



SENATE IN REVIEW 2023

A look at the 2023 accomplishments of
the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus

Don Harmon, Senate President
Communications Department
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com



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SENATE IN REVIEW 2023



LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Communications Department
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







Legislative Accomplishments

The 2023 spring legislative session was the first “normal” session since 2019 – coming off COVID years and last year’s shortened session.

This year, the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus passed hundreds of measures to serve and assist Illinoisans in all corners of the state.

The General Assembly focused its efforts on public safety, workers’ rights and becoming the most equitable and inclusive state in the nation.

Protecting Illinois communities

During Lame Duck Session in January, the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus passed historic legislation that bans the sale and manufacturing of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

House Bill 5471 – led by Senate

President Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) – bans assault weapons and high-capacity magazines from being manufactured or sold in Illinois. The comprehensive gun safety package also places a ban on rapid-fire devices intended to make semiautomatic firearms fully automatic, and increases the duration of a Firearm Restraining Order from six months to up to one year. A Firearm Restraining Order allows the family of a gun owner or law enforcement to obtain a civil order temporarily removing the firearm and ammunition from people who pose a risk of harm to themselves or others.

The legislation builds on years of preventative measures to curb gun violence passed by the caucus. In recent years, Senate Democrats have passed commonsense gun safety laws requiring universal

background checks at point of sale and transfer, streamlining FOID registration, strengthening “red flag” laws and increasing awareness of safe gun storage for gun owners and youth.

Becoming a safe haven

Illinois has led the nation by establishing some of the most extensive reproductive health laws protecting abortion and gender-affirming care in the country.

With *Roe vs. Wade* being overturned by the Supreme Court, State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) passed House Bill 464 to protect health care professionals in Illinois from restrictive laws from other states. The measure further provides privacy and protections for people who seek reproductive health care or gender-affirming care



would be subject to penalties, including fines and compensatory damages for affected employees. Employers can still require their employees to provide notice before taking paid time off if the use of leave is foreseeable.

Making health care more accessible

During the spring legislative session, members of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus also passed plans to make health care more accessible through proposals to cap the cost of EpiPens, make hearing aids free-of-charge, and help patients find the most cost effective avenues to care.

Epinephrine Auto-Injectors are the only medication that works on the entire body to combat anaphylaxis, a potentially fatal allergic reaction. However, since 2017, a global shortage of these devices has made this medication increasingly difficult to obtain. That's why State Senator Mike Halpin (D-Rock Island) passed House Bill

in Illinois without being penalized.

In 2019, Illinois enforced abortion rights legislation that the Illinois Supreme Court currently upholds. This means that regardless of *Roe vs. Wade* being overturned, abortion is still legal in Illinois.

House Bill 4664 also requires the Department of Public Health to collaborate with non-profit organizations to administer grants to provide abortion training that would allow nurses and birthing centers to provide clinical reproductive care.

that can be used for any reason. A worker would begin to earn paid leave on their first day of employment at a rate of one hour of leave for every 40 hours worked. Starting on March 31, 2024, or 90 days following commencement of employment, workers can begin using their earned time off for any reason without the requirement of providing documentation to their employer.

The law provides that employers who fail to provide these benefits

Supporting workers

It's not uncommon for life to get in the way of work – be it your child unexpectedly gets sick or your car breaks down. That's why Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) led Senate Bill 208 to make Illinois the third state in the U.S. to guarantee paid leave.

Under the law, all employers in Illinois will be required to provide their employees with a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave per year





3639 to limit the cost of EpiPens to a maximum of \$60 per twin-pack.

Meanwhile, members of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus believe Illinoisans shouldn't have to face financial burdens for something that is necessary for a high quality of life – like hearing aids.

State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) championed House Bill 2443 to require insurance providers to cover hearing aids and related services for people of all ages.

The costs associated with health care upkeep are high, especially for those with pre-existing conditions and those who don't have medical insurance. State Senator Robert Peters (D-Chicago) also led a measure to help connect patients to financial assistance for hospital costs.

House Bill 2719 requires hospitals to screen a patient for financial assistance eligibility and exhaust all cost-reducing avenues before taking a collection action against the patient. Additionally, the measure provides a 90-day window



for a patient to apply for financial assistance or hospital-provided discounts after receiving care.

Combating the opioid crisis

Opioid overdoses in Illinois alone increased 33% between 2019 and 2020 – a jarring statistic that led members of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus to champion measures to tackle the epidemic.

State Senator Paul Faraci

(D-Champaign) led a measure to expand access to overdose prevention supplies for providers enrolled in the Illinois Department of Human Services' Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Division Drug Overdose Prevention Team. House Bill 1121 increases access to fentanyl test strips and improves public health outcomes by preventing fatal overdose.

Fentanyl abuse is on the rise, leading State Senator Laura Ellman (D-Naperville) to sponsor House Bill 3924, which seeks to combat the risk of overdoses by requiring all high school students enrolled in a state-required health course to learn about the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl contamination.

To increase patron safety at concert venues State Senator Karina Villa (D-West Chicago) championed House Bill 1557. The measure requires for-profit music venues that have an occupancy of 1,000 or more to have opioid-overdose antidotes, such as naloxone, on hand and have staff members who are sufficiently





trained in administrating it.

Tackling the teacher shortage

As school districts around the state continue struggling to fill teaching positions, Senate Democrats worked on a number of legislative measures that would help address the void.

According to the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, there are more than 5,300 unfilled positions in schools.

In an attempt to address the vacancies and increase the substitute teacher pool, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood) led House Bill 3442 to allow a substitute teacher who has filled a vacancy left by a licensed teacher to teach in an emergency situation for 90 days or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater, if the school district files a written request with the appropriate regional office of education.

Loughran Cappel also led Senate Bill 2236 to remove the number

of days for short-term substitute teachers to teach in the classroom – allowing them to spend more time in the classroom if needed and remove application fees for teaching licenses.

State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea) led a measure that aims to provide an incentive for teachers to work in underserved areas, as these are the areas that are most affected by the current teacher shortage.

House Bill 3801 provides

retention bonuses of \$4,000 per year, for two consecutive years to teachers who are National Board Certified who are employed in hard-to-staff schools.

A hard-to-staff school is a public school that no less than 30% of the student enrollment is considered low-income. Becoming a National Board Certified teacher is a career continuum for those who start in pre-service teacher preparation, leading aspiring teachers to pursue and achieve National Board Certification.

To incentivize educational professionals, the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus also championed House Bill 1291, which will increase the annual pay cap from \$1,500 to \$2,250 for teachers with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designations who mentor or provide professional development for classroom teachers or counselors.





SENATE IN REVIEW 2023

SPREADING
THE NEWS

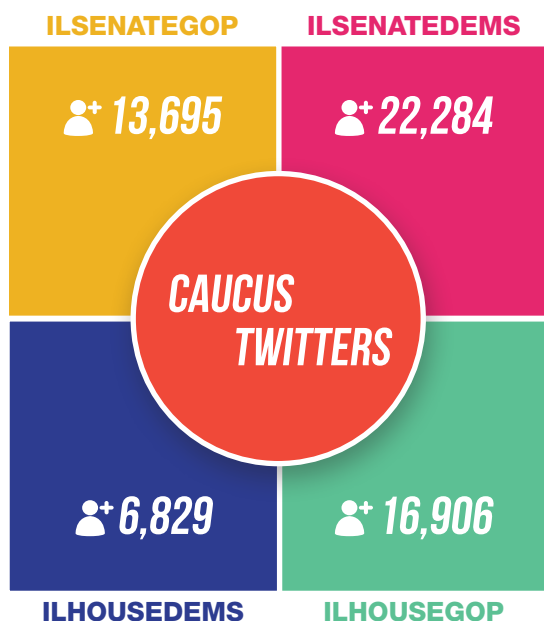
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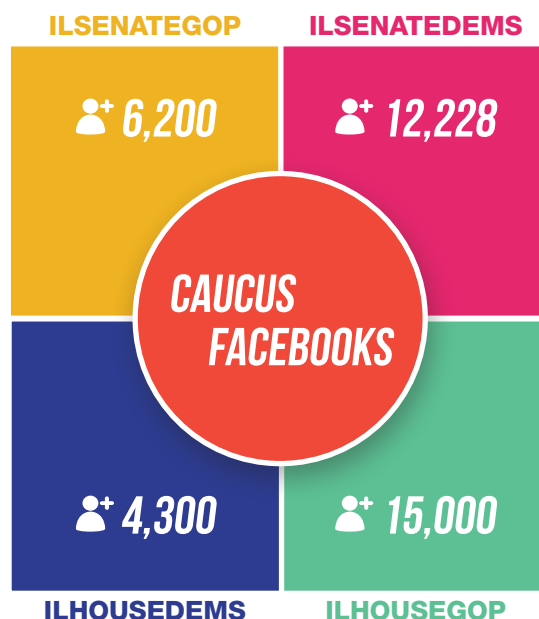
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TOP 5 TWEETS

twitter.com/ilsendems

1

STATE SENATOR
MIKE SIMMONS

@SenMikeSimmons passes bill to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

April 17, 2023

44,147 Impressions



STATE SENATOR
RACHEL VENTURA

@SenatorVentura leads bill to remove odor of cannabis as probable cause to search a vehicle.

March 30, 2023

21,007 Impressions

2

3

STATE SENATOR
MIKE SIMMONS

@SenMikeSimmons passes bill to strengthen marriage equality in Illinois.

May 5, 2023

19,982 Impressions



STATE SENATOR
LAURA MURPHY

With rising numbers of libraries being forced to ban certain books across the country, @SenatorLaura Murphy has passed a bill through committee to block that from happening in Illinois.

April 22, 2023

4,551 Impressions

4

5

**IL SENATE
DEMOCRATS**

This week's #OneMinute video subject is @SenPacioneZayas. She describes her legislation to ensure access to programs for young people with disabilities, and shares a bit of Illinois trivia.

May 8, 2023

1,984 Impressions





f TOP 5 POSTS

facebook.com/IllinoisSenateDemocraticCaucus

1

STATE SENATORS

CRISTINA PACIONE-ZAYAS + RAM VILLIVALAM

NEW PODCAST: State Senators Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas and Ram Villivalam are joined by Mindy Parks, owner and operator of Parks' Place Child Care Center in Sangamon County to discuss challenges facing childcare providers and employees.

May 8, 2023

596 Reach



**NATIONAL
WORK-ZONE
WEEK**
APRIL 17-22

**IL SENATE
DEMOCRATS**

It's #NationalWorkZoneAwarenessWeek! Remember: if you are coming up on a work zone, slow down as much as possible – it could save a life.

April 19, 2023

596 Reach

2

3

STATE SENATOR

LAURA MURPHY

Right to read protected under State Senator Laura Murphy measure.

April 21, 2023

573 Reach



STATE SENATOR

CELINA VILLANUEVA

State Senator Celina Villanueva brought forth legislation that would allow charter schools to unionize without being penalized by management.

April 26, 2023

531 Reach

4

5

STATE SENATOR

MIKE SIMMONS

Senator Mike Simmons moves bill to protect young survivors of human trafficking being tried as adults.

April 25, 2023

445 Reach





INSTAGRAM

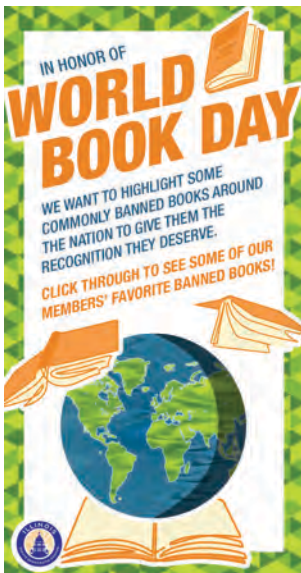
@ilsenatedems

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 2023 SESSION.

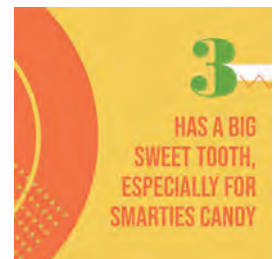
1,064 POSTS

2,073 FOLLOWERS

1,452 FOLLOWING



SHOW US YOUR GOOD SIDE





VIDEO



100%
ACCESSIBLE

150 VIDEOS PRODUCED THIS SESSION
COMPARED TO 80 VIDEOS IN THE SAME TIME PERIOD IN 2022.



AUDIO AND PODCASTS

((LISTEN NOW)) ★ 🎧 📱 🎧 🎧

DURING THE 2023 SESSION, WE CONTINUED TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION, ISSUES AND EVENTS, AND UPGRADED OUR NEW PODCAST GRAPHICS DESIGN FOR SOCIAL MEDIA.



1,900
EPISODE CLICKS
FROM OUR HOST PLATFORM ALONE



Senate Black Caucus enshrines equity in education, employment and minority business enterprise

Eager to begin the first normal legislative session since 2020, the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus remained consistent in their quest to enshrine equity in education, employment and minority business enterprise for Black Illinoisans during the 2023 session.

In response to the governor's State of the State and Budget Address, the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus celebrated proposed budget appropriations in early childhood investments and the Illinois Grocery Initiative. Using their Four Pillar Agenda as a moral compass, the Black Caucus continued to make strides toward

public safety reform, education and workforce development, economic equity, and health care and human services.

Building on the four pillars, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) passed a measure to equip schools with the resources they need to meet the diverse trauma and mental health needs of students. Motivated to continue the work initiated by the Whole Child Task Force, Lightford championed House Bill 342 to ensure education-licensing requirements include training on adverse childhood experiences, trauma, secondary traumatic stress

and trauma-responsive learning environments. State Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove) sponsored Senate Resolution 93 declaring March of 2023 as Illinois Whole Child Month to recognize the value of assuring that each student is challenged, supported, healthy, safe and engaged.

Inside classrooms in Chicago, studies have found that Black and Latino teachers routinely receive lower evaluation ratings because of their work environment, amplifying the existing teacher shortage and resulting in fewer Black and Latino educators. Freshman State Senator Willie Preston (D-Chicago)



passed a measure to increase educator diversity by overhauling the outdated teacher evaluation system. House Bill 3570 requires the Illinois State Board of Education to analyze and assess teacher evaluation data by breaking down information by race and ethnicity of students and teachers, as well as the free and reduced-price lunch status of students.

Inspired by the No Representation Without Population Act, Illinois Senate Black Caucus Chair Robert Peters (D-Chicago) fought to end prison gerrymandering to ensure more equitable and suitable representation for incarcerated individuals. House Bill 1496 requires sentencing court clerks to use a person's last known street address prior to incarceration, particularly during census years, which will count these individuals as members of their actual communities.

To reduce the amount of unnecessary traffic stops many Black Illinoisans face, State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea) championed a measure to prohibit law enforcement from pulling a vehicle over for objects placed between the driver and their front windshield. Before this measure, people could not drive with any objects placed or suspended between the driver and the front windshield. House Bill 2389 clarifies that vehicles cannot be stopped or searched by law enforcement solely because of an object's placement on the rear-view mirror or the front windshield.

Considering those who unjustly served time in prison despite being

innocent, State Senator Elgie R. Sims (D-Chicago) carried a measure to help individuals impacted by the justice system receive certificates of innocence. House Bill 1015 outlines the process for petitioners to prove



their innocence of the offenses for which they were convicted or that the offenses did not constitute a felony or misdemeanor.

Building on her work to expand economic opportunities and health equity for Black Illinoisans, State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) sponsored measures to prioritize diversity in agriculture and create additional tools for people to access fresh and healthy produce. Turner led House Bill 3892 through the Senate to incentivize affordable housing projects that incorporate urban and suburban gardening. Turner's measure will help residents, especially those living in or near food deserts, access nutritional foods right outside their doors.

Aligning with the Black Caucus' Economic Access Pillar, State Senator Napoleon Harris (D-Harvey) carried a measure to boost minority-owned businesses. House Bill 2088 will require insurance companies

with assets of \$50 million or more to submit a yearly report on their supplier diversity program or procurement program detailing the amounts they spend with businesses owned by minorities, women, LGBTQ+ individuals and veterans.

State Senator Mike Simmons (D-Chicago) spearheaded a measure to expand inclusivity in the state's workforce. House Bill 2297 adds state employees who identify as non-binary or gender non-conforming to the list of women, minorities and people with disabilities that agencies track to help guide efforts to achieve a more diversified state workforce.

Now more than ever, Black immigrants compose a significant percentage of both the immigrant and Black populations in the United States. Assistant Majority Leader Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) recognized the need to assist this growing population in Illinois and ensure they are not left out of policy decisions. Hunter worked to establish House Joint Resolution 18 to create the Task Force on Black Immigrants to study the state of Black immigrants in Illinois and provide recommendations on how to support them.

The Black Caucus worked adamantly during the 2023 session to enshrine equity in all industries and sectors in Illinois. The Black Caucus remains unyielding in the battle to dismantle systemic racism in the state and to empower all Black Illinoisans with equitable education, opportunities and representation.



Senate Latino Caucus: Building the foundation for a strong, united Illinois

Building upon their ambitious policy agenda “Raíces” — Spanish for “roots” — the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus continued their commitment to uplifting Latino families and delivering opportunities to the diverse communities that make up Illinois. With two Latino senators in leadership and four Latina senators chairing committees, the caucus continues to grow and make significant gains in their goal of securing equitable representation in the General Assembly.

The Latino Caucus started the year off meeting the moment and funding an urgent priority — delivering assistance to support asylum seekers arriving from the southern border — in the fiscal year 2023 supplemental

budget, thanks to their determined advocacy. Members secured more than \$160 million to continue helping nonprofits, shelters and the city respond to these humanitarian challenges, including \$90 million to support Welcoming Centers across Illinois. Latino senators have been vocal proponents for humane solutions to this crisis, collaborating with House Latino Caucus members on solutions, working with city officials and opening their offices to host donation drives since the buses began arriving in August 2022.

Led by State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) during the 2023 session, the Latino Caucus strengthened many priorities including workers’ rights, workforce

development and access to health care — issues that are near to caucus members, many of whom come from community organizing backgrounds. This year, Villanueva led a number of measures aimed at improving access to reproductive care for women across Illinois. From ensuring college students have 24/7 access to emergency contraceptives on campus through Senate Bill 1907, to limiting the deceptive tactics used by crisis pregnancy centers to deter women from accessing abortion care through Senate Bill 1909, Villanueva and the Latino Caucus secured major protections for women’s health and reproductive justice this year.

Majority Caucus Chair Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) and Majority



Caucus Whip Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) advocated for budget priorities that will benefit all Illinoisans. Aquino and Castro were instrumental in securing a number of investments in this year's budget, including additional funding for MAP grants so that even more low-income and Latino students can access higher education. Additionally, Castro passed House Bill 1283 to ensure nonprofits can access local government funding regardless of the citizenship status of the populations they serve.

A champion for equity in health care, Aquino advocated for expanding Medicaid benefits so that all immigrant communities in Illinois can access health care. Through Aquino's leadership, the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults program for people ages 42-plus remains protected for another fiscal year — ensuring adults and seniors can continue to receive lifesaving care and treatment, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that further exacerbated health inequities in this community.

To achieve lasting progress, Latino senators know that securing worker protections is critical. To this end, the caucus was instrumental in passing privacy safeguards for immigrant workers under Senate Bill 1515. Led by freshman Senator Javier Cervantes (D-Chicago), the legislation protects employees who are working legally within the United States from being wrongfully terminated due to receiving a "no match" letter from a federal agency. Cervantes is proud that the first bill he passed through

the Senate will protect marginalized employees and ensure everyone



feels safe in the workplace.

ILLC members also championed the GROW Illinois Initiative to continue supporting the workforce by awarding scholarships to students earning degrees in STEM fields. Led by Cervantes and co-sponsored by State Senators Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago), Villanueva and Castro, House Bill 1378 creates the Graduate and Retain Our Workforce Illinois Program to allow colleges and universities to award forgivable loans to students with qualifying degrees and jobs that are in high demand. The program will prioritize applications from minority students, help make college more affordable and create a pipeline of skilled STEM professionals — all while incentivizing students to stay and work in Illinois.

Every student deserves the opportunity to attend college, and ILLC members are no stranger to the hoops some — especially lower-income, first-generation or undocumented students — have to jump through to access these opportunities. That's why State

Senators Karina Villa (D-West Chicago) and Cervantes championed House Bill 3233, which increases donation opportunities to the Illinois Dream Fund. The Dream Fund provides financial support to DACA recipients to help them achieve degree completion. The measure received bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

Latino Caucus members also know that the foundation to a quality education starts well before the college years. By ensuring childhood instruction is both culturally and linguistically competent, Illinois has the opportunity to better support thousands of dual language students across the state. House Bill 3822, an initiative of Pacione-Zayas, Villa and Villanueva, does just that. Passed by both chambers in May, the initiative directs the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education to study dual language instruction across the state and provide recommendations on how to support these programs.

From advancing language access in schools to expanding workforce development, worker protections and reproductive freedom, this year's legislative and budget accomplishments will further justice and economic growth in every corner of the state. Members of the Senate's Latino Caucus are proud to serve and are excited to continue their work representing their communities, strengthening economic opportunities and ensuring Illinois remains a welcoming state for all people.



Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus enshrines equity, prioritizes representation

Over the last year the Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus worked diligently and advocated for the resources communities need to continue to flourish and thrive. Whether it is bringing acknowledgement to the Asian American community in Illinois, negotiating funding for programs and essential resources in the state budget, or expanding language access across state agencies

and covered entities, the Asian American Legislative Caucus forged forward in Illinois.

Chaired by State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago), the Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus worked to further enshrine equity during the spring legislative session, prioritizing language access and community representation.

The members of the Asian

American Caucus met in January with the Pan-Asian Voter Empowerment Coalition – a group of 16 Asian American advocacy and direct service organizations in the Chicagoland area – to discuss their priorities for the legislative session involving language justice and a wide scope of immigrant and refugee rights.

This year the caucus supported legislation under House Bill 3222



to create the Office of Language Equity and Access Act. The goal of the measure is to create an 18-member advisory council, including six members from the Asian American, Black and Latino Legislative Caucuses, to represent minority communities and implement policies and procedures for language equity and access across the state. In order to make programs more accessible to the minority communities of Illinois, this legislation will provide pathways and solutions to break down language barriers that may inhibit our communities from accessing vital programs.

Illinois is home to more than 870,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, according to the most recent American Community Survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The largest of these communities are Indian Americans, Filipino Americans, Chinese Americans, Korean Americans and Pakistani Americans.

To honor and celebrate the Asian American communities across Illinois, the Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus pushed for the adoption of Senate Resolution 278 to declare the month of May 2023

as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in honor of the contributions made by the



AAPI residents and communities in Illinois. The month of May was chosen to commemorate AAPI Heritage Month to mark the first arrival of Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869.

The commemoration uplifts the stories of more than 50 distinct

ethnic groups with more than 100 languages that comprise the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Despite discrimination, exclusion and violence – among other challenges – Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Illinois continue to thrive despite this adversity. They are a vital part of the development of Illinois and of the United States in every facet of public life and in the advancement of civil rights.

Caucus members look forward to continuing their work to advocate for respect, resources and representation for Asian American communities in Illinois.





Senate Women's Caucus prioritizes health care and wellbeing of women

Members of the Senate Women's Caucus once again made significant progress this legislative session prioritizing the health and wellbeing of women. Their achievements include lifesaving training on hands-only CPR for legislative members and staff, resolutions that recognize the accomplishments of women throughout history, and several pieces of legislation that expand access to health care services and supplies. This year, the Women's Caucus toured the Fox Valley Adult Transitional Center in Aurora with First Lady MK Pritzker, and members continue to research

women's reentry programs — like those offered at Kewanee Life Skills Reentry Center — to shape future policies that can support women who have been in the criminal justice system as they transition back into their communities.

In celebrating American Heart Month in February and National Wear Red Day on Feb. 3, the Women's Caucus organized a hands-only CPR training course led by the Illinois Heart Rescue and American Heart Association. Women frequently exhibit different symptoms than men when experiencing a heart attack and

are less likely to receive bystander CPR. The hands-only CPR training highlighted the importance of looking for cardiac arrest symptoms in women and ensuring women's symptoms are not disregarded. The event educated senators and legislative staff on how to recognize symptoms of cardiac arrest, how to safely perform hands-only CPR and other lifesaving knowledge, including the importance of regularly checking that Automatic External Defibrillators are in proper working order.

State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) and Senate Majority Leader



Kimberly Lightford (D-Maywood) each sponsored resolutions to recognize the contributions of women throughout history. To honor Black women who rose above their circumstances in the face of adversity to have a positive impact in U.S. history, Lightford passed Senate Resolution 37 to declare Feb. 28 as Black Women's History Day in Illinois. The date connects the nationally recognized months of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March). Castro's Senate Resolution 94 joined Illinois with the international community in celebrating International Women's Day on March 8. This resolution designates a day to celebrate the achievements of women and bring awareness to the obstacles they continue to face in the fight for equal rights and gender equality.

Continuing their focus on ensuring safe, comprehensive health care is available for women in Illinois, members of the Women's Caucus spearheaded several pieces of legislation regarding contraception and reproductive health care. State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood) advanced a measure to further provide women with the tools they need to lead healthy lives. As the Senate sponsor of House Bill 1565, Loughran Cappel sought to require insurance companies to cover vaginal estrogen when medically necessary. This form of

hormone replacement can treat symptoms that typically occur in women who are experiencing or have experienced menopause. Through medical treatment of these side effects, the measure will help empower women to live their best life without high out-of-pocket costs.



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) championed multiple measures to improve women's access to reproductive health care. Senate Bill 1909 prohibits crisis pregnancy centers from using deceptive practices that interfere with women's health care decisions. While crisis pregnancy centers may advertise themselves as health care clinics, many of these facilities offer very limited services and can provide misleading information including overstating the risks associated with abortion. Deceptive practices at crisis pregnancy centers — such as delayed prenatal care — can lead to severe health conditions that women may have to live with for the rest of their lives. This legislation will prevent women from being taken advantage of at a time when

they are already vulnerable.

Villanueva also fought for college students to have access to emergency contraception, leading the passage of Senate Bill 1907. This legislation establishes the Public Higher Education Act, which would require public colleges, universities and community colleges to offer emergency contraceptives and other products at a reduced price in at least one wellness kiosk on each campus. A wellness kiosk, similar to a vending machine, would offer non-prescription items such as menstrual products, pregnancy tests, prophylactics and emergency contraception. With emergency contraceptives needing to be taken within a short window of time, this measure directly addresses students' immediate needs and removes a barrier when trying to receive these necessary items.

Looking ahead, the Women's Caucus plans to explore policies and initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by families with disabled adult children and support women's reentry into the workplace, and they intend to partner again with Habitat for Humanity on a future project.



Remembering Senator Scott Bennett

In December the Illinois State Senate lost a dear friend, colleague and influential lawmaker with the passing of State Senator Scott Michael Bennett.

Bennett joined the Senate in 2015 to represent the 52nd District, to fill what he joked were the big shoes left by State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs.

He dedicated his life to public service and giving back to his community in various ways such as serving as a CASA advocate, advocating for the Champaign Urbana Autism Network and Crisis Nursery and serving as Vice Chair of Vermilion County's Child Advocacy Center, among other causes and organizations.

His big laugh was matched by his

even bigger heart. From his first day in the Senate, he looked for ways to befriend all of his Senate colleagues – no matter what side of the aisle. Bennett also asked for staff to print out a copy of all the bills the Senate was planning on voting that day. He was quickly given a tutorial on how to use the legislative website which he used frequently to read and re-read various statutes and proposed bills.

He was known by all for his humor and wit, which was an innate talent he used as a tool to heal and unite by putting his audience at ease and creating space for connection. He was able to use these skills to negotiate hard-hitting issues such as legislation to battle coal ash, combat sexual assault on college campuses and most recently, the comprehensive

trailer bill to the SAFE-T Act.

Between his drives back home after long session days, his schedule packed-full of community events and keeping in touch with friends and family – he somehow found time to research issues and participate in marathon legislative negotiations.

His first bill in the Senate was to help protect the Mahomet Aquifer, the most important water source in east-central Illinois. For generations to come, Central Illinois residents can credit Bennett with the assurance that water coming out of their faucets is clean and safe to drink.

During his time as a Champaign County prosecutor, Bennett tackled the most heartbreaking cases to ensure child victims had an advocate. While working on cases, he would



meet with child victims weekly and play board games and not talk about the traumatic event that had brought them to him.



He took these experiences with him to the Senate and championed a law to legally allow for therapy dogs to be available to children and adults with intellectual disabilities while they take the witness stand. Bennett believed this would help alleviate some of the stress while children shared these traumatic stories with a room full of strangers.

Bennett started his career in public service as an intern in the White House working for the Clinton Administration, where he met his wife, former Senator Stacy Meredith Bennett. They entertained one another with imagined back stories of curious global and domestic gifts.

Some would say he never forgot his time as an intern and carried his experiences with him, which could be seen in the way he treated legislative staff members and his district interns.

It would not be uncommon for him to be surrounded by a group of staff members at the back of the chamber. He took the time to share his latest hilarious stories and form

friendships with staff members and in a manner only the Bennett Family could do, find a way to make them feel like part of their family.

Bennett, who proclaimed himself the pledge-master, was often found by his distinct laughter. During lulls on session days, he would bring staff and colleagues Casey's breakfast pizzas, invite friends to go to Hardee's or Smokey Bones with

him or grab Diet Cokes or other treats to brighten staff members' days. He took the time to find special ways to show his appreciation and that he cared.

Discussing Scott Bennett's legacy and public service would be incomplete without mentioning the sacrifices made by Dr. Stacy Meredith Bennett who honored him by completing the remainder of his term in the 102nd General Assembly. Her service helped his colleagues and staff members cope with the tremendous loss as well as honor him in a way that is special to all who loved and cared for him.

During the last session, his colleagues and staff members struggled to fill the big Scott Bennett-sized hole in our hearts. We often

find ourselves searching for the words or jokes he would have made to lighten the mood and bring a smile to people's faces in the tensest situations.

State Senator Paul Faraci (D-Champaign) led the General Assembly in taking steps to designate Interstate 74 east of US 45 in Champaign-Urbana to the Indiana border as the "Senator Scott M. Bennett Memorial Highway" and recognize the ABLE Account Program also as the Senator Scott Bennett ABLE Program. Both of these changes were a small way for the legislature to commemorate his legacy.

As we attempt to process this untimely loss, the best way everyone can all honor him is by taking the time to find common ground, being kind to one another and doing our very



best to leave the world a brighter and more compassionate place. We must continue to look for ways to take the time to "Be like Bennett" and treat one another with respect and care – the way Scott Bennett would want us to.



Meet the new members of the 103rd



EDLY-ALLEN

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Jogging and running 5Ks!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TV SHOW THAT YOU'RE CURRENTLY BINGE-WATCHING?

The Diplomat as well as Ted Lasso.

IF YOU COULD SWITCH JOBS WITH ANYONE FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I would say Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton. She has a strong commitment to women and girls across the state and does a wonderful job encouraging diversity.

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHY?

I'd like to travel back to Chile, as I went there as an exchange student when I was sixteen. It would be really interesting to see how things have changed since I last visited.



FARACI

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES AND WHAT KIND OF PETS ARE THEY?

Zuzu, she is a Yorkie. Hammy, he is a Morkie (Yorkie / Maltese).

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I enjoy cooking for family and friends.

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHY?

I would love to go back to Italy. My dad was born and raised there and the last time we visited there, last year, we didn't have as much time there as I'd like.

WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST JOKE YOU HAVE EVER HEARD?

A horse walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Why the long face?"



HALPIN

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING PLACE YOU HAVE EVER VISITED, AND WHAT MADE IT SO MEMORABLE?

The most interesting place I've visited is Yellowstone National Park. The size and scope of the wilderness, the natural beauty, and the night sky lit up by a sheer number of stars I've never been able to see before because of city lights, made my trip there memorable.

IF YOU COULD SWITCH JOBS WITH ANYONE FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I would channel my 8-year-old self and switch jobs with a NASA astronaut. Space is still the undiscovered country, and to spend even a short time there would be a dream come true.

WHAT'S THE MOST EMBARRASSING THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO YOU?

Putting in writing the most embarrassing thing that has happened to me would quickly become the second-most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to me, so I'll dodge this one.

WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO KARAOKE SONG?

My go-to karaoke song would be Bobby Darin's version of Mack the Knife.

**PORFIRIO****WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY, AND HOW DO YOU MAKE TIME FOR IT WITH YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE?**

Walking my dogs. They'll make sure and remind me to find time for that!

DO YOU HAVE ANY HIDDEN TALENTS THAT YOUR CONSTITUENTS MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT?

I wish I did!

IF YOU HAD TO EAT ONLY ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Pizza.

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED, AND WHO GAVE IT TO YOU?

Always do your best and do the right thing. — my Mom and Dad.

**PRESTON****IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ANY HISTORICAL FIGURE, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

I'd have dinner with President Franklin Roosevelt because his tenure as President was the longest in our nation's history and because FDR led during one of the most consequential times in history, leading us through WW2 and taking on significant issues like monopolies, social inequality, as well as governing through the Great Depression. I imagine he'd have some salient advice on how to govern effectively!

IF YOU WERE A SUPERHERO, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR SUPERPOWER AND WHY?

Ability to stop time, so I could spend more time with my wife and kids, catch up on reading, and get more sleep!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY, AND HOW HAS IT INFLUENCED YOUR LIFE TODAY?

I can recall many fond childhood memories but perhaps my favorite is when my classmates and I spent the weekend at a sleepover with our teacher. We were only in the fourth grade and lived on the Southside of Chicago, so traveling to the suburbs of Wheaton and Warrenville with your friends from school and your teacher was a pretty cool experience! We stayed the weekend, popped popcorn, ate pizza, made pancakes, and attended a book signing event at a local bookstore. Today, I consider that teacher a friend and one of my biggest supporters, but back then she was my pretty cool teacher, Ms. Wilkie, with a love for reading and sparking a curious spirit in me that has led me to many successes to this day!

IF YOU COULD SWITCH JOBS WITH ANYONE FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I wouldn't switch jobs with anyone — serving the 16th District is the best job you could ever imagine.

**VENTURA****WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ THAT YOU COULDN'T PUT DOWN?**

The Hand on the Mirror.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING PLACE YOU'VE EVER VISITED?

I've visited all 50 states and more than 30 national parks so this is a tough question. As someone who loves to travel, I recently visited France and Portugal with my daughters. Two of my favorite places I've gone are the Inside Passage in Alaska and Costa Rica.

WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOU THAT YOUR COLLEAGUES MAY NOT KNOW?

I am a published writer and worked in the tabletop gaming industry, like Dungeons and Dragons. In 2018 I was nominated for the best family roleplaying game called "A Feast of Flavor."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF CUISINE OR FOOD?

Indian food generally from the northern region.



Communications Staff

103rd General Assembly - Spring 2023





SENATE IN REVIEW 2023



FEATURED STORIES

Don Harmon, Senate President
Communications Department
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







Senate Democrats pass Protect Illinois Communities Act, ban assault weapons



Published: January 09, 2023

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus passed historic legislation today that bans the sale and manufacturing of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

“After continued negotiations between the leaders, stakeholders and advocates, we have reached a deal on one of the strongest assault weapons bans in the country,” said Senate President Don Harmon (D-Oak Park). “Gun violence is an epidemic that is plaguing every corner of this state and the people of Illinois are demanding

substantive action. With this legislation we are delivering on the promises Democrats have made and, together, we are making Illinois’ gun laws a model for the nation.”

House Bill 5471 bans assault weapons and high-capacity magazines from being manufactured or sold in Illinois. The comprehensive gun safety package also places a ban on rapid-fire devices intended to make semiautomatic firearms fully automatic, and increases the duration of a Firearm Restraining

Order from six months to up to one year. A Firearm Restraining Order allows the family of a gun owner or law enforcement to obtain a civil order temporarily removing the firearm and ammunition from people who pose a risk of harm to themselves or others.

The legislation builds on years of preventative measures to curb gun violence passed by the caucus. In recent years, Senate Democrats have passed commonsense gun safety laws requiring universal background checks at point of sale and transfer, streamlining FOID



registration, strengthening “red flag” laws and increasing awareness of safe gun storage for gun owners and youth.

“All communities deserve to live free from gun violence,” said State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago). “This measure upholds our commitment to building true public safety for all, and will undoubtedly reduce the ways dangerous people can obtain weapons of war.”

“Military-style weapons, designed for war and not for sport, have no use on our streets and in our neighborhoods,” said State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest). “At a time of continued inaction in Washington, it is imperative we step up as a state to regulate assault weapons before more lives are lost.”

“We have lost too many lives to gun violence and we must take proactive action to end this epidemic,” said State Senator Ann Gillespie (D-Arlington Heights). “Assault weapons are the weapons of choice for mass shooters, and they are too readily available for them to inflict acts of terror on innocent people. By banning the sale and distribution of these weapons in

our state, we join eight other states in taking this preventative action. It’s time for Congress to follow the trend and take action nationwide.”

“Our state holds a great responsibility to protect people from the continued act of gun violence caused by assault weapons,” said State Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove). “I’m glad as a state we finally said ‘enough is enough’ and fought diligently to get these

weapons of war off our streets.”

“The tragedy of the Highland Park shooting will always be with me,” said State Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview). “It is long past time that we act and ban assault weapons so no other communities will have to experience this trauma.”





Legislative leaders, governor announce support of guaranteed paid leave for workers



Published: January 10, 2023

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker, House Speaker Pro Tempore Jehan Gordon-Booth and Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford issued a joint statement Tuesday supporting legislation that will guarantee paid leave for all Illinois workers:

“Whether it’s dealing with a sudden family illness or an emergency auto repair, sometimes life gets in the way of work. Paid leave will have a significant, positive impact on the lives of residents across our state, and underscores our commitment to uplifting working families. We appreciate the work put into this from all stakeholders, including business and labor, to bring us to

this moment.”

Key components of Senate Bill 208 include:

- All employers will be required to provide their employees with a minimum of 40 hours (or five days) of paid leave per year to be used for any reason. Employers may choose to offer more paid leave time.
- A worker would begin to earn paid leave on their first day of their employment at a rate of one hour of leave for every 40 hours worked.
- Employees may use their paid leave starting on the 90th day of employment. An employer, however, may allow a worker to use it earlier.
- Workplaces can still require their employees to provide notice before taking paid time off. If the use of leave is unforeseeable, an employee is directed to provide notice as soon as practicable.
- Unused paid leave will carry over annually, up to 40 hours. However, employers are not required to cash out the balance of an outgoing employee’s paid leave.
- Employers that violate the act would be subject to penalties, including fines and compensatory damages for the affected employee.



Cunningham sponsored legislation promotes sustainable energy



Published: January 10, 2023

SPRINGFIELD – With a looming power shortage on the grid, Illinois received a major boost to its renewable energy sector thanks to a bill sponsored by State Senator Bill Cunningham.

“There is an energy shortage in Illinois right now, and it is causing uncertainty, which causes prices to spike and potentially future brownouts,” said Cunningham, a Democrat who represents portions of Chicago and the Southwest Suburbs. “This legislation will help solve that problem by expanding

renewable energy opportunities.”

The bill aims to relax restrictive zoning regulations that have slowed wind and solar energy projects to a near stop in Illinois. Without this measure, the state would lose 17,000 construction jobs and over \$8 billion in economic impact during construction.

This package will make energy bills more affordable, bring thousands of jobs to the state and have great economic impact on local communities.

“Sen. Cunningham’s bill is exactly

what Illinois needs to create more good-paying construction jobs,” said Sean Stott of the Laborers’ International Union. “Too often, wind and solar projects are being delayed for years, if not blocked permanently. This bill will bring more renewable projects online in Illinois and help create thousands of jobs in the process.”



Legislators introduce plan to address teacher shortage

Published: April 27, 2023



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.

“Teachers have a significant, lifelong impact on their students. The impact involves not just teaching particular academic skills, but fostering life skills, creativity and productivity that leads to positive outcomes for years to come,” said

Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood). “Attracting quality educators to our state is vital to our education system and providing our children with the best possible education.”

According to the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, there are more than 5,300 unfilled positions in schools. In an attempt to address the vacancies and increase the substitute teacher pool, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel introduced a plan – House

Bill 3442 – which would allow a substitute teacher who has filled a vacancy left by a licensed teacher to teach in an emergency situation for 90 days or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater, if the school district files a written request with the appropriate regional office of education.

“As a former special education teacher, I saw firsthand the impact the teacher shortage had on our students, teachers and staff,” said Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood). “We have to continue uplifting



the education profession and encouraging more people to join it.”

Loughran Cappel also is leading Senate Bill 2236 to remove the number of days for short-term substitute teachers to teach in the classroom – allowing them to spend more time in the classroom if needed and remove application fees for teaching licenses.

“Having qualified mentors and increasing the number of days subs can teach are steps we are taking to directly address the teacher shortage,” said Loughran Cappel. “It’s essential for teachers to have the tools, resources and support to do their job successfully so our students can continue to learn and grow.”

State Senator Christopher Belt is leading a measure that aims to provide an incentive for teachers to work in underserved areas, as these are the areas that are most affected by the current teacher shortage.

House Bill 3801 would provide retention bonuses of \$4,000 per year, for two consecutive years to teachers who are National Board Certified who are employed in hard-to-staff schools.

A hard-to-staff school is a public school that no less than 30% of the student enrollment is considered low-income. Becoming a National Board Certified teacher is a career continuum for those who start in pre-service teacher preparation, leading aspiring teachers to

pursue and achieve National Board Certification.

“Without enough qualified teachers in our classrooms, we cannot provide our children with the education they deserve,” said Belt (D-Swansea). “We need to invest in our educators and prioritize the education of our youth, as they are the future of Illinois.”

To incentivize educational professionals, Loughran Cappel is also sponsoring House Bill 1291, which would increase the annual pay cap from \$1,500 to \$2,250 for teachers with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designations who mentor or provide professional development for classroom teachers or counselors.





Illinois Senate Democrats lead measures to prevent overdose



Published: May 04, 2023

SPRINGFIELD—Opioid overdoses in Illinois alone increased 33% between 2019 and 2020 – a jarring statistic that has led members of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus to champion measures to tackle the epidemic.

“The ongoing opioid crisis deserves our full attention, and expanding access to overdose prevention supplies is a critical step in our efforts to prevent overdoses and save lives,” said State Senator Paul Faraci (D-Champaign).

Faraci is sponsoring a measure to expand access to overdose prevention supplies for providers enrolled in the Illinois Department of Human Services’ Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Division Drug Overdose Prevention Team. House Bill 1121 would increase access to fentanyl test strips and improve public health outcomes

by preventing fatal overdose.

“All providers enrolled in the Drug Overdose Prevention Program must store testing supplies so that they are accessible only by authorized personnel, including other trained overdose responders,” said Faraci.

Fentanyl abuse is on the rise, leading State Senator Laura Ellman to sponsor House Bill 3924, which seeks to combat the risk of overdoses by requiring all high school students enrolled in a state-required health course to learn about the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl contamination.

“I’m proud of the work my colleagues and I have done to increase access to naloxone and protect people seeking help for someone experiencing an overdose from being arrested, but our work to address this crisis is not over,” said Ellman (D-Naperville).

“Educating people of all ages on the dangers of potential overdose is an effective way to save lives and combat overdoses long-term.”

To increase patron safety at concert venues State Senator Karina Villa is championing House Bill 1557. The measure would require for-profit music venues that have an occupancy of 1,000 or more to have opioid-overdose antidotes, such as naloxone, on

hand and have staff members who are sufficiently trained in administering it.

“People go to a music festival or concert to enjoy themselves — one bad decision should not cost them their life,” said Villa (D-West Chicago). “Whether someone consumes a harmful substance on purpose or accidentally, this bill will save lives by expanding first aid in concert halls to include treating overdose.”

The Senators will work over the weeks leading up to the May 19 adjournment to pass the measures.



Senate Democrats push measures to make health care more accessible

SPRINGFIELD – Members of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus outlined their plans to make health care more accessible through proposals to cap the cost of EpiPens, make hearing aids free-of-charge, and help patients find the most cost effective avenues to care.

Epinephrine Auto-Injectors are the only medication that works on the entire body to combat anaphylaxis, a potentially fatal allergic reaction. However, since 2017, a global shortage of these devices has made this medication increasingly difficult to obtain. That's why State Senator Mike Halpin is leading House Bill 3639 to limit the EpiPens to a maximum of \$60 per twin-pack.

"This is a major victory for families struggling to afford this life-saving medication," said Halpin (D-Rock Island). "With corporate profits at an all-time high, it's time to say enough is enough. People's lives shouldn't depend on whether or not they can come up with \$500."

Meanwhile, members of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus believe Illinoisans shouldn't have to face financial burdens for something that is necessary for a high quality of life – like hearing aids.

State Senator Dave Koehler is championing House Bill 2443 to require insurance providers to cover hearing aids and related



Published: May 10, 2023

services for people of all ages.

"If your doctor prescribed medication to you, it would be covered by your insurance. Hearing aids should be no different," said Koehler (D-Peoria). "By requiring Illinoisans to pay for hearing instruments out-of-pocket, they are not only forced to pay for such a large financial burden, they may not be able to afford it."

The costs associated with health care upkeep are high, especially for those with pre-existing conditions and those who don't have medical insurance. State Senator Robert Peters is also leading a measure to help connect patients to financial assistance for hospital costs.

House Bill 2719 would require hospitals to screen a patient for financial assistance eligibility and exhaust all cost-reducing avenues

before taking a collection action against the patient. Additionally, the measure would provide a 90-day window for a patient to apply for financial assistance or hospital-provided discounts after receiving care.

"Cost savings programs that are available aren't always promoted enough to folks who are financially vulnerable," said Peters (D-Chicago). "Hospitals aren't always equipped with the resources to inform patients of financial assistance programs. This measure seeks to support both hospitals and hospital patients in a way that benefits the entire community."



Senator Villanueva increases abortion access and gender-affirming care for residents in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Celina Villanueva, who has diligently fought for the equality and protection of reproductive and gender rights, led a measure passed Tuesday that further explores the importance of Illinois residents having access to such rights.

“As a legislator who serves communities that face many disparities and challenges based off of their ethnicity and gender, I have seen firsthand the effects discrimination in health care play in a person’s mental, physical, social and economic status,” said Villanueva (D-Chicago). “Today we have further enshrined people’s rights to health care and their right to determine their destinies.”

Illinois has led the nation by establishing some of the most extensive reproductive health laws protecting abortion and gender-affirming care in the country. With *Roe vs. Wade* being overturned by the Supreme Court, House Bill 4664 was put in place to protect health

care professionals in Illinois from restrictive laws from other states and provides privacy and protections for people who seek reproductive health care or gender-affirming care in Illinois without being penalized. In 2019, Illinois enforced abortion rights legislation that the Illinois Supreme Court currently upholds. This means that regardless of *Roe vs. Wade* being overturned, abortion is still legal in of Illinois.

House Bill 4664 also requires the Department of Public Health to collaborate with non-profit organizations to administer grants

to provide abortion training that would allow nurses and birthing centers to provide clinical reproductive care.

“As an equal rights advocate, I believe Illinoisans deserve the right to be who they want to be and not be penalized when accessing equal health care opportunities,” said Villanueva. “We are a gender inclusive state that must continue to fight for the wellbeing and safety of all of our residents while protecting people’s rights to privacy, bodily autonomy and the liberty to form one’s own family.”



Published: January 10, 2023



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023

1



SAFER FOOD PREP

People with latex allergies will no longer have to worry about whether their food is safe to eat. This new law ends the use of latex gloves in food service, EMS and health care settings. **(HB 209 - Jones)**



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023

NO FEES FOR CARJACKING VICTIMS

Victims of vehicle theft shouldn't be on the hook for fees incurred while their car was stolen. This law ensures victims are not liable for penalties acquired while their vehicle was stolen.

(HB 3772 - Aquino)



2



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023



HELPING WOMEN AFFORD TREATMENT

To help women afford treatment that prevents osteoporosis and other side effects, this law requires insurance coverage for post-hysterectomy estrogen and hormone therapy.
(HB 5254 - Holmes)

3



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023

4

\$10 VEHICLE REGISTRATION FOR SENIORS

To ensure older residents can save their money instead of spending it on vehicle fees, this law reduces vehicle registration costs from \$24 to \$10 for seniors living on a limited income.
(HB 5304 - Loughran Cappel)



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023



TIME OFF FOR MISCARRIAGE

Anyone experiencing a miscarriage or pregnancy complication should have time to grieve. This law will allow women to take time off following pregnancy loss, stillbirth, or other fertility issues.
(SB 3120 - Bush)

5



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023

6

HONORING ILLINOIS SERVICE MEMBERS

When families of fallen Illinois service members are honored with a United States flag, this law establishes that they will also be presented with the Illinois state flag. (SB 3459 - Turner)





7



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023



MADE IN ILLINOIS

To encourage Illinoisans to support the economy by purchasing a made-in-Illinois vehicle, this law reduces the registration fee for cars and small trucks manufactured in Illinois. **(SB 3609 - Koehler)**



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023

CROWN ACT

The CROWN Act bans hair discrimination in the workplace to ensure no one experiences prejudice because of their hairstyle or texture. **(SB 3616 - Hunter)**



8



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023



ELECTRONIC ORDERS OF PROTECTION

Filing the paperwork to take your abuser to court should not be dangerous. This law allows survivors of abuse or domestic violence to file a protective order online instead of in-person. **(SB 3667 - Stadelman)**



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2022-2023

STREAMLINING ID OF MISSING PERSONS

Driven by the 2021 death of Illinois State University student Jelani Day, this law requires coroners to notify the FBI within 72 hours if human remains are unable to be identified. **(SB 3932 - Sims)**



10



SENATE IN REVIEW 2023

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Don Harmon, Senate President
Communications Department
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com





Don Harmon

Illinois Senate President | 39th Senate District

Don Harmon earned unanimous support from the Senate Democratic Caucus to begin a second full term as Senate President in January 2023.

Harmon began the 2023 session with a clear message to his fellow senators: be guided by truth, whether it be politically convenient or not. Otherwise, the Illinois Senate is not the place for you.

Harmon has a strong record of leadership on ethical reforms. Shortly after he was first elected Senate President in January 2020, he voluntarily stepped down as a partner at his law firm in order to devote his full time to the new role. Just over a year later, he supported a massive ethics package, sponsored by Senator Ann Gillespie, that closed several loopholes to keep bad actors from manipulating the system.

With the Senate Republicans electing a new Minority Leader, Senator John Curran, Harmon also began the new General Assembly with a gesture of bipartisanship. Two Illinois Senate committees were co-chaired by Republicans this session in a move that harkens back decades to a time when Republicans and Democrats more often worked together to recognize shared goals and achieve them.

Harmon also proudly supported the passage of a number of bills that gained bipartisan support this spring.

After years of economic turmoil

in Illinois under former Governor Rauner, followed by the upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic, Harmon gladly embraced the label of “boring” this session, eschewing drama in favor of economic stability and responsible progress.

Illinois entered the 2023 session with bills paid down to a 30-day cycle, a far cry from the situation less than a decade ago in which vendors were going months without being paid.

Thanks to Harmon prioritizing fiscal stability and planning for the future, Illinois also now has nearly \$2 billion in its rainy day fund.

Credit ratings agencies are taking note. In March, Illinois received its eighth credit rating upgrade in less than two years, putting the state back in the “A” category at last.

Under Harmon’s leadership, the Senate Democrats continued their commitment to responsible budgeting, passing a balanced

budget that prioritizes stability while investing in top Democratic priorities like education, public safety and human services.

Always a champion of commonsense gun reform, Harmon passed legislation holding firearm manufacturers accountable for the marketing and sale of firearms when their products are used to commit crimes. Senate Bill 218 allows those manufacturers to be held liable if a they create conditions that allow a gun to be sold to a straw purchaser or trafficker or if they fail to ensure that sales and business practices comply with relevant state and local law. It also regulates firearm marketing, making it illegal to market firearms to individuals under the age of 18.

President Harmon is proud of another successful legislative session and looks forward to spending time in the 39th District.





Kimberly A. Lightford

Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 4th Senate District

Entering her 25th year in the General Assembly, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) stayed true to her commitment to prioritize equitable education and continue to build upon the successes of the Black Caucus' Four Pillar Agenda.

Lightford started out the spring legislative session strong, passing a measure to implement an equitable literacy plan in schools to support the best interests of students. Senate Bill 2243 requires the Illinois State Board of Education to create a comprehensive literacy plan. The plan – which will be due Jan. 31, 2024 – will outline ways to increase research-aligned, developmentally appropriate reading instruction in schools.

Building upon her steadfast leadership to take a more holistic, trauma-informed approach in schools, Lightford also passed a measure to equip schools with the

training and resources they need to meet the diverse trauma and mental health needs of students.

In January 2021, following the tragic, racially-charged deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless others, Lightford led an education overhaul to tackle systemic racism in schools, which became the basis for the education and workforce development pillar within the Black Caucus' Four-Pillar Agenda. Lightford continued her fight to reform the education system and build upon the pillars this session with Senate Bill 16.

Under the measure, schools across the state will be equipped with training and resources to meet the diverse trauma and mental health needs of students. The Illinois State Board of Education will create a Children's Adversity Index, which would measure community childhood trauma exposure across the population of children 3-18

years old by May 31, 2025.

ISBE, under the bill, will create a committee to make recommendations amending education licensing requirements to include training on adverse childhood experiences, trauma, secondary traumatic stress and trauma-responsive learning environments.

The Senate Majority Leader believes kindergarten is pivotal for children's learning journey. That is why she also led House Bill 2396 to require all schools in the state to provide an option of full-day kindergarten. Currently, it is optional for school districts to offer full-day kindergarten. Parents who live in districts without the option of full-day kindergarten are often faced with additional barriers to preparing their children for early elementary school.

Lightford also declared Feb. 18 as Black Women's History Day in Illinois to intentionally connect the nationally recognized months of Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. Senate Resolution 37 uplifts the unique intersectionality of race and gender of being both Black and women.

Lightford will spend the summer months hosting and attending events in the community and continuing to uplift her friends and neighbors.





Bill Cunningham

President Pro Tempore | 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, make sustainable energy more affordable and secure protections for Illinois workers.

Cunningham was a key player in the passage of important legislation to help Chicago police and firefighters receive disability benefits. House Bill 3162 ensures Chicago police officers, firefighters and paramedics who contracted COVID-19 while on the job will receive the disability benefits they earned. As a result of this legislation, affected police officers and firefighters will be entitled to 75% of their salary at the time of disability and duty disability benefits, instead of the current 50% under ordinary disability benefits. The legislation applies retroactively, providing relief to those who were denied full duty disability benefits after contracting COVID-19 while on the job.

To further prioritize the needs of law enforcement, Cunningham also advanced a measure to provide mental health support and education for law enforcement officers who are facing post-traumatic stress disorder. Senate Bill 1543 creates the statewide PTSD Mental Health Coordinator, who will be responsible for providing resources, information, and assistance to law enforcement officers who may be experiencing

PTSD symptoms or other mental health issues related to their work. Cunningham stated that we owe it to our law enforcement officers to provide them with the support and resources they need to manage their mental health, especially in light of the demanding nature of their work. The bill is not intended to mandate that local police departments implement a plan to address PTSD or a set of requirements for how to operate mental health and wellness plans within their department, but rather to provide a supportive resource that departments and individual officers can turn to when seeking help.

Cunningham was also instrumental in the budget's increases to higher education, giving Illinois universities the capability to hold the line on tuition rates. Cunningham believes that anyone who wants to go to community college should be able to afford it,

and was proud to see expanded access to community college included in the budget.

Cunningham's legislation, Public Act 102-1060, signed into law in June 2022, saw tremendous success. After encouraging Illinoisans to support the families of fallen first responders by choosing the 100 Club of Illinois on the 2022 Schedule G Voluntary Charitable Donations form during tax filing this year, the Club was able to boost operational funding and provide additional relief to the families of fallen officers.

As session ends, Cunningham looks forward to getting back into the 18th District to host community events and talk to small business owners and working people alike. This legislative session has shown Cunningham's commitment to making the community safe and providing real relief to the middle class.





Linda Holmes

Assistant Majority Leader | 42nd Senate District

Assistant Majority Leader Linda Holmes (D-Aurora) spent the 2023 spring legislative session passing a number of bills to prioritize the local community, public safety and more.

Holmes has pursued a solution in the past for a local limestone quarry and the City of Aurora to work with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and address the disposition of limestone sludge. House Bill 3095 involves a concept to return that material to the quarry and pump it into underground cavities no longer in production. In 2023, the parties created a framework for the IEPA to approve the use of limestone residual for additional means beyond what is currently permitted. Returning it back to the mine after use is projected to save the city an estimated \$7 million in taxpayer dollars over 10 years.

In recent years, mass shootings

have become an almost-weekly scourge on towns across the U.S. In 2019, a mass shooting took place at Henry Pratt Company in Aurora with six killed, another six injured. In 2022, a 4th of July holiday parade became a killing ground when a rooftop shooter opened fire into the street below. Seven people were killed, and 48 others were wounded. Holmes and State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) worked together to consider ways law enforcement could find a perpetrator quickly and end the violence and death. The product resulted in a measure to allow limited situations where law enforcement could use drones to survey active crime scenes like these, but not for unspecified surveillance.

On the Senate Labor Committee, Holmes passed measures including Senate Bill 2228, which modernizes Illinois' hiring process, removes

delays, makes the hiring process more accessible and transparent, and requires CMS to post all exempt positions. Additionally, she and State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) paired up to pass a measure to protect young child influencers the same way child actors are protected under law. Senate Bill 1782 protects these "kidfluencers" by setting aside some of their gross earnings in a trust account to be held until they reach the age of majority.

Holmes tackled several multi-year animal welfare issues again this year, fighting back against pet stores charging predatory loan rates for expensive animals that typically are in poor health as they are sourced from puppy mills through Senate Bill 1230. A bill signed into law in 2021 was blatantly skirted by a chain of pet stores who continued selling unhealthy puppy mill puppies in 2022-2023, so she closed a loophole and halted their practices, ensuring that puppy mill puppies will not be sold at pet stores.

This summer, Holmes will continue to work on legislation in progress and talk with constituents throughout the 42nd District, including communities new to the district this year.





Mattie Hunter

Assistant Majority Leader | 3rd Senate District

Assistant Majority Leader Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) continued her 20th year in office advancing legislation that prioritized health, social justice and equity. Hunter's commitment to helping underserved communities through advocacy and leadership is exemplified by the initiatives she leads.

To protect vulnerable residents from illness or death during extreme heat, Hunter was the Senate sponsor of House Bill 1541 that prevents utility shutoffs during high temperatures or heat indexes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 700 people in the U.S. die from extreme heat each year. Older adults, young children and people with chronic medical conditions are at an increased risk of heat-related illness and death. Under this measure, gas or electric utility companies cannot disconnect service due to a nonpayment of bills when temperatures are 90 degrees or higher or a heat advisory, watch or warning is issued. As a result, low-income families and individuals will not be put in harm's way simply because they are struggling to pay their bills.

Continuing her commitment to the well-being of Illinois children and families, Hunter led House Bill 3705 through the Senate, which strengthened the goals of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. This initiative prioritized achieving permanency for children

who are in the system and reinforced that services provided by DCFS are intended to be temporary until the involved child can be safely returned home or find a permanent home. Additionally, the measure removed outdated language from the Children and Family Services Act in order to bring it into compliance with changes implemented by the Reproductive Health Act.

As a staunch advocate for raising awareness of health care issues, Hunter passed Senate Resolution 79 to declare Feb. 22, 2023 as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day in Illinois. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a genetic heart condition characterized by the thickening of the heart muscle, which can cause a variety of symptoms and complications including an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest. This resolution acknowledged the critical importance of hypertrophic

cardiomyopathy awareness to improve cardiovascular health and urged the governor to issue an annual proclamation recognizing the fourth Wednesday in February as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day.

Hunter continues to implement directives laid out by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' Health Care and Human Services Pillar, including serving as co-chair of the Health and Human Services Task Force. Hunter is also co-chair of the Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force and a leading member in the Missing and Murdered Chicago Women Task Force.

Hunter will host her 19th Annual Family Health and Fitness Fair this summer, providing free children's health and dental screenings, school supplies and fun family activities for 3rd District residents.





Dave Koehler

Assistant Majority Leader | 46th Senate District

State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) spent his 17th year in office uplifting Illinois' school systems, fighting for survivors of assault, and passing first-of-its-kind legislation to make communities throughout the 46th District and the state flourish.

Koehler has prioritized giving downstate Illinois schools a seat at the table by spearheading Senate Bill 1787, which will create the Rural Education Advisory Council. The council will create the opportunity for rural districts to discuss the specific needs and challenges they face within their schools. The council will then give feedback on critical issues facing rural communities and generate improvement ideas to the State Superintendent and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Additionally, Koehler championed House Bill 3498 to prorate debts of students who are recipients of scholarship programs who need to fulfill their obligations

at a later time. This bill will assist many Illinois students who have jobs and other responsibilities outside the classroom to complete their obligations at a later time.

As a champion of protecting Illinoisans from abuse, Koehler led an initiative to create the Illinois Fertility Fraud Act. Senate Bill 380 will allow people to bring action against health care providers who knowingly or intentionally use their own reproductive cells without the patient's informed written consent. It also allows a civil cause of action for donor fertility fraud against health care providers who treat patients for infertility using donated human reproductive material without consent. The measure further states that any child born as a result of fertility fraud is entitled to a qualified protective order allowing the child access to the personal medical records and health history of the person who committed the

fraud.

Koehler introduced measures that were the first of their kind in the state's history. At the beginning of the 2023 session, a young constituent reached out to Koehler's office regarding the lack of protection for child vloggers. Seeing that nothing has been done across the nation, Koehler went straight to work. Senate Bill 1782 will allow minors under the age of 16 featured in vlogs or other online content to be covered under the Child Labor Law. The measure calls for the child – also known as a “kidfluencer” – to be accurately compensated.

To bring more awareness to the rich history the Underground Railroad has in Illinois, Koehler championed Senate Bill 1623, which creates the Underground Railroad Task Force. The group will develop a statewide plan to connect existing local projects and new projects to create a cohesive statewide history of the Underground Railroad in Illinois, while developing new educational and tourism opportunities.

While working on comprehensive legislation, Koehler was active throughout his community, attending town halls, hosting district-wide events and visiting his local universities throughout the 46th District.

This summer, Koehler looks forward to continuing his community outreach and spending time with his family.





Laura M. Murphy

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

As a lifelong reader and champion of libraries, State Senator Laura Murphy (D-Des Plaines) knows that it is more important than ever to uplift our libraries and librarians. Murphy championed legislation that would increase access to e-books and audiobooks. Murphy's Senate Bill 2419 allows the State Librarian to negotiate with publishing companies to acquire licenses. These licenses are often prohibitively expensive or not available. With the ability to collaborate with the State Librarian, and with one another, the libraries will have a greater bargaining power.

In recent years the number of attempts to ban books or materials offered by libraries has more than doubled. Seven states have passed laws to impose restrictions on libraries, but thanks to a measure championed by Murphy, House Bill 2789, Illinois has become the first state in the nation to ensure intellectual freedom for all across the state.

The measure allows for freedom of expression in the state's libraries, and allows for the stories of people who may not be like the reader to be shared. According to scholars, children who read stories about people who are not like them become more accepting of others.

This can lead to less discrimination and bullying on the basis of race or national origin. A report showed that of the 5.2 million children

bullied nationally from 2018-2019 one in four experienced bullying related to their race. To address this pattern, Murphy introduced Senate Bill 90. Illinois schools would need to create, implement, and maintain at least one written policy that prohibits racial discrimination or harassment, and prohibit retaliation against the student for submitting a complaint.

In addition to her passion for libraries, Murphy focused her attention on a number of health care measures including Senate Bill 1558. This includes attempting to streamline the process of becoming a Direct Support Professional – people who support disabled individuals in numerous ways – including removing barriers to enter the workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated staffing shortages in the direct support field.

Murphy made it her mission

to lower the cost of insulin under insurance plans. Many people in Illinois are faced with the question of what is more important, putting food on the table or purchasing the insulin they need. Insulin prices in the U.S. have risen by 600% in the last 20 years.

In 2019, lawmakers passed a law that capped the price at \$100 for a 30-day supply. To bring the prices more in line with global prices, and closer to the original price the patent for insulin was sold for, Murphy put forward Senate Bill 1559 to reduce the price of a 30-day supply of insulin to \$35 under insurance plans.

Murphy made it her mission at the beginning of the year to champion legislation that would benefit the working families of Illinois – and she acted on that this session.





Omar Aquino

Majority Caucus Chair | 2nd Senate District

State Senator Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) focused this session ensuring state resources are assigned in a way that works for all Illinois residents – specifically underserved groups.

The Hispanic community faces challenges disproportionately. For instance, Latinos are the largest group by ethnicity with diabetes prevalence in the state. Aquino has constituents, friends, and neighbors who struggle to pay for the insulin that allows them to manage their diabetes. Some people are forced to choose between getting their medication or paying rent. In response, Aquino supported and co-sponsored Senate Bill 1559 to cap monthly insulin treatment costs at \$35. If we want to build a better Illinois, we need to achieve a healthier Illinois.

Several studies suggest Illinois faces a dramatic shortage of nurses. Professionals capable of

providing in-home care services are desperately needed to give families across the state the option to care for a loved one at home. That's why Aquino led Senate Bill 2271. The measure makes professional licenses for home health, home services, and home nursing agencies valid for 240 days instead of 120 days. The legislation allows new agencies to receive a provisional license for up to 90 days, allowing them to offer services on demand for thousands of patients who require in-home critical care.

Early childhood education is the key to a child's success in life. Early childhood education programs are the foundation of our kids' future because they strengthen learning abilities and cognitive and social development. Aquino worked with his colleagues to pass Senate Bill 2053 allowing more families to use these educational tools.

Aquino was instrumental in passing Senate Bill 1367 to increase transparency and accountability in the operation of housing authorities. This measure changes the Housing Authorities Act, requiring that every housing authority under the act collect data on the number of vacant rental units within each housing project as well as information on whether each waitlist maintained by the authority is open or closed.

Home visiting is an essential program in the early childhood ecosystem that helps eligible parents and caregivers support their child's development from the prenatal phase through age five. Aquino led Senate Bill 1794, which will codify home visiting programs administered by the Department of Human Services as they have done for over 30 years.

Currently, DHS home visiting programs exist because of budget appropriations from the state or the federal government. This initiative to codify DHS home visiting programs contributes to the sustainability of critical resources for families with young children.

Aquino is committed to passing a fiscally responsible budget that reflects Democratic priorities. At the same time, he is determined to craft this fiscal tool to promote economic and social equality as a key to Illinois' success.





Cristina Castro

Majority Caucus Whip | Executive chair | 22nd Senate District

State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) started the 2023 session off with her first leadership position — Majority Caucus Whip. In this position and as chair of the Executive Committee, she advocated for the legislative and budget priorities backed by caucus members, and led initiatives that empower and uplift voices in her district and across Illinois.

Castro championed legislation that eases financial and time constraints on college transfer students, a measure that lifts up Illinois solar project workers by ensuring they are paid a living wage, and legislation that protects organizations serving immigrant populations.

Far too often, attending college carries a significant financial burden, especially for first-generation students and lower-income families. Castro's Senate Bill 2288 reduces some of this burden by eliminating the need for students who earn major course credit at a community college to spend more time and money re-earning the same credit at a four-year university. Castro recognizes that, as leaders, Senate Democrats need to make transferring and earning a degree easier on students — not harder.

Building on her work passing the historic Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, Castro also led House Bill 3351 this year to ensure workers at public solar projects are paid

fairly for their work to build a more reliable future. House Bill 3351 requires participating Illinois Solar for All program applicants to pay the prevailing wage to workers on solar projects that receive renewable energy credits from the state. The legislation will move Illinois toward the direction CEJA intended — to have the state powered by 100% renewable energy by 2050 — without leaving workers behind.

A longtime advocate for immigrant rights and equity in opportunities, Castro continued her support through House Bill 1283. While Illinois has made great strides in securing protections for immigrant communities, that effort is not over. House Bill 1283, spurred by the actions of a local official in Castro's district, prevents township officials from denying funding to an organization based upon the perceived citizenship status of a person who would receive services

from the organization.

An active member of numerous national organizations dedicated to leadership in state government, Castro looks forward to traveling this summer for National Conference of State Legislatures, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, and National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conferences and panels.

Castro's legislative accomplishments this session demonstrate her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of workers, students and families across Illinois. She will host several events this summer including a Medicaid enrollment workshop, continue to meet with constituents and hold a summer book club to promote reading and reward kids in the district.





Napoleon Harris, III

Majority Caucus Whip | Insurance chair | 15th Senate District

State Senator Napoleon Harris, III (D-Harvey) has led the way to ensure the state has equitable and easily accessible health care as the Senate's Insurance chair.

Thanks to his leadership, the state will soon have laws on the books to promote affordable access to lifesaving medications, such as insulin and EpiPens, hearing aids and vital health care screenings.

Harris has continuously fought to ensure Illinois is a leader in promoting diversity in its workforce. He spearheaded House Bill 2088, which requires insurance companies to submit diversity reports.

The report would provide insight to how many companies accept or recognize minority-owned, women-owned, or veteran-owned businesses. Harris believes this will help determine ways to improve and better serve various groups of businesses.

As a business owner himself, he

believes all businesses should work diligently to ensure their employees accurately reflect the diversity of the state.

For the last 40 years, lawmakers have attempted to secure a south suburban airport in the Monee community. Where many lawmakers have failed – Harris fought and held the state accountable to fulfill its promises to residents by requiring the state to establish the process to find partners in the construction of a new south suburban airport in Peotone.

He worked tirelessly to secure this vital, economic engine to provide local businesses with access to the global markets, generate new opportunities for job creation and local revenue and help residents across the Southern Cook and Will counties to improve their quality of life.

Harris' House Bill 2531 requires the state to develop a prequalification

process for firms seeking contracts related to the airport's construction. The South Suburban Airport Act, which became law more than a decade ago, established that the state may develop a prequalification process. Since its enactment, no process has been established until Harris' advocacy and leadership in getting this venture across the finish line.

This accomplishment will be truly appreciated by communities across the south suburbs who have been promised access to this vital infrastructure for decades. He pledges to not stop fighting until this airport is fully functional and equipped to serve the needs of his constituents.

This year, Harris also secured \$4 million to local organizations through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The funding will assist companies, churches and schools as they continue to bounce back from the financial distress brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. Harris' steadfast leadership to secure these grants shows his commitment to the community.

Harris believes firmly in giving back to the communities he represents. He is looking forward to spending time working in the district and serving the residents of the 15th District by hosting food giveaways during the holidays and back-to-school fairs to provide students with the resources to be successful during their school year.





Julie A. Morrison

Majority Caucus Whip | Health and Human Services chair Veterans Affairs chair | 29th Senate District

State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) started the spring legislative session with one goal in mind: protecting the health and safety of Illinois residents.

A steadfast champion of Illinois laws to keep harmful tobacco products away from young people, Morrison expanded upon her work in passing a measure to ban the use of e-cigarettes inside public places.

In recent years, the use of e-cigarettes – like vapes – has increased tremendously, leading Morrison to pass House Bill 1540 to ban the use of e-cigarettes indoors. Her measure expands upon the Smoke Free Illinois Act, putting Illinois in line with 17 other states that have banned the use of e-cigarettes indoors.

The Smoke Free Illinois Act – which was passed in 2017 – prohibited smoking in public and within 15 feet of entrances, and required “no smoking” signs to be posted on the prohibited public place. However, this law took effect when people primarily smoked cigarettes and cigars.

Providing a necessary solution to the dangerous practice of doxing, by both helping victims and deterring future bad actors, Morrison also passed House Bill 2954. The measure will allow people a civil private right of action against the individual who committed the offense. The victim will be able to recover damages and any other appropriate relief,

including attorney’s fees.

Further, working across the aisle, Morrison passed House Bill 3559. The measure will require schools’ emergency and crisis response plans to include procedures for local law enforcement to rapidly enter the school building in the event of an emergency.

House Bill 3559 passed the Senate just a month after five students at Highland Park High School were taken into custody following a report of a student with a handgun. The threat left the community shaken, as it came less than a year after the 4th of July mass shooting that took the lives of seven innocent community members.

Morrison also led Senate Bill 754 to prohibit prepackaged explosive components from being sold to people who do not have a FOID card, and require firearm dealers to keep record of any sale of such

item. A commonly used “pre-packed explosive component” is Tannerite, which is marketed as a product that explodes when hit with a high velocity bullet.

The proposal comes after federal agents found “bomb-making materials” in the home of the Highland Park mass shooter. When later questioned by investigators, the shooter said he had considered planting explosives as part of his deadly attack on the parade in Highland Park, but didn’t.

Morrison also fought for a fix of the well-documented problems at the Department of Children and Family Services, led measures to better the lives of veterans, and served another session as a Majority Caucus Whip.

Morrison will spend the summer months active in her community, meeting with residents, hosting events and more.





Elgie R. Sims, Jr.

**Majority Caucus Appropriations Leader | Appropriations chair
Senate Special Committee on Criminal Law and Public Safety chair
*17th Senate District***

The spring legislative session was a successful one for State Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D-Chicago).

For his third year as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee – and first as the Majority Caucus Appropriations Leader – Sims worked diligently to bring forth a budget that takes a fiscally responsible approach and moves Illinois forward on its track toward success. This year’s budget prioritizes early childhood education, childcare, higher education and efforts to fight poverty.

Alongside the smart spending decisions of the previous two fiscal years, Sims also led a supplemental budget that prioritized mental health care, crime prevention, inclusivity and even more savings for our state’s future, among other items.

Additionally, under Sims’ leadership, Illinois received a total of eight major credit upgrades, which

come as a result of responsible spending decisions. Among those fiscally responsible decisions were efforts led by Sims that allowed Illinois to repay the remaining \$1.36 billion unemployment insurance debt.

A longstanding champion of criminal justice reform, Sims was named chair of the new Senate Special Committee on Criminal Law and Public Safety. The committee spent the spring legislative session prioritizing violence prevention, focusing on deterrence from the criminal justice system and approaching criminal justice reform through a community-based approach.

Sims also fought to end youth solitary confinement – leading to better outcomes for children who are detained. House Bill 3140 prohibits the use of solitary confinement on young detainees in detention centers for any purpose other than

preventing immediate physical harm. Sims believes children should not be deprived of the services, programming, and other tools that they need for healthy growth, education, and development. We should be helping kids to grow into productive and healthy adults, not harming them.

Aside from serving in a leadership role in the Senate, Sims also was recently elected to serve as the national vice chair of the Council of State Governments. Having derived much of his knowledge and skills from people he has met through the Council of State Governments, he is proud to help shape future generations of leaders.

Sims was also named vice chair of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council. In his role, the Senator will be joined by nearly two dozen other state and local criminal justice system stakeholders including retired judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, victims’ rights advocates and more.

Throughout the summer months, Sims will continue his work to enhance public safety and equal opportunities for all. He also will continue to be active in the community, hosting a number of events to support residents and bring the community together.





Christopher Belt

Approp - Public Safety & Infrastructure chair | 57th Senate District

State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea) spent the spring legislative session focusing on a number of priorities that have always been at the forefront of his legislative agenda. With measures ranging from food deserts, to housing issues, to teacher shortages, Belt brought forth legislation that is bound to make a difference in Illinois.

There are many disadvantaged communities in Belt's district, which greatly impact specific legislation he initiates. Senate Bill 850 will help mitigate the issue of food deserts across the state by requiring the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide grants and other forms of financial assistance to privately owned grocery stores and grocery stores owned by a unit of local government, school district or community college district. Madison and St. Clair counties both have areas that are considered food deserts, which means urban residents have to travel more than half a mile and rural residents must travel more than 10 miles to get to the nearest grocery store.

Another priority of Belt this year was holding housing authorities accountable. Senate Bill 1367 will change the Housing Authority Act, requiring that every housing authority under the act collect data on the number of vacant rental units within each housing project as well as information on whether each waitlist maintained by the authority is open or closed.

As former chair of the Senate Education Committee and previous school board member, Belt continues to stay invested in Illinois' education system. Illinois has faced troubles recently in the recruitment and retention of well-equipped educators to teach our youth in schools, and Belt knows this could put children's futures at stake. Belt represents a large portion of disadvantaged communities in the 57th District who have been especially affected by this shortage, which led him to be the Senate sponsor of House Bill 3801. This measure will provide retention bonuses of \$4,000 per year, for two consecutive years to National Board Certified teachers who are employed at hard-to-staff schools.

Another significant legislative victory this year sponsored by Belt was Senate Bill 2389, which amends the current law that people cannot drive with any objects placed or suspended between the driver and

the front windshield that obstruct the driver's view. Belt's measure clarifies that vehicles cannot be stopped or searched by a law enforcement officer solely on the basis of a violation or suspected violation of this. Oftentimes, people hang air fresheners or parking passes on their rearview mirror and are pulled over because of it. This violation has been used as a pretext for law enforcement to pull people over, disproportionately affecting minority communities.

Belt had a successful legislative session and advanced legislation that will truly help the people and communities in Illinois and in the 57th District. He plans to spend the summer staying up to date with issues his district is facing and being an advocate for all Illinois residents.





Javier L. Cervantes

1st Senate District

Beginning his time in the legislature this session, State Senator Javier Loera Cervantes (D-Chicago) has made strides to help those in his community and around the state who may be facing discrimination and other setbacks as he pushed through new and helpful legislation.

During his first session, Cervantes has worked tirelessly to move legislation that helps many different communities around the state. With legislation protecting immigrant workers, prioritizing driver safety, supporting STEM students, expanding definitions of personal care providers and more, Cervantes has had a long and passion-filled venture this session.

Cervantes continued advocating for workers by passing legislation designed to protect marginalized employees from unnecessary termination. To support working Illinois residents who may be

fearful of their job security, Cervantes passed Senate Bill 1515 which gives any employee who receives a “no match” letter from any federal or state agency 30 days of unpaid leave to correct any discrepancies without termination. He is proud to continue the fight to create legislation that protects marginalized workers.

Cervantes also led legislation to enhance the workforce. He passed House Bill 1378, which creates the Graduate and Retain Our Workforce Illinois Program to allow public and private institutions of higher education to award forgivable incentive loans to individuals with qualifying degrees and jobs that are in high demand.

To take action against unsafe driving across Illinois, Cervantes also moved legislation this session that will make it illegal to use any electronic communications devices while operating a motor vehicle.

The new legislation, House Bill 2431, also prohibits any social media application to be used as well as video conferencing applications, taking action against drivers who put themselves and everyone around them in danger.

With a heavy focus on helping working families, Cervantes supported legislation to create the Real Estate Omnibus and eliminate barriers faced by veterans and immigrants who are trying to obtain licensing for real estate. Under Senate Bill 1866, veterans will have all continuing education requirements waived upon seeking reactivation of their license within two years after their time in service. This also waives requirements for Social Security Numbers and allows those who use Taxpayer ID Numbers, mostly immigrants, to apply for licensure as real estate agents, community association managers, auctioneers, or home inspectors.

After a long session of passing meaningful and positive legislation, Cervantes – a strong leader for immigrant families and working families across the state – will continue to ensure that the voices of his community are heard in Springfield as he works with fellow lawmakers to provide the best legislation possible for Illinois to continue moving forward.





Mary Edly-Allen

31st Senate District

State Senator Mary Edly-Allen (D-Libertyville) hit the ground running on a wide array of issues impacting Illinoisans. As a new member to the Senate, she continued her legacy of impactful measures from being a previous Representative.

Being an educator, Edly-Allen knows the importance of internships and getting students the proper guidance to get into the workforce. With this in mind, she crafted Senate Bill 1996 to create new job opportunities and connections for Illinois high school students.

Under this measure, the Manufacturing Mentorship Program will lower the age requirement to 17, so more students can participate. Under this program, people 17 years and older will be given new opportunities toward temporary positions within the manufacturing field.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health crisis in Illinois. More than 230,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in Illinois. Due to this, Edly-Allen worked with Alzheimer's and dementia advocates to lead Senate Bill 216.

This measure will require training related to Alzheimer's and dementia for public guardians, taking an essential step toward ensuring guardians have the necessary tools to provide compassionate care.

Senate Bill 216 will require public guardians to undergo at least one hour of training on how to recognize, care for and interact with patients

who have Alzheimer's or dementia. The training must be completed within six months of the guardian's appointment and renewed annually.

Currently, Illinois has no basic requirement for training related to Alzheimer's and dementia for medical personnel or community care staff. Training public guardians on how to recognize behaviors and respond with empathy and appropriate interventions can significantly improve the quality of life for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Edly-Allen also focused on an increasingly dangerous epidemic that disproportionately affects women of color and LGBTQ+ people called "deepfakes." House Bill 2123 will crack down on abusive and harmful use of digital imitations. These nonconsensual intimate images are being rapidly developed to perfectly imitate others, therefore this measure will combat identity theft

and defamation toward victims.

Additionally, Edly-Allen spoke at the White House Task Force to Address Online Harassment and Abuse in D.C. to offer her knowledge on the subject to our nation's leaders.

To further build upon her legislation to combat deepfakes, she also was instrumental in passing legislation to give victims of doxing a voice in deterring bad actors looking to take advantage of the evolving cyber landscape. House Bill 2954 will allow people a civil private right of action against the individual who committed the offense. The victim could recover damages and any other appropriate relief, including attorney's fees.

Edly-Allen worked hard for the people of Illinois over the course of this session, and is excited to go back to her district and meet with the community.





Laura Ellman

Environment and Conservation chair | 21st Senate District

Anticipating the first normal legislative session since the pandemic, State Senator Laura Ellman (D-Naperville) hit the ground running as the Senate Environment and Conservation chair and Financial Institutions vice chair. With a prospective outlook, Ellman formulated legislation advancing the sustainability of Illinois and crafted legislation with some of our most vulnerable Illinoisans in mind — veterans and students.

Each legislative session, Ellman progresses measures supporting veterans and their families. On the heels of attending the Women Veteran Stand Down event hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ellman worked to grant veteran- and minority-owned businesses the same opportunities found at the federal level and advanced legislation to secure veteran- and minority-owned

business preference in the sale of transferable property. Senate Bill 1935 amends the State Property Control Act by including qualified veteran-owned small businesses and minority-owned businesses to the list of entities that may receive preference in the deposition of transferable property.

With students in mind, Ellman supported legislation to establish the Healthy School Meals for All Program. House Bill 2471, a constituent initiative, expands the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act to provide free meals to all students in Illinois, prioritizing free meal funding to schools most in need. Ellman also advocated for students with food allergies by championing a measure to increase education on food and environmental allergies. House Bill 3932 requires middle school and high school students enrolled in the Comprehensive Health

Education Program to study the signs and symptoms of food and environment-related allergic reactions, the steps to take to prevent exposure to allergens and the safe administration of emergency epinephrine.

Unbeknownst to most Illinoisans, environmental superfund sites are scattered across Illinois. The Environmental Protection Agency currently has a self-funded voluntary clean-up site remediation program where applicants reimburse the EPA for providing evaluation services. To streamline the application process for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Site Remediation Program, Ellman spearheaded House Bill 2901, which provides the EPA with the necessary financial assistance needed to cover evaluation services and reduce the need for billing, while also reducing the initial flat fee. With other forms of pollution also on the rise, Ellman advanced Senate Resolution 64, declaring that local governments in Illinois should abide by the International Dark-Sky Association's guidelines and lighting principles to help mitigate the effects of light pollution.

With the conclusion of the spring legislative session, Ellman is eager to return to her district to brainstorm legislation with her constituents and continue to host town halls and helpful events with her fellow legislators to benefit local residents.





Paul Faraci

52nd Senate District

During this legislative session, freshman Senator Paul Faraci (D-Champaign) hit the ground running by passing legislation to give community college students more opportunities to continue their educational career at a four-year Illinois university, honor the late Senator Scott Bennett's public service and help combat the ongoing opioid crisis.

Faraci's House Bill 3760 expands university admissions opportunities to community college transfer students who meet certain academic requirements. House Bill 3760 requires Eastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University and Western Illinois University to create a four-year admissions program that admits community college transfer students each semester, beginning with the 2024-2025 academic school year. This approach will enable students to pursue their education further while assisting universities in fulfilling their enrollment objectives, creating a win-win situation.

Faraci's measure to rename and expand the ABLE Account Program in honor of the late Senator Scott Bennett passed unanimously this year. The program, created and passed by Senator Scott Bennett during the 99th General Assembly, allows individuals with disabilities and their families to save money for expenses related to living with a disability without losing access to certain federal government

assistance. Under Faraci's legislation, the ABLE Account Program will be renamed to the Senator Scott Bennett ABLE Program. The ABLE Program is a critical tool for individuals with disabilities and their families, allowing them to save and invest for expenses related to their disability without losing access to federal benefits such as SSI, SSDI, and Medicaid. With a maximum savings limit of \$100,000, individuals can rest assured that they have a secure financial future.

Faraci worked with his colleagues to pass House Bill 1121, which will expand access to overdose prevention supplies for providers enrolled in the Illinois Department of Human Services' Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Division Drug Overdose Prevention Team. The intention of the legislation is to increase access to fentanyl test strips and improve public health outcomes by preventing

fatal overdose. Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine. Because fentanyl is often mixed with other drugs, these test strips can help prevent overdoses by allowing people struggling with addiction to test a substance for the presence of fentanyl. Faraci believes that the best interest of the state and his community in dealing with the opioid crisis is to first make sure that people stay alive.

As Faraci wraps up his first legislative session, he looks forward to getting back into the 52nd District, which includes Champaign and Vermilion counties, to talk to residents and host events. He is proud of the successes he had this session and considers this a learning experience, so that when he is back in Springfield, he can continue to build on past successes to help residents in the district.





Sara Feigenholtz

Financial Institutions chair | 6th Senate District

Senator Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) began her second term representing the 6th Senate District and passed several vital pieces of legislation related to tourism, environmental sustainability, youth behavioral health and information access for adoptees.

In January, Feigenholtz got to work right away. During the final days of the 102nd General Assembly, she passed the Tourism Preservation and Sustainability Act, which became law on Feb. 10, 2023. House Bill 268 creates a mechanism for funding tourism promotion efforts across Illinois. The additional revenues generated by Tourism Improvement Districts will be one more tool businesses can use to recover from the pandemic and bring visitors back to Illinois.

Building on her commitment to sustainability, Feigenholtz championed the Electric Vehicle

Charging Act. Senate Bill 40 lays the groundwork to make electric vehicle charging available at residential buildings in Illinois. The legislation establishes a path for new housing to be constructed with infrastructure for EV charging stations in mind, so that more renters and condominium owners will have access to EV charging at home.

Feigenholtz was also a key player in creating the Interagency Children's Behavioral Health Services Act to lay out a roadmap for state agencies and families to get children the help they need. Spearheaded by Dr. Dana Weiner and Senator Feigenholtz, Senate Bill 724 implements recommendations from the Governor's Behavioral Health Transformation Blueprint to better help families of children with behavioral health challenges access timely and appropriate care.

The work to improve children's

mental health and address the horrific rise in youth suicide rates isn't over. Supporting kids and their families before they reach a crisis requires a holistic approach that considers trauma and the school environment. Feigenholtz passed House Bill 3425 to do just that – address bullying and cyberbullying by improving reporting timelines, expanding the list of protected characteristics and providing more support to school administrators.

In 2010, Feigenholtz—an adoptee herself – passed a historic law making Illinois the most populous state to grant adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates. This was the largest expansion of birth certificate access in U.S. history—but barriers remained that prevented everyone in the adoption community from accessing records. That's why Feigenholtz continued her longtime adoption advocacy by passing Senate Bill 2134 to allow people whose adoption agencies closed to access records housed in central state storage. This measure will level the playing field for all adopted adults seeking information about their first chapter of life.

An active and familiar face around the district, Feigenholtz looks forward to summertime on the North Side where she frequently joins community groups at festivals, farmers markets, baseball games, shred events and more.





Laura Fine

Behavioral and Mental Health chair | 9th Senate District

As the lead sponsor of 59 Senate bills and 14 House bills, State Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview) took on many different legislative issues, including protecting the environment and supporting the state's mental health workforce. However, one of her most important issues was addressing the opioid epidemic with harm reduction strategies.

In 2021, more than 3,000 people in Illinois died from an opioid overdose. Although emergency medical providers have access to 4-milligram naloxone nasal spray kits, that isn't always strong enough to reverse an overdose. Senate Bill 1402 will start a two-year pilot program through the Illinois Department of Human Services to provide FDA-approved 8-milligram naloxone nasal spray kits to licensed community substance use providers and public health departments.

Expanding on this harm reduction plan, Fine also introduced Senate Bill 2223, also known as Louie's Law, after a suburban youth died as a result of an overdose. This legislation will require the Illinois State Board of Education to develop a standardized curriculum around the dangers of substance abuse with an emphasis on harm reduction and cultural competency. The curriculum will also provide information on how to get support and medical assistance for people who may otherwise find themselves

in a dangerous situation.

Protecting the environment was also a priority of Fine's this session. To ensure state operations prioritize environmental sustainability and do not contribute to degradation, Fine led initiatives to limit the consumption of single-use plastic foodware by state agencies over the next year. Senate Bill 58 will require state agencies to track their own purchases of single-use plastic foodware for one year and establish goals to reduce their use. This initiative would also ban state-run organizations from distributing polystyrene foam food containers and encourage using more sustainable alternatives.

Fine also prioritized supporting the mental health workforce and improving mental health care centers throughout the state. This included leading House Bill 1364 through the Senate, which will launch a task force to review data

from the first year of operations and recommend updates for the future in order to make the 988 hotline as effective as possible for hotline operators and people experiencing a mental health crisis. Fine also passed legislation to ensure reports of abuse or neglect in state-operated developmental centers are thoroughly investigated and addressed, which was intended to address allegations of abuse at Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna. Lastly, Fine introduced legislation expanding a behavioral health workforce student loan forgiveness program to help meet the growing demand for mental health providers who support patients struggling with substance use.

After hard work on her legislation, Fine is looking forward to getting out in the district, hosting events and spending time with her family.





Ann Gillespie

Approp - Health and Human Services chair | 27th Senate District

State Senator Ann Gillespie (D-Arlington Heights) highlighted a commitment to social equity and inclusivity this legislative session. Her efforts focused on giving a voice to children in the foster care system, strengthening solutions for affordable housing shortages, expanding access to medical devices and preventing discriminatory practices when buying or renting property.

This year, Gillespie called for Illinois to join a majority of states in guaranteeing legal counsel for children in child welfare proceedings. Without legal representation, children are at risk of navigating complex court cases on their own or having vital decisions made about their future without their input. Senate Bill 1478 amends the Foster Children's Bill of Rights Act to create a right for all children to have access to counsel when they are placed in DCFS custody.

Building on her commitment to long-term solutions for affordable housing shortages across the state, Gillespie's Senate Bill 1476 requires more communities to have plans in place to meet the needs of low- to moderate-income families. Under the Illinois Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act, local governments are exempt from having affordable housing plans in place if at least 10% of their housing stock consists of affordable housing. However, this results in only about 46 of Illinois' 1,298 municipalities being covered by the act. Senate Bill 1476 expands the non-exempt pool of local governments from those with 10% of affordable housing to those with 15%, increasing the number of governments required to submit plans. The bill also strengthens the requirements of affordable housing plans, providing that they must set forth certain benchmarks for new affordable housing developments

and proposed timelines.

To make life-changing prosthetic and orthotic devices easier to obtain by those who need them, Gillespie advanced legislation to expand coverage under the Illinois Insurance Code. Senate Bill 2195 provides that any enrollee, regardless of age, will be covered for the most appropriate prosthetic or orthotic model determined by a medical provider in order to maximize the recipient's overall health.

Gillespie also set out to further prevent discrimination while looking for a place to live. Under Senate Bill 1817, the Illinois Human Rights Act is amended to include that it is a civil rights violation to consider immigration status when renting or selling property, including a refusal to engage in a transaction, receive or transmit offers, or negotiate terms of a deal. The bill also prohibits a third-party loan modification service provider from refusing to engage in loan modification services or altering the terms of such services based on a person's immigration status.

Gillespie's legislative accomplishments in the past session demonstrate her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable populations across Illinois. She will host several town halls this summer, continue to assist constituents and hold a summer book club to reward young readers.





Suzy Glowiak Hilton

Licensed Activities chair | 23rd Senate District

At the start of the 2023 session, State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs) went straight to work tackling issues that mattered most. This year, Glowiak Hilton spearheaded initiatives to protect consumers, ensure families of veterans receive the appropriate benefits and uplift health care workers.

In many instances, businesses can present misleading information to consumers in order to receive unnecessary purchases. Glowiak Hilton has seen this firsthand. She led Senate Bill 328, a measure to address automatic renewal contracts that can be misleading for consumers who sign up for them. The initiative will require businesses to give clear and conspicuous disclosure of a contract's automatic renewal terms, including that the contract will continue until the consumer cancels. It also requires businesses to state the deadline to cancel before being charged for the renewal, the amount of recurring charges, and the length of the renewal terms.

Glowiak Hilton didn't stop there. She also led a measure to prohibit "spoof" calls across Illinois. This misleading tactic is popular among scammers to disguise their caller ID. Senate Bill 160 will no longer allow people to use a fake caller ID, and it will require automated telemarketers to state the organization they represent, the purpose of the call and confirm that

the individual wants to continue with the call. If the caller refuses the organization's solicitation, the business must ensure they will not call the individual again and must take the steps necessary to remove the individual from their records.

After all our veterans have done for us, their families should receive the appropriate benefits after their passing. In many instances, relatives of veterans do not receive accurate compensation due to the fact that service-related injuries are not listed in their vital records. Glowiak Hilton championed an initiative to do just that. House Bill 2856 will require vital records to list contributing factors behind a veteran's death. This requirement would ensure survivor benefits and other rights are addressed if the death was caused by a service-related injury

In Illinois, there is a substantial health care shortage. COVID-

related emergency declarations recently ended, which would originally have ended temporary out-of-state licenses for our health care professionals. Because of this, Glowiak Hilton spearheaded a measure to prevent these licenses from expiring. House Bill 559 extends these out-of-state licenses for another year, ensuring that the health care professionals that stepped up to the plate can continue to live and work in Illinois, and prevent any further health care shortage in Illinois.

After this year's legislative session wraps up, Glowiak Hilton looks forward to hosting and attending events throughout the 23rd District.





Michael W. Halpin

Higher Education co-chair | 36th Senate District

During this legislative session, Senator Mike Halpin (D-Rock Island) chose to tackle legislation that helps children receive the benefits they deserve, limits the cost of EpiPens to \$60 per twin-pack and assists our state with workforce development.

Halpin's House Bill 3301 helps stop parents who do not have primary custody of their child from skipping on child support payments. House Bill 3301 will include independent contractors in the definition of "employee" so that anyone who reports income on 1099 forms as an independent contractor will be reported to the National Directory of New Hires registry, which helps track parents who are delinquent on child support payments across state lines. Under current law, parents can avoid the database by not self-reporting income if they don't receive a W-2. Under House Bill 3301, the parent's 1099 will be reported to the database so the state knows approximately how

much income was earned and can enter a court order to pay. House Bill 3301 makes this change to recognize the need to prevent parents who do not have custody of their child and who are avoiding child support payments from skirting reporting requirements.

Halpin made waves taking on the insurance industry by advancing House Bill 3639, which limits the cost of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors, commonly known by the brand name EpiPens, to a maximum of \$60 per twin-pack. Epinephrine Auto-Injectors are the only medication that works on the entire body to combat anaphylaxis, a potentially fatal allergic reaction. Since 2017, a global shortage of these devices has made this medication increasingly difficult to obtain. In addition to the shortage, the cost of EpiPens has skyrocketed in recent years, with a twin pack costing anywhere from \$500-700 on average, and a single injector costing

anywhere from \$300-400. This has placed a significant financial burden on families who need to keep multiple EpiPens on hand for emergencies. Halpin believes that it is time to put an end to excessive corporate profits — people's ability to come up with \$500 shouldn't be the deciding factor in determining whether they can access life-saving medication.

Halpin teamed up with Senator Neil Anderson, a fellow legislator from Rock Island County, to pass Senate Bill 1750, aimed at creating incentives to recruit much-needed emergency medical technicians in Illinois fire departments. The legislation requires the board of trustees of a fire protection district to reimburse the mandatory training expenses of EMTs, EMT-Is, A-EMTs, or paramedics who are employed by or under contract with the district. This action provides a much-needed incentive for candidates to pursue a career in emergency medical services and helps ensure that fire departments have the necessary personnel to respond to emergencies and save lives.

As this year's session wraps up, Halpin looks forward to getting back into the 36th District to knock on doors and talk with residents all across the district. With the district encompassing six counties, Halpin is excited to represent such a large part of Western Illinois and he is proud of the work he's done this year to further the interests of his communities.





Michael E. Hastings

19th Senate District

State Senator Michael E. Hastings (D-Frankfort) continued his strong tradition of working across the aisle to pass groundbreaking legislation to help police and sheriffs track stolen vehicles.

Carjackings are on the rise. Yet under current law, law enforcement officers have little to no ability to access real-time tracking information.

With this in mind, Hastings negotiated with law enforcement to ensure Illinois uses readily available technology to track carjackers as they travel from Point A to Point B. He knows it is essential that we provide our police officers with the tools to successfully apprehend individuals and keep our communities safe.

The all-too-common occurrence led Hastings to pass House Bill 2245, which requires Illinois car manufacturers to establish a 24/7 hotline for police and consumers to utilize in case of a carjacking or kidnapping. This would give police real-time assistance with locating vehicles – allowing them to find the perpetrator and arrest them before they get away.

To help consumers across the fighting 19th District, Hastings helped pass a measure to ensure residents are given clear notice on contracts that automatically renew. He knows many residents have fallen victim to contracts that automatically renew without their consent which leave them with

pesky fees they have no choice but to pay. Senate Bill 328 would require businesses to give notice to consumers before a contract renews. It would also allow consumers to terminate automatic renewal contracts more easily by phone or online – something that is often not offered by companies.

As one of the only two veterans in the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus, Hastings supported a number of measures to streamline resources for our state's veterans and their loved ones. He helped spearhead a measure that expands the military liaison for the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation responsibilities to include notification of federal assistance programs available to reimburse costs associated with licensing fees and professional credentials of a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces which arises from relocating

to another state.

To help consumers across the fighting 19th District, Hastings helped pass a measure to ensure residents are given clear notice on contracts that automatically renew. Senate Bill 328 will require businesses to give notice to consumers before a contract renews and allows consumers to terminate automatic renewal contracts more easily by phone or online.

In the district, Hastings works tirelessly to ensure families across the South Suburbs have access to great educational opportunities, well-maintained roads and bridges and our state's most vulnerable populations have the resources to lead their lives with dignity and respect.





Adriane Johnson

Education chair | 30th Senate District

This spring session, State Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove) sponsored legislation for the safety and health of her district and beyond. She remained steadfast in her pursuits to advocate for ending homelessness and creating an eco-friendly Illinois.

Johnson continues to support those affected by homelessness by sponsoring House Bill 2831. This bill stands to create an office within the Illinois Department of Human Services tasked with preventing and ending homelessness. The group will create a strategic plan aimed to decrease homelessness and improve health and human services outcomes for people who experience homelessness, and strengthen the safety nets that contribute to housing stability.

In an effort to support children in the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services affected by behavioral and mental health issues,

Johnson advanced legislation that will assist in residential treatment planning. House bill 439 will require the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to develop a strategic plan to improve timely access to in-state residential treatment, evidence-based alternatives to treatment, and specialized foster care for youth in care with significant behavioral health needs.

The erosion of the mental health care network in Illinois has a significant impact on access to care, increasing hospitalization for extended periods in emergency wards, and increasing expenses for families of youth with complex intellectual and developmental disabilities. Most severely, it can lead to the willing relinquishment of a child into DCFS custody in order to access psychiatric care.

Johnson believes that the environment directly affects the

health of the community and finds it important to lead initiatives that not only ensure the removal of harmful contaminants but assist in the after effects.

Another measure that would greatly impact community safety is the Donald (DJ) Stallworth, III Act, Senate Bill 1251. This will require ambulances proceeding through a red light or stop sign to slow down and use both the siren and lights – signaling its presence to other drivers. Further, the measure will require ambulance drivers to have documented training of the vehicle on the proper use of warning lights and sirens and situations where those lights and sirens are warranted.

Johnson also led a measure to allow people with previous felony convictions to serve as an executor of someone else's estate if expressly named.

House Bill 1268 will allow people with previous felony convictions to act as executor of someone else's estate. Under the measure, a convicted felon can only serve as an executor if the deceased person expressly names that person in their will and acknowledges they know the person is a convicted felon.

Johnson is looking forward to more opportunities to improve the lives of the people she represents, returning to Buffalo Grove to continue her advocacy in the 30th District and beyond.





Emil Jones, III

14th Senate District

As a lifelong resident of Chicago, State Senator Emil Jones III (D-Chicago) prioritized the residents of the 14th Senate District by working to better their lives during the 2023 session.

A distinct and outspoken voice for increased public safety standards, Jones has gone above and beyond in his efforts to make Illinois neighborhoods and their streets safer. With the increasing number of carjackings, he led House Bill 2245 to require a county sheriff to establish a vehicle theft hotline to facilitate the location of stolen vehicles from their existing global positioning systems.

Continuing his advocacy for public safety, Jones supported Senate Bill 2013 to ensure all affordable housing units meet the minimum standard requirement, specifically for heating and cooling, upkeep and maintenance, and property management. This initiative was in response to three women dying of suspected heat exhaustion in a Chicago senior living complex.

Additionally, Jones has always been a strong advocate for education and ensuring Illinois students are safe during his tenure in the Senate. He worked to provide research-informed, culturally and age appropriate, prevention-centric guidelines for drug education programs in all Illinois public K-12 education. Jones wants to ensure students understand the harms

that come from using drugs and what a substance abuse entails.

School officials across Illinois have increasingly seen instances of people not properly stopping for a school bus, putting the lives of kids at risk. Jones passed Senate Bill 2340, which allows a school bus to be equipped with a maximum of two stop arms that partially obstruct the roadway. He hopes that allowing school buses to have an extended arm would provide more protections for passengers and lessen the number of drivers who pass stopped buses.

One in four people are diagnosed with diabetes. That's why Jones was a strong supporter of Senate Bill 1559, which limits the total cost for a 30-day supply of prescription insulin to \$35. Three years ago he had supported a law that limited the cost at \$100. Jones worked to address the ever-rising cost of living by continuing to lower the price of

a vital medication for those with diabetes.

This year, Jones also secured \$7 million to local organizations through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The funding will assist companies, churches and schools as they continue to bounce back from the financial distress brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. Jones' steadfast leadership to secure these grants shows his commitment to the community.

Jones continued to be active in the community by attending local events, community meetings and more. He will always be a voice for the residents of the 14th Senate District.

This summer, Jones looks forward to being active in the district, spending quality time with his family and meeting with constituents to hear their needs.





Patrick J. Joyce

State Government co-chair | *40th Senate District*

State Senator Patrick Joyce (D-Essex) came into the 2023 session ready to get things done. Whether it was ideas on addressing the statewide firefighter shortage, making everyday lives easier for people in the 40th District and around the state or prioritizing that Illinois stay a top state in energy production, Joyce knew he would be busy in Springfield this year.

Joyce worked with his colleagues and stakeholders to ensure that different first responders in Illinois were on track with sustainable recruitment and retention rates. To address the lack of volunteer firefighters, he carried Senate Bill 1611, allowing state employees to take a leave of absence from their employment while undergoing firefighter trainin. In addition, the state has recently faced obstacles in finding adequate applicants for firefighters and paramedics. In turn, Joyce brought forth Senate

Joint Resolution 7 that creates the Recruiting and Retaining Public Employee Firefighters and Paramedics Task Force, in attempt to identify solutions to the shortage of eligible applicants for these positions. Joyce also carried House Bill 2475, which aims to help with recruitment of Illinois State Police officers. This measure establishes that the collegiate requirements for the state police exam are met if a person has been honorably discharged by the United States Armed Forces. Joyce knows these public service employees are essential and has remained dedicated to ensuring Illinois is able to fill the positions so the state has enough first responders to guarantee public safety to all residents in Illinois.

One other piece of legislation Joyce introduced this year that will benefit many people is House Bill 3677, which allows state residents

to obtain a three-year fishing, hunting, sportsmen's combination or trapping license. This measure will save people the hassle of renewing these licenses every year, while also helping generate more revenue at a time for the state's conservation efforts.

Joyce also co-sponsored two major bills this year that will help ensure that Illinois stay a top state in energy production. Senate Bill 1474 requires the Illinois Power Agency to procure a percentage of its renewable energy credits from hydropower dams. This will not only increase the use of hydropower, but also would promote environmental conservation by using dams that already exist. Another measure Joyce co-sponsored was Senate Bill 76, which will appeal the moratorium on new nuclear facilities in Illinois.

He will continue to have an active presence in the 40th District upon session adjournment by attending and hosting events, as well as brainstorming new legislative matters with his constituents and other stakeholders.





Meg Loughran Cappel

Appropriations - Education chair | 49th Senate District

As a former special education teacher, State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood) understands the impact of the teacher shortage on students and staff. She has been a strong advocate and voice for teachers and education professionals across the state.

Providing students with a high-quality education requires familiarity with their teachers. Loughran Cappel made it a priority to work with school districts and stakeholders on House Bill 3442 to increase the number of days substitute teachers can be in a classroom in an emergency situation to 90 days or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater.

Additionally, Loughran Cappel championed House Bill 1291 to increase the annual pay cap from \$1,500 to \$2,250 for teachers with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designations who mentor or provide professional development for classroom teachers or counselors. During her time in the classroom, she relied on colleagues to learn more, better her teaching skills, listen to the good and bad times and so much more. Many educators spend over 30 hours a year participating in mentoring and professional development. Loughran Cappel believes that providing compensation to the teachers who continuously work to uplift new teachers will encourage

them to stay in the profession longer, ultimately benefiting our students the most.

As someone who has cared for a loved one, Loughran Cappel knows the stress and exhaustion that comes with it. In an effort to expand access to hospice care, she spearheaded House Bill 1117 to allow certain hospice programs to serve up to 24 people per location, rather than the current 20 people per location cap, and expand the number of licensed hospice locations per county from five to 16.

Loughran Cappel also made it a top priority to address local issues by ensuring residents in the 49th Senate District have clean water. House Bill 2097 authorizes the City of Crest Hill to buy land that will be used in the construction of a Lake Michigan water station. The proposed site for the water receiving station is on land owned

by the Illinois Department of Corrections, which is near the city's largest water customer, Stateville Correctional Center. This was an easy solution that will have a lasting impact on the City of Crest Hill and surrounding communities.

Alongside her legislative accomplishments, Loughran Cappel continues to be active across the district with her Youth Advisory Board, Coffee and Conversations, Traveling Office Hours and community events to provide services and programs for residents.

Over the summer, Loughran Cappel plans to continue her community outreach and provide assistance and services to residents of the district she represents.





Robert F. Martwick

Judiciary chair | 10th Senate District

During the spring legislative session, Senator Robert Martwick (D-Chicago) immediately began working to deliver for people across the district he represents.

This year Martwick championed House Bill 2231, an important public safety measure to hold rideshare companies to the common carrier doctrine—which means that the company must maintain a duty of care for their passengers. Companies like Lyft and Uber will be liable for the conduct of their drivers. This includes being able to hold the company liable if their employee causes the passenger harm, through intentional means such as assault, or if a driver is intoxicated and causes an accident.

Martwick also led Senate Bill 1646 to prohibit companies from using personal data gathered from retirement plan participants to sell products and services that are not related to the plan. The measure enacts a series of strict conflict

of interest provisions. Included in the measure are rules regarding companies who perform contracted recordkeeping services for public employee deferred compensation plans.

In addition to ensuring all firefighters share the same benefits across the state, Martwick introduced Senate Bill 1629 and the companion Senate Bill 1630. The measures create an alternative formula for Tier 2 Chicago firefighters for calculating their final average salary and annual cost of living adjustment. This change will begin to bring Chicago firefighters' pensions up to par with benefits already available to all other firefighters in the state.

Building upon legislation he passed last year to combat carjackings, Martwick also supported House Bill 2245. The measure requires Illinois car manufacturers to establish a 24/7 hotline for police and consumers to utilize in case of a carjacking or

kidnapping. This will give police real-time assistance with locating vehicles – allowing them to find the perpetrator and arrest them before they get away.

During this legislative session, Martwick worked on many bills that dealt with pensions. Among those was Senate Bill 2100, which establishes how to replace a vacant trustee position, a requirement to reimburse a trustee for travel and that the legal counsel of the fund may perform the oath of office. He also worked on Senate Bill 1648, which makes changes to the Laborers' Annuity and Benefit Fund to allow members who satisfy qualifying disability criteria are entitled to certain annuities provided in the LABF and SERS article of the pension code that are not addressed in the Tier 2 benefits provisions. Finally, he sponsored Senate Bill 1235, which revises the way retirement annuity is calculated for adjunct professors, and provides a formula for calculating service credit for non-full-time professors.

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

Early Childhood Education chair | 20th Senate District

State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago) wrapped up her tenure as a state senator by passing over a dozen transformative bills.

A longtime champion of workers' rights, Pacione-Zayas passed House Bill 1122, or the Freelance Isn't Free Act, which will require contracting entities to pay freelance workers according to the terms stated in their contract. Pacione-Zayas believes this will ensure all workers are paid what they are owed quickly so they can support themselves and their loved ones. Pacione-Zayas also passed House Bill 3129 to ensure prospective employees have access to all information about their potential earnings and benefits when determining if they should accept a job. This initiative will require employers with 15 or more employees to publicly post the wage or salary and description of benefits offered for a job, promotion, transfer or other employment opportunity.

As a prolific member of the Progressive Caucus, Pacione-Zayas championed many measures to make systemic change and to support the most marginalized Illinoisans. One of these measures was House Bill 3413, which would create a protected burial ground for the reburial of repatriated Native American ancestors and establish a committee of tribal leaders to review state projects that may disturb culturally significant sites and make recommendations

on how to appropriately handle ancestral remains. She also worked to break down existing obstacles transgender and gender non-conforming people face when seeking cancer screenings. Her legislation, House Bill 2350, will make the insurance code gender-inclusive rather than gender-specific.

Pacione-Zayas also worked on many issues relating to child care and education while serving as the inaugural chair of the Early Childhood Education Committee in the Senate. Her Senate Bill 1794 will codify Illinois Department of Human Services home visiting programs so they are no longer solely dependent on budget appropriations. Pacione-Zayas believes this is an essential program to help caregivers support children's development from the prenatal phase to age five. She also passed House Bill 3822, which will require the Illinois Advisory Council

on Bilingual Education to develop a plan to incentivize, improve and expand dual language instruction in schools, which will help young people become more well-rounded and have a better understanding of themselves and the world. Pacione-Zayas also championed Senate Bill 2039 to require every public school in the state of Illinois to provide families of children with disabilities all necessary information and support to register for the PUNS list, which may improve their quality of life.

Senator Pacione-Zayas has represented the 20th District since 2020. As spring session comes to an end, she reflects on her successes as a champion for early learning and policies that support children's holistic development. She looks forward to continuing her staunch advocacy for marginalized communities across Chicago and Illinois in her next chapter.





Robert Peters

Labor chair | 13th Senate District

Fresh off the momentum of the SAFE-T Act, State Senator Robert Peters (D-Chicago) entered the 2023 session prioritizing legislation related to public safety, workers' rights and urbanism.

As chair of the Senate Labor Committee, Peters launched a measure challenging child labor. House Bill 1258 changes the preexisting Child Labor Law in an effort to match Illinois law with federal child labor regulations, reducing the weekly maximum hours a person under 16 can work from 48 to 40. While school is in session, House Bill 1258 reduces the weekly maximum hours worked by a minor under the age of 16 from 24 to 18. House Bill 1258 also removes a requirement that the combined hours of work and school may not exceed eight hours per day for workers under 16.

Peters also assisted workers looking to recover wages by

introducing a measure to combat wage theft. House Bill 3227 builds on existing wage laws to extend the time for recovery to three years. House Bill 3227 also ensures unclaimed wages are deposited into the Wage Theft Enforcement Fund to be used for enforcement of the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act and for outreach activities of the Department of Labor related to the recovery of unpaid or underpaid compensation.

As a champion of public safety and public safety reform, Peters implemented measures to consider individuals impacted by the justice system. Through Peters' leadership, prison gerrymandering became obsolete in Illinois. House Bill 1496 requires sentencing court clerks to record demographic information such as an incarcerated individual's race, whether the person is 18 years of age or older, and the person's last known street address prior to

incarceration. During census years, the measure also requires the Department of Corrections to report to the State Board of Elections the last known street address of the individual before incarceration, or to report an address collected if the incarcerated individual is eligible for parole.

Considering young people with justice system involvement, Peters passed a measure changing the definition of a delinquent minor. House Bill 2223 redefines a delinquent minor as a minor who violates or attempts to violate a state, local or municipal law or ordinance. Peters' measure also removes a provision that a minor may meet the definition of delinquent regardless of where the violation or attempted violation occurred.

Peters also pushed to help those impacted by the justice system move on from their past mistakes and receive professional licenses. House Bill 2826 prohibits inquiry into criminal history by the Illinois Department Financial and Professional Regulation if the licensing statute states that criminal history of applicants is irrelevant. With this new law, IDFPR would only need to perform a mitigating factor analysis in limited circumstances.

Ending spring legislative session on a successful note, Peters is excited to return to the 13th District to continue collaborating with grassroots organizations that have their ear to the ground.





Mike Porfirio

11th Senate District

State Senator Mike Porfirio (D-Lyons Township) has dedicated himself to our country and his district through serving over six years on active duty and working for the Village of Bridgeview in a variety of roles including deputy clerk, property manager and administrative aide.

As a decorated Navy Commander, he continues to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve and has commanded multiple units during his career. Porfirio is a true public servant with a reputation as a coalition builder, community organizer and problem-solver and has focused legislation this session on advocating for veterans across the state.

In an effort to provide greater protections for military service members who are survivors of sexual misconduct, Porfirio advanced House Bill 3103. The proposal ensures that Illinois National Guard and reserve military service members who are survivors of non-consensual sexual conduct and have received a military protective order are also protected under the state's civil no-contact and stalking no-contact orders. House Bill 3103 will align Illinois laws to ensure that survivors receive protection from both the military and the state. Porfirio believes this is the least we can do to protect the people who have done so much to protect us.

Additionally, military service members and the Department of

Revenue will see improvements when it comes to requesting and processing sales tax exemptions, thanks to Porfirio's Senate Bill 1705. This measure will eliminate the need for sales tax exemption certificates by members of the military. Instead, when making an exempt purchase, a service member can present a valid military ID and a form of payment where the military organization is the payor, as well as complete a form by the Department of Revenue.

With Chicago Midway Airport in his district, Porfirio was appointed to sit on the Residential Sound Insulation Program Advisory Committee by Senate President Don Harmon. The committee, which is focused on improving policies that reduce noise exposure and continuing insulation of nearby residential areas, was also voted to be expanded by two members through House Bill 3722. As

a member of this committee, Porfirio wants to ensure that his constituents and all Illinoisans will have the most experienced people to represent them and offer advice on how to create effective solutions.

Following his first session, Porfirio plans to focus on issues such as fighting for safer communities, increasing funding for mental health services and violence prevention programs, ensuring access to critical women's health services and protecting a woman's right to choose in Illinois.

Porfirio plans to return to the 11th District for the summer to connect constituents with important resources and update them on what was accomplished during his time in Springfield.





Willie Preston

16th Senate District

Born and raised in Chicago, State Senator Willie Preston (D-Chicago) was determined to have a seat at the table so that he could be part of the decisions impacting his community.

Serving his first term in the 16th District, Preston was excited and unwavering in his dedication to improve the quality of life for the working people of the 16th District. From fighting for economic equity to strengthening school systems, Preston has not taken his first session as a Senator lightly.

Improving the quality of life for residents of the 16th District is at the heart of Preston's legislative priorities. This includes obtaining the necessary funds to create safe and secure communities, and enacting crucial policies to build more opportunistic futures for his residents.

In the Senate, Preston has been at work championing comprehensive measures to make the community

and state more inclusive. Preston led a measure to increase educator diversity by overhauling the outdated teacher evaluation system. House Bill 3570 empowers underpaid Black and Latino teachers in challenging work environments by giving them a level playing field through job security and equal opportunities.

Likewise, Preston streamlined the testing and promotion process for Chicago firefighters with Senate Bill 1707. The measure creates a standardized process of promotions aligned with the Fire Department Promotion Act removing archaic and discriminatory testing processes that kept Black and female firefighters from equitable promotional opportunities.

Preston also wants to make sure the language used in our laws avoids creating biases. Spearheading House Bill 3762, Preston worked to remove all references to the death penalty in criminal statutes to

avoid unintentional predispositions when determining sentencing for defendants.

As a small-construction-business-owner, Preston knows how crucial working-class jobs are to build up communities. To expand construction and building trades in underrepresented populations, Preston helped secure \$1 million through the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship program for expansion of programs to provide younger, more diverse generations with opportunities in construction trades throughout the district.

Continuing his work on public safety, Preston supported House Bill 2245 to address the rise in carjackings in Chicago and surrounding communities. The measure will assist law enforcement by establishing a vehicle theft hotline that can be used to retrieve vehicle location information in case of a carjacking or kidnapping.

As a newly-elected member to the Illinois General Assembly, Preston is looking forward to his first summer serving the district. When he is not fighting for a better tomorrow for residents on the Southwest side of Chicago and western suburbs, he will be running and operating his construction firm alongside his family. Preston encourages members of the 16th District to visit his district office and meet him at community events to get to know him and discuss his passions for bettering the community.





Mike Simmons

Human Rights chair | 7th Senate District

As a lifelong resident of Chicago, the only openly gay Senator and the son of a Black-American mother and an Ethiopian-American immigrant father, State Senator Mike Simmons (D-Chicago) has roots that run deep in Illinois' 7th Senate District.

Born in Lincoln Square to parents who owned a small business, Simmons knows firsthand the issues facing his district and has fought hard in his career for the members of his community. He is an avid supporter of LGBTQ+ rights, has worked to improve transportation and bicyclist safety and has passed legislation to advance affordable housing.

As chair of the Senate Human Rights Committee, Simmons has diligently passed multiple pieces of legislation to protect LGBTQ+ rights. Senate Bill 689 prohibits library systems, school districts, school boards and trustees of a library or village library from limiting access to or prohibiting the purchase of books or materials related to a number of topics, including gender identity and sexual orientation. In addition, he passed House Bill 1591, which strengthened marriage equality in Illinois by repealing the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution Act.

In addition to advocating for same-sex couples, Simmons also worked to improve transportation and bicyclist safety in his district. As someone who loves biking himself and has seen too many accidents

occur in his district, Simmons knew this was an important issue. Senate Bill 1710 requires the installation of signage along bike paths warning pedestrians and cyclists of a vehicle crossing at least 150 feet ahead of an intersection.

In addition, Senate Bill 2278 helps plan for complete streets for bikes, pedestrians and public transit riders by providing that local governments will not be required to design, construct or widen a non-highway state road to accommodate large trucks.

As someone who has lived in public housing, Simmons knows how important it is for everyone to have access to affordable housing, as well as quality housing. He knows shelter is not only a basic need, but living in a good home should be a right to which no one is denied. This legislative session, Simmons passed Senate Bill 1484 which created the Cooperative Housing Fund. He also

passed Senate Bill 2013 which will require specific air conditioning and heating provisions to be included in all state-funded affordable housing, as well as laundry access and regular maintenance.

Simmons is a Senator who has fought hard for his community and its residents. He knows the issues facing his community firsthand and is working hard to correct them. This summer, Simmons and his team will be moving district office locations. They will spend time setting up their new office and helping the community members who come in to speak with them.





Steve Stadelman

Energy and Public Utilities chair | 34th Senate District

As a former broadcaster, State Senator Steve Stadelman (D-Rockford) knows the problems many Illinois families face and continues promoting the work of journalists and fighting for working households in Springfield.

Stadelman pushed for a number of legislative measures making changes to rent protections, historical preservation and local journalism. With many around the state fighting against rising costs, communities have been in need of assistance and Stadelman has made it a priority to ensure funding is coming back to the people of the 34th District and the spaces they use.

To help tenants who rent houses, duplexes and apartments, Stadelman passed legislation to provide greater transparency for renters of smaller properties. With Senate Bill 1741, limitations will be lifted for landlords of five or fewer

units and they will be required to provide an itemized statement of damages before withholding a security deposit from any tenant, regardless of the number of units within the property. Stadelman knows that if renters don't get their security deposits back, they should have a right to know why. Living in a smaller property should not mean someone has fewer protections.

This year was also the first year of meetings for the Local Journalism Task Force, created through legislation from the previous General Assembly that Stadelman championed that focuses on strengthening local journalism and recommending ways to support private-sector or nonprofit operation models. Stadelman understands that newsrooms across the nation are shrinking, especially in smaller and more rural areas, and an alarming number have closed in the last

decade.

When people don't know what's happening on their town councils and school boards, they can't make educated decisions or hold public officials accountable. That's why Stadelman has made it a priority to ensure the task force continues to meet and makes an impact in communities across Illinois.

Stadelman also wanted to ensure that historic downtown spaces that were commercial or social hubs for communities are receiving the help they need and pushed for legislation supporting those towns and districts.

Stadelman also led an initiative to expand the Historic Preservation Tax Credit. Downtowns are the economic engines of Illinois cities and many continue to struggle in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and companies have moved to remote work leading to office space going unused. Stadelman championed this historic tax credit as a proven economic development tool that allows communities to take old, sometimes vacant buildings, and return them to marketability.

As this session wraps up, Stadelman – a fighter for economic prosperity in Illinois and a strong foundation for working families – hopes to continue to push for common sense legislation that will help all residents of Illinois prosper.





Doris Turner

Agriculture chair | 48th Senate District

As a lifelong resident of Central Illinois, State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) prioritized the agricultural industry, education and ways to better the lives of residents in the 48th Senate District.

Agriculture is one of the top industries in Illinois. As chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Turner has been a staunch supporter of farmers and agriculture stakeholders across the state. Gardening is one way for people to play a role in the ag industry. It can allow households to have access to nutritional foods right outside their doors and cut down on food costs. That's why she led House Bill 3892 to allow the Illinois Housing Development Authority to develop a program that provides incentives for affordable housing projects that incorporate urban and suburban gardening.

Additionally, Turner is a strong advocate for agriculture education. Students learn through experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom. She worked to ensure Future Farmers of America and 4-H students can participate in events without their school attendance being jeopardized. House Bill 3814 allows students to count hours that they participate in a work-based learning experience as hours of school work. The measure includes participation in scheduled events of state and national FFA associations as well as 4-H programs as part of organized competitions or exhibitions – something Turner strongly supports.

She has been devoted to bettering Illinois' education system throughout her life by ensuring students have every opportunity to succeed and be lifelong learners, and that teachers have the tools and resources to effectively do their job.

School officials across Illinois have increasingly seen instances of people not properly stopping for a school bus, putting the lives of kids at risk. Continuing her advocacy for students and their safety, Turner passed Senate Bill 2340 which allows a school bus to be equipped with a maximum of two stop arms that partially obstruct the roadway. She believes that allowing school buses to have an extended arm would provide more protections for passengers and lessen the number of drivers who pass stopped buses.

History is living, breathing and ever evolving. To promote public involvement and embody civic pride, Turner was proud to lead Senate Bill 1818 creating the Illinois Flag

Commission to develop new state flag designs. The 21-member commission will make recommendations to the General Assembly deciding whether the current state flag should be replaced with a redesigned state flag by Sept. 1. If they decide the flag should be replaced, the commission will report recommendations to the General Assembly by Dec. 3, 2024. Turner hopes this measure will enlighten and elevate Illinois' electorate and give them something to be prideful and excited about.

Turner continued to be active in the community by hosting job fairs, card drives, food giveaways and more. She will always be a voice for the residents of the 48th District.

This summer, Turner looks forward to being active in the district, spending quality time with her family and meeting with constituents to hear their needs.





Patricia Van Pelt

Local Government chair | 5th Senate District

State Senator Patricia Van Pelt (D-Chicago) started the 2023 session off as the chair of the Local Government Committee. In this position, she supported several bills that will improve the quality of life for residents in the 5th District and all across the state.

Education, women's rights and residential safety continue to remain priorities for Van Pelt. As an elected official in Chicago, she understands the importance of having sufficient resources in place that protects all students no matter their race, religion or ethnicity. Van Pelt led legislation that protects students from being discriminated against and or harassed because of their race. Senate Bill 90 will make it mandatory for every elementary school, secondary school, or institution of higher education to establish and implement a continuing program on race related discrimination and harassment.

In a report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, an estimated 5.2 million students aged 12 to 18 were bullied in the 2018-2019 school year. One in four of those students experienced bullying related to their race, national origin, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation. In the same school year, the report says there were 1.6 million students who were subjected to hate speech due to their identity. Among those incidents, half targeted students' race and 24% related to their national origin.

Additionally as a prominent resident of Chicago, ensuring the safety of her residents and their property is something she does not take lightly. Van Pelt supported House Bill 2245 which requires Illinois car manufacturers to establish a 24/7 hotline for police and consumers to utilize in case of a carjacking or kidnapping. This would

give police real-time assistance with locating vehicles – allowing them to find the perpetrator and arrest them before they get away.

According to the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the county saw 1,831 reported carjackings in 2022. That year was down 10% from 2021, but still up 23% from 2020.

As an Illinois State Senator, Van Pelt is a part of Black history. As a Black woman, she is ensuring that her legacy and the accomplishments of other prominent Black women in Illinois are honored in the proper manner. Van Pelt co-sponsored Senate Resolution 37 which declares Feb. 28, 2023 Black Women's History Day in the State of Illinois.

This is a token of appreciation to all of the Black women in Illinois whose accomplishments, power, beauty, courage, intelligence, ingenuity, stewardship, and leadership is influencing the next generation of female Black leaders.

This summer, Van Pelt looks forward to staying connected to the residents in the 5th District, spending quality time with family, and growing deeper in her faith.





Rachel Ventura

43rd Senate District

State Senator Rachel Ventura (D-Joliet) set forth bold goals for eco-friendly legislation during her first session. Ventura addressed critical issues such as expanding renewable energy across Illinois, providing opportunities to incarcerated individuals and increasing access to utilities.

As a champion for our planet, Ventura wanted to ensure that Illinois moved toward renewable energy, such as hydropower, which led to the creation of Senate Bill 1474. Under this measure, limits would be lifted on hydropower plants across Illinois and the Illinois Power Agency would be required to procure a percentage of its renewable energy credits from hydropower dams. This would help increase the use of this renewable energy source, while also promoting environmental conservation by using dams that already exist or using a turbine model along rivers like the Mississippi.

Additionally, Ventura aimed to lower the state's overall emissions by addressing the pollutants released into the air by vehicle emissions, which have a direct impact on the environment. State and local governments would be supporting the move to become environmentally-conscious by transitioning vehicles to electric or zero-emissions under Senate Bill 1769.

Along with eco-friendly legislation, Ventura cares deeply

about those who are incarcerated and rehabilitating them back into society, which led her to partner with DePaul University to create a new legislative internship uniquely catered to incarcerated individuals at the Stateville Correctional Center. The new program will allow either a Senator or Representative to interview a select few individuals at the Stateville prison located in Crest Hill to be a legislative intern for a semester. Ventura helped spearhead this program alongside DePaul University and encouraged other Illinois legislators to join. Within this program, the intern will submit weekly summaries to DePaul and suggested legislation changes to the Senator or Representative.

Lastly, Ventura sought to ensure that all Illinoisans would have expanded access to broadband at all public schools and libraries in the state. Senate Bill 851 would require the Broadband Advisory

Council to conduct a feasibility study to determine best practices for expanding connection to all public schools, public libraries and state-owned correctional facilities, as well as how to connect all remaining anchor institutions to the Illinois Century Network. The study will be due Jan. 1, 2024, with a goal of implementing the findings by 2030 and would increase speeds up to one gigabyte. This would not only help students with accessing research materials but also help individuals of all ages in daily life.

Over the course of her first session as a Senator, Ventura stood out with an impressive 45-plus Senate bills filed, marking her as one of the most ambitious new members of the General Assembly. She plans to continue to fight for the voiceless, our planet and hardworking families across the state and the 43rd District.





Karina Villa

Public Health chair | 25th Senate District

A lifelong resident of the district she serves, State Senator Karina Villa (D-West Chicago) has a strong love and commitment to her community and has been serving it devotedly for years — first as a social worker and then as an elected official.

Growing up as a child of immigrant parents, Villa grew up with a strong commitment to family and community. She has spent her career fighting for the Latino community, better education, stronger public health services, reproductive care, mental health, nursing homes and emergency rooms, and the environment.

This legislative session, as a member of the Latino Caucus, Villa helped pass a number of bills in the caucus' legislative agenda. One such bill is House Bill 3233, of which Villa is the chief Senate sponsor. This measure increases donation opportunities to the Illinois Dream Fund, whose mission is to provide

life-changing financial support to undocumented immigrants who wish to pursue higher education and help them successfully work toward degree completion. Villa knows every student deserves the opportunity to pursue higher education if that is what they wish to do, and this initiative will increase funds for scholarships, giving more undocumented students the opportunity to attend college.

As chair of the Senate Public Health Committee, Villa also fought for better care in nursing homes. Villa has four advisory committees she meets with every month to discuss important issues and legislative ideas in her district. One of the committees is her Senior Advisory Committee. They brought to her an idea, which became Senate Bill 1497. This bill prohibits the use of physical restraints and the misuse of psychotropic medications to restrain nursing home residents. The

legislation ensures nursing homes do not engage in any restraining practice that could be more harmful than helpful to its residents.

Another bill inspired by her community was Senate Bill 203. To protect the environment and farm workers, Villa passed a measure to establish a penalty fee for anyone who is responsible for exposing another individual to pesticides. This initiative followed an incident where over 20 migrant farm workers in her district were exposed to the harmful effects of pesticides and became ill for multiple days. This legislation aims to hold those who expose others to pesticides responsible and to ensure safe conditions for farm workers are met. With the passing of this legislation from the Senate, Villa hopes workers see her commitment in Illinois to protecting our essential employees.

Villa is a Senator who has fought hard for her community and its residents. She has been devoted to serving her community ever since she worked in her family's grocery store as a young girl. She has worked hard this legislative session to improve health care and work environments. Villa and her team recently opened a second district office location in Aurora to better serve her district's residents. This summer, Villa looks forward to further setting up her new office location and getting to know and help those around it.





Celina Villanueva

Revenue chair | 12th Senate District

State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) started the 2023 session off as the co-chair of the Latino Caucus and chair of the Revenue Committee. In these positions, she advocated for equitable funding and budget priorities and led initiatives that empower and uplift Black and Brown voices in her community and across Illinois.

As chair of the Senate Revenue Committee, Villanueva has diligently fought to create equitable funding for residents all across the state, including college students who are seeking need-based funding for school. Many college students do not have the means to support themselves financially while enrolled in college. As a result, they rely on financial assistance and scholarships as primary resources. Students face many obstacles when trying to receive financial support, Villanueva ensured that students can get financial support without having to compromise their integrity. She passed Senate Bill 195 that prevents students from changing their legal guardianship in an effort to qualify for need-based financial aid for college.

Being on the forefront of the fight for reproductive health care, Villanueva tirelessly fought for the protection of women seeking health care options during pregnancy. She led the way with Senate Bill 1909, which prohibits the use of deceptive and misleading practices at crisis pregnancy centers. She also

continued her fight for equity and inclusion by creating regulations that allow businesses to install gender-neutral multi-occupancy restrooms under House Bill 1286.

Additionally, Villanueva is a strong advocate for education. Students are the future of tomorrow and with the proper education and resources, they can become highly successful. That is why she worked to bring forth legislation that brings more qualified computer science and art teachers to Chicago Public Schools classrooms. House Bill 2442 will increase the amount of computer science and art teachers in CPS through an endorsement pilot program. Villanueva believes that this will create more learning opportunities throughout the state and address the teacher shortage head-on.

Villanueva also championed legislation that supports charter school employees. Charter schools

operate differently than standard public schools but deserve to have access to the same bargaining rights without pushback. House Bill 1120 will allow charter school employees to unionize without being penalized by management of the charter school. She believes that implementing this legislation will strengthen the respect and relationship between charter schools and their employees.

As the child of Mexican immigrants, Villanueva's passion for helping the asylum seekers arriving in Chicago is personal. As the co-chair of the Latino Caucus, Villanueva is making sure that the needs of all immigrant communities are considered through the Illinois Immigrant Task Force.

This summer, Villanueva looks forward to remaining active in the community and serving the constituents in the 12th District who are often underrepresented.





Ram Villivalam

Transportation chair | 8th Senate District

A father, legislator and fighter for human rights, State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) continues to advance legislation to create positive impacts in Illinois communities and working families.

From fighting for exonerated individuals and increasing their benefit flexibility to expanding assistance for township residents, Villivalam continued to fight for Illinois residents who have been underrepresented in the state during the spring session.

To give people who have been exonerated and are eligible for the Grant Program for Exonerated Persons more flexibility with their benefits, Villivalam advanced Senate Bill 2426 to allow those covered by the program to pass on unused benefits to dependent spouses or children.

This year, Villivalam also focused on modernizing the procedures for workers' rights and updating

the process for violations of these rights. House Bill 3733 makes changes to labor laws to require employers to provide copies of personnel records to employees by mail or email upon request and requires any employer with remote or traveling employees to make information regarding labor rights available electronically.

To assist townships in providing assistance to people in need of childcare, mental health services and more, Villivalam led House Bill 3424. The legislation expands the Township Code to allow townships the ability to provide additional assistance to people with a prior conviction. Townships currently have the ability to support community members, but this will ensure that individuals who are reentering their communities can also receive this support from their community.

Continuing the fight for labor

rights for all, Villivalam worked to pass House Bill 3396 to support employees who are demonstrating and exercising their rights. This changes the Labor Dispute Act so that any person who places any object in the public way with the intent to interfere with or obstruct a picket, demonstration or protest would be committing a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum fine of \$500 and a sentence of imprisonment of less than one year.

To help those employees who may have protested and are involved in a labor dispute, Villivalam passed supportive legislation with House Bill 2907 to provide that courts cannot award monetary damage except in the case of damage to an employer's personal property as a result of conduct prohibited by law. With this legislation, Villivalam wants to protect an employee's right to picket as well as ensure the courts will continue to uphold workers' rights.

Villivalam also wants to ensure organ donors are able to take the time they need to recover with House Bill 3516. This legislation gives employees up to 10 days off to serve as an organ donor.

Looking back on the year, Villivalam continues to be a strong advocate for workers' rights and fights for communities who are in need of these protections, while also expanding the ways Illinois can support residents across the state.





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103rd General Assembly - Spring 2023



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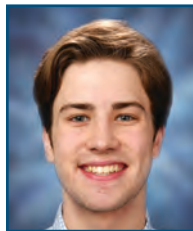
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103rd General Assembly - Spring 2023





SENATE IN REVIEW 2023

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Don Harmon, Senate President
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Agriculture and Natural Resources

HB 1629	Clarifies that Eurasian Collard Dove and Ringed Turtle-Dove are excluded from the list of wildlife protected by the Wildlife Code.
HB 2317	Lowers the fee for annual resident, \$5, and non-resident, \$10, fishing licenses for those 26 or older who have not purchased a fishing license in 10 or more years.
HB 2461	Makes it unlawful to destroy or disturb dams, lodges, burrows or feed beds of beavers while trapping for beavers.
HB 2879	Creates a program to provide nutritious food to expand the Illinois emergency food system.
HB 3086	Increases the fees for various licenses and permits under the Illinois Pesticide Act and the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act.
HB 3087	Allows the director of the Department of Agriculture to temporarily prohibit the sale, movement, or exhibition of certain types of animals in order to prevent or reduce the spread of disease or contamination.
HB 3677	Allows state residents to obtain a 3-year fishing, hunting, and sportsmen's combination license at three times the cost of an annual one.
HB 3710	Creates the Alternative Protein Innovation Task Force to study alternative proteins, such as plant-based and fermentation-derived options, and develop a plan for the state to best support the alternative protein industry.
HB 3814	Ensures that schools consider students as being "in attendance" if the student's absence from school is to participate in a Future Farmers of America or 4-H program competition or exhibition.
SB 0046	Creates the Illinois Waterway Ports Commission for five port districts along the Illinois River. Overlooks funding, recommendations to state and federal government, economic development and sustainability.
SB 0203	Establishes a penalty fee for anyone who is responsible for exposing another human being to pesticide.
SB 1559	Prohibits the Department of Agriculture from issuing cannabis transporter license applications from Jan. 1, 2023 through Jan. 1, 2027. Additionally, waives all fees associated with cannabis transporter licenses until Jan. 1, 2027.
SB 1701	Expands the Partners for Conservation Fund and creates the Healthy Soil and Watersheds Initiative to improve the health of soils and the function of watersheds through Nutrient Loss Reduction.
SB 1745	Repeals the provision granting drainage districts authority to control beaver populations.

Animals and Pets

HB 1049	Prohibits an insurer from refusing to issue insurance or add an increased premium for coverage based solely upon owning any dog of a specific breed.
HB 2500	Requires animal shelters and animal control facilities to waive the adoption fee for military veterans in Illinois and allows shelters and facilities to limit the number of pets adopted.
HB 3236	Prohibits a sales finance agency from purchasing or making loans for the sale of a canine or feline. Its intent is to curb puppy mills and protect purchasers from loans that can balloon up to 200%, oftentimes for an unhealthy pet.
SB 1499	Allows a law enforcement officer to legally take possession of the companion animal of someone arrested who strikes, harms, injures, tampers with or kills police animals, service dogs, detection dogs or search and rescue dogs.



SB 1882	Ends testing facilities' practice of toxicological experiments on cats and dogs. Allows for experiments required by various federal agencies where they have no alternatives.
SB 1883	Makes it a Class B misdemeanor for any person to allow a member of the public, except for certain exempted people, to come into contact with a bear or nonhuman primate.

Budget

HB 1566	Provides statutory authority for the yearly transfers of monies from various state funds to the Audit Expense Fund so the Auditor General can conduct FY 23 audits of state agencies.
HB 3551	Creates the Bond Authorization Act of 2023. It authorizes \$700 million in new bonding authorization for the state and makes various clean up changes to the state's bond acts.
HB 3817	Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Implementation Bill.
HB 3856	Closes dormant fund accounts that were never used, amongst other technical changes to the Budgeting For Results process.
SB 0250	Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.
SB 1963	Includes the revenue omnibus package.

Business

HB 2220	Sets forth conditions in which a proprietor or manager of a hotel may deem it necessary to refuse to admit or refuse service or accommodation to a person and provides conditions in which a proprietor or manager of a hotel may remove or cause to remove from a hotel a violator of these conditions.
HB 2782	Requires investment managers to acknowledge that they are fiduciaries and requires them to have certain licenses.
HB 3233	Allows customers the option to voluntarily donate a portion of their money in remittances to countries outside of the U.S. to the Illinois Dream Fund, which provides scholarships to Dreamers college students.
HB 3775	Requires that a pre-need cemetery installment contract gives notice to the purchaser that rights to the plot do not vest until all costs are paid, and there will be no deeded interest until final payment is made.
SB 1494	Provides that if a dividing company amends its plan of division at any time before the plan becomes effective, then the dividing company must file the amended plan of division for approval by the director.
SB 2192	Requires state agencies to provide a written explanation to contractors who fail to receive a contract with the same agency, for the same services, after four consecutive bids, and requires responses for all four bids.
SB 2368	Establishes compliance requirements for commercial buildings in non-building code jurisdictions. Requires counties and municipalities with less than 1,000,000 residents to report their building codes amendments to the Capital Development Board. Establishes minimum standards for building codes.
SB 2424	Provides that projects covered by the Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Qualifications Based Selection Act include any land acquisition by the Illinois Department of Transportation or the Illinois Tollway if architectural, engineering, or land surveying services required.



Civil Law

HB 0219	Allows for the recovery of punitive damages in a wrongful death action with certain exceptions.
HB 1268	Requires testators to expressly acknowledge that they are aware that the executor they name in their will was convicted of a financial crime prior to the execution of the will or codicil.
HB 1363	Provides an employer may be liable for the actions of an employee if they were performing their employment duties and during it they caused injuries to another under the gender violence act. Establishes a 4 year statute of limitation to bring a claim of gender related violence.
HB 1434	Allows hospital or private agency records used in an adjudicatory hearing concerning an abused, neglected, or dependent minor to be certified as complete by an agent of the hospital or agency, in addition to certification by the agency head or responsible employee.
HB 1497	Requires renters of a vehicle to be liable for any damage caused while the vehicle is rented for the lesser of either: the actual reasonable costs of the damage caused, or the fair market value of the vehicle prior to the damage occurring - regardless the manufacturer's suggested retail price.
HB 1555	Redefines the guardian ad litem's duties with relation to recommendations on child custody and parenting time.
HB 1571	Establishes online posting rules for cemeteries and requires that hard copies be made available if the cemetery doesn't maintain a website or social media page. Requires cemeteries to have clear and specific rules and regulations and to apply them equally to all consumers and individuals severed.
HB 2098	Changes the definition of "seller" so that only those who occupied and had any management responsibility for the property would be required to disclose defects during the sale of residential property.
HB 2123	Creates a cause for legal action against individuals creating digitally forged material with intent to distribute and cause harm.
HB 2222	Requires health care facilities and provider organizations to notify the Attorney General of a transaction involving a merger, acquisition or contracting affiliation within 30 days of the transaction's closing or effective date.
HB 2248	Allows state claims for violations of federal civil rights acts to be heard in any court with jurisdiction.
HB 2269	Changes the title of the Electronic Wills and Remote Witnesses Act to Electronic Wills, Electronic Estate Planning Documents, and Remote Witnesses Act.
HB 2717	Creates separate standards for "higher-priced mortgage loans" that refer to the federal consumer protection laws allowing state law to mirror federal law.
HB 2954	Provides a person a private right of action against the individual who committed the offense of doxing.
HB 3314	Provides that if a consumer contract allows for the recovery of attorney's fees in an action brought to enforce the contract, then the court can award reasonable attorney's fees to the prevailing defendant in the action.
SB 0055	Provides that restricting or not allowing an interested person to have reasonable visitation so someone they are a power of attorney for is an action upon which a court may find that the agent is not acting for the benefit of the principal.
SB 0247	Allows not-for-profit conservation organizations to become licensed engineering firms in Illinois.
SB 0283	Excludes non-parties to administrative hearings pertaining to historic building designations or exterior reviews from automatically being named as defendants upon those decision's appeals.



SB 0380	Provides a civil cause of action for fertility fraud against health care providers who knowingly or intentionally use their own human reproductive material without the patient's informed written consent for assisted reproductive treatment.
SB 0382	Creates a definition for "digitally altered sexual image" and adds clarification that the entire Civil Remedies for Nonconsensual Dissemination of Private Sexual Images Act applies to traditional, private sexual images and digitally altered sexual images.
SB 1748	Allows a plaintiff to designate an additional person to present and video record a physical or mental examination of the plaintiff. Requires in the case of a wrongful death, the surviving spouse or next of kin to be entitled to preference in setting for trial.

Civil Rights

HB 1286	Provides that any multiple-occupancy restroom may be identified as and/or converted into an all-gender restroom to be used by any gender.
HB 1591	Protects same sex marriages in Illinois by repealing the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution Act where it says marriages are void in Illinois if they are void in other states and where it says individuals who live in another state, obtaining a license in Illinois, need a signature from their state.
HB 2829	Provides that the Human Rights Commission must appoint a qualified interpreter at the expense of the commission when a person who lacks proficiency in English is a party in proceedings before the commission. Makes gender neutral language changes.
HB 3135	Requires complainants notify the Department of Human Rights by serving a copy of the complaint on the chief legal counsel of the department on the same date that the complaint is filed.
HB 3413	Creates a protected cemetery for the reburial of repatriated Native American ancestors and establish a committee of tribal leaders to review state projects that may disturb culturally significant sites.

Consumer Protection

HB 1541	Prohibits utility companies from discontinuing gas or electric services for residential users due to nonpayment of bills on days when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees or there is a heat watch, advisory or warning.
HB 2094	Prohibits sending marketing materials sent from a mortgage company that is not affiliated with the individual consumer's mortgage company.
HB 2231	Ensures that transportation network companies, like Uber and Lyft, can be held liable for the conduct of their driver by removing the company's exemption from the common carrier doctrine.
HB 2719	Requires hospitals to screen a patient for eligibility in a cost reducing program such as financial assistance and hospital provided discounts.
HB 2898	Requires for-profit, post-secondary institutions that have been found of committing unfair, misleading, or deceptive practice to repay MAP funds (if the institution received MAP funds) to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.



HB 3304	Provides that prosecution for fraud relating to COVID-19 relief may commence within five years following the discovery by an individual with a legal duty to report the activity or following an officer becoming aware of the fraudulent offense.
HB 3363	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to establish and maintain a searchable, accessible database on safety and consumer products and substances, as subject to appropriations. The bill would designate a “children’s product” as an item intended for use by a child under the age of 12.
HB 3707	Requires that the Illinois Commerce Commission post a notice of administrative citations against a towing company and the outcome of those citations on the commission’s website.
HB 3849	Defines “quality date,” “safety date,” and “sell by date” and requires the Department of Agriculture and Department of Public Health to publish information to encourage food manufacturers, processors, and retailers to voluntarily use uniform terms on food product labels to communicate quality dates and safety dates.
SB 0328	Requires businesses to give clear notice to a consumer before a contract is automatically renewed.
SB 0767	Provides a consumer with the ability to return hearing aids for a refund within 30 business days of the delivery date.
SB 0800	Requires licensed repossession entity of vehicles to erase all personal information stored on a vehicle’s system before the vehicle is released.
SB 1440	Makes it illegal to send a postcard or letter if the postcard or letter does not disclose all affiliations, that it is a solicitation for sale of goods or services, and that it is not a bill.

Criminal Law

HB 1119	Requires that two members of the Criminal Justice Information Authority be individuals who report having been incarcerated.
HB 1155	Removes the word “non-residential” from the conditions that must be met for someone to bring suit for injuries suffered as a result of supplying a minor with alcohol or illegal drugs.
HB 1399	Creates the offense of “lewd sexual display in a penal institution,” and defines terms and punishments.
HB 1440	Extends the sentencing guidelines for individuals with prior firearm or violent convictions who are subsequently convicted of aggravated use of a weapon or unlawful use of a weapon by a felon by one year.
HB 2054	Removes the requirement for a Juvenile Justice employee to have a bachelor’s or advance degree to qualify for the alternative formula.
HB 2223	Changes the definition of delinquent minor to a minor who violates or attempts to violate a state, local, or municipal law or ordinance may meet the definition of delinquent minor.
HB 2418	Allows victims of human trafficking to petition for vacation and expungement of their criminal records upon the completion of their last sentence if their participation in the underlying offense was a result of human trafficking or other severe form of trafficking.
HB 2607	Establishes a rebuttable presumption that the testimony of a victim who is a child under 13 years of age must testify outside the courtroom and the child’s testimony must be shown in the courtroom by means of a closed circuit television.
HB 3026	Includes time served in county jail as part of the minimum 60-day sentence required before the Director of Corrections may award discretionary earned sentence credit.
HB 3055	Declares that those committed to institutions or facilities related to the Illinois Department of Corrections have a right to practice their faith, and that they need to have access to pastoral services.



HB 3140	Prohibits the use of solitary confinement on young detainees in detention centers for any purpose other than preventing immediate physical harm.
HB 3253	Expands the definition of “protected person” in provisions prohibiting the use of certain deceptive tactics by law enforcement during custodial interrogations. Includes both minors and persons with severe or profound intellectual or developmental disabilities to definition.
HB 3289	Adds a definition of anxiety to the cyberstalking statute in the Criminal Code of 2012. The definition is consistent with the DSM-5 definition of anxiety.
HB 3414	Expands the number of factors that judges can consider in deciding whether to issue an order to prosecute a minor as an adult for a felony offense, such as if the child was in the welfare system, was a victim of sexual assault or if there was outside pressure.
HB 3755	Provides that a committed individual may be transferred to the sheriff of the county in which they were living immediately prior to their conviction if that county has a reentry program for committed persons if the sheriff gives written approval for the transfer.
HB 3762	Removes all references to the imposition of the death penalty in the Criminal Code of 2012, the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963, and the Unified Code of Corrections.
HB 3779	Requiers the Illinois Department of Corrections to provide notice “as soon as reasonably practicable” to incarcerated individuals near the end of their sentence who are eligible for home confinement or other confinement outside a DOC facility.
SB 0422	Requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to digitize all master record files, including medical and dental records, and all other information the Department of Corrections maintains concerning its institutions and facilities by July 1, 2029.
SB 0423	Updates the conditions of parole and mandatory supervised release to provide more clarity for participants and the Department of Corrections.
SB 0424	Makes the First Time Weapon Offense Program available to individuals who commit nonviolent crimes, regardless of age and also makes the program permanent.
SB 1463	Eliminates charging fees and fines to youth and their parents for juvenile court services when courts order them to pay for things like detention costs, probation supervision fees, and public defender services.
SB 1886	Requires that a court cannot order that a person on probation, conditional discharge, or supervision refrain from having cannabis or alcohol in his or her body unless the presence of an intoxicating compound is an element of the offense charged or the person is participating in a Problem-Solving Court.
SB 1987	Provides that unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, drugs classified as Benzodiazepines and Thienodiazepines should be scheduled as Schedule I drugs.
SB 2175	Prohibits courts from ordering the payment of outstanding fees, fines, taxes or any costs arising from criminal proceedings for the first 180 days after the persons release from a penal institution.
SB 2197	Requires the Office of Independent Juvenile Ombudsman to act as ombudsman for and secure the rights of youth committed county-operated juvenile detention facilities in addition to youth committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice.
SB 2260	Provides that a person is not accountable for the conduct of another if they were subject to coercion, compulsion, or duress related to domestic abuse nor will they be guilty of any offense for acts committed under threat of imminent infliction of death or great bodily harm.



Cybersecurity

HB 1187	Expands eligibility for the Illinois Non-Profit Security Grant Program to organizations that have been threatened or attacked.
HB 2130	Provides requirements and procedures for insurers to conduct risk assessments, implement security programs, create incident response plans, submit a written certificate of compliance to the Department of Insurance and notify the department if a cybersecurity event occurs.

Economic Development

HB 2204	Establishes a tax credit equal to \$1 per kilogram of qualifying hydrogen used by an eligible taxpayer.
HB 2300	Allows contractors and subcontractors to earn bid credits for employing apprentices who complete the Illinois Works Preapprenticeship Program, rather than earning bid credits only for apprentices who complete the program while working on state-funded public works projects.
HB 2531	Requires – rather than allows – the Illinois Department of Transportation to establish and commence the prequalification process to enter into public-private agreements by July 1, 2024 as it pertains to the South Suburban Airport.
HB 3017	Requires the Office of Business Permits and Regulatory Assistance to improve inter-agency coordination on permit issuance, establish an online portal detailing permit status and schedules for state projects over \$20 million.
HB 3699	Allows Illinois Department of Employment Security to collaborate with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to identify employment opportunities for individuals who are in arrears on child support obligations.
SB 0850	Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide financial assistance or grants to privately-owned grocery stores and groceries stores owned by a unit of local government, school district, or community college district, located in or to be located in a food desert.

Education

HB 0300	Designates the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability with the responsibility for adjusting the teacher minimum salary to be on par with annual increases in inflation.
HB 0342	Adopts several recommendations of the Whole Child Task Force Report.
HB 1120	Requires new charter schools and existing charter schools that must renew their charter to include a union neutrality clause in their charter.
HB 1123	Requires annual school report cards to include the percentage of students with disabilities who have fulfilled graduation requirements but are still completing their individualized education programs. Reduces penalties on schools who currently have these students counted as “not graduated.”
HB 1273	Establishes Sept. 17 each year as Constitution Day.
HB 1291	Increases the annual pay cap from \$1,500 to \$2,250 for teachers with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards designations who mentor or provide professional development for classroom teachers or counselors.



HB 1297	Extends the sunset for downstate teachers to purchase up to two years of service credit for time spent teaching in a private school.
HB 1561	Requires all school districts to provide training to all school district employees on methods of how to respond to incidents involving life-threatening bleeding, and all schools must maintain an on-site trauma kit that may be used by the employees to respond to trauma.
HB 1633	Creates a Native American history requirement for all public elementary and high school students. An organization representing Native Americans must be appointed as a member of the State Education Equity Committee.
HB 2147	Extends the sunset of the provision allowing retired teachers to work up to 120 days or 600 paid hours as a substitute without impacting their retirement status from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2026.
HB 2156	Requires the contact information for the Safe2Help Illinois Helpline to be included on school IDs for grades 6-12.
HB 2160	Allows certain school districts to withdraw from the jurisdiction and authority of the trustees of schools of Northfield and Maine Townships as well as the township treasurer.
HB 2235	Allows school boards to engage in contracts for up to 10 years for transporting children to and from school. Allows school boards to terminate a contract after 5 years if no electric option. Provides that electric option can get contract up to 15 years.
HB 2392	Provides that a teacher does not need to undergo the last evaluation cycle before the teacher retires if the teacher has notified the school district of their intent to retire.
HB 2396	Ensures that all elementary school districts in the state to provide the option of full-day kindergarten.
HB 2442	Allows for licensed employees to obtain subsequent endorsements on Professional Educator Licenses through school districts as part of a pilot program.
HB 2447	Allows school boards to conduct closed meetings when reviewing evidence or testimony regarding the denial of an individual's admission to school events or property. Allows members of public bodies to attend a meeting virtually or via phone due to unexpected childcare obligations.
HB 2471	Establishes the Healthy School Meals for All Program to provide free meals to all students enrolled in the participating school.
HB 3071	Streamlines School Code provisions and amends or repeals outdated, contradictory, and problematic provisions of the school code. Makes changes to the types of school districts eligible for rewards.
HB 3116	Requires all school boards to conduct in-service training on homelessness for all school personnel.
HB 3224	Creates planning for a student with an individualized education plan. A student and their parent must be provided with information on the school district's career and technical education, opportunities and dual credit opportunities.
HB 3402	Ensures school districts hiring or assigning physical education, music, and visual arts educators prioritize individuals with an educator license and endorsement in those content areas.
HB 3425	Adds to the list of characteristics on the basis of which bullying is expressly prohibited at schools and requires schools to alert parents and guardians of alleged bullying incidents involving their child within 24 hours after the administration is made aware of the incident.
HB 3428	Requires all school districts, public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools to maintain a supply of an opioid antagonist, a medication used to reverse an opioid overdose, in a secure location.
HB 3442	Allows a substitute teacher who has filled a vacancy left by a licensed teacher in an emergency situation for 90 days or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater, if the school district files a written request with the appropriate regional office of education.



HB 3522	Expands the State Global Scholar Certification Program to include nonpublic high school graduates and schools.
HB 3523	Provides that all school treasurer bond penalties shall be no less than 10%, lowering it from 25%.
HB 3559	Ensures that all school buildings' emergency and crises response plan, protocol, and procedures includes a plan for local law enforcement to rapidly enter the school building in the event of an emergency.
HB 3570	Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to analyze and assess the most recent rating data for all non-tenured teachers and teachers in continued contractual services broken down by race and ethnicity, and the race, ethnicity, and free and reduced-price lunch status of the students in the school where the teacher works.
HB 3590	Creates the Student Career Development Liability Insurance Advisory Committee within Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity tasked with submitting recommendations on providing liability insurance to high school and community college students and faculty participating in a career development, apprenticeship or externship program.
HB 3592	Prohibits victims of sexual misconduct by a teacher from being compelled to testify at a disciplinary hearing in the physical or visual presence of a teacher or other witness if the individual is under 18 or was under 18 at the time of the of the alleged conduct.
HB 3613	Allows school districts that provides special educational facilities for children with disabilities to maintain a supply of undesignated oxygen tanks.
HB 3680	Provides that extra accommodations needed for a student during emergencies must be taken into account when developing an individualized education program or a federal Section 504 plan.
HB 3690	Reforms current training requirements for teachers and staff by consolidating trainings into seven categories, ensuring non-licensed educators take part in relevant training and moving trainings to once every five years.
HB 3801	Provides for retention bonuses of \$4,000 per year for two consecutive years to National Board of Certified Teachers that are employed in hard-to-staff schools.
HB 3822	Requires the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education to issue a report to the General Assembly on how to incentivize, improve, and expand dual language instruction in schools.
HB 3924	Requires that high schools teach students about the dangers of fentanyl in all state-required health courses.
HB 3932	Requires the Comprehensive Health Education Program for elementary and secondary schools to include instruction, study and discussion on the dangers of allergies beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.
SB 0090	Provides that each school district must create, implement and maintain an age-appropriate policy on race-related harassment and discrimination.
SB 0099	Requires public institution of higher education to establish an interactive, transparent process allowing students with disabilities to receive reasonable accommodations. It also specifies the eligibility requirements for the students that request the accommodations.
SB 0183	Requires public schools to give parents and guardians of students being transferred to alternative schools specific information about the alternative school.
SB 0457	Requires the University of Illinois Hospital and state correctional facilities to offer a kosher and halal food option upon request. Also allows the State Board of Education to enter into one or more statewide master contracts that school districts can use to provide kosher and halal food.
SB 1351	Allows teachers who are due to be evaluated on the last year before they are set to retire to waive their evaluation and retain their most recent rating unless the latest rating was "needs improvement" or "unsatisfactory."



SB 1352	Requires teachers who resign after the completion of a school year to submit their resignation letters at least 30 calendar days before the first student attendance day of the following school year. Includes additional time periods and rules regarding school districts and retirement procedures.
SB 1446	Prohibits public and charter schools from prohibiting students from wearing articles of clothing or items with cultural or religious significance.
SB 1468	Expands the amount of time retired teachers can work as a substitute without affecting pension benefits.
SB 1488	Extends the current practice of removing the edTPA licensure requirement for prospective teachers through Aug. 31, 2025. Creates the Teacher Performance Task Force to evaluate potential teacher performance assessment systems for implementation starting Sept. 1, 2025.
SB 1709	Requires the Department of Human Services and State Board of Education to provide technical assistance for mental health care throughout school days with the goal of increasing the availability and accessibility of mental health resources for students.
SB 1772	Starting July 1, 2024, schools serving students K-8 are prohibited from scheduling pesticide applications on school grounds in areas where children may be present during a school day.
SB 1787	Establishes the Rural School Advisory Council.
SB 1924	Allows employees of Regional Offices of Education to claim unpaid sick days as service credit in IMRF, raising pay for regional superintendents, allowing regional superintendents to take second jobs, and changing posting requirements for use of their Institute Funds.
SB 1993	Requires school boards to hold a public hearing before approving a contract for any district-administered assessment.
SB 1994	Requires all school districts to publish and submit quarterly financial reports to the Illinois State Board of Education containing the amount of funds the district has in reserves, investments, and the number of days the school district has cash on hand.
SB 2017	Clarifies that education support personnel employees may not be required to work on legal school holidays and that no deduction may be made from time or compensation on account of a holiday on which the employee would have otherwise worked.
SB 2031	Requires the State Board of Education to collect and report information on high school student demographics and teacher qualifications in the categories of advanced courses, standard courses, special education courses and English learner courses.
SB 2039	Ensures that all students with an Individualized Educational Program, or IEP, are provided the opportunity and information to enroll in the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services database.
SB 2218	Requires a school board's sequence of dismissal list to include the race or ethnicity of each teacher, if provided by the teacher.
SB 2223	Requires the State Board of Education, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Health to develop standardized K-12 health education for reality-based, research-informed, safety-focused standards of substance education with an emphasis on cultural competency and harm reduction.
SB 2243	Requires the State Board of Education to develop and adopt a comprehensive literacy plan for the state on or before Jan. 31, 2024.
SB 2323	Allows Bloomington School District 87 to purchase, construct, or build a building for school or education purposes without a referendum for the 2022-2025 school years. Requires the district to hold at least two public hearings to discuss the building with public notice 10 days prior.
SB 2337	Requires the State Board of Education to include more demographic information of students assessed for and enrolled in gifted education programs or accelerated placement.



SB 2340	Requires a school bus to have an extended stop arm on both the driver's side of the bus and the rear of the bus, if the bus route includes a stop which requires students to cross a roadway by July 1, 2024. Increases the fine for passing a stopped school bus with its sign activated from \$300 to \$500.
SB 2374	Requires the State Board of Education to create a competitive grant program to support the development or enhancement of computer science programs in K-12 schools.
SB 2390	Extends the short-term substitute teacher license by five years. Allows school districts to adopt a policy to waive tuition costs for non resident pupils of district employees.
SB 2391	Clarifies and expands provisions pertaining to community schools grants in Illinois. Removes the requirement for the RFP process in awarding the grants and clarifies definitions including the addition of "trauma-informed intervention."

Elections

HB 0351	Extends the Task Force to Review Eligibility to Hold Public Office to 2025. Removes the requirement for notaries to journal documents related to officials running for public office. Also updates eligibility for public office for those convicted of crimes while holding public office.
HB 3643	Requires all public schools, the University of Illinois Hospital, and state correctional facilities to offer a kosher and halal food option upon request.
SB 2123	Makes various changes to Illinois elected law.

Environment and Energy

HB 1190	Creates new safety related requirements for owners and operators of underground natural gas storage facilities.
HB 2086	Allows restaurants and retailers to fill and refill consumer-owned containers with bulk or ready-made food. Local health departments may regulate but can't prohibit the use of consumer-owned containers for refilling purposes.
HB 2278	Expands the state's ability to authorize the creation of environmental covenants, which will establish land use restrictions aimed at protecting human health and the environment at large.
HB 2301	Expands the definitions of "low-level radioactive waste" or "waste" to be consistent with the definition of "byproduct material" under federal law.
HB 2473	Repeals the nuclear moratorium on nuclear power reactors less than 300 MW, defined as small modular reactors, beginning Jan. 1, 2026 and establishes rules for environmental monitoring.
HB 2487	Creates the Justice40 Oversight Committee to further the Justice40 initiative to deliver at least 40% of the overall benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.
HB 2776	Requires, in addition to a written notice, a notice via email by a community water supply to property owners and occupants of buildings affected by lead service line replacements, and requires the City of Chicago to publicly post data on the progress of installing lead service lines.
HB 3445	Expands the eligibility of the "solar on schools" category of the Adjustable Block Program to include public higher education facilities and clarifies that solar projects can be installed on land owned by a school district and that all of these projects must pay the prevailing wage.



HB 3508	Requires the Illinois EPA to establish a take-back program for fire-fighting foam that contains PFAS. The program is subject to appropriation.
SB 0040	Creates the Electric Vehicle Charging Act which requires newly constructed single-family homes and constructed or renovated multi-unit residential buildings to include electric vehicle charging systems.
SB 0058	Requires state agencies to track small purchases of single use plastic.
SB 0076	Repeals the moratorium on new nuclear facilities in Illinois.
SB 0384	Clarifies the applicability of the Electric Vehicle Charging Act to allow unit owners, tenants, landlords and associations of both new and existing single-family homes and multifamily residential buildings that have parking spaces to install EV charging stations.
SB 0836	Creates the Paint Stewardship Act, which establishes a program for the environmentally responsible collection and disposal of architectural paint in the state.
SB 0851	Requires the Broadband Advisory Council, with the support of the Office of Broadband at the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, to conduct a feasibility study regarding connecting all remaining anchor institutions to the Illinois Century Network.
SB 1160	Changes the Renewable Energy Component Recycling Task Force Act by adding to the list of Task Force duties, including considering preventing the disposal and mixing of renewable energy generation components and storage systems in landfills.
SB 1474	Requires the Illinois Power Agency to procure renewable energy credits from hydropower dams while barring incentives for constructing new dams.
SB 1555	Creates the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment which forms an advisory council and breaks down the makeup of the council by industry or interest group.
SB 1563	Requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to stand up a public webpage with information regarding microplastics and submit a report to the General Assembly and governor regarding micorplastics, including what other states are doing to address them.
SB 1699	Contains several energy package provisions including solar programs and project guidelines, thermal energy networks and a study on renewable energy credits.
SB 1715	Requires new drinking fountains in any “new” construction where a fountain is required under the Plumbing Code.
SB 1772	Prohibits schools serving students K-8 from scheduling pesticide applications on school grounds in areas where children may be present during a school day.
SB 1804	Creates a standard for what is allowed to be used as refrigerant by manufacturers in compliance with federal law to ensure uniform code across the state as the nation phases out the use of hydrofluorocarbons.
SB 1879	Sets forth requirements and procedures for Ameren and ComEd to provide an alternative retail electric supplier with a consenting customer’s interval meter usage data. Intends to improve alternative retail electric supplier access to customer data collected by electric utilities.



Family

HB 0780	Creates the Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren Pilot Program to operate and serve populations in Will County beginning Jan. 1, 2024 through Jan.1, 2027.
HB 1596	Changes certain pronouns to general nouns or the nouns to which the pronouns refer. Replaces “biological” family or parent with “birth” family or parent.
HB 2277	Defines “day care center” as exclusionary of recreational or extracurricular programs offered by park districts for children over the age of 3 attending programs that meet for 3.5 hours or less, and 25 hours per week or less.
HB 3705	Provides that one of the purposes of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is to place children in suitable, permanent family arrangements.
SB 1794	Establishes an intensive home visiting program and associated granting program for pregnant persons and families with children from birth to elementary school.
SB 1834	Provides that any minor may be considered a neglected minor if their parent or guardian leaves the minor unsupervised for an unreasonable period of time without regard for the minor’s health, safety, or welfare, or if the minor was abused, neglected, or dependent prior to their 18th birthday.

Financial Institutions

HB 2043	Allows an organization or entity to join a credit union as long as one member is eligible for credit union membership. Makes various changes to allow members of a Credit Union’s Board of Directors to serve on multiple committees and allows for the creation of additional committees.
HB 3296	Increases the total annual regulatory fee cap that Credit Unions may pay to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation from \$141,875 to \$210,000.
HB 3340	Provides that the corporate authorities of a municipality may borrow money from the Illinois Finance Authority.
SB 1835	Provides ATM services at state facilities and says the money received from the program should be deposited into the State Treasurer’s Bank Services Trust Fund and dissolves the Rental Fee Fund.

Gaming

SB 0584	Includes changes to the lottery, a temporary casino extension and an adjustment to the State Gaming Fund, as part of a gaming package.
SB 1462	Removes a prohibition on issuing occupational licenses to perform functions in a casino that do not involve gaming to individuals with felony convictions.
SB 1508	Establishes a Joint Special Instant Scratch-Off Game limited to 10 specialty causes at any given time.

Gun Control

HB 0218	Makes it unlawful for any firearm industry member, through the sale, manufacturing, importing, or marketing of a firearm-related product, to knowingly create, maintain, or contribute to a condition that endangers the safety or health of the public.
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Health

HB 0439	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to develop a strategic plan to improve timely access to in-state residential treatment, evidence-based alternatives to treatment, and specialized foster care for youth in care with significant behavioral health needs.
HB 1117	Expands access to hospice care by allowing hospice programs that own or operate separate hospice residences to serve up to 24 people per location, rather than the current 20 people per location cap.
HB 1156	Requires establishments to post information regarding the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.
HB 1526	Creates the Outdoor RX Program to provides grants for outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural or other natural resource-based or outdoor-based therapy programs.
HB 1540	Prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes in public places and within 15 feet of entrances.
HB 1615	Requires the Nursing Workforce Center to develop strategies to ensure proper actions are being taken to address the statewide nurse shortages.
HB 2039	Allows local health departments to access data from the Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Creates a master data use agreement between certified local health departments and IDPH.
HB 2076	Requires the Department of Public Health to identify distressed facilities and publish that list quarterly and create a procedure on working with distressed facilities to remove them from the list and ensure their compliance.
HB 2077	Allows a foreign-trained dentist with a U.S. specialty degree who teaches at a dental school can advertise that degree, clarifies that dental records are the property of a dental office, and specifies requirements for closure of a dental practice.
HB 2189	Creates a cap of \$35 for a 30-day supply of insulin for all private individual and group insurance policies.
HB 2238	Adds Primary Stroke Center Plus, Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center, and Thrombectomy Ready Stroke Center to the list of hospitals that can provide stroke care.
HB 2267	Allows dentists to enter into public health supervision agreements with 4, rather than 2, public health dental hygienists. Changes the percentage of poverty that a dental hygienist can treat from 200% to 300%. Requires the Department of Public Health to compile and publish public service data annually.
HB 2285	Adds a definition of “Health Care Employer” that includes a financial management services entity contracted with the Department of Human Services.
HB 2471	Establishes the Healthy School Meals for All Program to provide free meals to all students enrolled in the participating school.
HB 2519	Requires hospitals and licensed birth centers to provide information and instructional materials regarding the option to donate milk voluntarily to nonprofit milk banks.
HB 2820	Addresses airway emergencies experienced during childbirth and other leading causes of maternal mortality in birthing centers’ continuing education and written policies.
HB 2855	Makes various changes to the Lyme Disease Task Force.
HB 2949	Allows after-school care program personnel to administer an EpiPen or asthma medication to children in distress.
HB 3060	Adopts rules regulating at-home continuing care providers, including issuing registration and renewal certificates.



HB 3172	Changes the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act to eliminate a clause prohibiting a person requiring sliding scale insulin administration to be admitted to a residential care facility, unless able to be administered by themselves or by a licensed third party practitioner.
HB 3631	Prohibits Pharmacy Benefit Managers from retaliating against pharmacists who disclose information to a court, administrative hearing, before a legislative commission or more, as long as the pharmacist reasonably believes the information they have disclosed is evidence of a violation.
HB 3890	Requires a hospital's nursing care committee to annually notify the hospital's nursing staff of their rights.
HB 3955	Provides that hospitals organized or licensed under the University of Illinois Hospital Act and the Hospital Licensing Act cannot require a patient to pay a copayment before receiving care in the emergency room.
HB 3957	Prohibits manufacturers or wholesale drug distributors from engaging in price gouging of essential generic drugs. Requires the Director of Department of Healthcare and Family Services to notify the Attorney General of any price gouging under Medicaid.
SB 0067	Adds a test for Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD) to the Newborn Screening Program, which currently tests for about 50 disorders.
SB 0069	Lowers the age of inpatients being discharged from hospitals that are offered an influenza vaccine.
SB 0188	Allows a parent that consents to a procedure for their child to request a copy of the child's medical records pertaining to that procedure under HIPAA.
SB 0199	Removes ongoing consultation requirements between an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and a physician when prescribing benzodiazepines or Schedule II narcotics.
SB 0218	Defines a federally qualified health center and allows physician assistants to continue practicing for up to 90 days upon termination of a written collaborative agreement with their collaborating physician.
SB 0285	Prohibits Illinois Department of Human Services from requiring pharmacies or other providers from using a particular entity or system for access and integration with the Prescription Monitoring Program and spells out requirements for systems integrating with the PMP.
SB 0759	Allows podiatric physicians to provide influenza, tetanus, and COVID-19 vaccinations after completing the appropriate training.
SB 1298	Includes rate increases for various provider types as well as other changes to the state's Medical Assistance Program.
SB 1497	Prohibits the use of physical restraints and the misuse of psychotropic medications to restrain nursing home residents. Clarifies the difference between positioning devices and physical restraints, and says the resident or their representative can still request a positioning device.
SB 1561	Codifies no-cost coverage mandate for preventative care and screenings. Requires coverage for male condoms when purchased by women for pregnancy prevention. Establishes a 90-day post-graduate clinical training program.
SB 1568	Requires the Department of Insurance to conduct a data call to collect information from insurance companies to assist with providing parity for mental, emotional, nervous and substance use disorders or conditions that are no more restrictive than any other medical condition coverage.
SB 1617	Changes the definition of "recredentialing" to be a process that must be undertaken for a period not to exceed three years, rather than no more than once every two years.
SB 1665	Provides that income received through a guaranteed income program must be excluded from consideration of a person's eligibility for free or discounted health care services under the Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act or benefits under the Illinois Public Aid Code.



SB 1674	Changes the program name from “Diversion From Facility Based Care Program” to the “Stabilization Support Pilot Program” and codifies the language and allows the program to be utilized by residents of State-Operated Developmental Centers as a transition to permanent community placement.
SB 1721	Ensures that all hearing instruments and hearing aids are dispensed or sold in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission’s regulations, and expands more regulations on the sale and access to hearing aids.
SB 1774	Changes the Cancer Clinical Trial Participation Program Act to the Clinical Trial Participation Act and expands the conditions for clinical trials.
SB 1794	Establishes an intensive home visiting program and associated granting program for pregnant persons and families with children from birth to elementary school.
SB 1909	Prevents crisis pregnancy centers from using deceptive practices that interfere with an individual’s healthcare decisions.
SB 1913	Adds telehealth coverage for mental health and substance use disorder treatment to the Public Aid Code.
SB 2130	Adds anesthesiologist to the definition of “eligible health care provider.”
SB 2271	Changes the days a professional license is valid from 120 to 240 days. Increases the license fee to \$1,500 for a 2-year license. Adds 15 voting members and one nonvoting member to the advising committee.
SB 2294	Repeals the Illinois Health Information Exchange and Technology Act on July 1, 2023 and absorbs staff under the Health Information Exchange Office into the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.
SB 2322	Requires the Department of Public Health to establish a statewide policy for visitation with a resident living in facilities.

Higher Education

HB 0301	Makes the AIM HIGH grant pilot program permanent, changes matching rates for the program to help more students and gives part-time students more access to the program.
HB 1133	Gives the board of trustees of each community college to determine if the secretary is a member of the board, requires the chair and vice chair to be members of the board.
HB 1378	Creates the Graduate and Retain Our Workforce Illinois Program to allow public and private institutions of higher education to award forgivable incentive loans to individuals with qualifying degrees and jobs that are in high demand.
HB 1767	Allows employment examinations given under the University System to be open to all applicants who can qualify by training and experience for the positions, instead of just applicants who are citizens or residents of the state.
HB 1865	Provides that, beginning with the 2025 registration year, vehicles owned or operated by a university or college police department may apply for a permanent vehicle registration and be issued license plates designed as “university police” or “college police.”
HB 2041	Extends the Board of Higher Education board member terms from one year to three years. Changes the date universities must submit tuition quartile data.
HB 2380	Gives the Illinois Student Assistance Commission the authority to prioritize who they give loan assistants to, and clarifies that Direct Support professionals employed by human services providers are eligible for assistants.



HB 2503	Codifies an agreement that allows community colleges to share the career and technical education programs of each institution and provide students with access to programs that might otherwise be unavailable to the student in their home community college district.
HB 2509	Requires the graduate of a nursing program who does not take the licensure exam within 180 days of receiving their degree or fails the exam for a second time to complete a National Council Licensure Exam prep class before retaking the test or returning to their institution for education resources which will be provided at no cost.
HB 2528	Creates the Hunger-free campus grant program requiring each institution to establish a hunger task force in order to determine a hunger-free campus.
HB 2898	Requires for-profit, post-secondary institutions that have been found of committing unfair, misleading, or deceptive practice to repay MAP funds (if the institution received MAP funds) to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
HB 3498	Provides that a recipient of the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship or the Special Education Teacher Waiver programs fulfills their teaching obligations outside the original starting window that's required by these programs, Illinois Student Assistance Commission may prorate the debt of those recipients.
HB 3648	Requires the Department of Corrections, on or before every Sept. 1, to collect data and release a report on its institutions and facilities relating to higher education with the governor and General Assembly and make publicly available on their website.
HB 3759	Expands access to high school campus section of the school code to expand access to student directory information to include public higher education institutions in IL and sets timeline to implement.
HB 3760	Requires Illinois higher education institutions to create a 4-year admission program that makes it easier for community college students to attend them.
SB 0049	Requires institutions of higher education to provide official transcripts to current or former students that request them.
SB 0057	Expands the Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program by raising grant amounts based on education titles of the applicant, adds two more grants for a professional possessing a masters degree in counseling, psychology, social work, or marriage and family therapy, and more.
SB 0195	Provides that any student who is a minor seeking changes to their guardianship may not do so if the main purpose for the change is to reduce the financial resources available to the minor in order for the minor to qualify for need-based financial aid for college.
SB 1558	Requires Illinois Community College Board to create a model program of study for college students to receive class credit that incorporates the training and experience necessary to serve as a direct support professionals.
SB 1590	Amends several definitions in the Underserved Health Care Provider Workforce Act to include chiropractic physicians and those studying chiropractic medicine.
SB 1907	Requires public institutions of higher education, including community colleges, to offer emergency contraception at a reduced price in at least 1 vending machine on each campus.
SB 2240	Allows school districts to request individualized disaggregated data on the enrollment of students in community college remediation courses from the most recently completed academic year.
SB 2288	Requires public colleges and universities to accept all major courses approved for transfer through the Illinois Articulation Initiative as equivalent major courses, insofar as a specific major is offered at the receiving institution.



Housing

HB 1628	Prohibits a landlord from requiring a tenant or prospective tenant to pay anything owed to the landlord under a lease, renewal, or extension agreement by means of electronic funds transfer.
HB 2174	Requires homeowners associations, common interest community associations, and condominium unit owners' associations to adopt written energy policy standards; currently there is not a written requirement.
HB 2217	Aims at reducing the threat radon poses to renters of property and allows a tenant to seek a third-party radon test, which the landlord may contest and challenge.
HB 2325	Allows mortgage loan originators to work from a remote location as long as they meet certain conditions and hold a state-issued license.
HB 2338	Provides that a mobile home purchaser does not need to sign a lease prior to closing on the mobile home. If the purchaser elects to not sign a lease, they must remove the mobile home from the mobile home park within 30 days.
HB 2562	Provides housing requirements for heating and cooling standards for properties that limit their ownership, rental, and occupancy to people 55 years old or older.
HB 2776	Requires, in addition to a written notice, a notice via email by a community water supply to property owners and occupants of buildings affected by lead service line replacements, and requires the City of Chicago to publicly post data on the progress of installing lead service lines.
HB 3062	Creates definitions and regulations for reusable tenants screening reports. Prohibits landlords from charging their tenants a fee when accepting a reusable tenant screening report.
HB 3892	Allows the Illinois Housing Development Authority to develop a program that provides incentives for affordable housing projects that incorporate urban and suburban gardening.
SB 0201	Allows the permissive sealing, upon motion by a mortgagor, of wrongful foreclosure actions which have been filed between March 9, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021 and were initiated during a foreclosure moratorium if the property was protected by the moratorium.
SB 1476	Requires more communities to have plans in place to meet the needs of low- to moderate-income families.
SB 2013	Requires air conditioning and heating to be included in affordable housing and clarifies language with maintenance, upkeep and laundry.
SB 2037	Creates the Community Land Trust Task Force to make specific recommendations of legislative and budgetary action that supports the mission of community land trusts to foster affordable housing and home ownership.
SB 1367	Requires that every housing authority organized under the Housing Authorities Act will collect data on the number of vacant units in each housing project and gather information on whether each waiting list is open or closed.
SB 1484	Encourages cooperative housing development by creating the Cooperative Housing Fund to be used by the Illinois Housing Development Authority to award up to \$5,000,000 in grants to organizations developing cooperative housing for residents below the median income.
SB 1741	Removes limitations of security deposit protections for buildings with fewer than five units and require landlords to provide an itemized statement of damages before withholding a security deposit for all rental units regardless of the number of units within 30 days of vacation or end of possession.
SB 1817	Provides that it is a civil rights violation to consider immigration status during a real estate transaction, including purchase and rental transactions.



Human Services

HB 1197	Raises the 12-month contribution amount at which charitable organizations must file a written report with the attorney general from \$300,000 to \$500,000.
HB 2214	Requires the Department of Human Services to replace SNAP benefits that were stolen from a recipient's EBT card by means of card skimming, card cloning or some other similar fraudulent method.
HB 2618	Clarifies the process requiring Department of Children and Family Services' drivers be fingerprinted and submit the fingerprints to the Illinois State Police through a live scan fingerprint vendor licensed by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.
HB 2619	Provides that the State Long Term Care Ombudsman must be notified when a resident is involuntarily transferred or discharged.
HB 2858	Changes the definition of "mandated reporter" to exclude the State Long Term Care Ombudsman and any of their representatives or volunteers, and prohibits them from making a report.
HB 2861	Requires that within 30 days after placing a child in its care in a qualified residential treatment program, rather than 35 days, the Department of Children and Family Services must prepare a written report for filing with the court and send copies of the report to all parties.
SB 0216	Establishes that publicly appointed guardians only need minimum requirements to undergo trauma-informed training related to Alzheimer's and dementia care.
SB 0375	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to develop and implement a safety-based child welfare intervention system, demonstrate proficiency in the SAFE model, and establish an advisory committee regarding implementation and to develop training curriculum on the SAFE model.
SB 0505	Expands persons allowed to serve as a provider of personal care or similar services to a person with a disability by including the persons guardian, kin, or siblings.
SB 0646	Creates the Healing-Centered Illinois Task Force to advance the state's efforts to become trauma-informed and healing-centered through improved alignment of existing efforts, common definitions and metrics, and strategic planning for long-term transformation.
SB 0855	Addresses concerns at Choate by expanding investigative reports issued by the Department of Human Services that pertain resident abuse or neglect at state operated mental health facilities to include material obstruction of an investigation and presenting untruthful information to investigators.
SB 1674	Changes the program name from "Diversion From Facility Based Care Program" to the "Stabilization Support Pilot Program" and codifies the language and allows the program to be utilized by residents of State-Operated Developmental Centers as a transition to permanent community placement.
SB 1999	Makes abandoned infants eligible for Medicaid benefits for the receipt of emergency medical services. Extends the period by which the emergency service provider must inform the parent of the hospital where the infant was transported.
SB 2134	Provides that a licensed child welfare agency that provides post-adoption search assistance may request non-identifying information from the Department of Children and Family Services from records housed in State Central Storage. Clarifies responsibilities of confidential intermediaries.
SB 2293	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to establish and maintain the Youth in Care Support Fund for the purchase of immediate needs or immediate support for youth in care, families and caregivers.



Insurance

HB 0047	Updates the liquidation provisions and account for insurance companies that handle cybersecurity claims.
HB 0579	Requires the Department of Insurance, with the assistance of the Department of Healthcare & Family Services, to establish a State Based Health Insurance Marketplace called the Illinois Health Benefits Exchange, which is a state based health insurance marketplace.
HB 1186	Clarifies that patients enrolled in a HMO may access in-network services and providers without necessitating a referral from a primary care physician prior to obtaining specialty services.
HB 1384	Requires HMO's, Medicaid, and individual and group policies to cover medically necessary reconstructive surgeries to restore one's physical appearance that was damaged by trauma.
HB 2072	Prohibits an insurer, service corporation, insurance network leasing company, or any company that issues, delivers, amends, or renews an individual or group policy of accident and health insurance to automatically enroll a provider in a leased network without the provider's written consent.
HB 2089	Makes changes to the Insurance Code to resolve inconsistencies or overlooked features discovered in statute.
HB 2296	Ensures that rate increases on accident and health insurance for all individual and small groups must be subject to review and approvals by the Department of Insurance.
HB 2350	Modifies the insurance code to become more gender inclusive for patients seeking care for annual cervical smear or pap smear tests for and annual prostate screenings.
HB 2443	Requires insurers to provide coverage for hearing instruments, and related services, for all individuals.
HB 2799	Allows insurance coverage for cancer treatment using proton beam therapy. An insurer cannot apply a higher standard of clinical evidence for the coverage of proton beam therapy than it would for any other form of radiation treatment therapy.
HB 3030	Allows insurance issuers and a nonparticipating providers to request binding arbitration for batched bills rather than just on a pre-bill basis.
HB 3202	Requires individual and group accident and health policies to cover a at home saliva cancer screening every 24 months under certain conditions.
HB 3249	Provides that a full-time law enforcement, correctional or probation officer, or firefighter who suffered a catastrophic injury or was killed in the line of duty cannot change their coverage under an insurance plan covered by the State Employee Group Insurance Act.
HB 3639	Limits the cost of EpiPens to a maximum of \$60 per twin-pack. Gives the Department of Insurance the authority to adopt rules to assist in the implementation and administration.
HB 3769	Expands the definition of firefighters to allow additional firefighters to maintain their health and accident insurance coverage after their retirement, a disability, or for their surviving spouse, until the spouse's death or remarriage.
HB 3809	Requires that group and individual accident and health insurance policies provide coverage for children who have been diagnosed with any disease, syndrome, or disorder that includes low tone neuromuscular impairments, neurological impairments or cognitive impairments.
SB 0101	Provides that no accident or health insurance can deny or delay coverage for a medically necessary treatment because the patient previously received any treatment, or the same or similar treatment, for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders.
SB 0762	Codifies an Insurance Business Transfer process by which a transferring insurer sells insurance obligations or risks, or both, associated with existing insurance policies to a purchasing insurer.



SB 0764	Provides that no vision care plan can require a vision care provider, as a condition of their participation, to provide services or materials at a fee set by them, unless the services or materials are in-network and covered under the vision care plan.
SB 0765	Requires farm mutual insurance companies to have and maintain adequate catastrophic reinsurance rather than unlimited catastrophic reinsurance. Requires companies making the change to provide a notice of the change to policyholders in a form approved by the Director of Insurance.
SB 1282	Requires Medicaid, private insurance plans, and government employee insurance plans to cover preventative screenings for liver disease for individuals aged 18 to 65 at high risk for liver disease.
SB 1344	Ensures that insurance providers cover medication abortion, hormonal therapy and HIV medication.
SB 1495	Requires public adjusters to provide the insurer with an exact copy of the contract by electronic mail within two business days after execution of the contract.
SB 1527	Requires group and individual health insurance policies and Medicaid managed care plans to cover compression sleeves if it is medically necessary to mitigate or prevent lymphedema.
SB 1889	Allows registered, certified, and student pharmacists and other supportive staff to sell prescriptions while a pharmacist is on break, and removes requirements for a pharmacy to maintain records showing its pharmacists daily break periods.
SB 2195	Provides that an enrollee of any age must be provided with a prosthetic or custom orthotic device necessary to perform physical activities like running, biking, swimming, lifting weights, to maximize the enrollee's whole body health.

Labor

HB 1122	Requires that freelance workers not working in construction be paid no later than 30 days after fulfilling their obligations under a contract, and that the contracting entity cannot condition timely payment on the freelancer accepting less pay, among other rights for freelance workers.
HB 1132	Requires laser safety officers, with training and experience requirements to be determined by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, to be allowed by a laser display operator to inspect and oversee laser displays and installations.
HB 1595	Allows EMS workers facing departmental investigations, interviews and suspension hearings the right to have a representative from their labor organization recognized as their exclusive representative and a lawyer present with them at any relevant meetings.
HB 2102	Provides the names of various offenses that do not bar an individual from being hired by a health care employer.
HB 2274	Provides that a person is qualified for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant if they have obtained a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and have completed 100 hours of supervised field work that is comparable to a speech-language pathology assistant program in Illinois.
HB 2365	Provides a clinical social worker with an alternative examination route to obtain a license, given they complete 3,000 hours of supervised clinical social work within ten years after they receive their degree.
HB 2448	Clarifies that the Department of Natural Resources' Conservation Police Officers' pre-hire education requirements are in line with those of the Illinois State Police.
HB 2493	Provides two weeks of unpaid leave for employees whose family or household member was killed in a crime of violence.



HB 2845	Adds the removal, hauling and transportation of biosolids, lime sludge and lime residue from a water treatment plant or facility and the disposal of biosolids, lime sludge, and lime residue removed from a water treatment plant or facility at landfill to the definition of “public works.”
HB 2862	Provides that a temporary or day labor service agency must inquire about a company’s safety, and provide training to laborers for awareness of recognized industry hazards that the laborer may encounter at the company’s worksite.
HB 2907	Provides that in a labor dispute, a court should not grant an award for money damages except in the case of damage to an employer’s personal property as a result of conduct prohibited by law.
HB 3129	Changes the Equal Pay Act, making it unlawful for an employer with 15 or more employees to fail to include the pay scale and benefits for a position listed in a specific job posting.
HB 3227	Specifies the method in which all administrative fines should be paid to the Department of Labor. It provides that once the unpaid wages are collected, the Department shall make a good faith effort to find the employees for which it recovered the unpaid wages.
HB 3301	Expands newly hired employees to include individuals under an independent contractor arrangement for the purposes of tracking non-custodial parents who are not paying child support.
HB 3351	Changes the Illinois Solar for All program to classify participating solar projects as public works for purposes of prevailing wage requirements. Exempts residential houses and houses of worship from the definition of “public works” for purposes of the prevailing wage requirement.
HB 3370	Expands the Prevailing Wage Act to include power washing projects in which steam or pressurized water is used to remove paint or other coatings, oils or grease, corrosion, or debris from a surface or to prepare a surface for a coating.
HB 3396	Provides that a person who, with the intent to interfere with, obstruct, or impede a picket, demonstration or protest, places any object in the public way, commits a Class A misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$2,500, and a sentence of imprisonment of less than one year.
HB 3400	Provides that the Department of Labor will report quarterly to the General Assembly and the governor the number of people employed on public works in the state during the preceding three months.
HB 3448	Requires primary contractors and subcontractors to post, in a clear and accessible place to all laborers, workers, and mechanics at a job site, a notice summarizing their obligations under the Illinois Wage Payment and Collections Act and information related to filing a complaint.
HB 3491	Changes the Prevailing Wage Act to clarify that “stipulated rates” for public works contracts are the same as the “prevailing rates.”
HB 3516	Allows employees up to 10 days of paid leave in any 12 month period to serve as an organ donor. Applicable for employees of any unit of local government, board of election commissioners, or any private employer in Illinois with 51 or more employees.
HB 3733	Provides for updated and modernized procedures, including allowing for electronic payment of fines for violation of labor laws, electronic copies of personnel records and electronic posting of labor rights information for remote employees.
HB 3792	Expands “public works” to include construction projects involving fixtures or permanent attachments affixed to light poles that are owned by a public body.
SB 0761	Provides EMS directors with more flexibility to use alternative staffing models and creates an EMT Training, Recruitment, and Retention Task Force.
SB 1515	Provides that employers must not voluntarily enroll in the E-Verify system unless required by law and provides notifications to employees and 30 days unpaid leave to correct discrepancies and prevents an employer from basing employment decisions on a corrected discrepancy.



SB 1611	Creates the Firefighter Training Leave of Absence Act, which provides that a state employee must be granted leave from his or her state employment for firefighter training.
SB 1707	Provides that any municipalities with a population of over one million are no longer exempt from the Fire Department Promotion Act.
SB 1782	Requires minors under the age of 16 featured in vlogs or other online content who receive compensation to be covered under the Child Labor Law.
SB 2017	Clarifies that education support personnel employees may not be required to work on legal school holidays and that no deduction may be made from time or compensation on account of a holiday on which the employee would have otherwise worked.
SB 2034	Provides extended bereavement leave to employees who have lost a child to suicide or homicide. For employers with 250 or more full-time employees, employees are provided twelve weeks of unpaid leave.

Licensed Activities

HB 2395	Establishes provisions on submitting a valid address and email address to the Department of Finance and Professional Regulation when applying for renewal of registration and license.
HB 2450	Establishes provisions on cultural competency training for licensed healthcare professionals as well as sets limitations for statutorily mandated training requirements.
HB 2756	Requires 25, rather than 24, hours of continuing education for massage license renewal. One of the hours must include domestic violence and sexual assault awareness.
HB 2826	Provides that in cases when criminal background information cannot be used against an applicant for licensure, the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation cannot require criminal background information.
HB 3206	Requires the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to supplement all paper-based certificates and licenses with a digitally verified credential starting July 1, 2024.
SB 0089	Extends multiple sunsets that were meant to expire this year.
SB 0303	Requires a pharmacist technician to have equivalent work experience of 500 hours covering practice areas or equivalent work experience as set forth by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.
SB 1716	Establishes provisions on submitting a valid address and email address to Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation when applying for renewal of registration.
SB 1785	Expands the scope of which an advanced practice registered nurse can provide adequate collaboration.
SB 1866	Waives continuing education requirements for military service members seeking to reactivate their real estate licenses and allows individuals to use Taxpayer ID Number in place of social security.
SB 2057	Establishes provisions on submitting a valid address and email address to the Department of Finance and Professional Regulation when applying for renewal of registration and license.
SB 2059	Establishes provisions on the practice of telehealth for veterinary purposes.



Local Government

HB 0217	Authorizes quick take proceedings for dozens of parcels in Will County in order to facilitate road construction.
HB 0475	Requires that when a successful referendum is held to levy an annual tax for the purposes of providing mental health facilities and services, community mental health board members must be appointed within 60 days after the local election authority certifies the passage of the referendum.
HB 0476	Expressly authorizes that the Metro East Sanitation District to purchase insurance for its employees and commissioners.
HB 1067	Requires a public works superintendent, employed by a county board or board of public works, to have an engineering degree from an accredited school or have at least 10 years of professional, management-level experience; and at least one employee should have a professional engineer license.
HB 1076	A county may lease farmland held by the county to a public or private entity with a vote of 3/4th of the county board for a term not exceeding 5 years.
HB 1105	Requires the Illinois Commerce Commission's approval prior to a municipality taking or damaging an investor-owned water or sewer utility that is regulated by the ICC.
HB 1131	Expands the authority of the Southwest Illinois Development Authority to include Monroe County. Adds a seat to the authority's governing body that is appointed by Monroe County. Grants the power to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Bond, Clinton, and Monroe counties.
HB 1153	Lowers the minimum population required for a county to create an office of county auditor from 75,000 inhabitants to 70,000 inhabitants.
HB 1236	Allows a county board of a county with a population of less than two million people to, when considering a competitive bid, take into consideration the bidder's active participation in an apprenticeship program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor.
HB 1283	Prevents a township official from barring an organization from receiving township funds based upon the perceived citizenship or immigration status of the person who would receive those funds from the organization.
HB 1465	Increases the threshold for contracts competitively bidden on, awarded by road districts, in excess of \$30,000 instead of contracts in excess of \$20,000.
HB 1625	Allows the board of trustees for any fire protection district to value surplus real estate by a written certified appraisal by a state certified or licensed real estate appraiser, in addition to MAI certified appraisals.
HB 1635	Authorizes the Executive Director of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, on behalf of the district, to transfer two pieces of property so that Fort Sheridan National Cemetery can expand.
HB 1727	Requires that contracts for the purchase of services, materials, equipment or supplies in excess of \$30,000 do not have to be advertised for bids expediting the replacement of a damaged patrol vehicle of the sheriff's department if authorized by the county board in a county with fewer than 2,000,000 inhabitants.
HB 1740	Changes the Rescue Squad Districts Act name to the Emergency Services Districts Act. Replaces "rescue squads" with "emergency services" throughout the Act. Provides for the continuance of rescue squad districts organized before the legislation goes into effect.
HB 1920	Authorizes the state and the Department of Military Affairs to convey a parcel of real estate, a vacant armory, to the City of Lawrenceville for a public purpose.
HB 2033	Allows a unit of local government to electronically file a bond ordinance with their county clerk.
HB 2040	Allows for boards of trustees in counties organized under a commission form of government, to appoint non-residents and residents who have not lived in a district within the township one year to the position of clerk.



HB 2079	Extends the protocol provisions of the Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act to township officials who serve on a nonprofit corporation contracting with the township.
HB 2097	Authorizes the Director of Corrections to sell land to the City of Crest Hill to be used in the construction of a Lake Michigan water receiving station.
HB 2192	Allows a park district to enter into a lease, contract, or other agreement related to the acquisition of solar energy.
HB 2219	Enables the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to acquire property and issue bonds for renewable energy facilities.
HB 2332	Increases the coroner's permit fee to cremate a dead human body from \$50 to \$100.
HB 2527	Extends the reporting date for the Municipal Water and Wastewater Funding Study to Sept. 30, 2023.
HB 2622	Allows Forest Preserve districts to operate the Landfill Expense Fund indefinitely.
HB 2624	Distinguishes five categories of records and requires the clerk of court to limit access to court documents and files based on how a record is categorized.
HB 2800	Authorizes quick-take proceedings for multiple pieces of property within Menard County and McHenry County.
HB 2949	Allows after-school care program personnel to administer an EpiPen or asthma medication to children in distress.
HB 2963	Empowers the Dixon Park District to install and operate solar panels and conduct any other necessary activities for the development and operation of a solar electric generation facility in Dixon on property transferred from the state to the park district in 1992.
HB 2972	Changes the Rescue Squad Districts Act to provide that a rescue squad district organized under the act may fix, charge, and collect fee for rescue squad districts not exceeding the reasonable cost of the service.
HB 3133	Authorizes the sanitary district to implement an electronic reporting system that will allow notice, orders and other documents to be sent directly by email to persons or entities registered with the district.
HB 3337	Clarifies that the requirement of a town of more than 25,000 to elect township officers does not apply to the Town of Normal. Town of Normal must elect a president every four years and officers as set forth by ordinance, which is current practice.
HB 3424	Allows townships to provide cash assistance to people with prior convictions. Allows townships to provide mental, behavioral, eye, dental and other health care. Allows townships to provide general assistance to households following a gubernatorial disaster proclamation.
HB 3500	Increases the aggregate principal amounts for bonds for Joliet Public Schools District 86, Central Community USD 301, Freeburg Community High SD 77, Mundelein Consolidated HSD 120, and Washington SD 52 with referendum approval.
HB 3743	Authorizes a land transfer of the Tinley Park Mental Health District and the Howe Development Center to the Tinley Park - Park District.
HB 3819	Allows local government agencies to set up deflection programs, and allows deflection programs to accept, receive, and disburse grant money, and includes harm reduction in the required topics of training for employees.
SB 0684	Dissolves any existing airport authority within McLean County and provides that all property, assets and liabilities of the dissolved authority is assumed by the Central Illinois Regional Airport Authority, which includes all of the territory within the corporate limits of McLean County.
SB 0685	Provides that townships on a cash basis or modified cash basis of accounting can only count levied tax funds toward their general assistance fund if the levied tax funds are received within their fiscal year.



SB 0686	Specifies that a certified copy of a transcript of sworn testimony of a coroner's inquest is a flat fee of \$15 per transcript if the request is written and for research and genealogy, rather than a price per page in a county with a population over three million.
SB 0690	Prohibits a township from placing a community mental health public question on the 2024 primary or general election ballot if a community mental health public question was approved via referendum in the same township at the 2022 general election.
SB 0696	Extends 13 TIF districts by 12 years in municipalities across the state. Letters of support for the extensions have been received from every taxing body in each of the TIFs.
SB 1066	Authorizes the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to convey three parcels of real estate to Lake County in order to complete a bike path and avoid the removal of two trees over 100 years old.
SB 1067	Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to convey an access road to Fulton Township in Whiteside County for use as a dedicated public road and will revert back to the State if not used for public purposes.
SB 1068	Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to convey a parcel of land that includes an unused building to Two Rivers Fisheries for use in their carp processing business.
SB 1098	Authorizes each mayor of a municipality with a population of 2,000 to 4,999 within the Saline Valley Conservancy District, that purchases water from the District to appoint one member to the Board of Trustees starting July 1, 2023 for a 5-year term.
SB 1127	Exempts segment of Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone in and near City of Rochelle from wind and solar siting requirements.
SB 1570	Creates the Municipal Design-build Authorization Act. Provides several contracts municipalities can enter into. Sets criteria for selecting a design-build contractor. States if cost of a project is under \$12 million, the municipality can use a single selection process.
SB 1673	Enables the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to impose civil penalties, including recouping costs of enforcement, for violation of its floodplain and stormwater management ordinance.
SB 1707	Provides that any municipalities with a population of over one million are no longer exempt from the Fire Department Promotion Act.
SB 1750	Provides that a Fire Protection District board of trustees must reimburse training expenses.
SB 1840	Allows park districts to use amounts levied and collected from the property tax of (up to) 0.025% of the value of property on public safety and security measures, or both, in addition to its current use of organizing and maintaining a policy system.
SB 1861	Authorizes the Joliet Park District to sell the water park, "Splash Station," as long as the park district's board of commissioners approve the sale by a 4/5 vote and the sale price equals or exceeds the average of three independent appraisals.
SB 1897	Establishes the Rock Island Regional Port District within the limits of the City of Rock Island. Participating municipalities can also issue bonds, tax levies, easements and permits.
SB 1997	Allows a county with a population of less than 1,000,000 to create requirements for new building design and construction to mitigate the risks caused by the project to wildlife and surrounding habitats.
SB 2227	Removes gender-based references to officials and taxpayers and removes outdated references to state offices. Allows for computer databases to be acceptable repositories in addition to bound books and allows "digital scanning" to be an acceptable preservation method.
SB 2320	Allows for non-home rule municipalities to adopt a code-hearing unit.
SB 2325	Allows a soil and water conservation district to make a request of the Illinois Department of Transportation to install a sign related to the district.



Mental Health

HB 1364	Creates the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Workgroup by the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health to review existing information about the first year of the 988 call center operations in Illinois, success of the program, and best practice standards.
HB 2847	Requires health insurance no-cost coverage for annual mental health prevention and wellness visits starting in 2025.
HB 3109	Requires the Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulation to consider recommendations from the Federation of State Medical Boards when considering the mental health of applicants for licensure.
HB 3230	Creates the Strengthening and Transforming Behavioral Health Crisis Care in Illinois Act which requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to use an independent expert to conduct an analysis and determine costs associated with developing a statewide initiative to coordinate behavioral health crisis response services.
HB 3698	Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to create the Cultural Empowerment Program, which makes grants-in-aid to community providers to provide outreach, engagement, training, and support to faith-based organization serving communities that are underserved by mental and behavioral health resource.
SB 0724	Establishes a Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Officer and Children's Behavioral Health Services Team in response to the nationwide youth mental health crisis.
SB 1543	Creates the Statewide PTSD Mental Health Coordinator. The Statewide PTSD Mental Health Coordinator shall be responsible for implementing a program of mental health support and education for law enforcement officers.
SB 1568	Requires the Department of Insurance to conduct a data call to collect information from insurance companies to assist with providing parity for mental, emotional, nervous and substance use disorders or conditions that are no more restrictive than any other medical condition coverage.
SB 1709	Requires the Department of Human Services and State Board of Education to provide technical assistance for mental health care throughout school days with the goal of increasing the availability and accessibility of mental health resources for students.
SB 1913	Adds telehealth coverage for mental health and substance use disorder treatment to the Public Aid Code.

Opioid Addiction Prevention and Treatment

HB 1121	Allows a trained overdose responder for an organization enrolled in the Drug Overdose Prevention Program administered by the Department of Human Services to dispense drug adulterant testing supplies.
HB 1557	Requires for-profit music venues that have an occupancy of 1,000 or more to have opioid antagonists such as Narcan on hand and have staff members who are sufficiently trained at administering it.
HB 3203	Permits pharmacists and retailers to sell fentanyl strips to the public over-the-counter to test for the presence of fentanyl, fentanyl analogue, or a drug adulterant within a controlled substance.
HB 3428	Requires all school districts, public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools to maintain a supply of an opioid antagonist, a medication used to reverse an opioid overdose, in a secure location.
HB 3924	Requires that high schools teach students about the dangers of fentanyl in all state-required health courses.



Pensions

HB 1297	Extends the sunset for downstate teachers to purchase up to two years of service credit for time spent teaching in a private school.
HB 2035	Allows a licensed health care professional to make certain disability determinations.
HB 2057	Provides that the Boards of Trustees for the Laborers' and Retirement Board Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund and the Park Employees' and Retirement Board Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund have the authority to issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify before them.
HB 2352	Establishes a member of the Chicago Teacher Pension Fund annuity cannot be cancelled if the member is re-employed by the Board of Education as a paraprofessional or related service provider on a temporary and non-annual basis.
HB 2390	Establishes that downstate police who are over 60 years old and retired because of a disability may not be recalled to service in any capacity.
HB 3161	Changes the Illinois Pension Code by restoring the Chicago Municipal Articles to the form in which it appeared before it was amended by Public Act 98-641, which has been deemed unconstitutional.
HB 3162	Creates a rebuttable presumption that Chicago police and firefighters who became disabled as a result of COVID-19 from March 9, 2020 to June 30, 2021, contracted COVID-19 while on the job. Police and firefighters affected would be entitled to 75% of their salary at the time of disability.
HB 3646	Establishes what pay rate an employee must use to purchase service credit for prior employment with the Chicago Transit Authority or its predecessor Public Utilities.
SB 0214	Requires disability benefits for a police officer, firefighter, and paramedic who becomes ill in the line of duty due to a disease or condition present in the community that is covered by a declaration of emergency by a municipal official, county, or the state.
SB 0734	Establishes what pay rate an employee must use to purchase service credit for prior employment with the Chicago Transit Authority.
SB 1115	Changes the State Universities Articles of the Illinois Pension Code by establishing SURS police shall receive a line of duty disability of 65% of their basic income. There are currently 659 active police officers in SURS.
SB 1235	Revises the way retirement annuity is calculated for adjunct professors, and provides a formula for calculating service credit for non-full-time professors.
SB 1629	Creates an alternative formula for Tier 2 Chicago fireman's final average salary calculation, which would use 48 months over the last 60 months of a members employment.
SB 1646	Makes a number of pension reform changes.
SB 1648	Clarifies that Tier 2 members of the Laborers' Annuity and Benefit Fund who satisfy qualifying disability criteria are entitled to certain annuities provided in the LABF article of the pension code that are not addressed in the Tier 2 benefits provisions.
SB 1824	Requires new Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Authorized Agents to complete a training course and allows trustees who change their job to remain on the Board of Trustees if there is no break in service.
SB 1872	Reduces the probationary period before a downstate teacher enters contractual continued service from four consecutive terms with an overall rating of at least "proficient" to three consecutive terms with an overall rating of excellent to two consecutive terms.
SB 1924	Allows employees of Regional Offices of Education to claim unpaid sick days as service credit in IMRF, raising pay for regional superintendents, allowing regional superintendents to take second jobs, and changing posting requirements for use of their Institute Funds.



SB 1956	Allows Tier 1 retired Chicago police officers born after Jan. 1, 1966 to be eligible to receive an annual 3% simple cost of living adjustment.
SB 2100	Establishes how to replace a vacant trustee position, that trustees must be reimbursed for travel and that the legal counsel of the fund may perform the oath of office relating to the Police Consolidated Pension Fund.
SB 2152	Establishes that pension boards may upon request have the state treasurer manage the domestic and international proxy voting activity.
SB 2228	Allows the implementation of modern processes and best practices in the state's hiring process.

Public Health

HB 2827	Extends the credentialing cycle for health care professional credentials data collection from two to year years. Allows the Department of Public Health to choose whether they want the data in a paper or electronic format.
HB 2831	Creates the Office of Prevent and End Homelessness in Illinois Department of Human Services to implement a strategic plan aimed at decreasing homelessness, improving health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and strengthening safety nets that contribute to housing stability.
SB 1803	Creates the Lyme Disease Innovation Program to raise awareness of tick-borne disease through community-based education.

Public Safety

HB 2245	Requires the county sheriff to establish a vehicle theft hotline to facilitate the location of stolen vehicles via their existing global positioning systems.
HB 2372	Establishes the position of the Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator within the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Division of Arson.
HB 2389	Clarifies that no vehicle can be stopped or searched solely on the basis of any objects placed or suspended between the driver and the front windshield that may obstruct the drivers view.
HB 2412	Requires the Illinois State Police to use all reasonable efforts to make publicly available key information related to firearms used in Illinois crimes that are reported and investigated to the Illinois State Police.
HB 2448	Clarifies that the Department of Natural Resources' Conservation Police Officers' pre-hire education requirements are in line with those of the Illinois State Police.
HB 2475	Provides that collegiate requirements to take the Illinois State Police exam are met if a person has been honorably discharged by the United States Armed Forces, or is an active member of the Illinois National Guard or a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces.
HB 2776	Requires, in addition to a written notice, a notice via email by a community water supply to property owners and occupants of buildings affected by lead service line replacements, and requires the City of Chicago to publicly post data on the progress of installing lead service lines.
HB 2841	Removes fees associated with services of vital records done by the State Registrar for victims of domestic violence.
HB 3097	Provides that an owner or operator must ensure that at least one operator working on site has been certified to provide First Aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.



HB 3322	Creates rules on how law enforcement agencies handle gang databases; Requires the Illinois State Police to notify people who've been added to a gang database and an appeals process for people to have their names removed.
HB 3326	Prohibits the use of automated license plate reader data in enforcing a law that interferes with an individual's right to obtain lawful healthcare services, including reproductive health care, or permits the detention or investigation of an individual based on their immigration status.
HB 3559	Ensures that all school buildings' emergency and crises response plan, protocol, and procedures includes a plan for local law enforcement to rapidly enter the school building in the event of an emergency.
HB 3902	Allows law enforcement to use drones in special events like parades and food festivals to detect breaches, identify public safety issues, and assist in public safety response.
HB 3903	Establishes ethical parameters and guidelines to provide direction to both automated traffic enforcement companies and state and local elected officials.
HB 3940	Extends the sunset of the 9-1-1 surcharge to Dec. 31, 2025. Requires that an entity that operates a private switch service that was installed before 2020 includes the automatic location identifier containing the street address of the 9-1-1 caller.
SB 1526	Provides that the Department of Transportation must develop a mobile application that provides motorists with updates on various road conditions.
SB 1754	Provides that agencies wishing to waive training for an officer who was trained in another state or for federal employment shall conduct a background check and provide verification of the officer's prior training.

Revenue and Taxes

HB 2507	Revenue omnibus package that incorporates a wide range of property-tax related legislative proposals.
HB 2518	Extends the completion date by 12 years for seven TIF districts in Illinois. Allows a tourism preservation and sustainability district in Sangamon County an initial term of up to 20 years.
HB 2539	Provides that the Department of Revenue must remit to the county or township the amount in compensation owed to county officers. Makes the county responsible for the state and federal income tax reporting, withholding, and employer contributions.
HB 2579	Allows the Department of Revenue to refuse to issue, reissue, or renew a certificate of registration, permit, or license that is authorized by the department if the applicant fails to file any required return on or before the due date prescribed for filing that return.
HB 3808	Clarifies that cable and video local service franchise fees do not apply to the providers of satellite television and streaming services.
SB 0074	Creates the Property Tax Payment Plan Task Force to study establishing a payment plan program for owner-occupants to repay delinquent property taxes and make recommendations for implementing one or more payment plan options in Cook County.
SB 1225	Allows the chief county assessment officer in a county with less than 3 million residents to require an initial application before granting a \$1 preferential assessment for subdivision common areas.
SB 1641	Requires any associated tax liability to be paid at the time the amended state tax return is filed in order to be considered timely in situations where a federal change in tax law results in the need for an amended tax return to be filed with the state.



SB 1675	Halves the interest rate penalty on delinquent property taxes in Cook County, closes loopholes in Property Tax Code's sale-in-error statute and other things to reform Cook County's annual tax sale.
SB 1705	Requires members of the armed forces making sales tax exempt purchases to present valid military identification and complete a form prescribed by the Department of Revenue documenting the transaction.
SB 1963	Includes the revenue omnibus package.
SB 2047	Makes certain tax credits consistent regarding their treatment of Sub chapter S corporations.

Seniors

HB 2100	Provides that a person who financially exploits an elderly person or a person with a disability is guilty of a Class 1 felony if the elderly person is 70 years of age or older (instead of "over 70 years of age") and the value of the property is \$15,000 or more.
HB 2562	Provides housing requirements for heating and cooling standards for properties that limit their ownership, rental, and occupancy to people 55 years old or older.
HB 2619	Provides that the State Long Term Care Ombudsman must be notified when a resident is involuntarily transferred or discharged.
HB 3172	Changes the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act to eliminate a clause prohibiting a person requiring sliding scale insulin administration to be admitted to a residential care facility, unless able to be administered by themselves or by a licensed third party practitioner.
SB 1298	Includes rate increases for various provider types as well as other changes to the state's Medical Assistance Program.
SB 1497	Prohibits the use of physical restraints and the misuse of psychotropic medications to restrain nursing home residents. Clarifies the difference between positioning devices and physical restraints, and says the resident or their representative can still request a positioning device.
SB 1814	Creates the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Advisory Board to advise the Department of Aging on proposed code changes before they are put out for public comment.

State Government

HB 0559	Extends the sunset for temporary out-of-state permits and temporary reinstatement permits to May 11, 2024 if an application for licensure is submitted to Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation no later than May 11, 2023.
HB 0779	Regulates how a pawnbroker, pawnshop or similar business must operate and conduct themselves within the state. Allows the Secretary of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulations to oversee the industry and to regulate the conduct of members of the pawn industry.
HB 1199	Establishes October as Italian Heritage month.
HB 1358	Extends multiple sunsets set to expire over the next six months.
HB 1367	Removes provisions that a licensed funeral director or embalmer is not exempt from continuing education requirements if they haven't practiced for 40 years prior to Jan. 1, 2016.



HB 1496	Provides the master record file of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice for each person committed must contain the ethnic and racial background and the person's last known complete street address prior to incarceration or legal residence.
HB 1558	Removes language requiring the Department of Public Health to charge a fee to any facility or program applying to the Medicaid or Medicare program.
HB 1612	Requires the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to collect and annually publish a report on the racial and ethnic makeup of applicant who were denied licensure.
HB 2145	Directs the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to refuse to issue or renew, or suspend the professional license of any individual or entity which has been found by the Workers' Compensation Commission or Department of Insurance to not have obtained workers' compensation insurance coverage.
HB 2188	Transfers the authority of the Medicaid Fraud Unit from under the control of the Illinois State Police to the Illinois Attorney General with corresponding changes to references under various acts.
HB 2224	Makes various changes to synchronize Illinois' unclaimed property law. Increases the age after which a period of abandonment beings for retirement accounts from 72 to 73 years old and provides for enhanced outreach by the state treasurer.
HB 2258	Removes the requirement to adhere to the federal mandates for the flammability of upholstered furniture.
HB 2266	Establishes that the Personnel Review Board to be paid \$100 for each day they are engaged in the business of the Board.
HB 2289	Combines multiple versions of sections amended by more than one Public Act, renumbers sections of various acts to eliminate duplication, corrects obsolete cross-references and technical errors and makes stylistic changes.
HB 2297	Adds state employees who identify as non-binary or gender non-conforming to the list of women, minorities and person with physical disabilities in regards to agencies tracking this information to help guide efforts to achieve a more diversified state work force.
HB 2308	Removes the requirement that a person register as a "student-in-training" to perform limited-scope diagnostic radiography procedures while seeking accreditation.
HB 2394	Addresses the backlog of licenses and registrations administered by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Creates an expedited, competitive bid procurement process for software which will finally modernize the way in which DFPR handles licensing.
HB 2621	Allows the Department of Public Health to create a pilot program to enter into an agreement with a municipality that employs a state certified plumbing inspector to do inspections on behalf of the department and submit appropriate documentation.
HB 2788	Grants the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency discretion in granting an extension for an individual to sign and return a Compliance Commitment Agreement.
HB 2789	Adopts the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights that indicates that materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval and prohibit the practice of banning specific books or resources.
HB 2878	Makes a number of changes to streamline the procurement process and address various agency and vendor concerns.
HB 2901	Changes the Environmental Protection Act by streamlining the application and review process for the Illinois EPA's services under the Site Remediation Program by creating a flat upfront fee of \$2,500 as the initial partial payment.



HB 2948	Creates a licensing liaison for international applicants within the Division of Professional Regulation in the Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulation. Outlines the duties and responsibilities of this new Office of the Ombudsman for International Applicants.
HB 3060	Adopts s regulating at-home continuing care providers, including issuing registration and renewal certificates.
HB 3095	Creates a framework for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to approve the use of limestone residual for additional means beyond what is currently permitted.
HB 3155	Establishes a new fee structure for the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program. Clarifies employer exemptions and the role the Treasurer's Office staff has in providing administrative support to the program and the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board.
HB 3277	Exempts incidental sales of finished compost from needing to be applied to agronomic rates when determining whether a person needs a permit to conduct a landscape waste composting operation at certain specified sites.
HB 3345	Requires the Secretary of State to provide individuals committed to Illinois Department of Corrections or Department of Juvenile Justice with an ID upon receipt of the individual's birth certificate, social security card, photograph, proof of residency upon discharge, and application which must be submitted 60 days prior to the individual's release.
HB 3405	Establishes that the director of the Illinois State Police will serve as chair of the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Committee.
HB 3456	Permits the Director of the Department of Natural Resources to sell the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta using a competitive sealed proposal process.
HB 3563	Establishes the Generative AI and Natural Language Processing Task Force.
HB 3641	State Government omnibus package for the 2023 veto session. Includes changes to ABLE accounts and the Crime Victims Compensation Act.
HB 3702	Changes the performance metric reporting requirements for the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Training Program. Requires the Illinois Office of Equity to support program administrators in collecting and disaggregating performance metrics according to race, ethnicity, gender, age, and location.
HB 3722	Provides that the Minority Leader of the Senate and House shall each appoint one member to the Advisory Committee that monitors Residential Sound Insulation Programs, expanding the size of the committee by two members.
HB 3744	Establishes that the Department of Central Management will annually report to the General Assembly information about the workforce in each State agency starting on Jan. 1, 2025.
HB 3751	Permits an individual who is legally permitted to work in the United States to apply to become a police officer so long as they are permitted to obtain, carry, or purchase or otherwise possess a firearm, by the federal government.
HB 3768	Adds people who are Middle Eastern or North African to the uniform list of racial classifications used by State agencies to compile statistical data.
HB 3882	Provides standard ID cards to individuals who would currently receive a non-compliant ID card. Prohibits the Secretary of State from releasing restricted personal information or documents to an immigration agent unless necessary to comply with a court order, judicial warrant, or subpoena.
SB 0058	Requires state agencies to track small purchases of single use plastic.
SB 0325	Limits the release of documents or records in possession of the Public Access Counselor, in order to address inconsistencies between the Freedom of Information Act process and Open Meetings Act.
SB 0385	Allows the state to sell property to the city of Venice in Madison County. Clarifies local ordinance enforcement on inoperable state facilities conveyed to a unit of local government.



SB 0508	Prevents an employer from imposing work authorization verification requirements that are greater than those required by federal law and bars employers from taking any adverse action against the employee based on receipt of the notification. Clarifies E-Verify procedures.
SB 0850	Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide financial assistance or grants to privately-owned grocery stores and groceries stores owned by a unit of local government, school district, or community college district, located in or to be located in a food desert.
SB 0856	Allows a Department of Children and Family Services investigator to request a driver's license or state ID with the investigator's office or work address listed as their place of residence instead of the investigator's home address.
SB 0950	Transfers property from the Illinois Department of Corrections to the City of Chester. The property must be used for a public purpose.
SB 1250	Requires the Office of the State Fire Marshall to create a certification process for individuals who wish to engage in business as a fire resistant material applicator.
SB 1291	Requires that if a state agency fails to provide a debtor with notice and a demand for payment of debt with five years of when the agency's right to collect first accrued, then the agency is barred from attempting to collect from the debtor.
SB 1543	Creates the Statewide PTSD Mental Health Coordinator. The Statewide PTSD Mental Health Coordinator shall be responsible for implementing a program of mental health support and education for law enforcement officers.
SB 1560	Require every individual that is licensed as a timber buyer to file with the Department of Natural Resources a list of all agents and a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000, rather than a performance bond.
SB 1611	Creates the Firefighter Training Leave of Absence Act, which provides that a state employee must be granted leave from his or her state employment for firefighter training.
SB 1623	Creates the Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force to develop a plan to connect new and local projects that uncover the history of the Underground Railroad in Illinois.
SB 1670	Changes the Illinois Freedom of Information Act to exempt from its coverage all protected health information that may be contained within or extracted from any record held by a covered entity, including information compiled in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.
SB 1769	Requires all passenger vehicles, except for law enforcement vehicles, purchased or leased by any unit of state government to be a zero-emission vehicle or converted zero-emission vehicle, starting on or before Jan. 1, 2030.
SB 1790	Changes several provisions in statute related to the operation of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.
SB 1818	Creates the Illinois Flag Commission for the purpose of developing new state flag designs and making recommendations to the General Assembly concerning whether the current state flag ought to be replaced with a redesigned state flag.
SB 1875	Modernizes the administrative rulemaking process.
SB 1935	Adds qualified veterans-owned small businesses and minority-owned business to the list of entities that may receive preference in the deposition of transferable property.
SB 2037	Creates the Community Land Trust Task Force to make specific recommendations of legislative and budgetary action that supports the mission of community land trusts to foster affordable housing and home ownership.



SB 2057	Establishes provisions on submitting a valid address and email address to the Department of Finance and Professional Regulation when applying for renewal of registration and license.
SB 2059	Establishes provisions on the practice of telehealth for veterinary purposes.
SB 2146	Increases the cemetery licensure application fee to \$100. Requires a cremation authority to pay a \$5 fee for each cremation. Establishes refrigeration provisions for a crematory authority that is unable to cremate unembalmed human remains within 24 hours.
SB 2192	Requires state agencies to provide a written explanation to contractors who fail to receive a contract with the same agency, for the same services, after four consecutive bids, and requires responses for all four bids.
SB 2226	Provides that a Conservation Opportunity Area designation by the Department of Natural Resources cannot be used by the Illinois Power Agency as a basis to deny or withhold any regulatory action, permitting, licensure, or funding.
SB 2228	Allows the implementation of modern processes and best practices in the state's hiring process.
SB 2247	Renames the ABLE Account Program to the Senator Scott Bennett ABLE Program and allows entities to contribute to ABLE accounts.
SB 2379	Extends the deadline for the Task Force on Counsel in Immigration Proceedings to submit its findings and recommendations from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024.
SB 2406	Makes multiple changes to the Illinois Office of the Comptroller. Removes requirements to automatically dissolve funds that have been inactive 18 months. Increases the state credit card limit to \$1,000. Allows the Comptroller to issue checks under \$5.
SB 2419	Allows the State Librarian to negotiate with publishers of e-books and e-audiobooks on behalf of libraries to enable them to acquire necessary licenses to allow the use of these resources.

Transportation

HB 0042	Expands access to hospice care by allowing hospice programs that own or operate separate hospice residences to serve up to 24 people per location, rather than the current 20 people per location cap.
HB 1342	Provides that the CTA, RTA, Metra, PACE, and all other local mass transit districts have the ability to adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations regarding the suspension of rider privileges or fare media.
HB 1581	Allows the Secretary of State to issue United States Submarine Veteran license plates to residents of the state who served in the United States Navy as a submariner.
HB 2068	Allows full time employees in Cook County to use pre-tax dollars, via payroll deduction, for the purchase of a transit pass.
HB 2091	Provides that, upon completion of a study regarding age-related changes which may affect safe driving, the Secretary of State may only raise, instead of raise or lower, the minimum age for required behind the wheel driving tests.
HB 2131	Creates the Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force to report a detailed analysis of existing practices around speed limits, reduction of speed limits, steps to eliminate vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle fatalities on roads, and the impact of local bicycle and pedestrian plans.
HB 2389	Clarifies that no vehicle can be stopped or searched solely on the basis of any objects placed or suspended between the driver and the front windshield that may obstruct the drivers view.
HB 2431	Provides that a person may not operate a motor vehicle while using an electronic communication device to participate in any video conference or access any social media site.



HB 2464	Defines a pedestrian hybrid beacon as “a traffic-control device used to warn and control traffic, at locations that are otherwise without a traffic-control signal, to assist pedestrians in crossing a street or highway at a marked crosswalk.”
HB 2582	Removes the requirement that a motorcyclist under the age of 18 must complete a motorcycle driver’s examination with the Secretary of State.
HB 2584	Provides that the Department of Natural Resources may issue a Lyme disease research decal for universal special license plates. Creates the Tick Research, Education, and Evaluation Fund and provides that all money in the fund must be paid as grants to the Illinois Lyme Association.
HB 3126	Provides that salvage vehicle certificate of title may be assigned to only one person. Also removes the ability for dealers, recyclers, rebuilders, scrap processors, or out-of-state salvage buyers to reassign or transfer a salvage vehicle certificate.
HB 3149	Restricts commercial drivers who violated federal drug and alcohol regulations from engaging in safety-sensitive functions and requires a commercial driver to stop at rail crossings and extends the validity of a commercial learner’s permit to one year.
HB 3406	Changes the definition of “authorized emergency vehicle” and “police vehicle” under the Illinois Vehicle Code to include emergency vehicles of municipal departments or public service corporations as designated by state or county officials.
HB 3436	Allows the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to issue a Thank a Line Worker Decal for universal special license plates. Creates the Thank a Line Worker Scholarship Fund to support scholarships for students studying electrical distribution at a State college or university.
HB 3578	Allows the Secretary of State to issue a set of specialized member license plates displaying the International Symbol of Access to a current or retired General Assembly member or retired Congress member who has a disability.
HB 3747	Provides that a business or insurance may submit their Illinois business address or contracted salvage disposal vendor in lieu of an Illinois residence on their applications for vehicle titles.
HB 3876	Provides that a resident of Illinois who purchases a vehicle in another state and transports that vehicle to Illinois must apply for the registration and certificate of title within 45 days after purchase of the vehicle.
SB 0063	Updates the permit process for new highway signs.
SB 0273	Requires the Illinois Department of Transportation to issue a permit to a mobile safety testing company upon payment of a \$50 fee and the filing of an application, accompanied by proof of the experience, training, and ability of the company.
SB 0849	Reenacts the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation.
SB 0895	Provides that a county, road district, or municipality must not alter or maintain a highway, road, street, alley, bridge, or sidewalk that it outside of its boundaries unless the service is provided as relief following an event which has been declared a disaster by state or local officials.
SB 0896	Provides that a motorcycle may be equipped with two forward facing driving lights and electric turn signals and/or driving lights that, when signaling, must emit a white or amber light.
SB 1212	Provides that a DUI memorial marker or a fatal crash memorial marker shall be maintained for at least four years.
SB 1251	Provides that the operator of an ambulance or rescue vehicle should have documented training in the operation of that vehicle, including training on the proper use of warning lights and sirens and situations where those lights and sirens are warranted.



SB 1438	Establishes the Illinois Dig Once Act, which requires the Department of Transportation, Commerce Commission, Toll Highway Authority and Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish rules to reduce the number of road excavations for the installation of broadband and utility facilities.
SB 1460	Allows common interest community association boards to contract with the highway commissioners of local road districts to furnish materials related to the maintenance or repair of roads, assuming the association comprises 50% of the population or greater of the relevant township or road district.
SB 1526	Provides that the Department of Transportation must develop a mobile application that provides motorists with updates on various road conditions.
SB 1653	Creates the low-clearance early warning device pilot program which requires the Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program to erect early warning devices on or near bridges or viaducts.
SB 1710	Provides that authorities with jurisdiction over publicly owned bike trails must erect permanent regulatory or warning signage alerting pedestrians and cyclists of vehicle crossings.
SB 1892	Provides that CTA, PACE, and Metra benefits for people with disabilities will automatically renew unless discontinued by the person with a disability.
SB 1896	Provides that a licensed vehicle dealer is authorized to conduct sales activities via the internet, including the collection of electronic signatures. The sale must be requested by the customer in writing and the dealer must verify the identity of the customer at the time of delivery.
SB 2014	Requires the Department of Transportation to develop a policy which ensures the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on roadways in Illinois.
SB 2028	Requires that new best practices related to stranded to stranded motorists be added to the Illinois Rules of the Road publication, including use of hazard lights, when to remain in a stranded vehicle and emergency numbers to call for assistance.
SB 2278	Provides that an agency or local government cannot be required to design, construct, widen, or otherwise alter a non-designated highway to accommodate trucks between 55 and 65 feet in length.
SB 2325	Allows a soil and water conservation district to make a request of the Illinois Department of Transportation to install a sign related to the district.

Veterans

SB 1705	Requires members of the armed forces making sales tax exempt purchases to present valid military identification and complete a form prescribed by the Department of Revenue documenting the transaction.
SB 1866	Waives continuing education requirements for military service members seeking to reactivate their real estate licenses and allows individuals to use Taxpayer ID Number in place of social security.

Veterans Affairs

HB 0925	Mandates that a veteran service organization should be considered state chartered when the organization meets all of the requirements listed in the newly-formed Veteran Service Organizations State Charter Act and upon approved by the Attorney General.
HB 1581	Allows the Secretary of State to issue United States Submarine Veteran license plates to residents of the state who served in the United States Navy as a submariner.



HB 2500	Requires animal shelters and animal control facilities to waive the adoption fee for military veterans in Illinois and allows shelters and facilities to limit the number of pets adopted.
HB 2856	Removes the option to include a deceased military member's veteran status from the Vital Records Act. Requires the records to indicate whether the veteran's death was contributed to by a service-related injury.
HB 3103	Ensures that Illinois National Guard and reserve military service members who are the survivor of non-consensual sexual conduct and have received a military protective order are also protected under the state's civil no contact and stalking no contact orders.
HB 3295	Provides a waiver of all application fees and exam fees for active service members and their spouses seeking a professional/occupational license.
SB 1072	Designates the Honor and Remember as a Military Flag and a symbol of the state's commitment to honoring and remembering deceased veterans who lost their lives while or as a result of their service.
SB 1376	Requires agencies that are responsible for referring homeless families with school age children to shelters to take into consideration the potential "military status" of any member of that family to determine the eligibility for State and federal benefits and support services.
SB 1595	Replaces references to active duty or retired service members with references to active-duty service members or veterans in provisions concerning the search of death certificates for service members.
SB 1935	Adds qualified veterans-owned small businesses and minority-owned business to the list of entities that may receive preference in the deposition of transferable property.
SB 2005	Requires housing authorities to develop and implement policies granting housing preferences to veterans who are homeless.

Women's Issues

HB 1565	Provides that any plan amended, issued, delivered or renewed after Jan. 1, 2025 and coverage for prescription drugs must provide coverage for vaginal estrogen without imposing a deductible, coinsurance, co-payment or any other cost-sharing requirement.
SB 1344	Ensures that insurance providers cover medication abortion, hormonal therapy and HIV medication.
SB 1561	Codifies no-cost coverage mandate for preventative care and screenings. Requires coverage for male condoms when purchased by women for pregnancy prevention. Establishes a 90-day post-graduate clinical training program.
SB 1909	Prevents crisis pregnancy centers from using deceptive practices that interfere with an individual's healthcare decisions.