forces.
HB 5175	Provides that to qualify for the Illinois Veteran grant program, it will only require an honorable discharge after the most recent period of federal active duty service rather than after each period of active duty.
HB 5184	Provides the overseer of military veterans assistance should be the commanders of various veteran services organizations or the superintendent of a County Veterans Assistance Commission.
HB 5385	Designates the Department of Veterans Affairs as the primary statewide organization under a federal program to match service members in active duty with workforce development opportunities.
SB 1411	Offers free death certificates to active duty or retired US military members upon request.
SB 3459	If an Illinois resident dies while on State Active Duty or Federal Active Duty, their next of kin shall be presented the Illinois state flag.
SB 3867	Permits all school boards to waive fees for each student with a parent who is a veteran with an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Veterans Affairs

SB 3762	Provides clarity to MIA/POW Scholarship eligibility and applicability. In order to be eligible, a legally adopted dependent must be under the age of 18 at the time of adoption or court-ordered guardianship, and that a step-child must be under the age of 18 at the time of marriage.
---------	---

Women's Issues

HB 4271	Medically necessary breast reduction surgery must be covered by private insurance that is covered by state laws.
HB 4338	Expands insurance coverage for prescription drugs to include prenatal vitamins after Jan. 1, 2024.
HB 5013	Requires a managed care organization to pay for preventative prenatal services, perinatal healthcare services, and postpartum services rendered by a non-affiliated provider.
HB 5254	Requires health insurance plans to cover medically necessary hormone therapy treatments for women who have induced menopause by undergoing a hysterectomy.
HB 5334	Requires health insurance coverage for genetic testing to detect risks for breast and ovarian cancers upon the recommendation of a health care provider.
SB 3023	Provides that survivors of sexual assault can receive access to healthcare services free of charge for 180 days following their initial forensic visit.
SB 3120	Allows women who have a miscarriage, other diagnosis or event that impacts pregnancy or fertility, or death of a family member to take 10 days of unpaid leave.