SENATE IN REVIEW
A LOOK AT THE 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ILLINOIS SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

John J. Cullerton, Senate President
Communications Department • www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com
Senators,

This has been one of the Communications Department’s most active sessions ever. From traveling subcommittees and numerous local job fairs, to telephone-town halls and the busiest video production schedule to date, we’ve strived to tell your stories, distribute vital information and further the leadership role of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Unfortunately, we had to go to press before the session was over so a few accomplishments and issues may not be reflected. In the days ahead, we will put together a final update and send you a digital edition.

John Patterson
Communications Director

Table of contents

Legislative accomplishments ............................................................... 5
  Senate takes additional vote on Marriage Equality ........................................... 5
  Pension Reform ........................................................................................................... 5
  Constitutional Amendments ......................................................................................... 6
  Equal Rights ..................................................................................................................... 6
  Minimum Wage ............................................................................................................... 7

Spreading the news ........................................................................ 11

Featured stories ................................................................................ 19
  Senate approves Manar’s plan to reform school funding system ... 19
  Top 14 New Illinois Laws for 2014 ........................................................................ 20-21
  Medical Cannabis extension to children with seizures passes Senate .............. 22
  Noland pushes for rape victims’ right to prosecute ........................................ 23
  Lightford revives minimum wage debate in Illinois Senate ................................ 24
  Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights passes Senate ......................................................... 25
  ‘Revenge Porn’ passes the Senate ........................................................................ 26

Your accomplishments ........................................................................ 29
  Senate President John J. Cullerton ........................................................................... 29
  Majority Leader James Clayborne .......................................................................... 30
  President Pro Tempore Don Harmon .................................................................... 31
  Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford ............................................. 32
  Assistant Majority Leader Terry Link ................................................................. 33
  Assistant Majority Leader Antonio Munoz ........................................................... 34
  Assistant Majority Leader John Sullivan ............................................................ 35
  Assistant Majority Leader Donne Trotter ............................................................ 36
  Majority Caucus Chair Ira I. Silverstein ............................................................... 37
  Majority Caucus Whip William Haine ................................................................. 38
  Majority Caucus Whip Mattie Hunter ................................................................. 39
  Majority Caucus Whip Iris Y. Martinez ............................................................... 40
Legislative accomplishments by issue

Agriculture and Natural Resources .......................................................... 71
Higher Education .................................................................................... 82
Budget .................................................................................................... 71
Housing .................................................................................................. 82
Business and Economic Development ..................................................... 72
Human Services ....................................................................................... 83
Civil Law .................................................................................................. 73
Labor ....................................................................................................... 84
Consumer Protection .............................................................................. 73-74
Local Government .................................................................................. 84-85
Criminal Law .......................................................................................... 74-75
Pensions .................................................................................................. 86
Education ................................................................................................. 76-77
Public Safety ........................................................................................... 86
Environment and Energy ........................................................................ 77-78
Revenue and Taxes ............................................................................... 87
Ethics ...................................................................................................... 78
Seniors .................................................................................................... 87
Family ..................................................................................................... 79
State Government .................................................................................... 88-89
Gaming ................................................................................................... 79
Transportation .......................................................................................... 90-91
Health ...................................................................................................... 80-81
Veterans .................................................................................................. 91

ISDC Communications Staff .................................................................. 92

Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant ............................................................ 41
Senator Daniel Biss ................................................................................ 42
Senator Melinda Bush ........................................................................... 43
Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins ................................................................. 44
Senator Tom Cullerton .......................................................................... 45
Senator Bill Cunningham ........................................................................ 46
Senator William Delgado ....................................................................... 47
Senator Gary Forby ............................................................................... 48
Senator Michael Frerichs ..................................................................... 49
Senator Napoleon Harris III ................................................................. 50
Senator Michael E. Hastings ................................................................. 51
Senator Linda Holmes ........................................................................... 52
Senator Toi Hutchinson ......................................................................... 53
Senator Mike Jacobs ............................................................................... 54
Senator Emil Jones III .......................................................................... 55
Senator David Koehler ........................................................................ 56
Senator Dan Kotowski .......................................................................... 57
Senator Steven Landek .......................................................................... 58
Senator Andy Manar ............................................................................ 59
Senator Pat McGuire ............................................................................ 60
Senator Julie Morrison .......................................................................... 61
Senator John Mulroe ............................................................................ 62
Senator Michael Noland ....................................................................... 63
Senator Kwame Raoul .......................................................................... 64
Senator Martin Sandoval ...................................................................... 65
Senator Steve Stadelman ...................................................................... 66
Senator Heather Steans ........................................................................ 67
Senator Patricia Van Pelt ...................................................................... 68

Senator Bill Cunningham ........................................................................ 46
Senator Tom Cullerton .......................................................................... 45
Senator Michael E. Hastings ................................................................. 50
Senator Linda Holmes ........................................................................... 52
Senator Toi Hutchinson ......................................................................... 53
Senator Mike Jacobs ............................................................................... 54
Senator Emil Jones III .......................................................................... 55
Senator David Koehler ........................................................................ 56
Senator Dan Kotowski .......................................................................... 57
Senator Steven Landek .......................................................................... 58
Senator Andy Manar ............................................................................ 59
Senator Pat McGuire ............................................................................ 60
Senator Julie Morrison .......................................................................... 61
Senator John Mulroe ............................................................................ 62
Senator Michael Noland ....................................................................... 63
Senator Kwame Raoul .......................................................................... 64
Senator Martin Sandoval ...................................................................... 65
Senator Steve Stadelman ...................................................................... 66
Senator Heather Steans ........................................................................ 67
Senator Patricia Van Pelt ...................................................................... 68

Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant ............................................................ 41
Senator Daniel Biss ................................................................................ 42
Senator Melinda Bush ........................................................................... 43
Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins ................................................................. 44
Senator Tom Cullerton .......................................................................... 45
Senator Bill Cunningham ........................................................................ 46
Senator William Delgado ....................................................................... 47
Senator Gary Forby ............................................................................... 48
Senator Michael Frerichs ..................................................................... 49
Senator Napoleon Harris III ................................................................. 50
Senator Michael E. Hastings ................................................................. 51
Senator Linda Holmes ........................................................................... 52
Senator Toi Hutchinson ......................................................................... 53
Senator Mike Jacobs ............................................................................... 54
Senator Emil Jones III .......................................................................... 55
Senator David Koehler ........................................................................ 56
Senator Dan Kotowski .......................................................................... 57
Senator Steven Landek .......................................................................... 58
Senator Andy Manar ............................................................................ 59
Senator Pat McGuire ............................................................................ 60
Senator Julie Morrison .......................................................................... 61
Senator John Mulroe ............................................................................ 62
Senator Michael Noland ....................................................................... 63
Senator Kwame Raoul .......................................................................... 64
Senator Martin Sandoval ...................................................................... 65
Senator Steve Stadelman ...................................................................... 66
Senator Heather Steans ........................................................................ 67
Senator Patricia Van Pelt ...................................................................... 68

Legislative accomplishments by issue ........................................................ 71
Agriculture and Natural Resources .......................................................... 71
Higher Education .................................................................................... 82
Budget .................................................................................................... 71
Housing .................................................................................................. 82
Business and Economic Development ..................................................... 72
Human Services ....................................................................................... 83
Civil Law .................................................................................................. 73
Labor ....................................................................................................... 84
Consumer Protection .............................................................................. 73-74
Local Government .................................................................................. 84-85
Criminal Law .......................................................................................... 74-75
Pensions .................................................................................................. 86
Education ................................................................................................. 76-77
Public Safety ........................................................................................... 86
Environment and Energy ........................................................................ 77-78
Revenue and Taxes ............................................................................... 87
Ethics ...................................................................................................... 78
Seniors .................................................................................................... 87
Family ..................................................................................................... 79
State Government .................................................................................... 88-89
Gaming ................................................................................................... 79
Transportation .......................................................................................... 90-91
Health ...................................................................................................... 80-81
Veterans .................................................................................................. 91

ISDC Communications Staff .................................................................. 92

Spring 2014 session overview | Illinois Senate Democrats | 98th General Assembly

Legislative accomplishments by issue ........................................................ 71
Agriculture and Natural Resources .......................................................... 71
Higher Education .................................................................................... 82
Budget .................................................................................................... 71
Housing .................................................................................................. 82
Business and Economic Development ..................................................... 72
Human Services ....................................................................................... 83
Civil Law .................................................................................................. 73
Labor ....................................................................................................... 84
Consumer Protection .............................................................................. 73-74
Local Government .................................................................................. 84-85
Criminal Law .......................................................................................... 74-75
Pensions .................................................................................................. 86
Education ................................................................................................. 76-77
Public Safety ........................................................................................... 86
Environment and Energy ........................................................................ 77-78
Revenue and Taxes ............................................................................... 87
Ethics ...................................................................................................... 78
Seniors .................................................................................................... 87
Family ..................................................................................................... 79
State Government .................................................................................... 88-89
Gaming ................................................................................................... 79
Transportation .......................................................................................... 90-91
Health ...................................................................................................... 80-81
Veterans .................................................................................................. 91

ISDC Communications Staff .................................................................. 92
Legislative accomplishments

Senate takes additional vote on Marriage Equality

Illinois became the sixteenth state to extend marriage benefits to same-sex couples after legislation approving Marriage Equality passed the General Assembly in November and was signed by the governor.

The Senate took the historic first step last February by passing Marriage Equality legislation on Valentine’s Day. The legislation was held in the House until November, where it passed and was sent back to the Senate for a second reaffirming vote.

In between the initial Senate vote in February and the final vote in November, the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prohibited same-sex married couples from receiving federal benefits, was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court. This decision put additional pressure on the House to pass the legislation and allow same-sex couples to be afforded federal benefits and rights.

While the Marriage Equality legislation passed and signed by the governor stipulated marriages could begin on June 1, a federal judge ruled in February that same-sex couples could begin receiving marriage licenses immediately in Cook County. Attorney General Lisa Madigan issued a decision shortly after the court decision allowing counties to begin issuing permits outside of Cook County if they so choose.

To date, more than 15 Illinois counties have issued marriage certificates to same-sex couples. All 102 Illinois counties will begin issuing licenses on June 1.

Pension Reform

In December 2013, the General Assembly passed a pension reform measure to save Illinois more than $140 billion during the next 30 years and fully fund the five pension systems by 2044.

“If this vote were easy, we would have taken it long ago,” said Senator Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago), chair of the pension reform conference committee. “But there is no avoiding this invitation to lead – to stop, pick up the can we’ve kicked down this road for so long and fulfill our own promises to this and future generations.”

“The legislative process involves compromise,” said Senate President John Cullerton of the reform’s passage. “When it comes to pension reform, a compromise was found at the intersection of policy and political feasibility. The General Assembly stumbled at this intersection for years. Now it’s time to move forward and allow the courts to rule on the constitutionality of our approach.”

Pension proposal explainer:

- **Benefit changes.** Increases retirement age, delays cost-of-living increases for employees hired before January 2011 and ties cost-of-living increases to years of service and the rate of inflation.
- **Employee considerations.** Reduces employee contributions by one percentage point; implements a judicially enforceable funding guarantee; and establishes a fast track toward full pension funding by requiring the state to contribute 10 percent of pension savings beginning in 2015, $365 million into pension accounts beginning in 2019, and $1 billion annually thereafter.
- **Other provisions.** Caps maximum pension-eligible salary at $109,971; creates voluntary, limited 401K-style option; lowers assumed rate of return and eliminates pension abuses by non-governmental organizations (such as unions, lobbying groups and non-profits).
Constitutional Amendments

Legislators voted to submit two constitutional amendments to Illinois voters this year.

One, known as Marsy’s Law, would strengthen the Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights, already a part of the Illinois Constitution. Sen. Heather Steans sponsored the proposition, which, if approved in November, would allow victims and their family members to petition a court to enforce their rights.

Marsy’s Law would also establish that judges must take into consideration the safety of the victim and the victim’s family members when setting bail or determining whether to release a defendant.

Sen. Kwame Raoul succeeded in putting a second amendment on the ballot, this one protecting the rights of voters and those seeking to register to vote.

Raoul presented the non-discrimination amendment as a statement of Illinois’ basic values and the importance of the right to vote, but also as a defense against the voter ID laws that in other states have disproportionately discouraged minorities, college students, senior citizens and rural residents from doing their civic duty.

The proposed constitutional amendment states that no one may be denied the right to register to vote or cast a ballot based on race, color, language, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or income.

Equal Rights

The Senate took a historic stand for women’s rights this year, approving a resolution to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Illinois could become the 36th state to ratify the ERA, putting the amendment only two states short of adoption.

First introduced in 1923 on the 75th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, a constitutional amendment affirming the legal equality of men and women was finally approved by Congress in 1972. Generations of women have struggled to establish as one of America’s core values that discrimination based on gender is wrong.

Far from being a merely symbolic move, adoption of the ERA would tangibly affect women’s lives today, from equality in the workplace to equal health care access to fair treatment on college campuses. A woman today, on average, still earns only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns, and when women seek enforcement of their rights, they often face uphill court battles.

“It’s hard to believe that in 2014, we still have to debate the appropriateness of declaring the legal equality of men and women,” said sponsoring Sen. Heather Steans. “There’s no time like the present to make history and right this wrong.”

Minimum Wage

In an ongoing effort to ensure working men and women can live and provide for their families off their wages, Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford led the Senate’s attempts to raise the state’s minimum wage.

The culmination of Lightford’s work will be a question on the November ballot asking the public to weigh in on whether the minimum wage should be increased. Lightford, who has long supported and sponsored efforts to increase the minimum wage, hopes that the results will help shape debate later this year on this crucial economic policy.

Specifically, Lightford is trying to win approval of legislation to raise the minimum wage to more than $10 from the current rate of $8.25. Supporters point out that full-time employees currently making the minimum remain eligible for government assistance programs for food, housing and medical care.

Supporters of raising the wage believe that making the minimum wage a living wage will have a net positive effect on the state. Allowing workers to become self-sufficient boosts their pride – and their spending, which is good for the economy. It also reduces the cost to the government for public aid programs designed to help the very poor live from day to day.

The minimum wage debate is one of several the public will get to weigh in on.

Senate Democrats also advanced legislation to gauge public sentiment on creating a new tax bracket for people making more than $1 million a year. The revenue from this new bracket would be used to support public education.

And with the issue of contraceptive coverage by employers increasingly the subject of litigation, Senate Democrats sponsored legislation to similarly allow the public to express its views on whether employers who provide prescription coverage should also cover contraceptive drugs.

Contrary to common perception, most people paid the minimum wage are not teenagers.

- 84.2 percent of minimum wage earners are adults older than the age of 20.

- Although minorities are disproportionately minimum wage earners at 43 percent, the majority of people trying to survive on the minimum wage are white.
Spreading the news

With the dawn of 2014, the Communications Department embarked on an effort to solidify our continued online success while actively looking for communication opportunities to keep members linked with their districts.

On the technology front, the department expanded its web presence and now manages 45 websites on behalf of the overall caucus and individual members. The caucus site, www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com, experienced another great year of readership, generating over 331,563 page views during session. Since the site’s launch in 2010, we have received more than 1.5 million page visits.

Digging in to the numbers, www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com continues to establish itself as a reliable information source. Direct visitors to the site increased by 32 percent. This means fewer people are using search engines to find us and are instead bookmarking the site for return visits.

At the same time, new visitors flocked to the site this year - 87 percent of those who came to the caucus site this year were new. This means the issues you are pressing and the way in which we are presenting them are reaching new and diverse audiences while at the same time establishing an increasingly loyal base of viewers.

With the emergence of a 40-member caucus, the department sought to integrate all members into their own individual websites with great success. The result? We now own and manage individual websites for 38 members of the Senate Democratic Caucus. As part of this new focus and commitment on member websites, we’ve made it a priority to be aggressive in updating content to keep the sites fresh. We’ve customized most member sites and hope to add additional creativity in the near future.

Our website posts increasingly feature multimedia productions. By utilizing our growing audio, video and photography capabilities we’ve produced popular slideshows, video interviews and actual audio from key Senate debates that have spurred web visits and media use. So far this year, we posted 25 items with audio clips and produced an astounding 153 videos.

The VOICE email program, now fully incorporated in 39 member offices, continues to open new opportunities for streamlined communication. So far this year, more than 1.8 million e-newsletters have been sent through the system, keeping Senators and their constituents linked on key issues and events both at the Capitol and locally. That’s more than double the number distributed last year.

Thousands of constituent surveys were circulated through members’ VOICE email accounts producing more than 13,000 responses on pending policy questions. In addition, nearly 60,000 constituents received targeted communications keeping them informed on issues in which they’d expressed interest.

All told, we’ve used VOICE emails to distribute and track more than 2 million individual communications so far this year. As a result, we are increasingly able to track items of interest, new issues and constituent concerns and respond to them.

After a successful test run of the tele-town hall program, we fully incorporated them into the 2014 constituent outreach strategy. This year, we completed nine town halls for members in all areas of the state, calling nearly 54,000 constituents for each event. In total, we reached nearly 450,000 people around the state, double the number of constituents from 2013.

Each town hall included at least 3,500 constituents who could listen and ask live questions. The most popular topics were the income tax extension and education funding reform. Senators were able to communicate their positions on these issues and other topics during the hour-long calls.

Next year, we hope to continue to expand the use of tele-town halls and broaden our marketing efforts in the districts to increase audience size and participation. If you are interested, contact Constituent Services. We would like to do as many in the future as funding allows.
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com by the numbers

*Numbers exclude all computers and mobile devices in the Capitol complex*

- 335,840: Total web hits from June 1, 2013 to May 29, 2014
- 112,254: Total web hits from January 1, 2013 to May 29, 2014
- 19,617: Highest hit day December 18, 2013
- 780,170: Combined web hits in 2013 and 2014

Twitter
The most popular caucus Twitter feed at the Illinois State Capitol made great strides this session, constantly updating the Twitter world with critical news. We are still one of the top two most-followed state legislative caucuses in the nation, with an impressive 8,225 followers. Mentions, retweets and conversations steadily increased during session.

Social media
Our Creative Services staff increased the frequency of our social media presence this year in the top three social media venues: YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. We initiated Twitter and Facebook accounts for more caucus members, raising our new visitor count to an all-time high. Traffic to our caucus and member websites and Facebook pages grew with cross-promotion, and both drove more traffic to our YouTube videos.

Facebook
In a year when Facebook’s popularity skyrocketed as the company went public with its initial public stock market offering, our staff ensured the Senate Dems were part of that high profile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IL Sen Dems Caucus: 6,805 fans, plus 24 staff-maintained member pages.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Texas House Caucus ... 13,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Virginia Senate GOP ... 10,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mich. Senate Dems ... 8,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ILSenDems Caucus ... 6,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. IL House GOP ... 3,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. IL Senate GOP ... 1,994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top mobile devices accessing www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com
- Apple iPhone
- Apple iPad
- Samsung Galaxy S3
- Motorola Droid Razr 4G
- Samsung Galaxy S4

Top 5 videos from this session:
- Senator Manar discusses
- Senator Biss discusses his
- Senator Sandoval holds press
- Women's History Month 2014
- Police Memorial 2014

YouTube
- Overall views since the channel was created: 35,414
- Views this session: 11,929
- Minutes of video viewed: Over 17,000

Top 5 videos from this session:
- Police Memorial 2014
- Women’s History Month 2014
- Senator Sandoval holds press conference on ridesharing
- Senator Biss discusses his legislative agenda
- Senator Manar discusses education funding reform

Slideshare
Slideshare is the world’s largest community for sharing presentations and other professional content. Using this platform to turn stories into a more multi-media experience, the caucus received 1.2 million hits on their 14 for 14: Top 14 New Illinois Laws for 2014 post. This post also generated the highest amount of traffic to date with 19,617 hits in one day.

LinkedIn
We also added a page for the caucus on LinkedIn, the well-known business contact website. We believe in maximizing our content and this is one more platform to capture more contacts. We have 261 followers in only six months.

IL political media orgs
| CapitoFax .................... 9,756 |
| ILSenDems ........ ........ 8,225 |
| GregHinz ................. 7,735 |
| Ward_Room ............... 6,419 |
| SouthtownStar .......... 6,276 |
| ChiTribCloutSt ... 6,250 |
| Capitoilbureau ........ 6,243 |
| Ilwatchdog .......... 6,198 |
| Trib_ed_board .......... 6,059 |
| PoliticalEditor .......... 5,759 |
| WBEZpolitics .............. 5,353 |
| SJRthedome ................. 5,282 |
| DHStatehouse .............. 4,297 |
| Blueroomstream ............ 1,447 |
| Early&Often ............... 1,411 |

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

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

Since October, VOICE has logged more than 275,091 emails, web forms, phone calls and letters. Currently, there are 39 legislative assistants and 27 district offices using VOICE.

By the numbers...

This year VOICE has...

- sent out general e-newsletters to 1,859,596 constituents
- sent out 53,606 interactive constituent survey emails
- sent out 58,927 e-blast emails to targeted constituent groups
- sent out 53,606 interactive constituent survey emails
- sent out 32,719 emails and 5,651 letters to constituents

Here is a snapshot of incoming constituent correspondence:

**Top 10 issues for this session:**
- Pension Reform (SB1) — Oppose: 22,164
- HB 5689 (E-Cigarette Packaging) — Oppose: 14,933
- Education: 4,861
- Progressive Income Tax — Support: 3,098
- Healthcare: 2,655
- HB4075 (Ride Sharing) — Oppose: 2,556
- Minimum Wage Increase — Oppose: 2,175
- GMO Labeling — Support: 1,754
- Energy: 1,729
- Income Tax Extension — Support: 1,713

**Tele-Town Hall meetings**

This year, nine members participated in telephone town halls reaching more than 400,000 people. The senators were given the ability to reach thousands of constituents with a single phone call, engaging them in a lively talk show format. The average number of participants on each call was 5,967 people. Senator Manar had the most success this year with a total of 10,017 people on the call. Topics ranged from the income tax extension to education funding reform. We are looking forward to offering this service to more members in the year ahead.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Total called</th>
<th>Active participants</th>
<th>Live questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>447,515</td>
<td>53,699</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>29,032</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters</td>
<td>1,688</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>275,091</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Constituent surveys**

This year, members utilized constituent surveys to gauge constituents’ opinions on important legislative issues. We sent out a total of 24 surveys and received 12,729 results. We are able to use the results to create a snapshot of constituents’ opinions and grow targeted email lists.

**Latino / Spanish Language Outreach**

This year, the Communications Department implemented a comprehensive strategy to increase its outreach to Spanish-speaking audiences. In keeping with the press’ increased focus on multimedia, we provided outlets with video and audio featuring both Latino and non-Latino senators that we taped in our studio. Many of these recordings featured prominently in newscasts and on media websites.

In the month of May alone, Univision, the leading Spanish language television network, aired three feature stories focused on Senate Democrats. These sweeps-week stories had a combined length of 11 minutes.

An average of 400,000 viewers watched stories on the governor’s budget speech, Senator Manar’s education funding reform proposal, Senator Noland’s legislation to bring justice to rape victims and the Senate President’s initiative to issue temporary driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants on the two leading Spanish language newscasts - Telemundo and Univision. Important print outlets, like La Raza, Hoy Newspaper and Extra also featured front-page stories on several of these issues.

In an effort to reach out to news providers, several senators toured newsrooms to do interviews, as well as meet constituent groups. These visits helped build relationships between newsmakers and media executives. These visits helped build relationships between newsmakers and media executives.

On April 1, the Consul General of Mexico visited and addressed the Senate. The Honorable Carlos Jiménez Macías met with a group of senators and the Senate President to better coordinate constituent services offered by both the Illinois Senate and Mexico’s government.
Senate approves Manar’s plan to reform school funding system

A proposal to overhaul Illinois’ decades-old school funding system received Senate approval on May 27th. Senate Bill 16, sponsored by State Senator Andy Manar (D–Bunker Hill), would require the state to appropriate 92 percent of its public school funding based on the financial need of each school district.

“The Senate took an important step in the process of fundamentally changing how the state funds school districts to achieve greater equity,” Manar said. “There was a strong coalition of support from lawmakers in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate Democrats, but there is still more work to be done, and I expect more changes to be made to the proposal as it progresses. But I can’t stress enough how important it was to clear this first hurdle.”

Over the past year, Manar has been developing a new school funding formula that will change the way the state distributes $6.7 billion in aid to education. Unchanged since 1997, the current education funding system only distributes 44 cents for every $1 invested in education on the basis of district need.

Under the new funding system, 92 cents of every $1 invested by the state in the K-12 education system, with the exception of funds for early childhood education, construction projects and high-cost special education, would flow through a single funding formula.

FULL STORY: http://ilsendems.co/1oJQm0e
Top 14 New Illinois Laws for 2014

Every year in Springfield, the legislature passes hundreds of new laws. Some of these new laws might change what you do each day or present new opportunities for safety, security or other enhancements for you or your loved ones.

(Update 12.30.13) These slides have been viewed over 1 million times since being posted online.

Thank you for helping us share this important news.

1. No cell phones while driving unless they’re completely hands free.

Starting in 2014, drivers caught holding cell phones up to their ears while driving will be ticketed. Under new laws, texting and talking on a hands-free device will be permitted.

2. Have a serious medical condition? You may qualify for medical marijuana.

Recognizing the medical benefits of marijuana, the General Assembly passed legislation allowing patients to legally possess a small amount of the drug.


Understanding the risks for young people was allowed to tan, Illinois Elevate in 2014, the ban on minors using indoor tanning facilities was passed. The ban will go into effect immediately.

4. ...But you can vote in the primary if you’ll be 18 by the General Election.

The law that will allow 17-year-olds to vote will go into effect the day after this month. So, if you’re 16, you can vote in the primary.

5. Pick out a sick puppy? The pet store has to take it back and/or pay for your vet bills.

Some restrictions apply. Read more here.

6. Littering will net you a $50 fine, and cigarette butts now count as litter.

New laws crack down on littering.

7. Your kids’ school can’t check their email or Facebook pages without your permission.

And, your children need to be aware that personal information from your family is not required to be released.

8. Tired of going 65 on Illinois interstates? So are lawmakers.

Now you can go 70.

9. We’re all tough now: high penalties for work zone speeds when nobody’s there.

Drivers can be cited for speeding in work zones even if nobody is there to see.

10. Ever seen some jerk pass a stopped school bus? Now, so will a camera that is shared with the police.

The General Assembly passed a law allowing school districts to install cameras on school buses.

11. Starting in 2014, Illinois teens will learn about condoms and birth control in sex ed in addition to abstinence.

Starting next year, all schools must teach about contraception and reproduction in sex education.

12. If you and your ex have joint custody, you must ask if the other wants to take care of your children before you hire someone.

A new law requires that parents ask if the other parent wants to hire someone to take care of the children.

13. Can’t finish the whole bottle at the winery but have throwing away your wine away? Now you don’t have to.

This law will make it easier for wineries to sell wine.

14. Ever breeze through a tollway entrance or exit without paying? Now, if you do it too often, your name could go up on an online hall of shame.

The General Assembly passed a bill that will do just that.
Medical Cannabis extension to children with seizures passes Senate

The Illinois Senate passed a measure to expand the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act to allow doctors to provide CBD, which is distinct from THC, for children with epilepsy. Senate Bill 2636, sponsored by Sen. Iris Y. Martinez, follows the example of Colorado and New Jersey in allowing use of the cannabis oil that is dramatically decreasing the frequency, pain and duration of seizures. The orally ingested oil contains cannabidiol (CBD), a derivative of marijuana without the THC element that causes the high feeling users of marijuana experience. Scientific studies have demonstrated that CBD relaxes the nervous system and can significantly reduce the frequency of seizures in these patients — even stopping them completely in some cases.


The families sent this thank you photo.

FULL STORY: http://ilsendems.co/1wfofud

Noland pushes for rape victims’ right to prosecute

Rosa Pickett was on her way to her sister’s birthday party when it happened. A man approached her from behind while she was walking down a dark street in Robbins, Illinois. After dragging her behind a bush, the man beat and raped her repeatedly and finally knocked her unconscious. Attendants at the hospital rushed to collect samples for a rape kit that could assist police and prosecutors in bringing her attacker to justice.

After the hospital, Rosa returned home to heal. Thirty-six years later, that healing remains incomplete. Despite the hospital’s care to assemble a rape kit for Rosa’s case, justice for both Rosa and her rapist was denied. The kit went untested and the police never pursued the attacker. By the time she confronted authorities about it, the statute of limitations on her case had expired. Her attacker could never be charged. He would remain free.

In powerful testimony before the Senate Criminal Law Committee, Ms. Pickett recalled that night in September 1977 in vivid detail. She spoke in support of a plan to extend the statute of limitations on rape.

The proposal (Senate Bill 2609) by Senator Michael Noland, an Elgin Democrat and Chairman of the Criminal Law Committee, would start the clock on prosecuting sexual assault cases when rape kit evidence analysis is completed. Currently, that clock begins ticking down the moment the crime is committed.

“Victims of sexual assault deserve justice,” Noland said. “They should not be denied their rights simply because someone failed to test the evidence.”

Sadly, Rosa Pickett’s case is not exceptional. Before 2013, more than 4,000 rape kits remained untested in Illinois State Police custody.

Last year, State Police completed the analysis of all 4,000 kits responding to a 2010 law sponsored by State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D-Chicago Heights) that pushed the agency to eliminate the backlog. Senator Noland hopes that backlog never reappears. But if it does, he says victims shouldn’t suffer.

“In these cases, justice delayed is truly justice denied,” Noland said. “They should not be denied their rights simply because someone failed to test the evidence.”

FULL STORY: http://ilsendems.co/1st5DVL
Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights passes Senate

Last week, the Illinois Senate secured passage of “Marsy’s Law,” an amendment that would strengthen the Illinois Constitution’s Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights.

“Today is the culmination of years of work to ensure that victims’ rights not only are a part of our constitution but will be promptly enforced,” resolution sponsor State Senator Heather Steans (D – Chicago) said. “This amendment is about safeguarding victims’ dignity, privacy, right to information and right to be heard throughout the extremely difficult process of bringing the perpetrator to justice.”

Marsy’s Law for Illinois is part of a nationwide movement to codify crime victims’ rights in every state. The push began in California, where the brother of murder victim Marsy Nicholas worked for the passage of a state constitutional amendment after his mother was confronted in a grocery store by Marsy’s accused killer, who had been released on bail with no notification to the family.

In Illinois, Steans worked with Marsy’s Law for Illinois, House sponsor Representative Lou Lang (D-Skokie), Attorney General Lisa Madigan, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault and many law enforcement agencies and anti-violence groups to achieve strong victim protections that do not compromise the criminal justice system’s duty to public safety.

“I commend Senator Steans on her tireless advocacy and work to improve the treatment of victims and their families in their quest for justice,” Senate President John Cullerton said.

FULL STORY:
http://ilsendems.co/1qWMQ1q

Lightford revives minimum wage debate in Illinois Senate

State Senator Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) has renewed her call for a higher minimum wage. Bolstered by support from President Barack Obama and Governor Pat Quinn, Lightford shepherded her plan through a Senate committee earlier today.

Lightford’s plan, Senate Bill 68, would make Illinois’ minimum wage the highest in the nation - $10.65 per hour. The increase would be phased in over a three year period to give employers time to adjust. Illinois’s current minimum wage is $8.25 per hour, which equals roughly $16,500 per year for a full-time worker.

Lightford’s proposal would bring that number up to approximately $21,000 per year – nearly double the federal poverty level for a one-person household.

“Ten years ago, you worked 40 hours per week, you could keep the roof over your head and food on the table – today you’re working just as hard, if not harder, and you can’t afford the bare necessities,” Lightford said.

Lightford’s plan, Senate Bill 68, would raise Illinois’ minimum wage to $10.65 per hour over a three year period. Lightford’s plan is more aggressive than both the president’s and the governor’s. Earlier this year, Obama raised the minimum wage for federal employees to $10.10 per hour, while Quinn has called for an increase to $10.00 per hour.

“Right now, you can’t support yourself, let alone a child, on minimum wage,” Lightford said. “For $10.65 an hour, it would be hard, but you could.”

FULL STORY:
http://ilsendems.co/1gijlIN
‘Revenge Porn’ passes the Senate

(Updated 5/7/14) The Illinois Senate approved a measure criminalizing a form of cyberbullying known as ‘revenge porn,’ a growing practice of posting explicit photos or videos online without the subject’s consent or knowledge out of spite, revenge or seeking compensation.

Senator Michael E. Hastings sponsored the bill to protect unsuspecting victims and deter those who would either malign or profit from posting the images on social media or websites. If it passes in the House and is signed by the governor, Senate Bill 2694 would make revenge porn a felony, punishable by up to three years in prison and a $25,000 fine.

The Illinois Senate approved a measure criminalizing a form of cyberbullying known as ‘revenge porn,’ a growing practice of posting explicit photos or videos online without the subject’s consent or knowledge out of spite, revenge or seeking compensation.

Senator Michael E. Hastings welcomed a victim of this practice to a Criminal Law Committee hearing; the woman was threatened by her ex-husband with exposure of sexually explicit photos after they broke up. She cited the fear that such exposure would damage her personal and professional reputation with no means of legally preventing the action.

(Original Story) Posting nude or sexually explicit videos or photos of another person without their consent could become a Class 4 felony under recently filed legislation aimed at reducing the incidence of “revenge porn” in Illinois. Revenge porn gets its name from the all-too-common incidence of a bitter ex posting sexually explicit pictures or videos to social media or pornographic websites.

“This can be extremely devastating and humiliating to an unsuspecting victim,” Senator Michael E. Hastings (D – Tinley Park) said.

Hastings has introduced legislation that would make it illegal to host a website requiring victims to pay a fee to have their photo or video removed from the site.

FULL STORY: http://ilsendems.co/1lpdJMZ
Illinois Senate President John J. Cullerton strengthened his role as an outspoken champion of the state of Illinois, gladly and repeatedly defending the state’s riches of human and natural resources in the face of naysayers too often motivated merely by politics and profit.

Not only do world-class businesses continue to want to move to Illinois, but the universities and colleges attract students from around the globe. Even many of the state’s leading critics moved here to raise their families, but go to work telling everyone else to stay away or get out.

From speeches before Chicago’s City Club and Union League Club, to university classrooms and editorial board meetings, Senate President Cullerton time and again called for an end to the cynicism and for a commitment to working together to recognize positive attributes and build a better Illinois.

The Senate President used these forums to shed light on the state’s complex budget process and inform people about the financial realities the state faces, so the public can better understand the consequences.

He’s also increasingly sought to use technology to spread the word and distribute information. The website he authorized – www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com – has become a public information source and attracted national attention from other government entities and the media for its innovative display of issues while the caucus social media accounts are among the busiest in the country.

At the Capitol, Cullerton continued to focus on economic facts rather than the rhetoric in painting a more accurate picture of the state’s recovery from the Great Recession. He and the Senate Democratic Caucus remain committed to finding resources and revenues to back up the state’s budgetary priorities and needs.

Since becoming Senate President in 2009, Cullerton has presided over a Senate focused on righting past wrongs and finding common-sense solutions. Under his watch, Illinois has undergone the single greatest period of investment in retirement security in state history. Nearly as much has been invested in long-ignored pension systems in the past four years as had been in the previous four decades combined.

At the same time, the Senate Democrats remain progressive in seeking equality and fairness, leading successful recent efforts for marriage equality, outlawing pregnancy discrimination and ensuring access to the polling place.
James Clayborne
Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 57th Senate District

Economic revitalization is needed in the Metro East, and State Senator James Clayborne remains dedicated to improving the region’s economic standing. One of the most important features of economic and urban development is encouraging locally owned small businesses. Clayborne passed legislation helping ensure fair minority employment by requiring companies competing for state contracts to report their standards for minority hiring. He also promoted the expansion of minority investment managers for state contracts to report their standards for minority hiring.

Evidence of Clayborne’s success can be seen in the opening of the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge, a project that employed 3,877 minority workers and contracted with 117 small, minority-owned businesses from economically disadvantaged areas.

In addition to advancing the Metro East’s opportunities, Clayborne is working to protect vulnerable senior citizens. He passed legislation establishing the rights of nursing home residents. The Nursing Home Residents’ Managed Care Rights Act guarantees the basic rights of people living in nursing homes. These rights include: quality care regardless of who is paying, care as prescribed by doctors, a simple appeals process, autonomy in decision making and the ability to stay in the living center they call home.

Away from the Capitol, Clayborne continued his commitment to making sure local students gain firsthand perspective of the locations and events that led to the Civil Rights Movement.

This spring, Clayborne continued sponsoring trips for local high school students visiting a wide variety of colleges and historic sites from the Civil Rights Movement. These trips give students a broader college search experience. Likewise, by visiting the iconic locations where the Civil Rights Movement took hold, students gain a greater perspective and appreciation for the gravity of past generations’ sacrifices.

Along with his college tour, Clayborne continued his mentoring program for young men. He worked to show students in lower-income parts of the region the opportunities that exist for academic and professional success.

Don Harmon
President Pro Tempore | Executive chair | 39th Senate District

This year, Senate President Pro Tempore Don Harmon focused on issues relating to the state budget. He spearheaded a campaign to bring more fairness and equity to Illinois’ tax code, and he fought to keep the cash-strapped Illinois Poison Center open.

Senator Harmon believes that Illinois’ current flat income tax is unfairly regressive. He believes that a Fair Tax that allows the state to apply lower tax rates to lower income levels and higher rates to higher income levels is a better solution.

The federal government and 34 states already tax incomes based on ability to pay. The list includes all but one of Illinois’ neighbors: Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Kentucky.

Harmon and his allies believe that flat taxes take money out of the hands of people who need it most – and who are most likely to spend it and boost the economy – and let rich CEOs and corporations pay less.

He introduced a constitutional amendment to make a Fair Tax in Illinois. He also proposed a rate structure that would result in a tax cut for 94 percent of Illinois households.

Senator Harmon firmly believes that the voters should have the opportunity to decide whether or not a Fair Tax is right for Illinois, and he intends to continue fighting for his plan.

Harmon also responded to an appeal for help from the Illinois Poison Center. Suffering from years of budget cuts at the state and federal level, the nation’s oldest poison control center was in danger of closing its doors on July 1 without a new, reliable source of revenue.

Harmon brokered a deal that will guarantee the center a reliable revenue stream through 2018. At the same time, he helped make a Chicago-area hospital group eligible for more federal Medicaid funding, allowing it to better serve its customers – especially people with lower incomes. All of these improvements came at a cost-savings to the state.

The Illinois Poison Center handles nearly 82,000 cases of potential poisoning every year. It answers questions from panicking parents, health care providers and other Illinois residents. Many experts believe it saves the state and consumers money by preventing unnecessary emergency room visits and 911 calls.

Harmon strongly supports the center because, as a parent, he has called it himself and found the service professional and reassuring.
Kimberly A. Lightford
Assistant Majority Leader | 4th Senate District

Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford has never been someone who backs away from a challenge. This year, she rededicated herself to making Illinois’ minimum wage a living wage and to improving educational outcomes for all of the state’s children.

For years, Lightford argued Illinois’ minimum wage is too low. She firmly believes the purpose of the minimum wage is to ensure no one with a full-time job is forced to rely on government assistance. This year, she made real progress in convincing her colleagues that increasing the minimum wage is to ensure the state’s children.

In Chicago, the local school administration decided to close dozens of schools. This move forced thousands of children to travel through dangerous parts of the city to reach their new schools. Though the city provided “safe passages,” many parents are still concerned, especially after a teenage girl was raped a block from a safe passage. In response, Lightford brought forward legislation that would allow parents to apply to the state for reimbursement to pay drivers to take their children to school.

Lightford is also taking on the issue of school discipline. Many students who have discipline problems struggle with challenges like poverty, lack of parental involvement and dangerous neighborhoods. When they are kicked out of school, they fall further behind their peers.

Lightford’s plan limits suspension and expulsion to only the most extreme discipline problems, largely eliminates zero-tolerance policies, and requires school officials to report to the state why these harsh punishments are necessary when used.

Senator Lightford is also sponsoring a plan to eliminate the Charter School Commission and return its responsibilities to the State Board of Education. Lightford believes the commission performs an important function, but she is concerned with the many potential conflicts of interest created by its structure. The commission is privately funded, and much of its money comes from charter school owners and operators. It also receives money from each charter school it approves.

Lightford’s plan limits suspension and expulsion to only the most extreme discipline problems, largely eliminates zero-tolerance policies, and requires school officials to report to the state why these harsh punishments are necessary when used.

Senator Lightford is also sponsoring a plan to eliminate the Charter School Commission and return its responsibilities to the State Board of Education. Lightford believes the commission performs an important function, but she is concerned with the many potential conflicts of interest created by its structure. The commission is privately funded, and much of its money comes from charter school owners and operators. It also receives money from each charter school it approves.

Terry Link
Assistant Majority Leader | 30th Senate District

In an effort to protect the health of college students across Illinois, state Senator Terry Link has been working with state and local officials to make college campuses smoke free.

For Link, this push continues his fight to improve public health by limiting the general public’s exposure to second-hand smoke and hopefully prod people to take their children to school.

For Link, this push continues his fight to improve public health by limiting the general public’s exposure to second-hand smoke and hopefully prod people to take their children to school.

According to the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation, at least 1,182 college or university campuses across the country already adopted 100 percent smoke-free campus policies that eliminate smoking in indoor and outdoor areas and of that total, 811 are completely tobacco free. Arkansas and Iowa public colleges are completely smoke free by state law.

In an effort to protect the health of college students across Illinois, state Senator Terry Link has been working with state and local officials to make college campuses smoke free.

For Link, this push continues his fight to improve public health by limiting the general public’s exposure to second-hand smoke and hopefully prod people to take their children to school.

According to the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation, at least 1,182 college or university campuses across the country already adopted 100 percent smoke-free campus policies that eliminate smoking in indoor and outdoor areas and of that total, 811 are completely tobacco free. Arkansas and Iowa public colleges are completely smoke free by state law.

Senator Link also continued his work to protect people with accessibility needs. A local resident turned to Senator Link for help after she remodeled her bathroom to add handrails to make it safer, only to have her property taxes go up when the construction permit process triggered a new assessment.

Link filed Senate Bill 343 to clarify that accessibility projects such as wheelchair ramps, handrail retrofits and stair lifts should not result in higher property assessments.

In an effort to protect consumers, Link is also involved in studying whether the state should regulate tax preparers. That profession is essentially unregulated as currently there are no state or federal regulations in place that ensure a tax preparer is qualified to do the job.

To become a tax preparer, all one needs to do is register with the IRS by filing out a form and sending in a registration fee. Link wants to ensure there are regulations in place to keep people from being the victims of fraud.

Senate Bill 2774 creates a task force to study the necessity of regulating tax return preparers. As part of its work, this task force will examine real cases of fraud and determine the appropriate scope of such regulation, educational requirements and any other matters related to the regulation of tax preparers that the task force deems appropriate.

For Link, it’s part of his commitment toward working to protect the public and consumers.
Antonio Munoz
Assistant Majority Leader | Executive Appointments chair | 1st Senate District

With Chicago serving as a transportation crossroads for the nation, it is no surprise that Senator Tony Munoz has emerged as a leader on the issue in protecting the interests and people of the 1st Senate District in the city.

From cracking down on problems with unscrupulous valets to ensuring commuter safety keeps up with ride-sharing technology, Munoz was at the forefront of fighting to keep his constituents and the city safe.

For instance, Munoz sponsored Senate Bill 3135 to protect the public against unregulated and unprofessional valet companies. By licensing, regulating and prescribing compensation, Munoz is hoping to bring valets in line with other regulated companies.

There have been problems, for example, with some valet companies producing counterfeit parking passes, and the car owners end up being ticketed. Making the situation worse, the owners are not informed of the ticket until it arrives at their homes by mail because the valets remove tickets. With the passage of Senate Bill 3135, Senator Munoz hopes to rid the city of these devious practices.

In addition, Munoz is sponsoring legislation to regulate ride-share companies that transport passengers in personal vehicles prearranged through dispatchers for a fee. These commercial ride-share services such as UberX, Sidecar and Lyft, are technology-based services that connect individuals with drivers for a fee. Passengers book the nearest driver by smartphone and then track the vehicle on a map as it approaches.

Because the drivers use their personal vehicles, they rely on their personal policies to cover them while offering ride-sharing. These types of insurance policies exclude commercial activities, so these drivers do not have proper insurance coverage. Senator Munoz has worked to ensure protections for the commuting public in the face of the evolving technology. Munoz has also been instrumental this session in creating and promoting both the Legislative Diabetes Caucus and the Hepatitis C Task Force.

The goal of the Legislative Diabetes Caucus is to promote policy development through the education of colleagues on key issues from the perspective of consumers, families and caregivers of those with diabetes.

The Hepatitis C Task Force was created this year to promote awareness and provide education. Hepatitis C is a growing problem in Illinois and the United States primarily with the baby boomers’ generation. In fact, new guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that all baby boomers be tested.

The task force will continue to meet and work to develop strategies to provide education, screening and access to testing.

John Sullivan
Assistant Majority Leader | 47th Senate District

As the only farmer in the Illinois Senate, John Sullivan drew upon his background this session to address pending farmland issues ranging from wind farm zoning to the expansion of ethanol-blended fuels.

Currently, Illinois is made up of a patchwork of county-by-county regulations controlling placement of energy-producing windmills. Uniform, equitable rules for wind farms would benefit farmers who own the land, the companies that operate the turbines and the customers whose energy rates would drop. That is what Sullivan sponsored in an effort to bring statewide consistency to the growing wind-energy industry.

Sullivan also participated in early-stage development of legislation expanding E-15 ethanol-blended fuel. E-15 is a biofuel made up of 85 percent gasoline and 15 percent ethanol. Its expansion would promote agriculture, help the environment with lower emissions and reduce dependency on foreign oil.

These issues are representative of the array of needs and interests that are nearly as vast as the sprawling west-central Illinois Senate district that Sullivan represents. Geographically, his district is the largest in the state, including small towns and cities, farms and factories.

One unique issue affecting downstate Illinois is a shortage of qualified teachers for many subject areas. Sullivan gained approval of legislation to solve the problem by allowing recently retired teachers—who are still certified—to teach in subject shortage areas while still maintaining their eligibility for retirement. This ensures that if there is a teaching position that a school is unable to fill, students will benefit from qualified, experienced teachers who are already living in the community.

In addition to supporting local schools and communities, Sullivan also works personally with students and instructors across the region. Sullivan often speaks at schools in his district about the role of the state legislature, civic engagement and the impact that state government has on people’s everyday lives. Sullivan often invites student groups from his district to the Capitol. He has also served as a guest lecturer on state politics and government at local universities and colleges.

Sullivan is also active with agricultural education groups who advocate for increase funding and programming like 4-H and Future Farmers of America. Sullivan also recently expanded his local outreach efforts by opening a satellite office in Galesburg.
Donne Trotter
Assistant Majority Leader | 17th Senate District

Many lawmakers come to Springfield saying education is their top priority, but this year State Senator Donne Trotter shook things up in an effort to have the General Assembly own up to its priorities and commitments.

Faced with another year of potentially lagging school funding, Trotter proposed ending the state’s no-strings-attached giveaway of more than $1 billion in state tax money to the myriad local governments across the state. Trotter argued that if public education is the state’s top priority, then it truly should be the state’s top priority.

Although his plan met opposition, Trotter succeeded in sparking meaningful debate about prioritizing tax dollars and the need to re-examine whether many of the budgeting traditions should continue unquestioned.

His fight for school funding was part of his overall agenda attempting to aid struggling families, increase youth safety and empower the people and communities of the 17th Senate District. He utilized his encyclopedic knowledge of the state budget to advocate for the protection of the state’s most vulnerable.

Trotter pushed for increased funding for programs such as the Illinois YouthBuild Coalition to increase opportunities and resources for at-risk and low-income teens. Programs such as YouthBuild teach young adults valuable job and life skills.

Recognizing the financial realities many working families face, Trotter supported increasing the minimum wage to $10.65 an hour by July 2016.

And in an effort to protect children, Trotter proposed new laws that would allow children whose guardians are under DCFs investigation to be placed under the care of a close family friend that has an established, healthy relationship with the child or child’s family. This move would give DCFs more options in trying to keep children in safe environments and with people who care for them.

Trotter also worked to empower the entrepreneurial spirit. Motivated by the tale of a young girl’s cupcake business falling victim to government bureaucracy, Trotter sponsored legislation easing regulations surrounding home kitchen business operations in Illinois, so that young capitalists like the girl with a cupcakes-for-cancer-research business aren’t stymied by overbearing bureaucrats.

Trotter pushed for increased school funding to keep children safe, the motoring public now faces a new challenge – wearable technology that effectively turns eyeglasses into a computer on your face.

In an effort to keep our state’s societal safeguards up to date with technology, State Senator Ira Silverstein sponsored legislation restricting the use of Google Glass and similar wearable computing devices while driving.

The General Assembly has, in recent years, taken similar steps to crack down on distracted driving. Silverstein’s proposal simply adds the latest technology to the existing regulations.

Similarly, Silverstein crafted legislation extending schools’ cyberbullying rules to protect students while outside of the classroom and away from school. The explosion of social networking and ubiquity of it among students has led to increasingly hateful and vicious forms of online bullying. If out-of-school cyberbullying impacts a student in the classroom, schools would be free to discipline the students causing the harm.

Along the same lines, the advent of 3-D printing technology has sparked a wave of innovative design and uses for the new technology. However, 3-D printers have created new opportunities in the production of firearms. Silverstein sponsored a measure that would require individuals and companies using 3-D printers to build firearms to have the same licensing as traditional gun manufacturers.

He also introduced legislation preventing public universities from political boycotts of Israeli schools.

Silverstein also passed legislation reforming custody disputes and divorce proceedings to increase protection for the involved parties.

Ira I. Silverstein
Majority Caucus chair | 8th Senate District

As drivers come to realize that texting while driving and talking on a cell phone while behind the wheel aren’t safe, the motoring public now faces a new challenge – wearable technology that effectively turns eyeglasses into a computer on your face.

In an effort to keep our state’s societal safeguards up to date with technology, State Senator Ira Silverstein sponsored legislation restricting the use of Google Glass and similar wearable computing devices while driving.

The General Assembly has, in recent years, taken similar steps to crack down on distracted driving. Silverstein’s proposal simply adds the latest technology to the existing regulations.

Similarly, Silverstein crafted legislation extending schools’ cyberbullying rules to protect students while outside of the classroom and away from school. The explosion of social networking and ubiquity of it among students has led to increasingly hateful and vicious forms of online bullying. If out-of-school cyberbullying impacts a student in the classroom, schools would be free to discipline the students causing the harm.

Along the same lines, the advent of 3-D printing technology has sparked a wave of innovative design and uses for the new technology. However, 3-D printers have created new opportunities in the production of firearms. Silverstein sponsored a measure that would require individuals and companies using 3-D printers to build firearms to have the same licensing as traditional gun manufacturers.

This would guarantee that guns– either plastic or metal – built this way would be documented and tracked the same as any other gun.

Silverstein’s focus on protecting the public from undocumented firearms also extended to a proposal for firearm owners insurance. By requiring firearm owners to carry insurance for their weapons, his measure would shield the owners of guns from legal action in case of an accident – similar to liability insurance for a car.

He has also been a vocal advocate for concerns of the Jewish community, co-sponsoring a resolution urging the federal government to protect Jewish artifacts recovered from Iraq. He also introduced legislation preventing public universities from political boycotts of Israeli schools.

Silverstein also passed legislation reforming custody disputes and divorce proceedings to increase protection for the involved parties.
Haine’s understanding of the insurance industry has been an invaluable asset as the state moves forward under the Affordable Care Act. This session, Haine worked to close loopholes that could potentially lead to insurance fraud. Without Haine’s legislation, individuals could sign up for multiple insurance policies and get reimbursed by each insurer for any procedure. The Senate closed that loophole by allowing insurers to coordinate benefits and proactively prevent this type of fraud.

Haine also created new standards for condominium insurance, improved intergovernmental insurance pools and updated guidelines for industrial insurers. Drawing on his past experience as a state’s attorney, Haine also worked to resolve issues within the criminal justice system. Haine passed a bill fundamentally reforming the handling of defendants who are unfit to stand trial and declared not guilty by reason of insanity. Haine’s legislation limits the amount of time these defendants can be held for misdemeanor offenses. The measure also requires all mentally unfit defendants to be safely and securely housed by the Department of Human Services.

Haine also championed legislation encouraging non-violent offenders to gain employment by creating time credits for educational advancement. The program would knock time off of probation or conditional release for offenders who complete a GED, vocational certificate, associate or bachelor’s degree.

Another area where Haine focused his attention was the ongoing process of implementing the Medical Cannabis Pilot Program. In order to extend the benefits of medical marijuana to another group in need, Haine voted to allow minors suffering from epilepsy to use a non-hallucinogenic, non-smokable derivative of cannabis that has proven to be extremely successful in reducing, if not eliminating, severe seizures.

Whether it is closing loopholes in existing laws or creating needed consumer protections for people with insurance policies, State Senator Bill Haine focused this session at the Capitol on making the insurance industry more stable and equitable. As the chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, Haine remains a leading authority on the insurance industry and the needs and rights of consumers and has used his knowledge to find the proper balance in state law.

For example, Haine won Senate approval of legislation that would bring uniformity to fraternal organizations that offer life insurance. The financial security of more than a half million people relies on these organizations. Haine’s legislation provides better regulation of the leadership structure of these fraternal societies and allows for earlier intervention from the state to protect consumers should one of these organizations teeter on fiscal insolvency.

Haine’s understanding of the insurance industry has been an invaluable asset as the state moves forward under the Affordable Care Act. This session, Haine worked to close loopholes that could potentially lead to insurance fraud. Without

Mattie Hunter
Majority Caucus Whip | Human Services chair | 3rd Senate District

Huntington led efforts to ensure opportunities continue for children and young adults to find work, learn responsibilities and gain skills that will help them throughout their lives. As the leading member of the Senate’s Human Services Committee, Hunter focused on youth employment programs and created a traveling subcommittee that took her to underserved communities across the state, where she learned firsthand how important these state programs are. Hundreds of youth turned out to talk about the skills they learned and how the programs improved their communities.

Facing packed rooms, Hunter voiced her commitment to uplift lower and middle-class Illinois residents by promoting job growth, protecting children and restoring the opportunity for upward mobility. She worked with colleagues to turn summer programs into yearlong opportunities for at-risk youth and veterans. Hunter also passed an initiative to create conservation jobs for at-risk youth.

Throughout the session, Hunter advanced a progressive legislative agenda focused on increasing youth employment, combating socio-economic segregation, improving the state’s health and protecting seniors from financial abuse.

Senator Hunter brought widespread attention to the troubling issue of “trauma care deserts,” areas lacking access to emergency medical care that too often are also areas of higher crime and violence.

Hunter continued her leadership role in protecting public health by raising awareness of how sugary soft drinks are linked to obesity and diabetes. She also passed legislation allowing public administration of insulin shots. Locally, Hunter will continue her efforts to educate the community through a nutrition town hall and health fair.

Senator Hunter also was an outspoken advocate for the children who end up relying on the Department of Children and Family Services. She demanded greater accountability and effectiveness from the agency and publicly challenged its leadership to do better.

As a strong advocate for social justice, Hunter also passed two measures protecting seniors from financial exploitation. One measure reports health care workers with dubious records of financially abusing seniors. The other measure requires financial institutions to report suspicions of financial abuse.
Iris Y. Martinez  
Majority Caucus Whip | Pensions & Licensed Activities chair | 20th Senate District

Nicole Gross had little choice but to say goodbye to Illinois, her husband and one of her children in order to seek modern medical treatment for her son who suffers from a severe form of epilepsy.

They sought medical refuge in Colorado, where new, progressive state laws allow for a non-hallucinogenic derivative of the cannabis plant to be used to treat such severe cases, often with amazingly successful results.

Unfortunately, such treatment has been illegal in Illinois. That’s why Gross and other families have had to leave in order to obtain effective, modern remedies for their children.

That could soon change, thanks to State Senator Iris Martinez.

Martinez emerged as a fierce ally of these families, leading efforts to change Illinois law and allow children with epilepsy and other seizure disorders to be treated with a non-smokable form of cannabis, just like in Colorado, New Jersey and elsewhere. This treatment can reduce the frequency of seizures or even stop them altogether.

Gross was among the parents who gathered at the Capitol to witness Martinez’s legislation advance.

This heartwarming achievement punctuated Martinez’s continued work to improve the lives of people throughout Illinois.

For example, one of her priorities has been enhancing services and civic life for people with limited English language proficiency. She guided approval of legislation requiring hospitals to provide translators for patients who speak languages prevalent in the areas the hospitals serve.

She has also begun work on an innovative pilot program allowing jurors who are otherwise qualified to serve but do not speak or understand English well to be accompanied by interpreters throughout a trial.

In the wake of lawsuits challenging a federal contraception coverage mandate, Martinez proposed asking voters to weigh in this November on whether Illinois should continue to require insurance companies to include birth control coverage in their prescription plans.

If the Supreme Court strikes down the Affordable Care Act’s contraception mandate, Illinois must decide whether to uphold its commitment to equal health care access and women’s rights.

Martinez, the first Hispanic woman elected to the Illinois Senate and the first Latina to serve in Senate leadership, currently holds the position of Majority Caucus Whip.

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant  
49th Senate District

Drawing upon her history as both an educator and an advocate, State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant spent this year at the Capitol fighting to provide schools with additional resources and increased independence.

Because the state has not been living up to public school funding needs, Senator Bertino-Tarrant worked to maintain public school and early childhood education funding levels and find ways to give school districts more autonomy with hiring and administrative decisions.

In an effort to save lives, Bertino-Tarrant also championed a proposal to make sure people directly contact emergency services when they call 911.

The problem is that in many settings a caller may need to dial a “9” in order to access a line to then call 911. Quite often a caller wouldn’t know to do this, and there have been tragic cases stemming from the confusion.

Bertino-Tarrant sponsored a commonsense solution to try to ensure that when people call 911, they get the services they need.

Closer to home, Bertino-Tarrant is involved with the Will County Center for Economic Development, the Joliet Chamber of Commerce and the Wilco Area Career Center. She remains focused on strengthening job creation and bolstering the economy through fostering business at the local level.

In a targeted effort to reduce chronic unemployment, she sponsored legislation that would give employers incentives to hire long-term unemployed individuals.

To provide assistance to residents locally, Bertino-Tarrant passed legislation that changes the makeup of the Plainfield Park District Board in an effort to reduce accountability and end abuses that have been damaging the Plainfield community.

Bertino-Tarrant also worked to bring greater accountability to the use of taxpayer dollars. She sponsored legislation to close a loophole in state pension law that allowed people to keep inflated pension checks that were the result of bookkeeping mistakes.
Daniel Biss
9th Senate District

In Senator Daniel Biss’ second year in the Senate, his legislative agenda remains characterized by outside-the-box thinking.

Biss is best known for his work on public employee pensions, which bore fruit in December as a compromise he helped broker finally became law and moved on to the courts, ending long years of inaction. This session, Biss championed commonsense proposals intended to provide practical solutions and protections.

His issues ranged from outlawing the harassment of businesses by patent trolls, to requiring police to get a warrant before tracking people using GPS data from their phones or requisitioning data collected by privately owned drones, to giving the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District the power to buy up flood-prone properties owners can’t sell.

Biss took his concern for retirement security to the private sector, introducing Illinois Secure Choice, a program that would automatically enroll most of the state’s private sector workers in a portable 401(k)-like account at no additional cost or risk to employers or the state. Biss pitched his plan to editorial boards, civic organizations and business groups statewide, raising awareness of the 2.5 million Illinois workers – most of them low wage – with no employer-based retirement savings options. As private sector benefits continue to dwindle, more and more residents risk retiring into poverty, and small businesses find themselves at a disadvantage when competing for top talent with larger corporations that can still afford savings plans. Biss succeeded in bringing this second, largely unseen retirement crisis to light.

And continuing his push for government ethics and accountability, he closed a loophole that exempted some county board appointees from state ethics laws and began taming the Chicago-area mass transit Hydra, imposing additional revolving door, transparency and contract review requirements on the scandal-prone RTA, CTA, Metra and Pace.

Even as he is involved in numerous high profile issues, Biss remains an accessible public official and keeps the needs of the 9th Senate District front and center. This session, he started a blog and embarked on an ambitious goal of engaging in one constituent outreach initiative each week. Whether at an in-district forum, during a telephone town hall meeting or through informative and entertaining e-updates, Biss has succeeded in keeping in touch with his constituents while in Springfield.

Melinda Bush
31st Senate District

There are nearly five dozen appointed boards and commissions scattered across Lake County that control everything from zoning to transportation planning. And yet there has been nothing in state law to hold these pivotal appointees accountable once local county officials approve them for the posts.

State Senator Melinda Bush is working to change that and ensure an ethically rogue appointee can be removed by the same entity that put the person in the position in the first place. For Bush, her efforts to promote appointee accountability and transparency as an Illinois state senator are simply an extension of her good government agenda during her own time on the Lake County Board, where she also fought for reforms to the Lake County and Forest Preserve Boards.

Similarly, as a former small business owner and founding member of the Downtown Merchant’s Association in Grayslake, Bush understands that business and job retention are key to Illinois’ long-term economic success. She championed legislation that seeks to improve the business climate of Illinois’ border counties, which too often are susceptible to losing businesses and skilled workers to neighboring states.

She also emerged as the driving force behind one of the most expansive worker training and employment proposals in the nation. She continues to work with members of the Senate to identify innovative economic development policies to bolster our state’s economic rebound.

Senator Bush was also involved in efforts to modernize the state’s school funding system and provide greater opportunities for students throughout the state.
Jacqueline Y. Collins  
Financial Institutions chair | 16th Senate District

When the Illinois Housing Development Authority’s executive director, Mary Kenney, presented Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins with the agency’s “Legislator of the Year” award, she called Collins “a true champion and the housing expert in the Illinois Senate.” The description fits; Collins, chairwoman of the Senate Financial Institutions Committee, saw the housing bust coming before others did. She has dedicated much of her time since then to crafting one of the nation’s most effective state government responses to the foreclosure crisis.

Collins turned her passion for public accountability and uplifting the working poor to a variety of other critical issues this year. She advocated for a ballot referendum asking voters whether the minimum wage should be raised to $10 per hour and for sweeping reforms that would make Illinois’ education funding mechanism more equitable and provide more resources for high-poverty school districts. She also renewed the conversation about increasing the state Earned Income Tax Credit, boldly proposing to double the refundable tax credit, which at its current rate has kept 294,000 Illinois residents out of poverty since 2010.

Collins negotiated accountability legislation for charter schools, believing that these institutions have their place among other educational options but must use public money only for public purposes. She responded to the allegation that some charter schools were waiting to receive payments based on enrollment numbers, then dumping problem students back on school districts, by establishing that funding follows a child who transfers from one type of school to another. Collins also addressed concerns with some charter schools’ misuse of public funds, conflicts of interest and lack of transparency.

At the same time, Collins served on a task force she created last year to tackle a serious problem in the Chicago Public Schools: high truancy rates. She packed the room at a hearing held in her Southside district to solicit input from parents and community members. The working group will present recommendations in June as to how state government and the state’s largest school district can work together to keep Chicago’s youth in the classroom. Collins also engaged her constituents by keeping them informed of opportunities for minority-owned businesses and by holding her first telephone town hall meeting.

Elected to the Senate after a successful career in journalism and advocacy, Collins grew up in Chicago’s Auburn Gresham neighborhood, which she represents today.

Tom Cullerton  
23rd Senate District

Western access to O’Hare International Airport has long been considered the linchpin to reducing chronic suburban traffic congestion. Improved access can renew economic growth throughout the communities west of the airport, which serves as an international transportation hub fueling Chicagoland’s economic engine.

Thanks to State Senator Tom Cullerton, the Elgin-O’Hare Expressway project took a major step forward this past year. His legislative efforts resulted in the state announcing $282.8 million to bring the project to reality.

The need for this project dates back to the early 1990s and has grown alongside the region’s population and commuter congestion. Currently there is no easy, direct route for people traveling to O’Hare from the northwestern suburbs. This project solves that by expanding the existing roadways and creating new routes to speed traffic and the flow of goods to the numerous area businesses.

The Elgin-O’Hare effort highlighted Cullerton’s focus on improving suburban transportation. But he also prompted debate about the need for more funding for suburban public transportation. Population shifts have resulted in higher demand for suburban mass transit, and Cullerton sponsored legislation bringing funding for Metra and Pace up to appropriate levels.

Cullerton also joined with suburban lawmakers in calling for greater accountability at the Regional Transportation Authority in response to questionable spending decisions. He supported a state review of RTA operations and hiring.

As a former mayor, Cullerton knows firsthand the impact that state law has on the everyday operations of local government and potential cost to local taxpayers. He makes it a priority to help out local governments, work to expand suburban transportation options and also support the numerous centers in the 23rd Senate District that serve and care for the intellectually and developmentally disabled.

In addition to his work in Springfield, Cullerton continues an aggressive outreach program in the district to help gather input from constituents so he can make sure his priorities match theirs. Cullerton has hosted local town hall meetings and began a series of “Capitol at Your Corner” events in local communities to provide information and answer constituent questions.
Bill Cunningham
18th Senate District

Cunningham also made public safety a major focus this year. After hearing of 911 operators who would legally tip off criminals on the actions of law enforcement to help them carry out their crimes, Cunningham co-sponsored legislation to change the law. Now, 911 operators who attempt to help criminals would be charged with a Class 3 felony. Additionally, private schools currently do not have to enforce the same safety standards as public schools. Thanks to Senate Bill 2710, which Cunningham sponsored, children in private schools will now have the same basic protections as children in public schools. He also co-sponsored legislation requiring all schools in the state to have electronic safety plans in place. Both measures aim to increase school safety for all crisis scenarios.

Back in the 18th Senate District, Cunningham maintained an aggressive outreach schedule in an effort to ensure he is in tune with the district’s needs. He hosted seminars designed to help parents protect themselves and their homes from theft and burglary.

And while he focuses on helping clean up Springfield, he also helped local residents clean out clutter in their homes. Cunningham sponsored recycling and shredding events, so constituents could responsibly dispose of electronics and ensure sensitive – but no longer needed – documents were properly destroyed.

William Delgado
Education chair | 2nd Senate District

Delgado also worked with his colleagues, Gov. Pat Quinn and public health officials to find a way to put a stop to the growing painkiller and heroin epidemic. Delgado designated April “Illinois Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Month” to promote awareness of drug monitoring throughout the state in an effort to crackdown on the growing number of people abusing prescription drugs.

The program tracks all prescription drugs classified as controlled substances. It serves as a clinical tool to assist medical providers. A website set up by the state’s Bureau of Pharmacy and Clinical Services allows prescribers and pharmacists to view a current or prospective patient’s prescription history to help prevent the misuse, abuse and diversion of controlled substance medications.

Finally, Delgado pushed for the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 42, urging Congress to convene a convention of the states to propose a constitutional amendment in order to restore free and fair elections in America. The goal of the convention would be to reverse the Supreme Court ruling on Citizens United, the ruling that gave corporations “personhood” and led to the creation of super PACs, not only in Illinois, but throughout the nation.

Similar language has been proposed this year in at least 10 additional states.
In light of the destruction left by the November 16 tornadoes in Gifford, Senator Mike Frerichs advanced legislation to provide relief and support rebuilding efforts.

For example, Frerichs advanced legislation brought to him by the Champaign County Board to help protect small businesses struggling with the costs of rebuilding from higher property taxes due to the value added by new construction. His proposal will make poker runs a licensed activity, which will ensure generous bikers across the state can continue riding for a cause.

The experience led Frerichs to introduce a plan to create a “Pay it Forward, Pay it Back” program in Illinois. The program would be similar to state-run tuition programs in Pennsylvania and Oregon. Students would graduate college with a structured plan to pay for their college education without loads of student debt.

In addition to higher education, Frerichs continued to focus on job growth and economic development, understanding that a skilled workforce is key to the state’s economic growth. With this in mind, he introduced legislation that seeks to better match Illinois’ workforce with the needs of employers.
Throughout the second session of the 98th General Assembly, Senator Napoleon Harris III made it his focus to protect and promote the safety and security of Illinois students and their parents, the elderly and the disadvantaged.

Public safety was one of Harris’ deepest concerns. In response to local flooding, he supported the Urban Flooding Awareness Act, which requires various state agencies, along with other interested parties, to submit a comprehensive report to the governor and General Assembly detailing the causes of urban flooding and laying out potential solutions.

Harris fought for the creation of a violent crimes task force in Englewood to study the genesis and effects of violent crime in the neighborhood and how to reduce crime throughout the community.

Further ensuring safety and dignity for seniors, Harris sponsored legislation specifying that restraints can only be used against a resident of a nursing home or facility with the consent of the resident or that resident’s representative.

Fighting to improve our education system, Harris supported innovative reform measures intended to keep kids in school. Expulsions and suspensions have become an all-too-easy and over-used alternative to in-school behavioral rehabilitative methods.

Other legislation he supported created the School Security and Standards Taskforce to study the security in schools to provide a safer learning environment for all students across the state.

Harris co-sponsored Senate Bill 2793, which would require school districts home to disproportionate numbers of arrests to provide state education officials with discipline improvement plans designed to reduce expulsions and suspensions and keep children facing problems in school, getting them assistance rather than dumping them on the streets with no help.

In response to local education system dysfunction that was leaving students and taxpayers without a functioning governing body, Harris sponsored legislation that ended a yearlong dispute concerning who can appoint members to a school board in his home district.

Sen. Harris also remains involved locally when not in session at the Capitol. For instance, from his district office, he hosted a consumer education workshop to help combat fraud and foreclosures. The goal is to teach area residents how to navigate the foreclosure process and avoid financial scams and other fraud.

Technology is changing at a rapid pace, which has led to major advancements in how we communicate. But as our communication platforms expanded, so too has the ability to use these new technologies for harm.

Cyberbullying was a foreign phrase 20 years ago, but now it has increasingly and unfortunately become a household term and societal plague. As the youngest member of the Illinois Senate, Michael E. Hastings led the charge this legislative session to ensure our criminal justice system can keep pace with our rapidly changing, technology-based environment. Hastings focused his attention on one particular form of cyberbullying, a heinous online intimidation tactic often referred to as “revenge porn” in which compromising photos or videos are posted online, often by disgruntled exs looking to embarrass or terrorize their former partners.

Hastings sponsored legislation making such acts a felony punishable by up to three years in prison and a $25,000 fine. He hopes the proposed law will serve as a deterrent and provide protection for victims traumatized by disgruntled ex-partners.

Hastings also continued his work to rebuild the economy of the Southland region. Hastings secured investments for several local projects that should improve the quality of life including new bike trails, building upgrades to local schools and improvements to the local road system. He also continues to push for a south suburban casino to keep Illinois gaming enthusiasts from crossing over to nearby Indiana casinos and also as a needed economic development and employment project.

He also sponsored legislation that will help the family of law enforcement officers who take their own lives due to mental health issues stemming from active duty. By expanding the definition of “killed in the line-of-duty” to include suicides, his proposal will allow affected families to apply for line-of-duty compensation when such tragedies occur.

Napoleon Harris III
15th Senate District

Michael E. Hastings
19th Senate District
animal safety. Sacrifice public and agricultural compromise legislation to help Illinois Farm Bureau in crafting conservation enthusiasts and the laws. Regulated under state wildlife bobcats and coyotes are already every other mammal, including of Natural Resources to regulate the animals are often shot out of when there is a rare sighting, predators, but have been largely absent for decades in Illinois. The problem now is that when there is a rare sighting, the animals are often shot out of safety concerns. Holmes’ proposal allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to regulate their population growth. Almost every other mammal, including bobcats and coyotes are already regulated under state wildlife laws. Holmes worked with conservation enthusiasts and the Illinois Farm Bureau in crafting compromise legislation to help restore native wildlife but not sacrifice public and agricultural animal safety.

In addition to her wildlife efforts, Holmes helped win approval for new laws regulating the use of microscopic pieces of plastic in cosmetics that are finding their way into lakes and rivers and potentially causing environmental concerns.

The plastic tidbits are known as microbeads, and they’re often included in face washes and other personal care products to help scrub away dirt. However, when they go down the drain, they end up collecting in waterways where they are often consumed by fish and other aquatic life. This is bad because the plastic beads easily absorb toxins ranging from motor oil to insecticides.

The legislation Holmes’ helped advance would prohibit the manufacture of products with microbeads starting December 31, 2017. The proposal also stipulates that businesses cannot sell products with micro-beads purchased after December 31, 2018.

In addition to her legislative work, Holmes won the Illinois Education Association Friend of Education award this year. The prestigious award is presented by the Illinois Education Association each year to legislators who display extraordinary commitment to promoting public education in Illinois.

Holmes was honored for her efforts to improve education and passionate advocacy for Illinois teachers and retirees, particularly during last year’s pension reform debate.

This spring at the Statehouse, Senator Toi Hutchinson fought for greater economic opportunities and needed protections for the state’s most vulnerable, as well as social equality.

She championed legislation to protect pregnant women from workplace discrimination. In guiding Senate approval, Hutchinson offered that, “In 2014, no woman should have to choose between a job or a career and the ability to provide for her family.”

Keeping those most in need of our attention and services at the forefront of her legislative efforts, Senator Hutchinson spearheaded legislation combating human trafficking and its effects on the victims. The Specialized Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking Fund would provide grants for essential needs of victims of human trafficking and prostitution, while making minors immune to charges of solicitation of a sex act. The grants are funded by the offenders themselves, providing the trauma centers and shelters with the resources necessary for the continued survival of the victims of this heinous industry.

Understanding that, today, the set minimum wage conflicts with the harsh financial reality facing many working families, Hutchinson supported increasing the minimum wage to $10.65 per hour by July 2016. By increasing this wage, many families will be able to finally make ends meet and actually live off the wages they earn.

Continuing her tradition of fighting discrimination and inequality, Hutchinson led efforts to recognize April 8 as "Pay Equity Day" to bring attention to the on-going pay inequalities between men and women. April 8 represents the date women must work to in order to achieve the same annual earning as men did the previous year.

Hutchinson also supported the ratification of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, asserting on the Senate floor that, “I expect that these rights be protected and afforded to every woman who lives in the United States, no matter what state she lives in.”

Hutchinson remains committed to bringing attention to this ongoing issue that too many unfortunately consider a problem of the past.
Mike Jacobs  
Energy chair | 36th Senate District

Thomson may be the economic highlight of Jacob's local employment agenda, but there were several other accomplishments from his fights to improve the communities of the 36th District.

Senator Jacobs introduced Senate Bill 3379, which focused on expanding employment and education opportunities to low-income and at-risk youth throughout the state. By providing educational services, job training, counseling and job placement services, the YouthBuild program is able to help kids become skilled and productive members of society. Evidence of the program's success can be found with its program in the Quad Cities. Area youth restored a home to be environmentally sustainable, and along the way, those involved learned about green building techniques and were able to earn their environmental certifications.

Jacobs continues to work with state and federal leaders to ensure funding for projects needed to maintain and expand the region’s manufacturing leadership. He helped secure more than $700,000 in infrastructure improvements for Rock Island and Whiteside counties. Both Interstate 80 and U.S. Route 30 were targeted for work, along with $4 million in ongoing improvements to the Quad-Cities International Airport and road and bridgework in Henry County.

Emil Jones III  
Local Government chair | 14th Senate District

As the chairman of the Illinois Senate Black Caucus, State Senator Emil Jones III channeled his efforts toward promoting job growth in Illinois by continuing to advocate for employee rights and employer protection by ensuring all people are provided the best possible conditions to find work and grow their businesses.

Senator Jones called upon his fellow senators to join him in voting for the Illinois State Training and Employment Act. The legislation encourages employers to continue to hire and train new talent, thus promoting job growth.

It does this by allowing the state’s economic development and employment agencies to broker agreements with employers. In exchange for creating jobs, the employers would receive tax credits to cover training costs.

Recognizing the need for a living wage in Illinois, Jones co-sponsored efforts to take the state’s minimum wage to $10.65 in 2016.

Jones also supported efforts to bridge the inequality between what men and women earn for the same jobs. He pushed for approval of Senate Resolution 1012, which recognizes April 8 as “Pay Equity Day” in Illinois, as part of the effort to raise awareness of this ongoing issue. This year, April 8 represents the date women must work to in order to achieve the same annual earnings as men did the previous year.

In addition to working to create new jobs, Senator Jones focused on clearing hurdles from the paths of people trying to get their lives back on track. He supported legislation requiring state police to annually erase police records of youth who were arrested when they were minors. The legislation would call for records to be cleared once the youth turns 18 or has been arrest-free for six months.

Jones understands the economic impact and discriminatory effect of even a single juvenile arrest. That mark on a young person’s record hinders the ability to compete for educational opportunities, scholarships and employment. Understanding the immediate needs of his constituents, Jones hosted a re-employment workshop in which unemployed or underemployed residents could apply for job training programs and connect with area professionals.

Jones is working to ensure all citizens have equal access to opportunities.
David Koehler
Agriculture and Conservation chair | 46th Senate District

In 2014, Senator David Koehler continued his work to improve access to healthy, locally grown food throughout Illinois. He also addressed several important issues brought to him by local officials.

One of Koehler’s key initiatives was a bipartisan plan to make it easier for farmers to participate in farmers markets. Under existing law, each local health department is allowed to set rules for farmers markets. This system has resulted in a hodgepodge of regulations that vary wildly from community to community. Trying to comply with all the different rules greatly increases costs – both in terms of time and money – for farmers who want to participate in many different markets.

Koehler’s plan allows the state Department of Public Health to set farmers market rules for the entire state, which will make it easier for vendors to participate in an increasing number of Illinois’ more than 375 farmers markets.

Koehler also continued to advocate for legislation to require companies to notify consumers when their products contain genetically modified organisms. The scientific community is divided over the safety of these products, and Koehler believes a fair compromise is to give consumers the information they need to make their own decisions about GMOs. The senator is hopeful that Illinois will move forward on this issue soon, as it appears to be caught up in gridlock at the national level.

In addition to his work on food safety, Koehler worked to address specific concerns from his district. After deadly tornadoes swept through Washington, Pekin, East Peoria and other communities last fall, they appealed to the federal government for aid. They were denied. Koehler and a bipartisan, bicameral coalition of legislators came together to try to figure out a way the state could help.

Koehler sponsored their plan, which allows local governments to apply to the state for financial aid for the costs they incur dealing with clean up and emergency services during natural disasters. These governments are often hit twice by natural disasters. They have to pay for services and clean up, and they lose tax revenue due to property damage.

Koehler also worked with the Pekin chief of police to further crack down on the illegal production of methamphetamine in central Illinois. Koehler’s plan would have required prescriptions for a key meth ingredient, but due to the controversial nature of the plan, the issue is still under discussion.

Dan Kotowski
Appropriations II chair | 28th Senate District

The idea of banks taking a cut of a parent’s child support check made no sense to State Senator Dan Kotowski. So the Park Ridge lawmaker stepped up with new consumer protections, pushing legislation at the Capitol that simply stops banks from charging fees on people who collect their child support payments through debit cards.

Many of these individuals are single parents from low-income families who deserve and need every child support dollar to provide for their children. For Senator Kotowski, the legislation reflects his commonsense approach to financial matters at both the family and state level.

As chairman of one of the Senate’s two budgeting committees, Kotowski continues to focus on identifying programs that work and getting rid of those that don’t. This simple philosophy is the driving force behind Kotowski’s Budgeting for Results Commission, which this year travelled the state hosting hearings on state financial priorities and identifying programs that have the greatest impact on people’s lives.

The commission identified a range of mandates that are no longer needed, such as research programs that have not received funding for years and a state-authorized development board that has never convened because of a lack of appointees.

Senator Kotowski also continues to challenge how the state goes about constructing budgets each year. He filed legislation that would end the automatic transfer of more than $2 billion out of the state budget into specialized accounts. Under his plan, funding recipients would have to provide evidence-based information about why taxpayer money is necessary to support their programs.

Kotowski believes these dollars deserve the same scrutiny as any other state spending programs, and he plans to continue pushing for increased transparency in the budget process. Aside from financial matters, Kotowski remains a leading advocate for those with epilepsy, having been diagnosed as a child. Kotowski co-sponsored legislation adding patients with epilepsy or seizures to the state’s medicinal cannabis pilot program. Similar treatments have been shown to reduce symptoms significantly for patients, sometimes eliminating seizures completely.
Steven Landek
State Government and Veterans Affairs chair | 12th Senate District

State Senator Steven Landek offered his unique and valuable perspective as both a senator and mayor of a southwest suburban community to ensure the concerns of local governments across Illinois and the 12th Senate District were heard during the 2014 spring session.

Diligently studying analyses of bills and how they would affect local governments and residents of the district, he utilized his position on the Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee to offer input and advice on how certain legislation would impact communities and their residents.

In an effort to bring attention to an issue for suburban communities, Senator Landek re-introduced the Water Rate Protection Act. The legislation would add transparency and oversight on the setting of water rates in the suburbs surrounding Chicago. Its purpose this year was to begin the discussion.

“Lake Michigan is a natural resource that many municipalities rely on to provide water to their residents,” Landek said. “We are seeking to provide fairer and more equal access for suburban residents,” Landek said. “We are seeking to provide fairer and more equal access for suburban communities to a natural resource that we all rely on.”

As a mayor who has worked carefully to maintain a well-funded pension system at the municipal level, he made the tough votes in favor of both Chicago and statewide pension reform.

“We can’t go back and fix the mistakes that were made,” Landek said. “Both of these plans are reasonable options to help our state devote more resources to priorities such as education and infrastructure.”

More importantly, we needed to pass legislation so the third branch of government, the courts, can review its constitutionality,” Landek continued. “The pension problem cannot be resolved until the courts have issued their opinion.”

His commitment to forming consensus was also on display this spring as Chairman of the State Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. Working with members from across the aisle, a wide array of proposals passed his committee with near unanimous consent.

In Springfield and back home, Senator Landek interacted with constituents from all over the diverse 12th District. At the Capitol, he welcomed groups such as Corazon Community Services in Cicero and officials from the city of Berwyn.

Back home, he visited schools throughout the district and co-sponsored events focusing on diabetes prevention and teacher appreciation with State Representatives Lisa Hernandez and Mike Zalewski.

Andy Manar
48th Senate District

Senator Andy Manar has focused his attention this spring on a critical issue, our state’s outdated and inequitable school funding system.

Manar began his efforts to overhaul the school funding system last year when he introduced legislation to create the Education Funding Advisory Committee. The committee was tasked with studying the way Illinois schools are funded – or, more accurately, underfunded – and make recommendations for fixing the system to ensure schools across the state get their fair share.

On January 31, after months of discussion, which included eight hearings across the state, nearly 48 hours of expert testimony and input from stakeholders, the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee released its recommendations to improve how Illinois distributes funds for public education.

That report eventually led Manar introducing the School Funding Reform Act of 2014, a proposal to streamline the current hodgepodge of funding sources into one funding formula that will account for school districts’ needs. In doing so, he has jumpstarted the first significant debate on how we fund schools in more than 15 years.

Manar also proposed a funding alternative for needed repairs and upgrades to the state fairgrounds. His plan will create the Illinois State Fairgrounds Foundation, a not-for-profit entity, to help raise private funds to cover the cost of facility upgrades and repairs, which have ballooned over the years to nearly $30 million. Manar hopes this proposal will result in increased investment in maintaining the fairgrounds and facilities, which are a vital economic showplace for the city of Springfield.

You can drive through Main Street in any small town in southern and central Illinois and find at least one historic structure that needs to be rehabilitated. To encourage private developers to repurpose these historic buildings, and to spur job growth, Manar sponsored a proposal to create a statewide historic tax credit. Senate Bill 336 will create a Rehabilitation and Revitalization tax credit on state income taxes for the rehabilitation of historic buildings.

To qualify, the building would have to be on the National Register of Historic Buildings and the intent of the rehabilitation would have to be for a for-profit business. The credit will only be awarded after the renovations are complete and the building is essentially “open for business.”

According to Manar, encouraging private investment in our aging downtowns not only positively impacts the community through job creation and increased property value, but it also increases intrinsic value by restoring something historically unique and important to a community.
Pat McGuire

43rd Senate District

The legislative session in Springfield might take Pat McGuire away from his hometown, but his Capitol agenda remains thoroughly rooted in the needs of the Will County communities he represents in the Illinois Senate. McGuire has been active in clean energy initiatives this year, focusing on ways to bring clean energy jobs to Will County. McGuire wants to make sure Illinois has the policies in place to attract investment in the fast-growing clean energy industry. And while Senator McGuire looks to attract employment through the technology of tomorrow, he was also working to revitalize the industries and facilities of Will County’s past.

For decades, the Joliet Correctional Center had been a key local employer. The state’s decision to close the prison in 2002 was a blow to the community. But making matters worse was that the state had no plans for the future of the expansive complex that sits deteriorating along Collins Street.

McGuire considers it irresponsible for the state to build these complexes and then walk away with no plans to maintain them, let alone market them for future use. Last year, he sponsored legislation to create incentive programs for investors who find ways to breathe new life into shuttered state facilities. And the Senator spent the last year working with community stakeholders and government agencies to find a way for the city of Joliet to buy the shuttered historic prison in order to turn it into a museum.

He has also been working closely with the governor’s office to ensure the reopening and repurposing of the Illinois Youth Center in Joliet. Investment in these facilities will mean jobs for the people of Will County.

McGuire is also pushing for state funding for needed school construction projects for the fast-growing local schools. Four school districts in the 43rd Senate District are on the next statewide construction list. McGuire has been working to ensure that these schools stay at the top of the list when funding for construction projects comes available.

In addition to his efforts on the local level, McGuire has also worked for the passage of a number of important safety and education issues. For instance, he co-sponsored efforts to keep the Illinois Poison Center open. The acclaimed center handles nearly 82,000 cases of potential poisoning each year, many involving children.

He also championed a new college affordability initiative designed to streamline distance learning across colleges and universities throughout the Midwest.

Julie Morrison

29th Senate District

Since joining the Illinois Senate, Julie Morrison has taken the lead as a strong proponent for child welfare programs.

Morrison initiated hearings looking into the troubled agency after learning of a series of concerning news stories about the Department of Children and Family Services. The news stories revealed an increased number of deaths from abuse and neglect and detailed the tragic case of a girl who had contact with DCFS but was allegedly brutally tormented and killed by her caregivers.

Morrison was not interested in penalizing DCFS. Instead, she wanted to work with the agency and non-profit groups that focus on child welfare to help DCFS turn itself around and improve its effectiveness.

One of the key points that emerged during the hearing was that the rules governing DCFS’s safety plans don’t go far enough to protect children. DCFS implements safety plans when the agency’s investigators determine that allegations of abuse or neglect are serious but do not yet warrant putting the child or children in protective custody or foster care. The requirements of the plans vary, but they often involve placing the child in the home of a relative like an aunt or grandparent, requiring a family member to temporarily leave the home or requiring another family member to move in and supervise contact.

In response, Morrison proposed legislation requiring DCFS to provide written copies of the safety plan to all of the caregivers named in the plan. Her proposal also requires everyone involved to sign the plans and for DCFS to make sure that caregivers understand all of their rights and responsibilities.

In addition to her work on safety plans, Morrison introduced legislation to require DCFS to file annual reports on its day care licensing system, which serves more than 300,000 children; to encourage all mandated child abuse reporters to complete training every five years; and to develop multi-disciplinary teams of DCFS investigators, law enforcement officers, doctors and other relevant professionals to investigate cases of potential child abuse.

Senator Morrison believes that as the General Assembly increases the accountability and transparency of DCFS, she and other legislators will find it easier to identify ways to make further improvements to Illinois’ system of protecting children who cannot protect themselves.
John Mulroe  
Public Health chair | 10th Senate District

On a recent day at the Capitol, State Senator John Mulroe rolled up his sleeves, took a simple needle prick to a finger to draw blood and, within a few seconds, had finished a Hepatitis C screening.

As a member of the baby boom generation, Mulroe is part of one of the most at-risk populations for the disease, which is why health experts recommend all baby boomers go through a similar screening for early detection. Too often, the disease goes undetected and undiagnosed until it becomes life threatening.

But for Mulroe, as chairman of the Senate’s Public Health Committee, the experience also reflected his hands-on approach and dedication to improving public health in Illinois.

State Senator Mulroe has spent much of the past year working to increase public safety and awareness of a number of public health issues.

Concerned with the recent media attention to the uptick of nearly extinct diseases, Mulroe created a subcommittee on immunizations this past year. He will lead the new immunization subcommittee in discussions about these recent trends and their correlation to vaccinations and immunizations.

Mulroe brought a traveling lab to Springfield to raise awareness about 3D mammography options for women with dense breast tissue, which can make traditional mammograms hard to interpret. The traveling machinery displays information on the newest and most effective form of breast cancer detection. 3D mammography is considered one of the most powerful diagnostic tools for the early detection of breast cancer and Illinois boasts 34 hospitals that provide this technology.

Mulroe also led a proposal through the Senate that requires CPR training for high school children and to make sure they know how to use AED machines that are required in schools. Mulroe feels that if everyone is given the opportunity to learn how to operate these machines, lives will be saved.

Last year, Mulroe championed a proposal outlawing the sale of electronic cigarettes to people under the age of 18. In continuing his quest to keep children healthy and safe, Mulroe passed two more e-cigarette safety proposals this year. The first puts e-cigarettes behind the merchant counter or in a locked display case to keep them out of the hands of children. The second childproofs the packaging for e-cigarette nicotine liquid that appears to be flavoring but often carries toxic warnings.

Michael Noland  
Criminal Law chair | 22nd Senate District

The 2014 session of the General Assembly saw Senator Michael Noland emerge as a leader in reforming both the state’s criminal code and education funding system.

In the areas of rape victims’ rights and penalties for traffic offenders, Senator Noland was determined to right past wrongs and modernize the state’s laws. Noland also played a key role in trying to craft a fair school funding formula for local public schools.

As chairman of the Senate Criminal Law Committee, Noland led the effort to expand the rights of rape victims to prosecute their attackers. After Rosa Pickett was sexually assaulted in her hometown of Robbins, local police lost the rape kit containing her attacker’s DNA evidence. The statute of limitations expired before Rosa ever realized their mistake, and her rapist never faced justice.

Noland’s proposal would start the clock on prosecuting rape at the moment law enforcement completes analysis of all rape kits in the case rather than at the moment of the crime, as the law currently states. With this safeguard in place, stories like Rosa’s should never happen again. In large part because of Rosa’s powerful and courageous testimony, Senate Bill 2609 passed the Senate.

Another of Noland’s proposals would address a problem only drivers in Illinois face. Illinois is the last state in the nation where law enforcement may confiscate the licenses of those cited for minor traffic violations. Noland’s measure would end this practice, allowing drivers to give their signatures as a promise to comply with the terms of their citations. Working with law enforcement and the secretary of state’s office, Noland was able to pass Senate Bill 2583 through the General Assembly and put it on the governor’s desk.

As a member of the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee, Noland played a central role in the push to reform education funding in Illinois. Senate Bill 16, the result of that committee’s work, creates a fair school funding formula that is more responsive to schools’ needs. Through this formula, schools with the greatest need will get the most state aid, while schools that have adequate local resources would be expected to provide more on their own.

In addition to his legislative work, Noland was active in his district throughout session. He hosted a successful financial literacy seminar that taught constituents about basic skills of saving, managing and growing money.
Kwame Raoul  
Judiciary chair | Pensions and Investments chair | 13th Senate District

In 2008 and 2012, Kwame Raoul volunteered as an election attorney in Florida. While there, he witnessed senior citizens and minorities discouraged from voting. The experience has shaped one of Raoul's recurring priorities as a member of the Illinois State Senate, where he has secured approval of numerous voter protections including the proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution that Raoul guided through the General Assembly this year and onto the November ballot for public consideration.

Raoul's proposed amendment prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, income national origin, religion or sexual orientation when an individual attempts to vote or register to vote. It would thwart covert voter suppression efforts such as the so-called voter ID laws that too often disproportionately turn seniors and minorities away from the voting booth.

Raoul's leadership on the voter amendment is indicative of his growing role at the Capitol as a sought out negotiator able to find consensus on some of the state's biggest issues.

Nowhere was this more evident than with his leadership of the select committee of lawmakers tasked with finding an agreeable fix to the state's pension system in order to resolve billions of dollars in debt that threatens to impede state services for generations to come.

Setting aside his personal opinions, Raoul conducted the highly sensitive process of public hearings and private negotiations with dignity, an open mind and – when needed – a firm hand. And just as he'd done with the abolition of the death penalty, workers' compensation reform, redistricting and concealed-carry negotiations, Raoul brokered a consensus that was able to pass the General Assembly and move on to the courts.

Battle-tested on the pension issue, Raoul later took up similar legislation to reform Chicago and Cook County pension funds. He was instrumental in securing the support of most affected bargaining units. Meanwhile, he pushed for reforms inspired by his role hosting yearly hearings on opportunities for minority-owned and female-owned financial services firms to do business with state-run pension systems.

Raoul also continued his groundbreaking work in criminal justice reform. Believing that the key to strong and safe communities is getting smart on crime, not just tough on crime, Raoul sponsored legislation expanding the admissibility of DNA evidence in the courtroom, reforming criminal lineups to prevent false identifications and automatically expunging juvenile arrest records for young people who get on the right side of the law and stay there.

Martin Sandoval  
Transportation chair | 11th Senate District

This year at the Capitol, Senator Martin Sandoval continued his leadership role in working to make sure all people have access to health care.

For instance, Sandoval pushed legislation to ensure hospitals recognize the growing diversity of the communities they serve and are able to communicate with the people coming to them for medical care.

Sandoval's Senate Bill 2628 requires hospitals to furnish translation services to their patients if 10 percent of the population they serve speaks a language other than English. Hospitals will also be required to have a translator available 24 hours a day.

The goal is to ensure that when people are facing medical issues, they have the information they need to make informed decisions, even if their first language isn't English.

Medical terminology can be difficult for people to understand even when they speak the same language. Those who specialize in medical translations can help comfort patients and ensure they are informed of what is happening.

As chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, Sandoval has spent this session working with the Transportation for Illinois Coalition to spotlight the need for a strong transportation system in Illinois. Currently, nearly 80 percent of the roads, bridges and airports throughout the state need improvements. Senator Sandoval is committed to improving the situation because transportation is key to a healthy economy and business growth.

Sandoval also was a proponent of a measure to regulate companies like UberX, Lyft and Sidecar, which have recently entered Illinois communities to provide transportation services. Services such as these have always required special licensure and strict compliance with local public safety rules. Legislation passed the Senate to bring these companies into line with other like industries.

Sandoval is also working to bring jobs to Illinois. Earlier this year, he proposed a three-point plan that included additional investment in our public infrastructure, modernizing the state's job training programs under one consolidated agency and committing additional state funds to programs that move people from getting an unemployment check to a paycheck.

Senator Sandoval also recognizes that working men and women need to be able to live off the wages they earn. To help accomplish that goal, he is backing efforts to raise the minimum wage for the workers of Illinois.
Steve Stadelman
34th Senate District

Next year, an Amtrak train will rumble into a Rockford depot for the first time since 1981. The long-awaited return of passenger rail service to the Forest City came about thanks to State Senator Steve Stadelman, who had made it one of his top priorities upon arriving at the Capitol last year.

After years of negotiations, Stadelman was able to join the governor in announcing a $223 million state investment that will create hundreds of jobs and restart Amtrak service between Rockford and Chicago beginning in 2015.

It’s the highlight of the freshman lawmaker’s ongoing efforts to enhance economic development and bring needed infrastructure and services to Rockford.

For instance, Stadelman also proposed legislation to try to make the best out of bad economic times for both workers and employers alike. His work-sharing proposal would allow employers to scale back workers hours during downturns rather than eliminate jobs outright. In return, unemployment would be used to bridge the gap.

Employers benefit because they keep trained workers on the job ready to add hours when the economy rebounds, and employees benefit because they don’t lose their jobs. The state could also see savings because workers who would stay on the job would no longer need full government assistance.

In addition to his work on economic development, Stadelman worked hard to maintain the state’s investment in Rockford facilities. First, he introduced legislation to revitalize Singer Mental Health Center on Rockford’s northwest side. The state closed the center under previous budget cuts. Stadelman's idea is to make it easy for local governments to gain control of the shuttered state properties and use tax credits to entice developers to find new uses for them. The plan has the potential to encourage job growth and improve property values in the neighborhood.

In connection with that plan, Stadelman also introduced legislation allowing the use of proceeds from the sale of closed state facilities to assist in funding mental health services in the area where the closed facility is located.

Stadelman also sponsored a measure allowing the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to make grants for safety and security improvements to various public K-12 school districts and area vocational centers as well as colleges and universities.

Prior to the bill, IEMA could only issue safety grants to colleges and universities. Now schools throughout the state will be able to upgrade security and protect teachers and students.

Heather Steans
Appropriations I chair | 7th Senate District

Seeking to right a more than three-decade old black mark on Illinois’ reputation, State Senator Heather Steans won final Senate approval of the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The ERA was a lightning rod of controversy in the late 1970s and early 1980s when proponents sought to amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit discrimination based on gender. At the time, Illinois failed to support the change, and the protests by supporters resulted in arrests and civic turmoil at the Capitol.

This year’s renewed effort to provoke debate on the ERA is merely Steans’ latest effort to protect equality.

On June 1, Illinois officially welcomes marriage equality for same-sex couples, an initiative Steans championed for the past year, even going so far as to hand deliver the historic legislation to the governor’s office.

Steans achieved another victory for equal rights when she secured a favorable vote for Marsy’s Law, an amendment to the Illinois Constitution’s crime victims’ bill of rights. The state constitution already protects crime victims during the trial process, but Marsy’s Law, if approved by voters this November, would add additional notification requirements and opportunities to be heard. It would also give crime victims and their families standing to petition a court to enforce their rights.

Aside from her dedicated fight for equality and fairness, Steans continues in her role as one of the Senate’s top budget negotiators, and this session she scored a significant environmental protection victory.

Steans sponsored a ban on cosmetic “microbeads,” tiny plastic pieces often found in face washes and other personal care products. And while the plastic bits effectively clean pores, they also find their way into waterways such as Lake Michigan, where they absorb toxins and can pollute fish and other aquatic life.

Senator Steans also pushed for tougher requirements that schools investigate and act on reported bullying and sought to reduce Illinois’ filing fee for LLC businesses to make it the lowest in the nation.

Steans holds degrees from Princeton University and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. She lives with her husband, Leo Smith and their three children in the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago.
Patricia Van Pelt
5th Senate District

In her second session in the General Assembly, Senator Patricia Van Pelt continued her focus on social justice issues and protecting workers’ rights while remaining a tireless advocate for the people of the 5th Senate District.

Van Pelt supported and fought for proposed laws ranging from increasing the minimum wage and pregnancy accommodation in the workplace to preserving funds for the Child Care Assistance Program and employment training.

She wants to see the minimum wage raised to $10.65 by July 2016 in an effort to ensure workers earn a living wage. She also co-sponsored legislation that would make it a civil rights violation to discriminate against a pregnant woman in the workplace.

Van Pelt believes in a fair wage for the people who care for the developmentally disabled. She has supported efforts to increase those workers’ hourly wages to adequately reflect their hard work and dedication.

In a successful attempt to make everyday life easier for drivers in Illinois, Van Pelt sponsored legislation that now allows for drivers of registered vehicles to operate those vehicles without a registration sticker, as long as the driver retains a receipt that shows proof that the sticker is in the mail.

Continuing in her passion for the well-being of families in her district and across this state, Van Pelt fought to amend the Illinois African-American Family Commission Act to update the state’s data on education, employment, income and health among African American families in Illinois. The commission’s goal is to monitor programs and legislation regarding the impact, both positive and negative, on African American families in Illinois.

Remaining aware of the needs of our students, Van Pelt supported legislation that is encouraging more breakfast options be available for all children during the school year and at open sites during the summer months.

Beyond legislation, Van Pelt hosted a small business fair this April for those small business owners striving for economic success and looking for opportunities to expand and grow their labor force. Businesses received training in contracting, lending and loans, and became aware of state programs to utilize for future progress.
NOTE: This digital version includes legislation passed after 3 p.m. Thursday, May 29, may not be included.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- HB 5869 makes it a misdemeanor to release non-native aquatic life into the wild without the permission of the Department of Natural Resources. This legislation is intended to prevent another situation like the Asian carp infestation plaguing many of Illinois’ waterways.
- HB 5085 enables universities and the Department of Agriculture to study the potential uses of industrial hemp, which could become a valuable crop for Illinois farmers.
- HB 5514 allows trappers to kill their prey using firearms. Current law requires trappers to stomp or bludgeon the animals to death.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 4663</td>
<td>Adds members to the swine disease control committee and changes the name of the cattle disease control committee; the committee will only meet during outbreaks; makes other changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5079</td>
<td>Requires individuals who want trapping licenses to obtain certificates of competence (exempts current/recent license holders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5080</td>
<td>Requires commercial waterfowl hunters to apply for a permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5082</td>
<td>Allows large casting nets to be used to catch Asian carp; allows commercial fisherman to use such nets to collect other fish to be used as bait fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5085</td>
<td>Allows universities and the Dept. of Agriculture to research industrial hemp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5514</td>
<td>Allows trappers to use firearms to kill their prey rather than bludgeoning or stamping it to death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5567</td>
<td>Requires DNR to approve or deny oil and gas permit applications within 25 days (5 days to acknowledge receipt and 20 to decide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5869</td>
<td>Creates a misdemeanor for releasing any aquatic life into the wild without DNR’s permission; meant to prevent another situation like the Asian carp infestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 0853</td>
<td>Creates the Youth Hunting License; allows youths 16 and younger to hunt with supervision from a parent, grandparent or guardian; when youths turn 17 they must pass hunter’s safety course; $7 fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 0902</td>
<td>Bans the sale, transfer, possession, etc of certain reptiles and amphibians taken from the wild; creates a permit process for owning other reptiles and amphibians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2662</td>
<td>Allows farm mutual insurance companies to invest in additional types of bonds; makes other technical changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3000</td>
<td>Creates a fund to help investigate the destruction of natural resources and repair damage to the environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appropriations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 3793</td>
<td>Budget bill reappropriation for construction, AFSCME back pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3794</td>
<td>Mini-capital construction program funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 6060</td>
<td>Budget bill: supplemental, Medicaid related expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 6093</td>
<td>Budget bill: K-12 Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 6094</td>
<td>Budget bill: higher ed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Business and Economic Development

- HB 3829 requires the Illinois Business Development Council to study other states’ economic development policies for attracting and keeping businesses in border areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 0008</td>
<td>Protects pregnant women from employment discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3681</td>
<td>Exempts software companies from license requirements if they don’t actually transfer money to process payments from wireless devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3829</td>
<td>Requires the Illinois Business Development Council to study border states’ economic development policies and recommend best practices for border counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3924</td>
<td>Extends a TIF district for the city of Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4185</td>
<td>Creates a TIF extension for Arlington Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4286</td>
<td>Extends a TIF district in Machesney Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4534</td>
<td>Fee not exceeding $15 will be charged to certain defendants to defray automated record keeping expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4417</td>
<td>Allows probation officers to carry firearms in accordance with their jobs after taking the same training as peace officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4360</td>
<td>Allows companies to use “Chicago 2016” in their business names and changes several LLC filing rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4417</td>
<td>Allows probation officers to carry firearms in accordance with their jobs after taking the same training as peace officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 0226</td>
<td>Creates the Support Your Neighborhood Commission to help increase the number of American- and Illinois-made products purchased by Illinois consumers; requires state gift shops to have sections or booths selling products made in America and Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 0499</td>
<td>Changes the Tri-City Regional Port District to the America’s Central Port District and expands its jurisdiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 0504</td>
<td>Extends several TIF districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 0647</td>
<td>Regulates how telehealth plans are to be covered by insurance plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 0727</td>
<td>Creates various liquor code exemptions in Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 1999</td>
<td>Allows day care/child care licensing applicants to meet the requirement of proving they have graduated high school by proving they have graduated college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2071</td>
<td>Extends several TIF districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2634</td>
<td>Shortens the posting requirement before holding a meeting to change an insurance mutual company into a stock company from 60 days to 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2922</td>
<td>Prohibits public insurance adjusters from accepting payment over 10% of the insurance settlement for catastrophic events; allows exemptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2952</td>
<td>Amends Self-Storage Facility Act, allows notifications to be sent via electronic mail; defines verified mail and electronic mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3044</td>
<td>Removes a provision requiring that real estate broker license requirements include real-time discussion between the instructor and students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3103</td>
<td>Expands the definition of beer to include all beverages brewed or fermented from malt products, specifically hard ciders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3259</td>
<td>Creates a property tax abatement for commercial or industrial property rebuilt following a tornado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3290</td>
<td>Exempts off-road riding facilities from liability for noise emissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3322</td>
<td>Clarifies the type of actuary intergovernmental insurance pools must use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3324</td>
<td>Makes a variety of changes to the law regulating purchasing industrial insurance from unauthorized insurers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3423</td>
<td>Brings Illinois standards into line with federal hazard insurance guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3438</td>
<td>Allows co-op owners to own up to 10 shares (rather than 5) and increases the maximum allowed share price; changes the definition of co-ops to include both fees for shareholders and sale to others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3488</td>
<td>Clarifies architecture test timing requirements for individuals who want to become licensed architects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Civil Law

- HB 5950 strengthens state laws that require convicted offenders to provide restitution to their victims.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 4360</td>
<td>Allows companies to use “Chicago 2016” in their business names and changes several LLC filing rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4417</td>
<td>Allows probation officers to carry firearms in accordance with their jobs after taking the same training as peace officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4534</td>
<td>Fee not exceeding $15 will be charged to certain defendants to defray automated record keeping expenses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Consumer Protection

- **HB 5354** allows people to sell up to $1,000 worth of homemade food from their homes. This law was inspired by a young girl who was selling cupcakes to make a little extra money. The local health department shut her down, causing a local and national outrage.

- **SB 2597** adds damage to doors or windows to the report homeowners must provide to potential buyers.

- **SB 2829** requires the assets of dead people with small estates to be used to pay debts before being distributed to heirs.

- **SB 3023** allows mechanics’ liens to be subordinated to mortgage under certain circumstances.

- **SB 3231** creates a more precise procedure for awarding maintenance after the dissolution of a marriage.

### Criminal Law

- **SB 2596** changes alcohol server certification requirements for Cook County.

- **SB 3504** makes a variety of consumer-friendly changes to mine subsidence insurance rules.

- **SB 2599** requires roofers to submit proof that they pay unemployment insurance toIDES.

- **HB 4290** creates criminal penalties for giving out false concealed carry certification. Both gun rights advocates and gun safety advocates want to make sure everyone who applies for a concealed carry permit has proper certification.

- **HB 4269** increases criminal penalties for drug dealers who booby-trap their homes. These criminals put the lives of law enforcement officers at risk.

### Consumer Protection Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 5354</td>
<td>Allows people to sell up to $1,000 worth of homemade food from their homes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2597</td>
<td>Adds damage to doors or windows to the report homeowners must provide to potential buyers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2829</td>
<td>Requires the assets of dead people with small estates to be used to pay debts before being distributed to heirs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3023</td>
<td>Allows mechanics’ liens to be subordinated to mortgage under certain circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3231</td>
<td>Creates a more precise procedure for awarding maintenance after the dissolution of a marriage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Criminal Law Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 4290</td>
<td>Creates criminal penalties for giving out false concealed carry certification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4269</td>
<td>Increases criminal penalties for drug dealers who booby-trap their homes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2599</td>
<td>Requires roofers to submit proof that they pay unemployment insurance toIDES.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4725</td>
<td>Requires insurers to develop risk management plans to comply with federal law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5354</td>
<td>The Cupcake Bill; allows public health departments to inspect kitchens in the event of a foodborne illness outbreak, much like with the cottage food law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5575</td>
<td>Raises the amount of money insurance arbitrators can award following accidents involving uninsured and under-insured drivers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SB 2695 Makes it a crime for a law enforcement official to use or communicate information they learned at
a crime and increases penalties if the residence is used for drug
manufacture or distribution

SB 0978 Requires ISP to annually expunge certain non-delinquent minors’ arrest records when
they turn 18; other expungement changes

SB 4266 Strengthens laws that protect the privacy of crime victims

SB 0852 Applies penalties to the rules addressing no-smoking signs and ashtrays

SB 4236 Prohibits charged and convicted stalkers from receiving DHS drug and alcohol addiction treatment

SB 0851 Strengthens courts to seal orders of supervision and convictions on municipal ordinances

SB 4269 Makes booby trapping your residence a crime and increases penalties if the residence is used for drug
manufacture or distribution

SB 4290 Creates penalties for instructors who give out false concealed-carry certification

SB 4140 Increases the fines for violating animal welfare laws

SB 4516 Clarifies that child sexual abuse must be intentional contact with genitals or anus for the purposes of
sexual fulfilment

SB 4594 Allows judges to issue search warrants via video conference

SB 4781 Creates age and education requirements for Dept. of Juvenile Justice rehabilitation staff

SB 5290 Makes it a crime to solicit naked pictures of a child from the child’s parents as a means of seducing the
child or the parent into performing a sex act

SB 5415 Allows the Illinois State Police to claim that a reward “may” be available for helping locate a missing
sex offender rather than a reward “will” be available

SB 5523 Allows law enforcement agents to seize vehicles and vessels for felony retail theft

SB 5526 Prohibits children from owning kratom plants, which are a mild pain reliever with side effects similar to
opium

SB 5682 Creates new SNAP and TANF fraud provisions for misrepresenting recipients of these benefits

SB 5815 Allows courts to seal orders of supervision and convictions on municipal ordinances

SB 5899 Allows the state’s appellate prosecutor’s office to form a committee to evaluate and recommend best
practices on issues related to investigations and prosecutions of serious criminal offenses

HB 4516 Clarifies that child sexual abuse must be intentional contact with genitals or anus for the purposes of
sexual fulfilment

HB 4410 Increases the fines for violating animal welfare laws

HB 4516 Clarifies that child sexual abuse must be intentional contact with genitals or anus for the purposes of
sexual fulfilment

HB 4594 Allows judges to issue search warrants via video conference

HB 4781 Creates age and education requirements for Dept. of Juvenile Justice rehabilitation staff

HB 5290 Makes it a crime to solicit naked pictures of a child from the child’s parents as a means of seducing the
child or the parent into performing a sex act

HB 5415 Allows the Illinois State Police to claim that a reward “may” be available for helping locate a missing
sex offender rather than a reward “will” be available

HB 5523 Allows law enforcement agents to seize vehicles and vessels for felony retail theft

HB 5526 Prohibits children from owning kratom plants, which are a mild pain reliever with side effects similar to
opium

HB 5682 Creates new SNAP and TANF fraud provisions for misrepresenting recipients of these benefits

HB 5815 Allows courts to seal orders of supervision and convictions on municipal ordinances

HB 5899 Allows the state’s appellate prosecutor’s office to form a committee to evaluate and recommend best
practices on issues related to investigations and prosecutions of serious criminal offenses

HB 5922 Enhances penalties for trespassing on mass transit property rights of way with the intent to delay
service

HB 682 Crime victims’ rights amendment

HB 0978 Requires ISP to annually expunge certain non-delinquent minors’ arrest records when they turn 18;
other expungement changes

HB 1007 Adds programs addressing trauma from prostitution and human trafficking to the list of mental health
court programs for probation

HB 2513 Requires all new school construction to include storm shelters

SB 0852 Applies penalties to the rules addressing no-smoking signs and ashtrays

SB 0978 Requires ISP to annually expunge certain non-delinquent minors’ arrest records when they turn 18;
other expungement changes

SB 1007 Adds programs addressing trauma from prostitution and human trafficking to the list of mental health
court programs for probation

SB 2560 Establishes that if defendants’ convictions are reversed by findings of factual innocence they will not
be required to pay any related fees or fines and will be refunded any fees or fines they have already
paid

SB 2650 Establishes that if defendants’ convictions are reversed by findings of factual innocence they will not
be required to pay any related fees or fines and will be refunded any fees or fines they have already
paid

SB 2695 Makes it a crime for a law enforcement official to use or communicate information they learned at
work to hinder a criminal case, excludes informants

SB 2709 Establishes that donating blood to a blood bank cannot count toward community service requirements for
a juvenile probation sentence

SB 2800 Extends a pilot program reinstating a provision that requires that defendants who require medical care
are returned to the county jail and reexamined before standing trial

SB 2801 Fundamentally reforms the way defendants who are unfit to stand trial and declared not guilty by
reason of insanity are treated

SB 2852 Allows search warrants to be issued via email

SB 2937 Prohibits police from using privately owned drones for surveillance without a court order

SB 2956 Requires state’s attorneys to seek court orders for people charged with sex crimes to be tested for
STDs

SB 2995 Creates a procedure for post-conviction forensic testing for individuals who plead guilty

SB 3074 Allows courts to extend probation periods

SB 3110 Allows physicians to disclose information about a patient if that patient is charged with a criminal
action of sexual assault, homicide, battery, domestic battery or aggravated domestic battery

SB 3267 Creates time credits for non-violent offenders on probation or conditional release who have completed
ged, associate degree, vocational certificate or bachelor’s degree

SB 3275 Outlaws the psychedelic drugs 25C-NBOMe and 25B-NBOMe

SB 3405 Criminalizes frivolous patent litigation

SB 3434 Allows law enforcement to seize watercraft used in the commission of repeated crimes involving DHs

SB 3538 Creates a criminal penalty for impersonating the guardian of a person with disabilities

Education

- HB 2513 requires all new school construction to include storm shelters. This move will protect children and
teachers from deadly tornadoes.
- HB 1152 creates a task force to look into the governance structure of Chicago Public Schools. The group
will help determine if local residents should have elected representation.
- HB 3700 improves Illinois’ investment in children with dyslexia. It officially puts dyslexia into Illinois’
special education code and creates recommended training modules for teachers.

- HB 1002 Allows the Lebanon School District to issue construction bonds if certain conditions are met
- HB 1152 Creates the Chicago Educational Governance Task Force to examine and recommend the best structure
for governing CPS schools
- HB 1711 Clarifies that directors of Education Service Centers have the same responsibilities and authority as
ROEs, including appointing replacement school board members
- HB 2513 Requires all new school construction to include storm shelters
- HB 3232 Increases transparency and accountability of charter schools
- HB 3662 Requires CPS to reimburse the parents of students who must walk or travel along safe passage routes,
or qualified transportation expenses
- HB 3695 Allows AP computer science classes to count toward math high school graduation requirements as
long as students have also completed Algebra II
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 3700</td>
<td>Requires ISBE to include dyslexia in the state's special education provisions and create training modules for teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3724</td>
<td>Requires high schools to teach CPR and AED use in health classes; allows parents to withdraw students if they have objections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3777</td>
<td>Allows ISBE to make grants to special education cooperatives for school maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3937</td>
<td>Extends the moratorium on virtual charter schools until 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3942</td>
<td>Validates a school district referendum that passed this March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3948</td>
<td>Changes Grow Your Own Teacher candidate requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4207</td>
<td>Cyberbullying expansion, extends schools' disciplinary authority for cyberbullying if the computer is accessed away from school if it hinders a student’s ability to learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4262</td>
<td>Gives schools the authority to require their employees to undergo additional health screenings, including for tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4336</td>
<td>Changes the name of General Educational Development (GED) tests to high school equivalency tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4407</td>
<td>Clarifies that schools must continue to follow a students’ current IEP while that IEP is challenged by the state, school or parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4440</td>
<td>Increases the amount of the Early Childhood Block Grant spent on birth-to-3 programs from 11% to 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4522</td>
<td>Reduces the number of school districts in a city needed to form a K-8 math and science partnership with a college from four to two districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4527</td>
<td>Requires charter schools to comply with all federal and state laws pertaining to public schools and special education and the instruction of English language learners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4591</td>
<td>Requires charter schools to return money paid for dismissed students to the local school district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4612</td>
<td>Creates a study on shared school bus services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4616</td>
<td>Allows a school board to use remaining funds on hand in the fire prevention and safety fund for safety inspections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4652</td>
<td>Increases the number of fee waivers that DCFS can award to its wards who attend college from 48 to 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4767</td>
<td>Gradually repeals an alternative teacher certification program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4995</td>
<td>Allows the Monticello School District to issue bonds if approved by referendum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5283</td>
<td>Allows the Milford Township School District to issue bonds for school construction with voter approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5286</td>
<td>Changes school psychologist qualifications and establishes that working four years as school support personnel shall be counted toward a principal endorsement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5288</td>
<td>Establishes new requirements for school counselors' duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5330</td>
<td>Creates a task force to review standardized assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5397</td>
<td>Changes standards for a variety of teachers’ continued education scholarship programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5399</td>
<td>Requires schools to submit fitness testing results to ISBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5431</td>
<td>Requires ISBE to create a concussion awareness certification program for coaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5546</td>
<td>Changes how laid-off teachers can be recalled to work; based on performance instead of seniority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5588</td>
<td>Eliminates duplicative and obsolete language in the school code</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 0105</td>
<td>Omnibus election bill; extends early voting, extends voting by mail and creates an Election Day grace period registration pilot program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3199</td>
<td>Encourages schools to close or hold teachers' institutes on Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 5755</td>
<td>Birth Control Referendum; adds a non-binding referendum on women's health to the ballot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HJRCA 0052</td>
<td>Creates a constitutional amendment to protect voter rights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environment and Energy

• SB 5666 requires garbage companies in Cook and the collar counties to provide recycling service.
• SB 3139 allows the governor to declare an emergency when propane supplies run low, like during the previous winter. Declaring an emergency allows bigger trucks to carry more propane on Illinois highways.
• SB 2671 increases oversight on tire waste sites. This measure is meant to prevent devastating tire fires like the one that polluted the town of Hoopeston.

| SB 2427 | Authorizes the Illinois Power Agency to spend up to $30 million to buy renewable energy credits from solar panel operators |
| SB 3635 | Requires the ICC to require gas, electric and water companies with 100,000 customers to submit an annual report on procurement goals and actual spending on female/minority owned businesses |
| SB 4227 | Requires the IEPA to post the mailing addresses of electronics recycling centers on its website and to produce a report on the electronics recycled each year |
| SB 4606 | Extends an EPA exemption to non-Cook County landfills accepting construction and demolition waste, which will allow for increased recycling possibilities |
| SB 4716 | Allows MWRD to sell or dispose of recovered resources or renewable energy |
| SB 5666 | Requires garbage companies in Cook and the collar counties (excluding Chicago) to provide recycling services |
| SB 5911 | Permits anyone to trap wildlife or birds on their own land if they are destroying property or pose a risk to people; the location of these traps are exempt from FOIA laws |
| SB 2657 | Streamlines IEPA operations |
| SB 2671 | Requires waste sites with more than 10,000 tires or 500 tons of used tires to obtain a permit and submit compliance reports to the EPA |
| SB 2727 | Bans products containing microbeads; defines synthetic plastic microbead; removes provision on home rule, removes provision on violation of prohibition; changes effective date and fine |
| SB 2780 | Expands the Water Pollution Control Loan Program to include additional purposes; changes meaning of “treatment works” and “local government unit” |
| SB 2966 | Allows various institutions to submit ideas regarding urban flooding to the General Assembly |
| SB 3049 | Adds the gray wolf, American black bear and cougar to list of protected species under the Wildlife Code; allows you to kill one if you or your property are imminently threatened or apply for a permit if the animal becomes a nuisance |
| SB 3055 | Changes safety definitions for certain closed-loop water wells |
| SB 3139 | Allows the governor to declare a propane emergency where weight limits for vehicles that transport propane are lessened |
| SB 3437 | Changes the release date of an annual ICC report on the natural gas market |
| SB 3574 | Increases weight limitations by 2,000 lbs for vehicles that use natural gas or propane for fuel, except when on an interstate highway |

Ethics

• SB 5853 requires the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal to provide basic contact information for all state agencies.

| SB 1040 | Creates Chief Information Officer of the State, coordinates financial information reporting with state agencies; requires reporting of state grants and pension contributions |
| SB 4208 | Expands county ethics laws to include people appointed by members of county boards |
| SB 4216 | Makes it a crime to intentionally and unlawfully hide or destroy public records |
| SB 5853 | Requires ITAP to provide basic contact information for all state agencies, changes immediate effective date to Jan. 1, 2015 |
| SB 5056 | Requires coroners to disqualify themselves from their regular duties when they have a potential conflict of interests |
| SB 1941 | Creates methods to authenticate that legal documents published online are accurate |
| SB 3552 | Gives collar county boards the authority to create additional ethics standards and fire appointed officials for breaking these standards |

Family

• SB 640 prohibits banks and businesses from charging fees on child support cards. These cards function much like debit cards and are often used by low-income families.
• SB 2909 requires the Department of Children and Family Services to track and monitor families who are subject to safety plans. Safety plans are put in place when DCFS suspects a child is in danger, but does not yet have enough evidence to take custody of the child.
• SB 3149 makes it clear that people with diabetes can inject insulin wherever and whenever needed. The legislation makes it clear that parents can inject their diabetic children in public without fear of repercussions.

| SB 4495 | Temporarily allows 16-year-olds to be placed in DCFS custody for delinquency (currently the age threshold is 15) |
| SB 4636 | Clarifies and modernizes several terms used in the Child Care and Adoption Act to address civil unions and expand the definition of “relative” to include great-grandparents, step-grandparents and cousins |
| SB 4916 | Clarifies the appeals process for guardians and attorneys when DCFS finds allegations of child abuse unfounded |
| SB 5598 | Creates a program to prevent parents from abandoning their children for the children to obtain mental health services |
| SB 5949 | Changes various provisions affecting adults who were adopted |
| SB 6040 | Prohibits charging fees on child support cards |
| SB 1051 | Tightens probate law concerning guardians of adults with disabilities |
| SB 2782 | Clarifies that a court may appoint parent, legal guardian or other person to act as educational surrogate for an alleged abused minor |
| SB 2783 | Establishes that witnesses in child abuse proceedings can be reimbursed the same way criminal witnesses can be |
Gaming
• HB 11 reestablishes advance deposit wagering for horse races.

Health
• HB 5657 establishes uniform standards for farmers’ markets. Currently, each county health department sets its own standards, creating barriers for farmers and other small business owners.
• HB 5868 requires alternative nicotine products (e-cigarettes) to be sold behind the counter, keeping them out of the hands of children.
• SB 3414 brings Illinois in line with national EMT and EMS training standards.
• SB 0741 is a Medicare-Medicaid alignment initiative. It restores Medicaid’s adult dental services, podiatry services, access to anti-psychotic drugs, adequate rehabilitation services and kidney transplants. Denying patients these vital services costs more in the long run from trips to the emergency room and other unintended consequences. The measure also provides funding to the Illinois Poison Center.

SB 2909 Requires DCFS to track and monitor families with safety plans; plans must be written, signed by parents/guardians and provide other data
SB 3009 Requires DCFS to provide the General Assembly with a progress report every year
SB 3149 Allows people with diabetes to inject insulin wherever and whenever needed without fear of repercussions; specifically includes parents injecting their children
SB 3217 Requires DCFS to develop a plan for creating multidisciplinary teams to investigate child abuse
SB 3283 Allows DCFS to place children with “fictive kin” (who are not required to become foster parents); fictive kin are people with close ties to the child or family but are not related by blood or marriage
Higher Education

- **SB 5323** creates a study on a “Pay it Forward, Pay it Back,” a higher education payment program that could potentially reduce tuition burdens for prospective students. The potential program would require the state to pay for students’ college education, in return for a commitment to work and pay taxes in Illinois.

- **HB 4910** allows community colleges to enter into public-private partnerships.

- **SB 3306** establishes that MAP Grant application periods will be twice, instead of once per year.

- **SB 4244** redistributes grant money originally set aside for independent colleges that fail to meet the standards of being independent colleges.

Housing

- **HB 5322** allows condo boards to conduct business using email.

- **HB 4123** requires mobile home park owners to disclose more information to their tenants.

- **SB 3057** makes Common Interest Community Associations develop their own rules regarding leasing situations; requires homeowners to provide copies of their leases to their local associations unless the association adopts its own rules.

- **HB 4782** allows condominium boards to lease seized condominiums without additional judicial approval.

- **HB 4783** protects the right of condo boards to represent the condominium complex in legal proceedings; voids arbitration and mediation clauses in condo policies unless the board votes to keep them in place.

- **HB 4784** requires mobile home park owners to disclose more information to their tenants.

- **HB 4133** requires mobile home park owners to disclose more information to their tenants.

- **HB 4340** changes the title of the head of the Illinois Community College Board from “president” to “executive director.”

- **HB 4910** allows community colleges to enter into public-private partnerships.

- **HB 5323** establishes a study on a Pay It Forward, Pay It Back higher education payment program.

- **HB 5678** allows WIU to sell, lease or transfer land in Rock Island County and keep the funds.

- **HB 5679** eliminates the high school feedback system between public universities and ISBE.

- **HB 5681** requires one of the WIU board of trustees quarterly meetings to be held on the Quad Cities campus.

- **SB 2765** makes EU tuition discount limitation pilot program sunset after the 2018-19 school year; renames it the Tuition Affordability Discount Program.

- **SB 3306** establishes that MAP grant application periods will be twice, instead of once per year.

- **SB 3441** sets standards for distance learning courses offered by accredited universities to protect consumers and make credit transfers easier.

- **SR 0903** directs ISBE to create a self-study guide for public universities to examine Latino enrollment and achievement.
Human Services

- HB 5858 allows minor victims of human trafficking, child prostitutes and minor members of gangs to have their tattoos removed.
- SB 3558 exempts minor prostitutes from prosecution for solicitation. It also creates new fines for human trafficking and keeping a place of prostitution. These fines will help fund programs that support victim recovery.

Labor

- HB 3814 creates an advisory ballot referendum asking voters if they support a higher minimum wage.
- HB 5688 requires law enforcement agencies to provide their agents with bullet-proof vests if the state and federal government provide the majority of the funding for these vests.
- HB 3814 establishes that unpaid interns have the same sexual harassment protections as regular employees.

Local Government

- SB 3411 prohibits police departments from having ticket quotas.
- HB 5623 requires local units of governments with more than 1 million people to maintain websites with email addresses where the public can communicate with elected officials.

| SB 3147 | Provides that housing opportunity abatement program applies through 2024 |
| SB 3176 | Makes several minor changes to laws relating to mobile homes |
| SB 3286 | Provides that an employee of gated communities or closed condos must allow process servers to enter the facilities |
| SB 5563 | Allows Dept. of Labor to refer equal pay violations to the Dept. on Human Rights |
| SB 5606 | Excludes water and soil conservation work from prevailing wage |
| SB 5622 | Establishes requirements for the use of payroll cards by employers; requires other payment options; employees must consent to be paid by this method; other protections for employees |
| SB 5688 | Requires all law enforcement agencies to provide their agents with bulletproof vests if the state and federal government provide the majority of the funding for these vests |
| SB 5701 | Prohibits employers with more than 15 employees from inquiring about job applicants’ criminal history until after they have been deemed qualified for the job or selected for an interview; excludes EMS and security-related employers |
| SB 5935 | Codifies several current practices of the Department of Human Services |
| SB 1103 | Creates a state-level OSHA |
| SB 1841 | Allows individuals who have records for certain infractions to petition to have the public record of those infractions removed from state websites for a fee |
| SB 2826 | Gives local civil service commissions the authority to set the minimum passing score for firefighter written examinations |
| SB 3038 | Allows employers to apply for workplace protection restraining orders and clarifies that employers cannot discriminate against employees on the basis of protective orders |
| SB 3287 | Establishes that a worker’s compensation lawsuit protection that currently applies to services “retained” by the employer shall only apply to services “wholly owned” by the employer |
| SB 3432 | Requires hospitals to notify private emergency services providers if a patient they treated has a dangerous or infectious disease |
| SB 3456 | Establishes a Department of Human Services ambassador pilot program, subject to appropriation |
| SB 3558 | Exempts under-aged prostitutes from solicitation prosecution; creates new fines for human trafficking and keeping a place of prostitution; creates a fund to support victim recovery services |
| SB 5563 | Allows Dept. of Labor to refer equal pay violations to the Dept. on Human Rights |
| SB 5606 | Excludes water and soil conservation work from prevailing wage |
| SB 5622 | Establishes requirements for the use of payroll cards by employers; requires other payment options; employees must consent to be paid by this method; other protections for employees |
| SB 5688 | Requires all law enforcement agencies to provide their agents with bulletproof vests if the state and federal government provide the majority of the funding for these vests |
| SB 5701 | Prohibits employers with more than 15 employees from inquiring about job applicants’ criminal history until after they have been deemed qualified for the job or selected for an interview; excludes EMS and security-related employers |
| SB 5935 | Codifies several current practices of the Department of Human Services |
| SB 1103 | Creates a state-level OSHA |
| SB 1841 | Allows individuals who have records for certain infractions to petition to have the public record of those infractions removed from state websites for a fee |
| SB 2826 | Gives local civil service commissions the authority to set the minimum passing score for firefighter written examinations |
| SB 3038 | Allows employers to apply for workplace protection restraining orders and clarifies that employers cannot discriminate against employees on the basis of protective orders |
| SB 3287 | Establishes that a worker’s compensation lawsuit protection that currently applies to services “retained” by the employer shall only apply to services “wholly owned” by the employer |
| SB 3432 | Requires hospitals to notify private emergency services providers if a patient they treated has a dangerous or infectious disease |
| SB 3456 | Establishes a Department of Human Services ambassador pilot program, subject to appropriation |
| SB 3558 | Exempts under-aged prostitutes from solicitation prosecution; creates new fines for human trafficking and keeping a place of prostitution; creates a fund to support victim recovery services |
SB 2928 Creates a pilot program in Lake County where police collect and dispose of pharmaceutical drugs in an effort to prevent them from being flushed down the toilet

SB 2975 Provides that the Byron Forest Preserve District may not incur indebtedness in excess of .6% of the assessed value of taxable property in the district

SB 2980 Allows township clerks to provide written, unaudited statements about their townships' finances (rather than read them aloud) at annual meetings

SB 3027 Gives county collectors additional factors to declare the administrative sale of a mobile home in error

SB 3036 Allows property tax collectors' records to be kept and transferred electronically

SB 3056 Increases transparency at the RTA by enacting a number of ethical safeguards and requiring the agency to create a transparency website

SB 3071 Allows libraries to reject the lowest bid for some contracts and choose a higher cost vendor

SB 3387 Consolidates two parks in Fox Valley

SB 3411 Counties and municipalities cannot require a law enforcement officer to issue a specific number of citations in a designated period of time and that the number of citations cannot be held against the officer for evaluation purposes; changes limitations of home rule power

SB 3425 Authorizes the village of Indian Head Park to issue bonds for roadway construction

SB 3427 Establishes competitive bidding requirements for Fire Protection Districts expenditures worth more than $20,000

SB 3495 Gives the McHenry County Board the authority to use quick-take to improve the intersection of Miller Road and Illinois Route 31

SB 3507 Caps townships and municipalities fee to connect new water and sewer users

Pensions

- SB 1922 reforms Chicago public employee pensions.
- SB 1523 reforms the Chicago Park District pension system.

HB 3902 Changes the definition of employees with a specific, non-IMRF retirement plan; excludes them from the IMRF system

HB 4691 If a referendum creating a separate downstate police pension fund passes, IMRF must transfer employee and employer contributions with interest into the new system

HB 5592 Changes the timing of an annuity decision for IMRF employees

HB 5696 Makes a number of minor changes relating to IMRF

SB 0452 Requires state pension and investment boards to increase their use of minority-managed businesses

SB 1523 Reforms the Chicago Park District pension system

SB 1922 Chicago pension reform (excludes teachers, firefighters and police)

SB 3309 Requires pension funds to recalculate incorrectly calculated benefits after the mistake is discovered and to take back the money from the retiree in the case of an overpayment
### Public Safety

- **HB 5689** requires e-cigarette liquid re-fills to be sold in child-proof packaging.
- **SB 2731** requires boat drivers to display orange flags when they are towing people.

### Revenue and Taxes

- **HB 3816** creates an advisory ballot referendum asking voters if they support a 3% tax on incomes greater than $1 million.
- **HB 1604** provides that property that has received an erroneous homestead exemption may be considered omitted property.
- **HB 2494** requires stores that sell tobacco to get a $75 license from Revenue; new penalties for selling to minors or improper training; supports sting operations.
- **HB 1604** provides that property that has received an erroneous homestead exemption may be considered omitted property.
- **HB 3816** puts a referendum on the millionaire's tax on the ballot.
- **HB 3815** creates a $7,500 fine for divulging confidential tax return information; allows the Dept. of Revenue to automatically transfer the caller to the 911 service.
- **SB 3313** requires business that have private switchboards or runs a switching service to ensure dialing 9-1-1 automatically transfers the caller to the 911 service.
- **SB 3468** allows law enforcement to take minors to mental health facilities if they have reason to believe the minors may be a danger to themselves or others.

### Seniors

- **SB 2955** allows people to be barred from receiving an inheritance for convictions or civil offenses of exploitation, abuse or neglect of the elderly.
- **HB 4329** lowers all hunting and fishing fees for seniors 75 or older.

### State Government

- **SB 152** allows the Secretary of the Senate to loan or donate property to the Obama Presidential Library.
- **SB 2934** permits the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to give K-12 schools and colleges grants for safety improvements.
- **HB 4786** requires tollways to pay landowners the highest permitted amount when claiming property by eminent domain.
- **SB 3224** construction bill; authorizes $1.1 billion in bonds for statewide construction projects.
- **SB 3234** removes an obsolete reference concerning tire user fees.
- **SB 3262** amends the Motor Fuel Tax code to bring it into line with Federal Law and removes requirement that certain carriers must pay via certified check.
- **SB 3334** removes the statute of limitations on applying for a tax refund for people who cannot do so due to illness or other uncontrollable circumstances.
- **SB 3448** lowers the amount of warning the Department of Revenue must provide to retailers businesses that their certification will not be renewed due to delinquent taxes.
- **SB 2995** provides that civil offenses and criminal convictions can bar people who exploit, abuse or neglect the elderly from inheritance.
- **SB 2968** requires nursing home administrators to give 60 days' notice of facility closure rather than 90 days; brings Illinois in line with federal standards; provides the IDPH plan must include notifying residents.
- **HB 4329** reduces fishing and hunting fees for seniors over age 75.
- **HB 4525** creates the voluntary FBI Fingerprint Demonstration Project for long-term care facility personnel and allows fingerprints to be submitted electronically.
- **HB 4786** requires e-cigarette liquid re-fills to be sold in child-proof packaging.
- **SB 3448** lowers the amount of warning the Department of Revenue must provide to retailers businesses that their certification will not be renewed due to delinquent taxes.
- **SB 2995** provides that civil offenses and criminal convictions can bar people who exploit, abuse or neglect the elderly from inheritance.
- **HB 4329** lowers all hunting and fishing fees for seniors 75 or older.

### State Government

- **SB 125** allows the Secretary of the Senate to loan or donate property to the Obama Presidential Library.
- **SB 2934** permits the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to give K-12 schools and colleges grants for safety improvements.
- **HB 4786** requires tollways to pay landowners the highest permitted amount when claiming property by eminent domain.
- **SB 2453** creates a statewide 911 system for areas outside of municipalities larger than 500,000 people; sets up an advisory board and funding procedures.
- **HB 2535** creates a Developmental Disabilities Regulatory Advisory Board.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 2747</td>
<td>Creates a new Act to establish uniform administrative requirements and audit requirements for state and federal grants to non-federal entities and allows the audit commission to adopt rules concerning conflicts of interest and disclosures among other things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3748</td>
<td>Provides that the Commission to End the Disparities Facing the African-American Community report findings to the General Assembly by 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3831</td>
<td>Exempts statewide master contracts from a Minority Contractor Opportunity Initiative fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 3961</td>
<td>If the Smoke Free Campus bill (SB 2022) becomes law, this will take effect to allow people to smoke in their cars on campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4083</td>
<td>Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to adopt mental health care standards and inspect each facility at least once per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4205</td>
<td>Clarifies that when the state awards a contract, it must include the total number of unsuccessful bidders in the official posting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4235</td>
<td>Allows attorneys licensed in other states to appear before hearings officers, judges, officers or bodies of state government, the ICC and independent tax tribunals and other bodies approved by the Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4422</td>
<td>Expands the definition of disability to include impairment relating to cancer; allows the secretary of state to revoke driver's licenses for military offenses that are similar to civilian offenses that result in license revocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4569</td>
<td>Changes some comptroller's reporting requirements; allows petty cash to be used for purchases of up to $100 (rather than $50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4590</td>
<td>Allow state employees or annuitants to withhold a portion of their salary or annuity as a donation to the Red Cross chapters in areas affected by natural disaster; authorizes the comptroller to create system facilities at least once per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4713</td>
<td>Allows the treasurer to spend money in the bank services trust fund for legal and technological services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4731</td>
<td>Establishes that people who provide legal services to state's appellate prosecutor offices are considered employees in certain situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4745</td>
<td>Establishes that parents cannot let minors use their campers, watercraft, private planes or other property to drink alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4773</td>
<td>Creates a DCFS Statewide Youth Advisory Board to advise the agency on foster services applications acting replacement until the position is filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 4786</td>
<td>Clarifies that when the toll highway uses its eminent domain powers, it shall use the higher of the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Transportation

- **HB 4075** creates regulations for ride sharing companies like Uber and Lyft.
- **HB 5664** makes permanent a Pace program that allows buses to drive on the shoulders of roadways.
- **SB 2633** exempts ATVs used on private land or for business from a fee imposed last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB 2934</td>
<td>Allows IEMA to make grants to K-12 schools (in addition to colleges and universities) for safety improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 2947</td>
<td>Changes the method in which the secretary of IDFPR is notified that a title insurance agent applicant has a felony record involving theft or dishonesty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3035</td>
<td>Changes reimbursement procedures for nursing home monitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3125</td>
<td>Changes the name of a law and board relating to carnival safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3129</td>
<td>Changes the composition of the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3137</td>
<td>After the passage of this bill, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority appointees will have to be confirmed by the Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3276</td>
<td>Allows the treasurer to collect a service charge to pay for administering new fees and fines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3288</td>
<td>Gives the secretary of state and the Department of Enrolling and Engrossing the authority to negotiate the format of session law books; allows such books to be electronic rather than print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3302</td>
<td>Establishes that individuals seeking a religious exemption for submitting a photograph required for certain licenses must submit an approved copy of the IRS Form 4029 and in some cases fingerprints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 3443</td>
<td>Revokes the requirement that the governor report on the financial situation of each state agency and the personnel needs of state government; changes the dates of various reports; allows various reports to be posted online rather than published; consolidates various funds; eliminates various boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 0969</td>
<td>Expresses solidarity with North Korean refugees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Bills

- **SB 3402** Exempts vehicles from other states from Illinois’ dealer plate requirements if they are simply being transported for repair.
- **SB 3398** Allows trucks less than 12,000 pounds hauling registered farm trailers to enjoy the privileges of registered farm trucks; also adds a $10 surcharge; defines farm truck.
- **SB 3404** Exempts vehicles from other states where the dealer is required to provide a warranty to the owner or lessee of the vehicle from being required to provide a warranty to the owner or lessee of the vehicle.

### SB 2633

- Adds exemptions to the ATV stamp fee; exempts vehicles used exclusively on private land or for commercial purposes; changes the fee for ATV stamps: $15 for engines larger than 75 cc, $10 for engines smaller than 75cc}

### Other Issues

- **SB 2620** Creates a weight-limit exemption for vehicles executing emergency repairs in Cook and some of the collar counties.
- **SB 2633** Adds exemptions to the ATV stamp fee; exempts vehicles used exclusively on private land or for commercial purposes; changes the fee for ATV stamps: $15 for engines larger than 75 cc, $10 for engines smaller than 75cc.
- **SB 2761** Extends the sunset for an IDOT target market program from 2014 to 2017.
- **SB 2791** Changes how passengers removed from a train or boat for annoying language are refunded; captains or conductors may enlist the help of other passengers; captains and conductors can issue citations under local ordinances.
- **SB 2802** Allows people to drive without valid registration stickers as long as they have a receipt proving that they have paid for a sticker but have not received it yet.
- **SB 2978** Limits the ISP Memorial Park License plate to active police, retired police, family members and donors.
- **SB 3096** Requires speed cameras to be calibrated and tested more frequently, adds judgment creditors to the list of officials who may forward loan nonpayment reports that require driver’s license suspensions.
- **SB 3130** Regulates the use of scooters - vehicles that have three wheels, but seating like a car rather than a motorcycle or bicycle.
- **SB 3398** Allows trucks less than 12,000 pounds hauling registered farm trailers to enjoy the privileges of registered farm trucks; also adds a $10 surcharge; defines farm truck.
- **SB 3404** Exempts vehicles from other states where the dealer is required to provide a warranty to the owner or lessee of the vehicle from being required to provide a warranty to the owner or lessee of the vehicle.
Veterans

- SB 3255 waives the requirement that permanently disabled veterans prove they are disabled each year to reapply for handicapped parking placards and decals.
- HB 4741 allows recent veterans who turned 35 while serving to take a firefighters exam until they turn 40.

- HB 3833 Makes the Adjutant General the commander of the Illinois National Guard; extends the Military Family Relief Fund to reservists put on active duty by emergency declaration and national guardsmen called up for State Active Duty for more than 30 consecutive days.
- HB 3939 Streamlines the transfer process for out-of-state K-12 students moving to Illinois schools; specifically aimed at children of active duty military.
- HB 4277 Allows disabled veterans, as well as blind and disabled residents of Illinois, to fish with commercial fishing devices without having a sport fishing license.
- HB 4491 Allows eligible veterans to receive one Purple Heart license plate for free.
- HB 4734 Grants the Illinois Department of Military Affairs the authority to oversee billeting operations.
- HB 4741 Allows anyone who turned 35 while on active military service, was actively discharged and is under the age of 40 to take a firefighter’s exam.
- HB 5475 Allows the SOS to issue Gold Star license plates to the surviving daughter or son of a Gold Star recipient.
- SB 2744 Makes life insurance available to National Guard members.
- SB 3022 Makes several changes relating to legal assistance for military members and veterans.
- SB 3222 Creates the Illinois Joining Forces Foundation as a not-for-profit foundation with the purposes of promoting, supporting, assisting and sustaining Illinois Joining Forces operations.
- SB 3225 Allows the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Boards to develop a training program in veterans’ awareness to identify issues relating to veterans and develop appropriate responses.
- SB 3255 Establishes that disabled veterans do not need to prove they are disabled each year to reapply for handicapped parking placards and decals.