

# SENATE IN REVIEW

A LOOK AT THE 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
THE ILLINOIS SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



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Senators,

It has been a historic session at the Capitol, and this book attempts to capture the highlights. This file is the updated version of the book you received on May 31, with information about elections, fracking and concealed carry in the legislative accomplishments section. The tables in the back also feature legislation passed on May 30 and 31. You can click on an item in the table of contents to go to that page.

John Patterson  
 Communications Director

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# Legislative accomplishments

## Budget

When the governor proposed cutting \$308 million from state support of public schools, Illinois Senate Democrats called it unacceptable and then went to work on a better budget.

The end result is a financial plan for the next budget year that reflects Democratic principles and priorities. The new state budget focuses on preserving funding for education and recognizes that the best way to avoid adding to the backlog of old bills is to pay people and providers

**Budget highlights:**

- Holds the line on school funding
- Maintains school transportation funding
- Maintains funding for colleges and universities
- Funds programs serving the elderly, needy, developmentally disabled at their real costs.

on time for the work they do on behalf of the state.

Gone are the draconian cuts to classrooms.

Instead, the final plan not only avoids the cut, but finds additional resources for public education. Also restored is \$146 million in funding for downstate school transportation. The governor wanted to cut twice that amount.

The result is the kindergarten through high school education budget increases by \$446 million over the governor’s plan.

The budget also ends the practice of the state underfunding key budget lines and stringing out social service providers at the end of the budget year. This budget seeks to reflect the true cost of these programs so providers can be paid on time for their work.

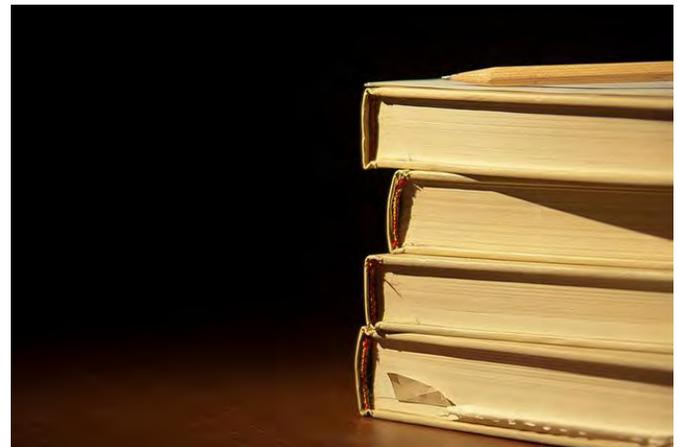
Key to balancing the financial plan for the 2014 budget year that begins July 1, is taking action now to shore up the 2013 financial plan. Utilizing an influx in state revenues, the budget makes hundreds of millions of dollars worth of payments to providers and agencies now rather than carry that fiscal burden

into the next budget year. As a result, more money was available for Senate Democrats’ top priority – school funding.

Senate Democrats also held the line on higher education funding and found \$2 million more for the MAP program.

And local governments won’t see cuts to their share of state revenues as the budget leaves the Local Government Distributive Fund intact.

Thanks to responsible Democratic leadership, the state is turning around its financial situation and funding priority programs even as its pension costs continue to grow. In the new budget, nearly \$8.4 billion goes to make pension and pension debt payments.



## A progressive education plan

In a bold response to President Barack Obama’s challenge to improve public education for the nation’s children, Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford passed legislation requiring all children in Illinois to attend school starting at age 6.

Illinois is one of 14 states that do not require children to attend school until they turn 7. Two other states start at the age of 8. However, most states require children to go to school starting at age 5 or 6.

Children who start school later often struggle to catch up with their peers, especially in critical skill areas like reading and mathematics. They are frequently labeled “special needs” and have a difficult



time forming social bonds.

On a related note, according to a Chicago Tribune report, nearly 18 percent of Chicago kindergartners and first-graders were chronic truants during the 2010-11 school year, missing nine or more days without a valid excuse.

Under Illinois law, child truants do not face any penalties — their parents do. A parent who doesn't make every effort to make sure their children are at school can face up to 30 days in jail or a \$1,500 fine, though the courts rarely impose such severe penalties.

Lightford's legislation, Senate Bill 1307, will address both the issue of truancy and lower educational attainment by children who start school at the age of 7. An earlier version of the plan lowered the compulsory education age to 5, but after meeting with educators and parents, Lightford agreed that some children may not be mature enough for school until age 6.

The plan requires parents to begin their children's education at age 6, but it doesn't specify where the children have to go. Public school, private school, religious schools, charter schools and home school are equally valid choices.

The Senate also led the way on modernizing sex education in an effort to reduce teen pregnancy.

State Senator Heather Steans was instrumental in garnering support for House Bill 2675 that requires all schools that provide sex education to students in sixth through twelfth grades to offer comprehensive, age-appropriate and medically accurate information.

The legislation does not require the use of a particular curriculum and allows schools and districts to define "age-appropriate."

Comprehensive sex education must inform students that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective method of preventing pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases but must provide information about contraceptive methods.

## Gaming

The Senate once again passed a comprehensive gaming proposal this session, which allows for addi-

tional casino locations, slot machines at horse racing tracks and additional ethics measures necessary to weed out corruption. This legislation is the product of ongoing negotiations between Senator Terry Link, the governor and stakeholders.

Twice in recent years, the General Assembly has approved comprehensive gaming legislation only to have the governor veto the plan. In response to the governor's proposed education cuts, the plan has been redrafted with a new focus to address the governor's concerns and, more importantly, send new dollars from casino expansion to public education.

Specifically, this legislation will allow for a casino to be built in Chicago with up to 4,000 gaming positions. In addition, positions would be allowed at Chicago's airports and slots will be allowed at racetracks across the state. Dubbed "racinos," these establishments will be licensed by the Gaming Board and allowed both inside (1,200 positions) and outside (900 positions) of Cook County. The legislation also allows for casinos to be built in Rockford, Danville, the south suburbs and Lake County.

The new riverboats will help Illinois compete with neighboring states. Indiana has specifically located its casinos across the border from Chicago. The casinos rely on millions of dollars from Illinois customers to help support its state budget. Indiana currently ranks third in the country in terms of gaming revenues, trailing only Nevada and New Jersey. This legislation





recognizes this fact and seeks to keep Illinois gaming business in Illinois.

## Temporary visitor's driver's licenses

The Senate President passed ground-breaking legislation granting undocumented immigrants the right to apply for a Temporary Visitor's Driver's License (TVDL).

Before this law was passed, people who did not have a Social Security number could not obtain Illinois driver's licenses. However, they could apply for TVDLs if they provided documentation, issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. The information had to state that the individual legally resided in the United States. This group only included those residing in the U.S. on a work or student visa.

Those without proper documentation did not have any driving privileges in Illinois and were unable to obtain car insurance. The Secretary of State estimates that every year 76,000 accidents occur among uninsured drivers, costing \$630 million in damage claims.

Starting nearly 14 years ago, the Illinois legislature has discussed granting undocumented immigrants the right to drive.

In 2011, approximately 4,035 TVDLs were issued across the state for those with legal residency. It is estimated that 250,000 Illinois immigrants will be eligible for a TVDL under the new law.

Illinois would join New Mexico and Washington in allowing driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.

## Marriage equality

Recognizing the continued discrimination against same-sex couples and increasing public support for marriage equality, the Senate took a historic vote on Valentine's Day to extend marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples.

Senate Bill 10 creates the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally wed in Illinois. A key component of the measure is continued protection of religious

denominations that choose not to solemnize gay ceremonies.

February's vote follows a civil union law passed by the General Assembly in 2011, which granted all of the same state-level rights as marriage to same-sex couples. With the Supreme Court currently debating the fate of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, married same-sex

couples could soon receive over 1,100 federal benefits currently afforded to only married heterosexual couples.

Since last November, six states have passed Marriage Equality legislation, bringing the nationwide total to 12 plus the District of Columbia.



## Elections move into the 21st century

In a move expected to increase voter turnout and save the state money, the General Assembly approved online voter registration and absentee ballot requests. Other states that have adopted similar plans have seen voter registration increases of 9.5 percent and application processing costs drop from 83 cents to 3 cents.

The legislation, House Bill 2418, also allows election authorities to send notices using email, establishes more voter-friendly early voting hours and requires early voting centers on college campuses.

The legislation also fixes a loophole that allows wealthy candidates to pay for their own elections without lifting the contribution cap for other candidates by donating to their own campaigns during the primary rather than the general election period, ensures super PACs can't coordinate donations to avoid lifting the contribution cap for other candidates and makes a variety of other changes.

## Medicaid expansion

After budget constraints forced Illinois to reduce its Medicaid expenditures by \$2.7 billion last year and cut programs such as non-emergency adult dental coverage and prescription benefits, the Senate led



the way this year in taking advantage of an unprecedented funding opportunity.

Expanding Medicaid eligibility to all adults with incomes of up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Limit will give 342,000 impoverished Illinoisans access to coordinated care. Fully reimbursed by the federal government for the first three years under the Affordable Care Act, expansion will replace the emergency room treatment this population usually receives – at a high cost to hospitals and local governments – with routine, preventive care in appropriate settings. Federal reimbursement will drop to 90 percent by 2020; if the federal government fails to honor its agreement, the state will not be obligated to continue serving the expanded population.

In the next seven years, expanded Medicaid will bring more than \$12 billion in federal dollars into Illinois and will generate \$2.44 in economic impact for every \$1 spent. In 2016 alone, it is expected to create 20,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in new economic activity.

Senator Heather Steans, one of the primary architects of last year's ground-breaking Medicaid reform legislation (the SMART Act), sponsored Senate Bill 26 while working with the House sponsor to clarify remaining issues related to the SMART Act's implementation.

## Medical marijuana



The Senate gave final approval to the state's first-ever medical marijuana program. Culminating years of work, much of it led by State Senator Bill Haine and other Senate Democrats. This responsible, compassionate measure will give patients and their doctors the freedom to choose cannabis as an alternative treatment for some of the most devastating illnesses.

In committee, patients and doctors illustrated how much pain and suffering can result from the powerful pharmaceuticals that are meant to treat diseases.

During debate, senators recounted stories of friends and family members who suffered from

chronic pain and debilitating illnesses whose suffering could have been eased by access to medical marijuana.

The Medical Cannabis Pilot Program is the strictest medical marijuana law in America. It requires a written certification from a doctor who has a bonafide relationship with a qualified patient, calls for a photo ID card and implements an electronic verification system. Likewise, the network of 22 cultivation centers and 60 licensed dispensaries will have strict security procedures and direct oversight by the Illinois State Police.

### Use is restricted:

- In public
- In motor vehicles
- While operating any motor vehicle, aircraft or motorboat
- In the presence of minors
- On or near school grounds
- In correctional facilities or any building owned or controlled by the state

### Patient requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must have one of 42 specified illnesses
- Must undergo a criminal background check
- Must notify police officers that they are approved to possess marijuana if stopped
- Are required to automatically undergo a field sobriety test if stopped

### Medical providers:

- Must have a verifiable, long-term relationship of treating the patient's specific ailment before prescribing marijuana
- Must be an Illinois licensed MD or DO
- Must follow all generally accepted standards of practice; keeping full medical records
- Must provide a written certification to the patient
- Cannot have any financial interest in prescribing marijuana
- Cannot advertise in a dispensary or refer patients to a specific dispensary



## SB 2404 (Cullerton-Holmes)

### Choice: Affecting Tier I Actives

Choice A: Lower COLA	Choice B: Keep Your COLA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agree to 3% simple COLA with a 2 yr. delay</li> <li>➤ Receive retiree healthcare access</li> <li>➤ All future salary increases offered as <u>pensionable</u></li> <li>➤ Enrollment in optional cash balance plan on a pre-tax basis by making an irrevocable election to join plan <i>after</i> choosing Choice A</li> <li>➤ Eligibility for ERO (TRS only)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Option 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No change to 3% compounded COLA</li> <li>➤ No retiree healthcare access</li> <li>➤ Future salary increases offered as <i>non-pensionable</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Option 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No change to 3% compounded COLA</li> <li>➤ Receive retiree healthcare access as consideration</li> <li>➤ All future salary increases offered as <u>pensionable</u></li> </ul> <p><b>In exchange for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A 3 year delay in 3% compounded COLA</li> <li>➤ Paying an additional 2% in employee contributions over two years</li> </ul>

### Choice: Affecting Current Retirees (and Tier I Actives Already Set to Retire as of 1/1/2013)

Choice A	Choice B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No change to 3% compounded COLA, <i>except that</i> COLA is subject to a staggered two-year freeze</li> <li>➤ Receive retiree healthcare access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No change to 3% compounded COLA</li> <li>➤ No retiree health care access</li> </ul>

#### Other Terms of the Proposal

**Collective Bargaining:** Prohibits mandatory bargaining over the benefit changes and employee contribution increases in the bill.

**Pension Stabilization Fund:** Adds the Pension Stabilization Fund schedule embodied in SB 2404, but starting in FY 2020.

**Funding Guarantee:** Includes funding guarantee language requiring State contributions to the pension systems under the schedule in current law.

**Addresses Pension Abuses:** (a) Prohibit persons hired by non-governmental entities (*e.g.*, Municipal League) *after* the bill’s effective date from participating in public pension systems; (b) Exclude travel vouchers filed late from qualifying as “compensation” for SERS employees hired *after* the bill’s effective date; and (c) Separates normal cost from the unfunded liability in budget presentation.

## Pensions

After years of contentious debates and difficult negotiations, Senate President John Cullerton and Senator Linda Holmes introduced a pension reform measure negotiated with the state’s major public employee unions. In an effort to keep the state’s nearly \$100 billion unfunded pension liability from cannibalizing the rest of the budget – resulting in layoffs, program cuts and an untold number of other problems – the We Are One Coalition of unions agreed to make significant sacrifices for the good of the state as a whole.

Cullerton and Holmes’ plan is expected to save Illinois taxpayers nearly \$57 billion over the next 30 years and shave more than \$9 billion off of the state’s liability, should it become law.

Legal authorities widely believe that the reform plan will survive a challenge in the courts – in part because it follows the “choice” model long champi-

oned by the Senate President and in part because public employee unions have agreed not to put their substantial financial resources behind any challenge.

The plan passed the Senate with significant bipartisan support and quickly picked up more than 20 sponsors in the House.

## Fracking

Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” enabled North Dakota’s energy boom. Not surprisingly, other shale states with potentially large oil and gas deposits are making plans to take advantage of the jobs and tax revenue drilling could bring.

In Illinois, the oil and gas industries, environmental groups, state agencies and labor unions came to the table to negotiate the nation’s most stringent fracking regulations. Senate Bill 1715 – sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Michael Frerichs – emphasizes public participation in the well permitting process,



disclosure of the chemicals drilling companies use at each well, safe handling of wastewater, mitigating air pollution and safeguarding drinking water.

Fracking involves drilling a horizontal well and then pumping a mixture of water, chemicals and proppants (often sand) into the well to fracture the shale around the well. The proppants hold the fractures open, and the oil or gas escapes up the well casing. Concerns about fracking include possible chemical contamination of drinking water sources, the enormous amount of fresh water used, natural gas released into the air from wells and the risk of wastewater spills.

SB 1715 features the nation's largest minimum setback between a well and a drinking water source, baseline testing of nearby water so regulators know whether contamination has occurred and a novel provision placing the burden of proof on the drilling company to prove drinking water contamination was not caused by its activities.

Regulatory stability will open the door to exploration and extraction, creating anywhere from 1,000 to 47,000 jobs, mostly in southern and east-central Illinois. The state's coffers will benefit from a severance tax on oil and gas, and a tax credit is available to companies that hire local workers.

## Concealed carry

In December 2012, a federal court gave the General Assembly an ultimatum: by June 9, eliminate Illinois' complete ban on the carrying of loaded firearms in public places.

Senate President Cullerton asked Senator Kwame Raoul to broker a compromise. After weeks of difficult but productive negotiations, he presented a plan that balanced public safety precautions, local control and a respect for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners.

In the House, legislation that adopted many of the Raoul plan's restrictions but preempted all local gun ordinances garnered sufficient support. Sen. Raoul and Sen. Gary Forby worked with House sponsor Rep. Brandon Phelps to resolve the last remaining differences between the House and Senate proposals. The

result — Sen. Forby's HB 183 — passed with bipartisan support.

The concealed-carry framework now on its way to the governor's desk

- Is a "shall issue" law
- Sets out straightforward, objective qualifications for licensure to carry while allowing local law enforcement to object to applicants and providing an avenue for appeal of an adverse decision
- Requires 16 hours of training (the most in the nation)
- Prohibits guns in sensitive places such as bars, schools and public transit
- Mandates thorough criminal and mental health background checks of applicants and improves the system through which the State Police is notified that someone has an intellectual disability or a mental illness inconsistent with safe firearm ownership.
- Gives law enforcement greater authority to seize weapons from people whose FOID Cards have been revoked because of felony convictions, firearms violations, domestic violence or mental health reasons
- Pre-empts some kinds of local gun ordinances (for instance, it eliminates the wide variety of firearm transportation requirements so gun owners don't risk arrest when driving from one town to another) but allows Cook County and other home-rule communities to keep existing assault weapons bans or approve new ones within 10 days of when the law takes effect

In passing this compromise, legislators avoided the confusing patchwork of concealed-carry ordinances that would have resulted had they missed the June 9 deadline. In combination with Sen. Raoul's SB 1189, which moves Illinois in the direction of universal background checks by requiring private sellers of firearms to confirm that buyers' FOID cards are still valid, Illinois' concealed-carry framework prioritizes public safety while allowing responsible gun owners to exercise their constitutional rights in accordance with the court's interpretation.



# Spreading the news

Last year, the Communications Department launched a reorganized effort to better serve the membership of the Senate Democratic caucus. The department reorganized to offer members a three-person team with one staffer each focused on Creative Services, Constituent Services and Member Services. With this model, the Communications Department built upon its success from 2012.

The department expanded its web presence, now managing 38 websites on behalf of the overall caucus and individual members. The caucus site, [IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com](http://IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com), experienced another great year of readership, generating over 250,000 page views during session. In the past two years, more than 738,000 have come to the caucus site.

Digging in to the numbers, [www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com](http://www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com) jumped in direct visitors this year by 8 percent and saw a reduced number of referral and search traffic visitors. This means that more web users are going directly to the site via bookmark and consider it a reliable place to find information. Also of note, new visitors flocked to the site in 2013: 56 percent of those who came to the caucus site this year were new, which means our presence is expanding to new and different audiences.

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 individual websites for 38 members of the Senate Democratic caucus. With a new focus and commitment to member sites, our goal this year was to ensure they were updated in a timely, aggressive manner. We accomplished that goal, adding customization to most member sites that we plan to expand in the near future.

As a caucus, we have explored new ways to reach out to your constituents. After completing several successful Tele-Town Halls last year, we again included them in our constituent outreach. This year, we completed eight town halls for members in all areas of the state, calling more than 26,000 constituents in each of the selected districts. In total, we reached nearly 208,000 people around the state.

Each town hall had at least 2,500 constituents on the call who could listen and ask live questions that were screened by staff. The most popular topics were pensions and concealed carry. Senators were able to communicate their positions on these issues and other topics during the hourlong call. After a mailing program that informed people of the town hall, we saw an average increase of nearly 1,500 constituents per call, increasing the number of people on the call to an average of 4,000 people.

Next year, we hope to expand Tele-Town Halls to more Senators and improve on our best practices. If you are interested, contact Constituent Services. We would like to do as many in the future as funding allows.

Nearly 730,000 constituents received regular email updates from Senators about legislation at the Capitol and events happening in district. We sent 43,020 constituents surveys on issues facing the state. Additionally, 40,872 constituents were sent targeted emails about issues they specifically contacted their Senator about. More than 16,000 people signed online petitions on issues ranging from Online Voting Registration to Education Funding Reform. In total, we communicated with 829,255 constituents through VOICE this session.



## [www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com](http://www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com) by the numbers

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

**445,080:** Total web hits from June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013

**272,123:** Total web hits from January 1, 2013 to May 31 2013

**15,268:** Highest hit day 2013 (January 2, 2013)

**4,942:** Hits during Marriage Equality debate (February 14, 2013)

**12,640:** Average hits per week, 2013

**750,587:** Combined web hits in 2012 and 2013

Top mobile devices accessing [www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com](http://www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com)

- Apple iPhone
- Apple iPad
- Motorola Droid Razr 4G
- Sony Ericsson
- Samsung Galaxy S3

### 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 presence 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.

### Twitter

The most popular Twitter feed at the Illinois State Capitol again made great strides this session, constant-

ly updating the Twitter world with critical news. Still one of the top three most-followed state legislative caucuses in the nation, the department will break an impressive 6,000 followers in the coming days. Mentions, retweets and conversations steadily increased during session.

Full New York Senate:	20,183
Full Texas Legislature:	9,958
Full Utah Senate:	8,077
1. PA House GOP:	6,985
2. NJ Senate GOP:	6,306
<b>3. IL Senate Dems:</b>	<b>5,926</b>
10. IL House GOP:	4,507
14. IL Senate GOP:	4,084

### Senate Dems

Followers on 5.31.12:	4,004
Followers on 5.28.13:	5,784

### Senate GOP

Followers on 5.31.12:	2,539
Followers on 5.28.13:	3,949

### House GOP

Followers on 5.31.12:	2,824
Followers on 5.28.13:	4,324

**House Dems:** No Twitter presence

### IL political media orgs

Capitolfax	7,499
<b>ILSenDems</b>	<b>5,926</b>
GregHinZ	5,481
Ward_Room	5,363
SouthtownStar	5,123
llwatchdog	4,763
Trib_ed_board	4,727
WBEZpolitics	4,736

ChiTribCloutSt	4,706
Capitolbureau	4,607
PoliticalEditor	4,280
SJRthedome	4,043
DHStatehouse	2,958
Blueroomstream	980

### 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.

IL Sen Dems Caucus: 6,098 fans, plus 12 staff-maintained member pages

1. Virginia Senate GOP:	10,202
2. Texas House Caucus:	7,780
3. Michigan House Dems:	7,423
4. Michigan Senate Dems:	6,625
<b>5. ILSenDems Caucus:</b>	<b>6,110</b>
9. IL House GOP:	3,247
18. IL Senate GOP:	1,823

### YouTube

Overall views since the channel was created: 23,485

Views this session: 7,423

Top 5 videos from this session:

- [President Cullerton on the passage of SB 957](#)
- [Illinois Senate Democrats discuss marriage equality](#)
- [Senator Holmes gives a pension reform update](#)
- [Introducing Senator Michael Hastings](#)
- [Sen. Raoul reacts to governors budget address](#)



## Latino outreach

During the 98th General Assembly, Communications Staff placed a special emphasis on expanding its reach among Latinos and Spanish-speaking audiences. Hiring a Spanish Media Specialist on staff gave Democrats an unprecedented exposure to Spanish-language broadcasts and printed media outlets.

The ability to address matters of public interest tackled by the Senate, from driver's licenses for the undocumented to marriage fairness to pension reform, in the language in which 25 percent of the audiences feel comfortable informing themselves, released untapped opportunities.

Latino and non-Latino members alike shared their views in television and radio interviews, saw their presence rise in printed stories and even had opinion columns in leading publications.

The department is now fielding requests from TV stations that can't regularly make it to the Capitol to have us provide high-definition video interviews of both Spanish and non-Spanish speaking Senators that have been included in newscasts.





**V**oice, a constituent relationship management database, provides our caucus with a uniform system for tracking and corresponding with opinions and issues from the people back in district while offering legislative assistants and staffers a variety of tools to assess constituent requests and manage casework.

As a result, staff both in district and the Capitol can instantly identify important issues and respond proactively, all the while steadily growing targeted email lists and general e-newsletter lists.

Since January, the VOICE system has logged more than 210,000 individual emails, letters, phone calls and other incoming correspondence. Currently, there are 38 legislative assistants and 23 district offices using VOICE.

### By the numbers...

Since January 2013, VOICE has...

- sent out general e-newsletters to 728,879 constituents
- sent out 43,020 interactive constituent survey emails.
- sent out 40,872 blast emails to targeted groups of constituents.
- sent out 16,484 interactive constituent petition emails.
- Incoming Constituent Correspondence- Processing

Here is a snapshot of constituent correspondence Jan 1 until now.

Method	Number of Incoming Correspondence
Email	185,841
Website	19,703
Letters	2,947
Phone	2,099
Fax	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>210,697</b>

### Top 10 issues for this session:

- Marriage equality — Support: 10,316
- Pension reform (SB1) — Oppose: 8,796
- Concealed carry — Support: 4,987
- Second Amendment issues: 4,622
- Health care: 3,618
- Education: 3,534
- Gun control — Oppose: 2,691
- Taxes: 2,501
- Public safety: 2,464
- Pension reform (SB35) — Oppose: 2,107

### Tele-Town Hall meetings

This year, we offered eight members an opportunity to participate in telephone town halls. The senators were given the ability to reach thousands of constituents with a single phone call, engaging them in a lively talk show format. We are looking forward to offering this service to more members in the year ahead.

Five members utilized a joint mail and telephone town hall program to help raise their district profiles. The program was successful at boosting telephone town hall participation and highlighting members' legislative achievements.

Tele Town Halls	
Total answered calls	158,087
Active participants	22,279
Live questions	88

### 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 10,327 results. We are able to use the results to create a snapshot of constituents' opinions and grow targeted email lists in VOICE.



## FEATURED STORIES

JOHN J. CULLERTON, SENATE PRESIDENT  
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Bill Number	System(s) Affected	Employee Contribution	Retirement Age	COLA	Salary Cap	Cost Shift	Other
SB 1	TRS	increase employee contributions	N/A	Choose between lower COLA or retiree healthcare	N/A	No	*New Social Security employees eligible to TRS *90% fun 2045
SB 35 (HB 3411)	TRS GARS SURS SERS	increase employee contributions	increases retirement age based on current age	*Only apply to first \$25K of pensionable salary *Delayed until age 67 or 5 years after retirement	Maximum pensionable salary fixed at the higher of the Social Security cap or employees salary at the time the legislation becomes law	Yes	Funding

# The Pension Paradigm

Over the past several years, Senate Democrats implemented several measures to shore up the retirement systems covering teachers, university professors and state employees.

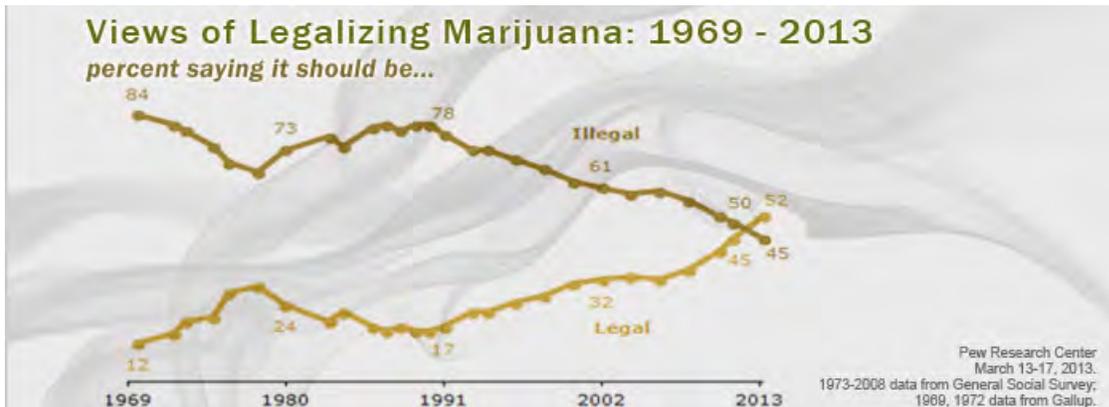
In 2012, benefits for new employees were altered, increasing the retirement age to 67, reducing cost of living adjustments, eliminating inflated pension receipts caused by pay hikes and bonuses, instituting a cap on the highest pensionable salary and lowering the maximum benefit for lawmakers.

In response to a series of articles by the Chicago Tribune and WGN-TV, Senate Democrats passed legislation limiting municipal employees from using time spent working for a union as credit towards a municipal pension. Additional reform legislation was also passed prohibiting union officials from obtaining teachers certificates just to qualify for pension benefits.



**FULL STORY:**

<http://bit.ly/PensionParadigm>



# Illinois Senate passes medical marijuana bill

**(UPDATED 5/17/13)** The Senate passed House Bill 1, The Medical Cannabis Pilot Program, by a 35-21 vote, Friday. The legislation creates a four-year pilot program allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana as a legal alternative to pharmaceuticals for qualified patients with chronic diseases.

“I am glad my colleagues understand that this program alleviates suffering and provides strong safeguards against abuse. Patients afflicted by the most unbearable conditions will soon have a compassionate answer to their cries for help.” State Senator William R. Haine (D-Alton), the proposal’s sponsor in the Senate, said.

The legislation restricts the use of marijuana in the presence of minors, in vehicles and in public, especially near school grounds. The program requires a doctor’s written certification, registered patient photo identification cards and an electronic verification system.

This proposal passed the House on

## FULL STORY:

<http://bit.ly/HouseBill1>

April 17 and now goes to the governor for approval.

\* \* \*

**(Original story)** With public opinion turning against current policies with regards to cannabis use in America, states around the nation are passing new laws legalizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes. In recent weeks, Maryland, Florida, New Hampshire and many others have passed or are considering medical marijuana laws.

Illinois is considering approving marijuana for medical use through House Bill 1. Sponsored by State Representative Lou Lang (D-Skokie) and State Senator William Haine (D-Alton), the bill would allow for medicinal cannabis while at the same time strictly regulating it.



State Senator Napoleon Harris discusses SB 2178 in committee with Annette Clark, mother of Rocky Clark (inset), who suffered a catastrophic injury while playing high school football.

# Harris' first major bill protects student athletes in Rocky Clark's memory

Student athletes who suffer catastrophic injuries, along with their family, friends and teammates, endure years of heartache. Those who are permanently disabled face a mountain of challenges in medical treatment and physical therapy just to maintain their lives, and they and their families face a mountain of medical bills. Even if an injured student's family or school has insurance, the costs associated with treatment for permanent disabilities can exceed the maximums most policies have in place. What happens then?

Annette Clark knows;

**FULL STORY:**  
<http://bit.ly/RockyClark>

on September 15, 2000, her 16-year-old son Rocky suffered two broken vertebrae and a devastating spinal cord injury in an Eisenhower High School football game. He was paralyzed from the neck down. His family was told by school officials Rocky's medical costs would be covered by Eisenhower's insurance. Full-time nursing, medication, supplies, and his own determination allowed Rocky to surpass life expectancy for most quadriplegics.





State Representative Greg Harris and State Senator Heather Steans hold a press conference after the Steans-sponsored SB 10 — which extends marriage rights to same-sex couples — passed the Senate.

# Marriage equality measure passes the Senate

In a historic vote on the Illinois Senate floor today, Senate members voted to extend marriage rights to same-sex couples by passing the Religious and Marriage Fairness Act. Senate Bill 10, sponsored by Senator Heather Steans (D-Chicago), extends marriage rights to same-sex couples while protecting the rights of religious denominations who choose not to solemnize same-sex unions.

While civil union legislation was signed into law a few years ago offering the same rights to same-sex couples on a state level, numerous same-sex couples testified about continued discrimination due to the “separate but equal” status given to civil union relationships. Supporters testified extending marriage to committed same-sex relationships will reduce continued discrimination experienced by the gay community over the separate title given to their legal commitment.

Senate Bill 10 will now be debated in the Illinois House. If passed by the House and signed by the governor, Illinois would become the tenth state to legalize same-sex marriages.



## FULL STORY:

<http://bit.ly/MarriageFairness>



Senate President John Cullerton is surrounded by members of the media after announcing that the state's public employee unions have agreed to a pension reform plan that will save Illinois billions of dollars.

# Senate President announces pension agreement with unions

**A**fter years of negotiations, Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago) has announced that the state's public employee unions have agreed to a pension reform plan that will shave tens of billions of dollars off of Illinois' nearly \$100 billion pension liability.

With the help of Senator Linda Holmes (D-Aurora), he intends to amend Senate Bill 2404 with the agreed-to reform package

## FULL STORY:

<http://bit.ly/UnionsAgree>

that could save the state \$46 billion. The proposal, which the Senate may vote on as early as Wednesday, is based on Cullerton's long-standing argument that the state must offer employees a choice to ensure that pension reform is constitutional and will survive a court challenge.

Because the plan is supported by the We Are One Coalition of unions, it is Illinois' best chance of avoiding a lengthy and expensive legal battle over pension reform. We Are One represents the state's biggest public employee unions, including the AFL-CIO, the Illinois Education Association, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, AFSCME, Associated Firefighters of Illinois, the Fraternal Order of Police and many others.

*"This plan is the best chance for the General Assembly to pass a clearly constitutional proposal that will save money and avoid an expensive and lengthy court battle."*

— Senate President John Cullerton



# Gaming expansion moves through Illinois Senate

The Illinois Senate passed a comprehensive gaming proposal today sponsored by Senator Terry Link to address many priorities identified by members of the caucus, the governor and the Illinois Gaming Board.

Senate Bill 1739 resembles gaming bills passed by the General Assembly in the spring of 2011 (SB 744) and 2012 (SB 1849). It includes a Chicago casino, four new riverboats/casinos in Rockford, Danville, Lake County and the south suburbs, slots at racetracks, ethics measures, and provisions for revenue distribution and minority participation. It removes an iGaming provision considered earlier this year.

Previously approved gaming expansion packages were rejected by the governor; this proposal seeks to provide revenue toward his spending cuts in the FY2014 budget and to tackle other concerns or objections in earlier legislation.

The governor's budget proposed cutting \$400 million from education. The new legislation sends new dollars from casino expansion to public education to



The office of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel put together a video that highlighted how increased revenue from gaming expansion could be used to improve Chicago Public Schools.

## FULL STORY:

<http://bit.ly/GamingExpansion>

help offset the proposed cuts.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel released a video today to highlight the opportunities to modernize

Chicago's neighborhood schools with 100% of the revenue from a Chicago casino going to fund education.

Senate Bill 1739 with Amendments #4 now moves to the House for their deliberation.



# YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JOHN J. CULLERTON, SENATE PRESIDENT  
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# John Cullerton

**Illinois Senate President**  
*6th Legislative District*

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Elected to lead the largest Democratic caucus in the history of the Illinois Senate, Senate President John Cullerton set the course for expanding social equality and resolving longstanding financial problems that have plagued the state.

The call to action began before the 40 Democratic members of the 98th General Assembly were even seated as Cullerton led efforts in the waning days of the 97th General Assembly to recognize and provide rights to the hardworking men and women of Illinois who happen to be undocumented immigrants. His efforts resulted in landmark legislation that for the first time provides an avenue for them to obtain driving privileges and auto insurance.

Upon the 98th General Assembly being seated, Cullerton laid out an ambitious agenda that quickly recognized the rights of gay and lesbian Illinoisans and sought to provide them with the ability to officially marry. The historic proposal cleared the Senate early in the session.

The Senate President also sought to assist President Obama in easing the path for everyone in America to have health insurance. Seeking to take financial advantage of the Affordable Care Act, the Senate advanced legislation that gives Illinoisans with no insurance the ability to access the Medicaid program and have their costs covered by the federal government. Across the country, numerous Republican governors



have suddenly dropped their partisan opposition to the health care plan and made similar moves to the Illinois Senate's, recognizing that

from a pure dollars and cents standpoint, the expansion makes perfect business sense.

On behalf of a galvanized Senate Democratic caucus, Cullerton pressed to preserve education funding despite ongoing financial difficulties while also recognizing that the best way to avoid adding to the backlog of state bills is to simply pay people on time for the work that they do and never create the debt in the first place.

But it was Cullerton's contin-

ued efforts on responsible pension reform that won praise from even critics. Nearly three years ago, President Cullerton tasked his staff with researching the pension protections in the Illinois Constitution and deciphering why they were included.

Ever since, he's traveled the state speaking to editorial boards, union halls and chambers of commerce about both the urgency of pension reform and need to follow the well-defined constitutional restrictions.

Even the often-critical Chicago Tribune editorial board praised Cullerton's efforts, recently opining that, "If other legislative leaders — of both parties, over several decades — had put this much effort into protecting the pension system from the tyranny of simple mathematics, we wouldn't be in this mess."



## James Clayborne

Majority Leader | Assignments chair  
57th Legislative District

[website](#)

Recognizing that education is critical in to improving any area, State Senator James Clayborne championed the Promise Zone Act giving East St. Louis—and other communities in need of renewal— a new opportunity to help low-income students receive post-secondary education.

This legislation allows the East St. Louis City Council to secure funding from private donors and reinvest those donations for special scholarships. These Promise Zone Scholarships will be awarded to qualified public school students who are not able to afford community college even after federal and state funding.

These scholarships are a last line of defense for students who want to continue their education but are unable to because of their economic circumstances. The program motivates students to stay in school and motivates parents to stay in the community. By allowing businesses to meaningfully invest in students' lives, Clayborne hopes new bonds will be cemented in these communities allowing much-needed educational and economic growth.

Clayborne continued his practice this spring of taking local high school students on trips to visit a wide variety of colleges and to visit historic sites from the civil



rights movement. These trips allow students to gain a broader college search experience. Likewise, by visiting the iconic locations where the civil rights movement took hold, students gain a deeper perspective and appreciation for the gravity of past generations' sacrifices.

Clayborne helped sponsor legislation that gives some servicemen and women a clean slate after serving our country. The plan gives qualified, honorably discharged veterans with felony convictions, from before their enlistment, a chance to have their

rights movement. These trips allow students to gain a broader college search experience. Likewise, by visiting the

records expunged. This program allows those who have served honorably and sacrificed for this nation to wash away certain non-violent convictions. It offers them the fair chance at employment that they deserve.

In addition to advancing opportunities for this generation of students', Clayborne is fighting to protect older generations. He guided legislation through the Senate that further protects nursing home residents from financial exploitation. New protections limit how much money can be withdrawn from residents' personal bank accounts monthly. These safeguards prevent fraud and exploitation that specifically target nursing home residents.



**Don Harmon** [website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)  
**President Pro Tempore | Executive chair**  
*39th Legislative District*

During the 2013 session of the Illinois General Assembly, President Pro Tempore Don Harmon focused on making it easier for people to vote through his efforts to embrace technology and protect basic voting rights.

The Oak Park Democrat strongly believes that our democracy is stronger when more people participate. He led the General Assembly to consider online voter registration, which has increased voter registration and saved money in states across the nation.

For example, Arizona saw a 9.5 percent increase in voter registration after it implemented a similar law, and studies show that online registration costs 3 cents per application while traditional paper registration costs 83 cents per application.

In a related move, Harmon used his position as chairman of the Senate Executive Committee to defeat a Republican proposal to force voters to show photo identification at the polls. Harmon believes this a poorly concealed attempt to disenfranchise legitimate voters, particularly low-income seniors and minorities who are less likely to have photo IDs. Illinois already has strict laws that require voters to prove their identities when they first register to vote.

Harmon also continued his work to protect women who are the victims of rape escape further ha-



arrassment from their rapists.

Several years ago, Harmon passed a law stripping convicted rapists of all custody rights re-

lating to children conceived during the criminal act. Harmon argues that a mother who is courageous enough to bring the child of rape into this world should not have to share custody with her attacker.

This year, Harmon pushed to expand this law to allow mothers to seek to end fathers' custody rights as long as there is clear and convincing evidence a rape occurred. This would allow mothers who are in the midst of a complicated criminal trial to terminate rapists'

relationships with their children. It would also allow mothers to terminate their attackers' custody in situations that meet the standard of clear and convincing evidence but don't result in conviction.

To round out the 2013 session of the General Assembly, Harmon continued his work to improve access to mental health care, particularly in rural and low-income areas. He pushed legislation through the Senate to give psychologists who meet a series of strict requirements the ability to prescribe medication. Though he has opposed similar plans in the past, Harmon has become convinced that allowing psychologists to prescribe medication needs to be a part of the dialogue. There simply aren't enough psychiatrists to meet Illinois' needs.



# Kimberly A. Lightford

Assistant Majority Leader  
4th Legislative District

[website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

During the 2013 session of the Illinois General Assembly, Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford continued her passionate advocacy for improving the state's education system.

Her signature issue was a push to lower the minimum age at which children are required to attend school from 7 to age 6. Illinois is one of just 14 states that allows children to delay starting school until age 7 or 8.

Lightford and many education advocates believe the sooner a child starts learning the better the child's chances at success. Current law too easily allows children to start school years behind their peers, and these students often struggle academically for the rest of their lives.

Lowering the attendance age will also help schools confront the issue of kindergarten and first-grade truancy. According to a Chicago Tribune report, 18 percent of Chicago Public Schools' kindergarten and first-grade students were labeled chronically truant last year. Because children are not required to attend school until the age of 7, schools and law enforcement have no legal recourse to help them get kids into the classroom. Though Lightford's legislation requires children to begin their educational careers



by age 6, it respects parents' choice of schools. Parents can still choose between public school, private school, reli-

gious schools, charter school and home school.

Lightford also continued to fight for more resources for public education. She strongly opposed the governor's push to further cut education and has vowed to keep fighting to restore funding until Illinois is once again keeping its promise to the state's children.

Lightford continued her work to help ex-offenders return to society by sponsoring legislation that improves the process for sealing and expunging records of those arrested but never convicted and low-level, non-violent offenders. The move should open new opportunities for them to find work and housing.

To support low-income families and seniors, Senator Lightford sponsored legislation to protect the important Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Without LIHEAP, many families with young children and seniors who live on fixed incomes would not be able to afford heat in the winter, putting their health at risk.



# Terry Link

**Assistant Majority Leader**  
*30th Legislative District*

[website](#)

In an effort to offset draconian budget cuts set forth by Gov. Pat Quinn, Senator Terry Link sponsored legislation to expand gaming in Illinois and stop the flow of dollars to neighboring Indiana where officials continue to use their competitive advantage to prop up the Hoosier state's budget with Illinois gaming money.

Link's proposal adds a casino in Chicago and four new casinos in Rockford, Danville, the south suburbs, and Lake County. The measure creates jobs and additional revenue for the state. Proceeds would go towards paying old bills, education and Illinois' unfunded pension liabilities.

Link knows Illinois must compete with Indiana where Illinoisans spend millions on gaming. The legislation also attempted to address the governor's ethics concerns with earlier proposals.

While gaming legislation has become Senator Link's signature issue, he worked this session to try to improve the quality of life of people in his district and throughout Illinois.

After working to stop smoking in public places by passing Smoke Free Illinois, Link continued his efforts with a measure to prohibit smoking on state-supported university and community college campuses in Illinois. Senate Bill 2202 would not allow students to smoke on campus including build-



ings, grounds, parking lots and vehicles owned or operated by state-supported tuition.

Victims of childhood sexual

abuse would no longer face legal deadlines to seek damages from their abusers under legislation Link passed. Current state law imposes a 20-year deadline from the date of abuse for a sexual abuse victim to file a lawsuit against the abuser. Link's plan eliminates that. Link believes there should not be a limited time frame for when someone who was abused as a child can sue the abuser.

Link sponsored legislation this

spring to expedite the removal of buildings that pose a danger to the community. Under the legislation a county board may repair or demolish a building if it is not demolished or repaired within 30 days of a notice from the county.

To encourage greater participation in the electoral process, Link passed legislation to lower the voting age for 17-year-olds who will turn 18 in the year of the next general election.

This session, Illinois YouthBuild Coalition, Inc. presented Link with the Illinois YouthBuild Public Service award for his unwavering support of young people in Lake County. YouthBuild helps at-risk youth by supporting their educational goals, teaching them job skills and preparing them for college.



# Antonio Muñoz

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)  
Assistant Majority Leader | Executive Appointments chair  
*1st Legislative District*

This year, Senator Antonio Munoz’s legislative priority was public safety.

He was instrumental in working with state and local officials to pass legislation that will improve safety in local neighborhoods. The people of Illinois are all at a higher risk for crime when the number of police officers patrolling streets and neighborhoods decreases.

Senate Bill 1449 requires a minimum number of 2,350 state troopers be on the force at all times. This number will be re-examined every four years to see if numbers need to be increased, reduced or maintained. This bill addresses the attrition of troopers over the past years and setting a minimum number of officers will ease the growing workload burden placed upon the Illinois State Police.

To protect drivers and pedestrians from the dangers of high-speed chases, Munoz worked with the Illinois State Police to increase the penalties for drivers who flee the police. Senate Bill 2195 will now allow police officers to access records from a vehicle’s license plate number and impound the vehicle when it stops or is found after the incident.



Munoz was the lead sponsor of legislation that will increase safety for students who ride a bus to and from school through the passage of Senate Bill 923. This measure will allow school districts to place cameras on the front of their busses and record information of those who unlawfully pass the bus.

This legislation stems from a study conducted by the Illinois Department of Transportation in which drivers on 250 school buses were asked to record how many

people drove around the bus even when the stop arm was extended. The study lasted 41 days and during that span, of the 135 bus drivers who returned their reports, 3,450 violations were recorded.

Across the county, on average, 31 pedestrians are killed each year while getting on or off a bus; 50 percent of these fatalities are children between the ages of 5 and 7.

Currently, eight other states have already enacted similar school bus camera enforcement laws and another 10 states are in the process of passing similar legislation.



# John Sullivan

[website](#)  
**Assistant Majority Leader**  
*47th Legislative District*

West-central Illinois has a wide array of needs and interests. From farms to factories, cities to small towns, State Senator John Sullivan has been busy this session at the Capitol representing the needs of his district.

Whether it was fostering demand for Illinois horse breeding or creating new research opportunities for wheat farming, Sullivan has been an advocate for Illinois agriculture.

By sponsoring legislation requiring a minimum number of Illinois-bred horses in races Sullivan guaranteed demand for Illinois racehorses. Likewise, Sullivan carried a bill in the Senate that creates a research board aimed at finding new markets for wheat products and developing new procedures and practices in wheat cultivation.

Methamphetamine abuse has destroyed countless families and lives across Illinois. Sullivan championed legislation that authorizes law enforcement officials to crackdown on the trafficking of meth's ingredients. The new legislation makes it illegal to obtain meth making materials for a third party. The ability to prosecute these traffickers will reduce the amount of meth in circulation.

Next year, every Illinois citizens will have a chance to make



a meaningful impact in the lives of veterans because of an automatic donation checkbox on the Illinois tax return form.

Sullivan sponsored the inclusion of a Veterans Homes Fund checkbox as an easy way for taxpayers to directly and voluntarily support veteran care.

Sullivan helped ensure that rural and underserved areas of the state have every opportunity to receive high quality emergency medical care. Responding to a request from Galesburg Cottage

Hospital, he sponsored legislation creating two new classifications for hospitals with emergency facilities, Level III Trauma Centers and Acute Injury Stabilization Centers. These categories help rural hospitals recruit and retain emergency room physicians.

This spring Illinois was ravaged by record-breaking flood waters. Illinoisans from Havana to Quincy came together helping their neighbors and supporting their communities. Sullivan aided response efforts by assisting resource coordination, helping disseminate information and personally sandbagging in Rushville.



## Donne Trotter

Assistant Majority Leader  
17th Legislative District

State Senator Donne Trotter's continued dedication to social equity, quality education and struggling families dominated the veteran legislator's priorities during the first session of the 98th General Assembly.

Trotter used his encyclopedic knowledge of the state budget to protect the most vulnerable citizens of Illinois. He strongly and vocally opposed the governor's proposed \$400 million cut to education funding, saying that rolling back the state's general state aid funding to 2003 levels was "unconscionable." In a frequently quoted statement, Trotter declared that "it's one thing for us to ratchet back. It's another thing to cut our own throats." The general state aid cut is especially problematic for working families because it inflicts far more pain on schools with high poverty rates than it does on wealthy districts.

Trotter also played a strong role in the push to expand Medicaid to more low-income families.

A vocal critic of the many recent cutbacks to health care and human services – especially health care for the very poor – Senator Trotter believes that low-income communities can no longer afford to bear the brunt



of the state's budget cuts.

In addition to putting his considerable influence behind the Medicaid expansion measure,

Trotter worked behind the scenes to ameliorate some of the worst of the governor's proposed cuts to programs that protect people who cannot protect themselves.

Reaffirming his commitment to social equity and justice, Leader Trotter passed legislation to ensure that innocent men and women do not pay for the mistakes of Illinois' criminal justice

system. Years ago, Illinois created certificates of innocence for men and women who are convicted of crimes and later exonerated by new evidence. However, in some cases, the individuals who are awarded these certificates still have criminal records on file, making it more difficult for them to find employment and housing. To rectify this problem, Trotter introduced and passed legislation requiring the courts and law enforcement to expunge the records of anyone who receives a certificate of innocence, helping these people who have already suffered a terrible wrong at the hands of the state move on with their lives.



# Ira I. Silverstein

[website](#)

**Majority Caucus Chair**  
*8th Legislative District*

State Senator Ira Silverstein made headlines throughout the spring session with his effective efforts to crack down on tollway scofflaws, protect human rights and close loopholes so criminals can be brought to justice.

Under legislation Silverstein passed in the Senate, the Illinois Toll Highway Authority could publish what's been dubbed an online "wall of shame" that names motorists and companies that have blown through toll-booths and I-Pass lanes without paying and run up more than \$1,000 in overdue violations and fees. The senator's push comes as the tollway reports that \$300 million in unpaid tolls and fines has amassed since 2001.

Continuing his advocacy for equal human rights, Silverstein passed a measure giving Illinois' homeless equal rights to access public buildings, voting and other basic rights. Homeless individuals face discrimination in situations for merely lacking a mailing or home address, especially when filling out job applications or showing proof of residency when attempting to vote.

The measure lists seven rights that will be extended to the homeless:

- move freely through public buildings, parks, sidewalks and transit systems
- equal treatment from all



state and municipal agencies

- freedom from employment discrimination based on a lack of a mailing ad-

dress

- emergency medical care
- register to vote and actual voting
- confidentiality of private records and other personal information
- a reasonable expectation of privacy with regard to personal property

As part of an ongoing criminal justice initiative, Silverstein passed a measure allowing judges to confiscate the passport and

other travel documents of someone considered a "flight risk" who has committed a heinous, violent crime such as murder.

The measure was derived from a Chicago Tribune series entitled "Across the Border: Beyond the Law," which highlighted flaws in state and federal laws that allow fugitives to more easily leave the country after committing a crime.

This session's legislation on this issue follows Silverstein's success last year in changing state law to open the door for family members to be prosecuted for assisting an immediate family member accused of a crime escape authorities. Previous state law contained a loophole that prevented the family from being held accountable for knowingly aiding fugitives' escapes.



# William Haine [website](#)

**Majority Caucus Whip | Insurance chair**  
*56th Legislative District*

From pursuing protections for adults with disabilities to promoting equitable representation on Southern Illinois University’s board, State Senator Bill Haine focused on areas of local and statewide concern during the 2013 spring session.

Defending an often-marginalized group, Haine advocated for increased protections of adults with disabilities against personal abuse and financial exploitation by sponsoring the Adult Protective Services Act. The law gives state agencies more authority to investigate reports of abuse by domestic caregivers. It opens new avenues to report mistreatment and will hopefully help prevent future abuse.

Haine was the driving force behind the push for medical marijuana in the Senate. This year the Senate successfully extended marijuana as a legitimate medicinal alternative for patients suffering some of the most debilitating diseases. The Medical Cannabis Pilot Program is the safest, most-regulated medical marijuana program in the nation and will provide patients a compassionate substitute to pharmaceuticals. Haine hopes that this program will become a model for other states seeking a pragmatic approach to medical marijuana.

As America begins to implement the federal Affordable Care



Act, Haine has helped Illinoisans deal with changes to the health care industry. He played an instrumental role in the

creation of statewide health insurance exchanges, which are marketplaces where individuals and small businesses save money by purchasing independent health insurance. Haine also helped citizens interact with these exchanges by creating insurance exchange navigators, who guide consumers through the new system.

Haine also stood up for the Southern Illinois University community and all public univer-

sities by checking the governor’s attempt to manipulate SIU’s board of trustees. Haine’s efforts opened the door for former head of the Illinois National Guard, Maj. Gen. Randal Thomas, to join the board. Thomas has since been elected to lead the board as chairman.

Haine was honored to be elected as the chair of the Downstate Caucus. He worked together with fellow downstate Democrats to advance policy positions and coordinate their voices on issues affecting their districts. The caucus, under Haine’s leadership, opposed the governor’s cuts to school funding, and worked to ensure downstate voices were heard in the discussion on how to craft the state’s first concealed-carry law.



# Mattie Hunter

[website](#) | [Twitter](#)  
**Majority Caucus Whip | Human Services chair**  
*3rd Legislative District*

Majority Caucus Whip Sen. Mattie Hunter throughout the past legislative session worked diligently to advance a progressive legislative agenda focused on health and health care, reducing youth violence and increasing employment, empowering small and minority businesses, and eradicating minority disparities.

A longtime advocate against inequality in our judicial and prison systems, Hunter led the effort in a 2010 study that found that African-Americans were disproportionately convicted and sentenced in non-violent drug related crimes compared to other ethnicities. This study has led to several measures in the past three years to correct this disparity, including this year's measure requiring state and local police to collect racial data during arrests. The goal of the data collection is to identify through statistical analysis areas in which disparities, are most commonplace and to what degree. Hunter also advanced important legislation expanding opportunities for the imprisoned to apply for Medicaid to be made available to them as soon as they are released.

Hunter backed the Medicaid expansion initiative – Senate Bill 26 – approved by the Senate this session. Hunter co-sponsored



the Medicaid package that works to end coverage lapses, expands health care services to an estimated 342,000

people statewide and opens up access to Medicaid to an estimated 17,627 individuals in the 3rd Senate District.

A constant advocate for health and health care in the legislature, Hunter also worked to promote awareness of a variety of health issues including African-American HIV/AIDS, autism, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

and poison prevention.

Hunter also led the charge on a youth jobs initiative that establishes a 52-week, year-round employment program for young Chicagoans in order to attempt to curb the city's current youth violence epidemic. To further address the issue, Hunter worked to implement a youth violence task force with legislation she sponsored.

In an attempt to advocate for small and minority businesses, Hunter helped move toward establishing a revolving loan fund for minority and disadvantaged business enterprises in hopes of leveling the playing field for minority business contractors.



# Iris Y. Martinez

[website](#) | [Twitter](#)

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

In an acknowledgment of her effective guidance within the Latino community and on key issues such as quality education and excellent health care, State Senator Iris Y. Martinez joined Senate leadership as majority caucus whip this year.

On the heels of her successful efforts at the end of the 97th General Assembly to win state approval of a system that allows undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses, Martinez was elected co-chair of the Illinois Latino Caucus for the 98th General Assembly.

Martinez has recognized the importance of learning multiple languages in high school and passed legislation creating the State Seal of Biliteracy, which honors students who meet criteria making them proficient in languages other than English.

An initiative led by Martinez and Representative Cynthia Soto, also a co-chair of the Latino Caucus, creates a State Hispanic Employment Plan Advisory Council. The council's goals are to study the percentage of state employees that are Hispanic/bilingual, their ability to be considered for promotions and incentives for Hispanics/bilinguals to seek state



employment. The advisory council will consist of 11 governor-appointed members who have expertise in Hispanic and bicultural issues.

Martinez introduced a bill repealing an antiquated law that requires the disclosure of HIV-positive students to school principals for grades K-12. The previous law was implemented in 1987 when little was known about the disease and no treatments were available.

Between 2003 and 2009, the

number of 13-19 year-olds diagnosed with HIV increased 50 percent, and rose 20 percent for young adults ages 20 to 29.

Martinez and public health officials fear that children and young adults might be avoiding being tested out of fear that the requirement that a positive status be reported to school officials might lead to bullying and discrimination from other students, parents and school personnel.

Martinez's bill is an effort to bring Illinois in line with the National AIDS Strategy, which emphasizes the importance of testing as an integral part of the prevention and spread of HIV.



# Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant

49th Legislative District

[website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Backed by a career in education, State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant used her first session at the Illinois Statehouse to fight to preserve the quality of classroom education and the resources needed to provide it.

Bertino-Tarrant sponsored legislation putting a one-year hold on any new, so-called “virtual” charter schools. Proponents of online charter schools claim that this learning platform is the most significant advancement in the way we educate our children since the internet, while opponents worry that by not properly regulating online education, students could fall through the cracks and not receive a quality education.

The senator said a yearlong study should produce enough research and analysis to aid the state in making the best decision on how to move forward on this issue.

Bertino-Tarrant, like many Senate Democrats, is concerned that the state isn’t meeting local schools’ funding needs, and joined with her colleagues in pushing to maintain public school funding in the state budget.

Senator Bertino-Tarrant also utilized her background as a small business owner to push policies



to spur economic development and job growth through the 49th Senate District.

Demonstrating her sensitivity to business owners, Senator Bertino-Tarrant sponsored legislation intended to help businesses maintain consumer traffic while road construction is underway. The proposal requires state transportation planners to meet with businesses that will be affected by road construction and closures before construction

begins in an effort to identify their needs and concerns. It also requires the transportation department to work to post signage and identifying detours, in order to make it easier for customers to get to businesses during construction.

She also sponsored legislation expanding on a recent state law that seeks to add protections to those utilizing internet dating sites. Her proposed law includes internet child care, senior care and home care providers in the safeguards, requiring that they notify users whether they conduct criminal background checks on the prospective caregivers.



# Daniel Biss

9th Legislative District

[website](#) | [Twitter](#)

After turning heads as a freshman in the House, Senator Daniel Biss spent a busy first session in the Senate continuing to tackle the state’s most difficult problems while passing legislative measures on topics including privacy rights, local government and the environment.

One of Senator Biss’ first bills was a comprehensive pension reform plan modeled on legislation he had helped develop in the House the previous year. As the complex issue wound its way through both chambers, Senator Biss, a former mathematics professor, remained involved in advocating for reforms intended to free up money for education and human services while prioritizing the needs of retirees, older workers and employees with lower incomes. Through town hall meetings and e-updates, he kept constituents informed about the many twists and turns of pension reform.

Meanwhile, Senator Biss was successful in drawing attention to up-and-coming issues.

He sponsored a measure regulating the use of drones by law enforcement, as well as two other bills aimed at balancing public safety and reasonable expectations of privacy. Legislation he sponsored will set up task forces



at Illinois’ public universities to work toward open access policies that allow the public to benefit from taxpayer-funded

research without subscribing to expensive academic journals.

He worked with the Department of Natural Resources to begin the process of evaluating Lake Michigan’s wind power potential. And he started a discussion about using portable, automatic enrollment IRAs — administered but not subsidized by the state — to address the retirement security crisis in the private sector.

Committed to good government, Senator Biss sponsored legislation that reduces the conflict of interest inherent in the current process for challenging nominating petitions and another measure that makes county board appointees subject to the same ethics laws as elected officials.

Other legislation Senator Biss passed includes a measure that will encourage domestic violence victims to seek treatment by protecting the confidentiality of their medical records and the Employment First Act, which prioritizes competitive wages and an integrated setting in employment programs for people with disabilities.



# Melinda Bush

31st Legislative District

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

State Senator Melinda Bush made an immediate impression during her first term as a member of the 98th General Assembly.

On the day she was sworn into office she also gave an endorsement speech of the Senate President on the Senate floor, a speech that, like her initial session at the Capitol, drew on her background in local, suburban government and schools.

Bush has worked diligently to find ways to reform and fund education in Illinois. She has promoted efforts to find more equitable and effective ways to fund Illinois' K-12 education system. And she advocated for the implementation of anti-bullying programs in schools and abuse and neglect training for educators.

Bush won approval for legislation that offers some school districts added flexibility in their budgeting, something she considers vital given the lack of support coming from the state. But the freshman Senator did work with her colleagues to try to hold the line on education funding and reverse harsh cuts the governor had proposed.

Senator Bush pushed for requiring comprehensive sexual education curricula in schools in order to ensure that complete,



medically accurate and age appropriate information and facts are being taught to our children.

As a strong supporter of environmental issues, Bush has had a hand in many pieces of legislation to promote a healthier environment for future generations. She aided in the Senate passage of smoke free college campus legislation and has promoted the use of alternative energy, such as offshore wind energy and renewable energy to encourage a cleaner and greener Illinois.

Bush remained staunchly independent, voting against a gaming expansion bill because it diverted millions to special interests, money that could have been used for education and other vital services.

Senator Bush understands that Lake County has a housing market that is out of reach for many residents and one of the worst foreclosure rates in the state. Therefore, she has dedicated a great deal of energy to legislation that addresses the foreclosure crisis in Illinois and to the development of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Lake County, which will help put home ownership within reach of many district residents.



# Jacqueline Y. Collins

[website](#)

**Financial Institutions chair**  
*16th Legislative District*

Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins continues to serve her district and the state of Illinois as a tireless advocate for justice. In addition to sponsoring numerous bills assisting and protecting Illinois' most vulnerable citizens, Senator Collins was an unwavering voice in the Senate against gun violence and in favor of policies that build safer neighborhoods.

As chairperson of the Senate Financial Institutions Committee, a post she has held since 2005, Collins ensured that legal protections for homeowners facing foreclosure continue to let Illinoisans take advantage of federal foreclosure counseling programs. The "30-30-30" grace period provision, pioneered in Illinois six years ago by Senator Collins, gives homeowners 30 days from their first missed payment to a notice of intent to foreclose, 30 days to seek foreclosure counseling and 30 more days to work with a counselor to present a work-out plan to the lender.

Sustaining this successful program will help even more Illinois residents weather the economic downturn and stay in their homes.

Senator Collins stood for high-quality educational opportunities for all children, no



matter where they live. She co-sponsored a moratorium on school closures in Chicago and a moratorium on new, unproven virtual charter schools in Illinois. In education, as in health care, housing and public safety, she has consistently spoken out against policies that exclude people of color or leave poor neighborhoods behind.

Senator Collins also secured passage of legislation to assist the unemployed, a measure removing the statute of limitations for

some sex crimes against under-age victims who may be afraid to come forward until later in life, the creation of a taskforce to study the truancy epidemic in Chicago and a law protecting the privacy of students using social media.

A former journalist and Emmy-award nominated editor at CBS-TV, Jacqueline Collins grew up in Chicago's Auburn Gresham neighborhood, which she now represents. She earned degrees from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard Divinity School and Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.



# Tom Cullerton

23rd Legislative District

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Taxpayers across DuPage County could save millions of dollars thanks to a government consolidation effort spurred by State Senator Tom Cullerton.

Cullerton's success in clearing the way for the potential wholesale elimination of outdated, unneeded, taxpayer-supported entities is the crowning success of his inaugural session at the Illinois Statehouse.

When the local county board chairman hit a dead end in efforts to reduce local government, Cullerton stepped in with Senate Bill 494 to increase the county board's authority to streamline government spending.

The legislation – now on the governor's desk – comes on the heels of a review that found small units of government that provide sanitary, mosquito abatement and street lighting services cost DuPage County taxpayers \$300 million annually and employ 900 people.

It was the showcase example of how the freshman Democrat utilized his previous experience as village president of Villa Park to try to improve the lives of the people of the 23rd Senate District and make government at all levels more effective and responsive to taxpayers.

For example, Cullerton helped park districts throughout the



suburbs gain needed flexibility in their budgeting process and sought to encourage more communities to utilize green

technology in their storm water management to reduce chronic flooding and improve the local environment.

Cullerton also worked to reduce chronic suburban traffic congestion and to renew economic growth throughout the western suburbs by improving western access to O'Hare International Airport. He sponsored a resolution that officially gives the Illinois Tollway Authority the authority

needed to begin building tollways for easier and faster access to O'Hare.

This project, combined with the surrounding development and other infrastructure projects, stands to create as many as 65,000 direct and indirect jobs by 2040.

Cullerton proposed increased reporting requirements to ensure police know of gangs and weapons in schools. He also passed legislation that starts the process of bringing civics education back into classrooms.

Beyond local government and education, Cullerton joined several colleagues from across the state in laying the groundwork for what could be the state's first concealed-carry laws.



# Bill Cunningham [website](#)

*18th Legislative District*

After gang members began to aggressively disrupt funeral processions of rival members travelling through South Side communities, State Senator Bill Cunningham stepped in to change state law and give police greater power to punish reckless motorists by impounding cars swerving through traffic or those allowing passengers to hang out of windows.

Cunningham’s law, now on its way to the governor’s desk, is indicative of his efforts to use his new role in the Illinois Senate to improve the quality of life and solve problems in the 18th Senate District.

Serving in his first Senate session, Cunningham worked to expand and preserve open lands in suburban Cook County by giving the Cook County Forest Preserve District the power to acquire land by easement, which will enable the district to enter into voluntary agreements with businesses, utilities and local governments to acquire patches of open land and incorporate them into the Forest Preserve green belt. With this law, the county will be able to expand its Forest Preserves for virtually no cost.

Cunningham also pressed for approval of legislation to include McDonald’s Playlands on the



list of places where known sex offenders are banned. The proposal came in response to an incident brought to

Cunningham’s attention by the Cook County Sheriff’s Office.

Currently, child sex offenders are prohibited from being present in or near several locations, including schools, designated school bus stops and public parks. The popular fast-food chain’s playgrounds would be added to the official state list.

Senator Cunningham also

worked to advance the rights of disabled students.

He sponsored Senate Bill 2157 to give local school boards the ability to grant P.E. waivers to disabled students who are engaged in athletic activities outside of school to match those given to students in interscholastic athletic programs.

Police officers will now be able to detect, respond and hopefully prevent animal fighting thanks to Cunningham’s House Bill 3388. Animal fighting is on the rise in Chicago and it occurs on street corners, back alleys, playgrounds and basements. This illegal activity is often organized and associated with street gangs.



# William Delgado

[website](#) | [Twitter](#)

Education chair  
2nd Legislative District

As the new chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Senator William Delgado has focused his efforts this year on Chicago Public Schools and plans to close or consolidate schools throughout the city.

The Chicago district argued this session that it needs to close an unprecedented number of neighborhood schools impacting more than 24,000 students in African American and Latino neighborhoods.

Senator Delgado fought back and introduced legislation that would have instituted a moratorium of these closures until a ruling was provided by the Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force; a report not originally due out until May.

Delgado's biggest worry is for students who will be forced to leave their neighborhoods to attend classes. In addition, Delgado fears the students will be exposed more to the perils of gun violence, drugs, gangs and human trafficking as they travel greater distances to get to new schools.

Although still working to halt the school closings, Delgado is continuing to monitor the situation and is willing to propose additional legislation in the future



if necessary.

Delgado has also been working with Gov. Quinn and public health officials to find a way to put a stop

to the growing painkiller and heroin epidemic in Illinois.

There are continually news stories of how families are losing loved ones to OxyContin, Vicodin and Xanax overdoses. Delgado hopes that there can be collaboration between state and federal regulators with help from the pharmaceutical companies to

help Illinois deal with this crisis.

As a preemptive measure, Delgado passed legislation that will limit the amount of these types of drugs that may be prescribed at one time to no more than a 30-day supply. Researchers are finding that because of the growing cost of these painkillers and because of new regulations making these drugs harder to access, those who are addicted to these narcotics are turning to heroin.

Delgado is proposing a task force to address this public health crisis. The goal will be to discuss remedies and alternative drug policies that will help put an end to this public health crisis.



## Gary Forby

**Labor chair**  
*59th Legislative District*

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

For nearly 30 years, a Southern Illinois veterans association had run a beer tent at the DuQuoin State Fair, using the proceeds to fund programs for veterans and their families throughout the region.

But last year, through a series of administrative and bureaucratic snafus, the Combined Veterans Association lost its contract, which instead went to a private contractor that promised to pay the state more money than the veterans' group but, of course, doesn't provide any of the services to Southern Illinois' military heroes.

Making matters worse, the beer tent at the DuQuoin State Fair was the Combined Veterans Associations' biggest fundraiser of the year.

After hearing the detrimental effects this was having on local veterans' organizations, Senator Gary Forby, a longtime supporter of veterans' initiatives and advocate for veterans' issues, took action and spent the early part of the spring legislative session working on a measure re-establishing the Combined Veterans Association as the official organization charged with running the beer tent.



Having won Senate approval of the measure, Forby continues to work to ensure the veterans of Southern Illinois aren't ignored by the administration.

Forby also spent the spring session working to ensure Illinois approves a responsible concealed-carry measure that finally recognizes the rights of gun owners. In the wake of a federal appellate court ruling that declared the state's ban on carrying concealed weapons unconstitu-

tional, Forby has been collaborating with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to bring Illinois in line with the 49 other states who have some form of concealed carry.

Knowing all too well the need for job creation across Southern Illinois, Senator Forby worked with other lawmakers in the hopes of creating a state system to allow companies to tap into what's believed to be the largest natural gas reserves in the Midwest, spurring an entirely new industry that could bring nearly 50,000 jobs to Southern Illinois while also advancing America's energy independence.



# Michael Frerichs

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Higher Education chair**  
*52nd Legislative District*

Senator Michael Frerichs maintained his focus on job growth and economic development in the 52nd Senate District while taking on new responsibilities as chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee. His first order of business was holding a packed hearing on college affordability. Members of the House and Senate Higher Education Committees listened to students talk about the challenges of paying for books and room and board on top of rising tuition.

During the spring, his committee addressed issues from MAP grant standards to letting members of the public access more taxpayer-funded research. Frerichs expanded Illinois' National Guard tuition waiver program to allow Guard members with at least 10 years of service to attend a state university for an additional two years in order to do the graduate work often necessary to advance in the Guard. In budget negotiations, Senator Frerichs advocated for adequate funding of MAP grants and higher education so all qualified students have a chance at a great education at one of Illinois' top-notch universities and community colleges.

Senator Frerichs continued work he started last session on a compromise bill allowing but heavily regulating hydraulic



fracturing, or "fracking." He brought environmental groups, unions and the oil and gas industries to the negotiating table to

put together a tough, responsible bill that will protect drinking water while putting thousands of Illinoisans to work. The Illinois Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act embodies the most stringent fracking regulations in the nation. It requires companies to disclose the chemicals they use, and it emphasizes transparency and public participation.

In the 52nd District, Frerichs worked diligently to reach an

agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to step up inspection of Clinton Landfill and regularly test water quality in the Mahomet Aquifer. He has secured a number of road construction and capital improvement projects that are employing Champaign and Vermilion County workers while enhancing the counties' infrastructure.

Other legislation Senator Frerichs sponsored includes measures to save money by allowing certain government documents to be sent via email, streamline prevailing wage investigations and clarify that honorably discharged veterans should receive credit for their military experience when applying for EMT licensure.



# Napoleon Harris III

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

*15th Legislative District*

Napoleon B. Harris III's athletic abilities landed him a college scholarship, a career in the National Football League and even a trip to the Super Bowl.

But it was his newfound ability as an Illinois State Senator that allowed him to change public policy and potentially offer new protections to thousands of young athletes and their families.

One of the first proposals Senator Harris sponsored during his first session at the Capitol would require that schools in Illinois carry insurance to protect athletes in worst case scenarios that leave a student athlete paralyzed or otherwise permanently disabled.

Harris was inspired by the life of Rasul "Rocky" Clark, a high school football player from Harris' district who was left a quadriplegic after sustaining a spinal cord injury in a game. While some schools do voluntarily provide coverage for such catastrophic events, many do not and student athletes permanently injured on their schools' playing and practice fields are left on their own to cover medical costs.

Clark was a 16-year-old running back in 2000 when he was paralyzed in a game. His insurance ran out 2010 and he lost access to specialized care and died



in early 2012 at the age of 27. His tragedy led to the push for added protections for high school athletes. Harris worked to

ensure bipartisan support of the insurance requirement, which is on its way to the governor's desk to become state law.

It was just one of several high profile efforts Senator Harris was involved with during his freshman session at the Capitol.

For example, Harris supported and co-sponsored Medicaid expansion legislation that would

provide new health care access to more than 12,000 adults in his district and 342,000 low-income adults across the state. That newfound access should cut down on expensive emergency room visits, reduce costs to the state and spur economic growth in the health care industry.

Senator Harris also sponsored legislation to give prosecutors unlimited time to go after criminals who burn down homes and other residential buildings. Previously, prosecutors had to file charges within three years of the crime.

Harris' general focus during his first session was improving education and bringing jobs to the 15th Senate District.



# Michael Hastings

*19th Legislative District*

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Senator Michael Hastings made assisting veterans one of his top legislative priorities during his first spring legislative session at the Illinois Statehouse.

Hastings, a West Point graduate who served in Iraq and was awarded the Bronze Star, understands the importance of assisting our newest generation of veterans in their transition to civilian life. That's why he sponsored legislation aimed at lowering college tuition costs for veterans.

Hastings' proposal offers official Illinois residency to veterans entitled to educational assistance under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program. This change allows veterans to qualify for in-state tuition rates, thus lowering the cost of obtaining a degree and furthering their education.

Hastings also sponsored a veterans' initiative to promote veteran-owned small businesses.

The proposal allows veteran-owned small businesses to be dually certified as veteran-owned and minority- or women-owned, increasing opportunities to receive a state contract.

Aside from working to protect and advance veterans' issues, Hastings was an active advocate for reducing government waste.

The freshman Senator was the



lead sponsor on a proposal to reduce the number of vehicles owned by the state. The proposal calls for selling all

vehicles with less than 7,000 miles on them, arguing that they aren't used enough to justify the expense to taxpayers. The legislation should reduce taxpayers' costs, force agencies to be more efficient and modernize the vehicles that are needed.

Hastings also worked to support reasonable pension reforms in an attempt to control skyrock-

eting pension debt and free up resources for economic development and education. He also supported a casino plan that puts Illinois on a competitive level with Indiana. The initiative seeks to keep gaming dollars here while improving the quality of life in Chicago's Southland region.

In an effort to support his communities, Hastings was active in working to preserve local government funding in the proposed state budget. In addition, as a former school board member, Hastings joined with other Senators in prioritizing school funding and working to stave off the governor's proposed draconian cuts to classroom support.



# Linda Holmes [website](#)

**Environment chair**  
*42nd Legislative District*

State Senator Linda Holmes emerged as a new, fresh voice for common sense in Senate debates on everything from medical marijuana to pension reform.

The blunt-talking Aurora Democrat brought and kept union leaders at the negotiating table on the issue of reforming pension benefits and helped broker the first-ever pension concessions from the unions representing state workers, public school teachers, university workers and other public sector employees.

In a debate too often framed as being about nothing other than numbers, Holmes reminded all involved of the moral component in trying to balance state finances against the lives of public employees and retirees throughout the state.

Similarly, when the Senate took up final approval of a medical marijuana plan, Senator Holmes brought a dose of reality to the debate, highlighting the hypocrisy of those who would oppose the legislation while turning a blind eye to widespread prescription drug abuse.

The start of the 98th General Assembly also saw Senator Holmes continue her work to aid veterans and honor those in active service.

When a local soldier home on leave from Afghanistan complained of having to go through



pointless bureaucratic hurdles to get a hunting permit, Holmes responded with legislation to streamline the process.

Her proposal allows veterans and active duty military members to bypass a state field training requirement in order to get a hunting permit, since soldiers already have extensive firearms training. Under Senator Holmes' proposed law, veterans and soldiers would provide verification of their service and complete an online study section in order to obtain a hunting permit. Her proposal, which should speed up the process, is headed to the governor's desk.

When spring rains flooded much of the region, Holmes worked with state and federal emergency personnel to make sure impacted households and businesses received the information and aid they needed.

And in recognizing the growing diversity of the district, Holmes created an Aurora Latino Advisory Council to gain needed input and perspective on issues and increase communication between community leaders and state lawmakers. Holmes was a co-sponsor of historic legislation in the final days of the 97th General Assembly that opened a process for hardworking men and women living in Illinois who are not U.S. citizens to be able to obtain driving privileges and carry auto insurance.



# Toi Hutchinson

[website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Revenue chair  
40th Legislative District

Senator Toi Hutchinson continued her outspoken leadership on fighting for Illinois children, their education, the well-being of their families and greater social equity across the state.

In an effort to minimize cuts to education, health care and public safety, Senator Hutchinson introduced legislation to close corporate tax loopholes in Illinois. Senate Bill 1159 would bring in desperately needed revenue while ensuring corporations pay their fair share at a time when programs for the needy are being cut and schools have to go without promised state support.

In the proposal, an estimated \$445 million in new revenue each year would come from closing large corporate loopholes, taxing profits produced by corporate subsidies located in other countries and ending a policy of subsidizing business growth in other states.

Bringing attention to the continued pay inequalities between men and women, Hutchinson passed Senate Resolution 157, recognizing April 9 as “Pay Equity Day” in Illinois. This year, April 9 represents the date women must work to in order to achieve the same annual earning as men did the previous year. Hutchinson remains committed to bringing attention to this issue that too



many unfortunately consider a problem of the past.

In Illinois, nearly 100,000 grandparents are responsible

for the care of their grandchildren. Acknowledging this reality, Hutchinson introduced legislation allowing grandparents raising their grandchildren to be eligible employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act, giving them access to unpaid medical leave. Extending access to unpaid family medical leave acknowledges the realities of living arrangements of an increasing number of families

across the country.

While restaurants in Illinois are allowed to re-cork unconsumed bottles of wine for patrons to take home, wineries are not given the same privilege. Hutchinson passed legislation expanding this law to include wineries in this provision in an effort to reduce drunken driving and irresponsible drinking.

People graduate Illinois universities with engineering degrees each year, but few are members of minority groups. In an effort to expand the list of targeted group members for the Diversity in Engineering Scholarship Program, Hutchinson sponsored Senate Bill 2332. Expanding the list of targeted groups ensures that no group is underrepresented.



## Mike Jacobs [website](#)

Energy chair  
36th Legislative District

One of Senator Mike Jacobs' accomplishments this year has been finalizing the sale of Thomson Prison to the federal government. Jacobs passed a measure that officially transfers authority of the facility and the land on which it sits. Although the sale of the facility has taken years, it is in the final stages of the lengthy process.

The Thomson correctional facility, built in 2001, cost the taxpayers of Illinois \$140 million to construct; however, it has never been operational because the state lacked the funds to open and maintain the facility. The Justice Department agreed to purchase Thomson in October of 2012 for \$165 million. Once operational, the facility should provide over 1,000 jobs to the people of Northwestern Illinois.

Another focus for Jacobs this session has been job creation throughout the 36th Senate District.

Passed in the Senate, Senate Bill 1787 would create a new division in the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to promote Illinois to the titanium powdered metals industry. This industry is important to the Quad Cities region and specifically the Rock Island Arsenal because the materials manufactured for the military use titanium powdered



metals. Titanium has become a better choice for manufacturing weapons and vehicles because of its strength yet lightweight properties. It is as strong as steel but 45 percent lighter. In addition, titanium resists corrosion.

Thanks to a construction program that Senator Jacobs supported several years ago, the Quad Cities will finally see new passenger rail service that will run between Chicago and Moline. This project includes new stations in Geneseo and Moline. These infrastructure improvements will

open up the Quad Cities to additional economic development and job creation opportunities.

Jacobs also passed House Joint Resolution 8, designating the Rock River Trail a state historic site. In 2010, the Rock River Trail Initiative was established as a public-private partnership in order to develop the multi-use Rock River Water Trail, the Initiative's first primary project. The Initiative included volunteers, and units of county and municipal government in both Illinois and Wisconsin. The 320-mile trail was opened in 2012 through private and local funding. Soon after, it was included in the registry of the National Park Service. The trail passes through 37 communities, 11 counties and two states.



# Emil Jones III

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Local Government chair**  
*14th Legislative District*

As the new chairman of the Illinois Senate Black Caucus, State Senator Emil Jones III channeled his efforts toward continued advocacy of consumer protection, public safety and gang and violence reduction, in addition to supporting major reform efforts in respect to Illinois health care and marriage law.

This session at the Statehouse saw Jones offer his support for the Medicaid expansion provisions contained in Senate Bill 26. The legislation could close cracks in the state's health care networks for the needy as Illinois moves toward implementing the historic Affordable Care Act.

The expansion opens the door for more than 342,000 Illinois residents to be eligible for the federally funded Medicaid program, which should relieve pressures on both emergency rooms and the Illinois state budget. More importantly for Jones, almost 11,000 people in his 14th Senate District could gain access to coverage as well as hospitals being compensated for the care to low-income residents that they already provide thanks to the move.

Jones additionally co-sponsored the Religious Freedom and Fair Marriage Act and helped Illinois take significant strides toward marriage equality for all



state citizens.

Senator Jones continued to build upon his reputation as a leading consumer advocate in

the Illinois Senate by promoting legislation that substantially increased disclosure regulations regarding and accompanying the purchase of prepaid, reloadable credit cards.

Jones, furthermore, pushed an initiative to allow municipalities to get in line with current technology by increasing their ability to handle routine but official

paperwork electronically.

Jones also supported legislation to crack down on a recent epidemic of gang members disrupting funeral processions by driving recklessly. The legislation would allow authorities to impound vehicles.

Senator Jones also sought to prevent youth violence by supporting a jobs program that would put nearly 5,000 Chicago teens and young adults to work throughout the year.

He also co-sponsored a measure establishing that comprehensive, age-appropriate and medically accurate sex-education classes be offered for sixth-through 12th-graders.



# David Koehler [website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Agriculture and Conservation chair**  
*46th Legislative District*

State Senator Dave Koehler focused on four issues during the 2013 session of the General Assembly:

- returning Wildlife Prairie Park to the people of Peoria
- establishing a state-run health care exchange to help consumers select health insurance under the Affordable Care Act
- improving Illinois’ natural gas infrastructure
- starting a dialogue about the role of genetically engineered food in our diets.

Koehler successfully passed a law that transfers Wildlife Prairie State Park from the state to a local non-profit group. The state has shorted funding to the park repeatedly over the past several years, while the non-profit group raised funds and kept the park open.

Believing the local group is better equipped to keep the Peoria-area landmark open permanently, Koehler led a bipartisan effort to transfer authority away from the state.

Koehler also worked closely with consumer rights groups, health care providers and health insurance companies to find a way for Illinois to create a state-run health care exchange. The idea behind the exchange is to create a



website much like Orbitz or Travelocity to allow consumers to compare insurance plans.

Koehler believes that

a state-run plan will better meet the needs of Illinois than a federal one-size-fits-all model.

To create jobs , improve public safety and protect the environment, Koehler passed legislation to update Illinois’ natural gas infrastructure. In many parts of the state, aging pipelines are contributing to potentially dangerous and wasteful leaks. Replacing them will not only put people to

work, it will potentially save lives.

The senator also started a dialogue on another issue that potentially affects people’s health and safety – genetically engineered food.

Though Koehler has not taken a position on the whether genetically engineered food is good or bad, he thinks that consumer advocates make a good point when they say that people deserve to at least know what they are eating.

He introduced legislation that would require all genetically engineered foods to be labeled and has scheduled a series of state-wide hearings to allow agriculture companies, consumer advocates and other stakeholders to debate the issue over the summer.



# Dan Kotowski

[website](#) | [Twitter](#)

## Appropriations II chair

28th Legislative District

Senator Dan Kotowski continued his aggressive work to root out waste, fraud and abuse in government spending and make the state budget priorities reflect taxpayers' priorities.

As chairman of one of the Senate's two budgeting committees, Kotowski focused on identifying what works and getting rid of what doesn't. For instance, as part of a proposal sponsored by Kotowski, a commission was created to work with state agencies to spot costly, burdensome mandates and eliminate them to reduce state spending. As a result, 18 different mandates have been targeted for elimination.

Kotowski worked with a variety of groups to propose common-sense laws regarding gun safety. He joined forces with the parents of children who lost their lives in the Newtown school shooting to push for a ban on the sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

Kotowski also worked with the Illinois State Police to raise awareness about missing mental health records that jeopardize public safety by opening the door for those with mental illness to still obtain guns.

State law requires that circuit court judges direct their clerks to report cases to the state police



when a person is considered "mentally defective" or involuntarily committed to a mental hospital. The state police use

these records when doing background checks on Firearm Owner's Identification card applicants and when processing firearm purchases or transactions.

In response to Kotowski's efforts, Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Kilbride issued a memo to all of Illinois' 935 circuit and associate judges regarding their responsibilities and reminding them that they needed comply with this key law.

In an effort to discourage puppy mills and promote animal health, Kotowski passed a law allowing a new pet owner to return the animal for a refund if a veterinarian confirms that the pet was purchased with an illness not disclosed by the seller.

Kotowski also passed legislation that creates a national model in hopes of understanding and preventing sudden, unexpected deaths of people with epilepsy. SUDEP is the most common cause of death in epilepsy and accounts for an estimated 20,000 deaths in people with epilepsy every year. This proposal requires that coroners and medical examiners report cases to a registry to be used in research.



## Steven Landek [Facebook](#)

**State Government and Veterans Affairs chair**  
*12th Legislative District*

Drawing on his extensive history in local government, State Senator Steven Landek spent the spring legislative session focusing on the needs and issues of the people of the state's 12th Senate District.

His influence on public policy was most visible in his leadership role as the new chairman of the Senate's State Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. Senator Landek sought to give local communities a strong voice at the Capitol and to also honor the service of members of the military as key policy decisions were made.

In an effort to rein in spiraling pension debts that threaten the stability of state and local governments throughout Illinois, Senator Landek emerged as a consistent advocate for reform.

Knowing firsthand how local governments too often end up shouldering the financial burden of state mandates, Senator Landek was among the Senate Democrats fighting to preserve the state resources that are shared with villages and cities throughout Illinois.

Landek also serves as one of the Senate members on the Local Government Consolidation Commission, a group given the



daunting task of reviewing why Illinois has nearly 7,000 units of local government and how best to streamline with the goal of increasing the efficiency of local services while reducing local property taxpayers' bills. A final report of recommendations from the commission is due later this year.

And while Senator Landek was a pivotal vote on many key issues at the Capitol, he maintained an active presence in the 12th Senate District, sponsoring events

and outreach efforts to keep his constituents informed and to stay up to date with their concerns.

For example, Senator Landek helped sponsor a College For Everyone workshop to assist high school students and their families understand college aid forms. Recognizing the growing diversity of the region, Senator Landek ensured bilingual presentations and materials were also available.

Similarly, Senator Landek hosted a Diabetes Awareness Fair, offering local residents the opportunity for blood pressure and blood sugar screenings and a private consultation with medical professionals.



# Andy Manar

*48th Legislative District*

[website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Senator Andy Manar traveled throughout his district and the state this spring, holding hearings in places ranging from Alton to Naperville and getting input from constituents in places like Hillsboro, Pana, Worden and Decatur.

No matter where he went, Manar heard two resounding themes: the state's school funding system is broken and the state's economic development strategy needs to focus on creating jobs where they are actually needed.

Those themes are reflected in Manar's focus at the Capitol during his freshman session.

After months of negotiations and gathering input from business and community leaders from across the state, Senator Manar passed a comprehensive reform package changing Illinois' approach to economic development. The goal is to better focus on creating and retaining jobs, targeting pockets of stagnant unemployment and recruiting new businesses to relocate to and expand within the state.

Manar's final product — House Bill 1544 — requires the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity — the state's flagship economic development agency — to develop a comprehensive, statewide economic development plan.



sector leaders tasked with developing a business development plan to solicit new companies to relocate to Illinois as well as expand existing businesses.

Manar also worked to address inequality in education funding by passing Senate Joint Resolution 32, which begins the reform process by creating an advisory committee to review the current funding-distribution methods for

The proposal will also create the Business Development Council, a 12-member board consisting of private

public education in Illinois and make recommendations for a more fair and adequate funding system by Feb. 1, 2014.

Manar's plan will be the first comprehensive review of how public schools are funded since 1998.

Responding to concerns voiced by local prosecutors, Manar also won Senate approval for a task-force to investigate the growth in teen heroin use throughout rural areas of Illinois. And Manar made initial steps in trying to get Illinois government — which owns lots of property in Springfield but pays no property taxes to support Springfield public schools — to finally offer some assistance to the local district.



# Pat McGuire

43rd Legislative District

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Senator Pat McGuire’s focus this session was on protecting the vulnerable and making sure the people of his district had a strong voice at the Capitol.

Drawing on his vast experience as a local teacher and school board member, McGuire joined efforts in the Senate to reject overly harsh cuts to public education and instead hold the line on state support for classroom funding. He also worked to make sure local governments didn’t lose state funding.

This spring, he passed legislation cracking down on repeat domestic abusers, making sure that the more harm they do, the more time they spend in jail.

He also passed legislation that helps county boards fund Court Appointed Special Advocate organizations in order to ensure that abused and neglected children are getting the court support that they need and deserve.

McGuire has also passed laws cracking down on out-of-state poachers and making sure that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives its rightful portion of fines when it helps catch poachers and others who violate conservation laws across state lines.

In an effort to ensure that local residents and the environment



are protected, Senator McGuire testified before the state’s Pollution Control Board in support of groundwater

monitoring near clean construction and demolition debris dump sites. The fear is toxic materials are being dumped in old quarries that aren’t designed to prevent toxins from escaping into the groundwater that supplies numerous communities with their drinking water.

He has also fought hard to grant residents of the 43rd Senate District and all of Illinois the

opportunity to carry concealed weapons in accordance with their 2nd Amendment rights. He worked closely with many sponsors of concealed carry legislation in an effort to ensure that the concerns of Will County residents were addressed.

Senator McGuire fought against gaming expansion in Illinois in an effort to preserve the economy and jobs provided by the casinos in the 43rd Senate District.

McGuire also worked on various endeavors to help veterans, including legislation that would allow video gaming at veterans’ organizations so they can tap additional resources to help fund assistance programs.



# Julie Morrison

[website](#)

*29th Legislative District*

A year ago, Julie Morrison’s 10-year-old nephew was killed by a drunken, drugged boater on a crowded waterway in Lake County. Her family’s loss has driven Morrison, now an Illinois State Senator, to push during her inaugural session at the Capitol for tougher new laws intended to crack down on reckless boaters and improve public safety on the state’s increasingly popular lakes and rivers. Among other things, her boating safety legislation allows state officials to revoke the driver’s license of a boater who refuses to take a breathalyzer test.

The legislation is Morrison’s initial foray in a comprehensive boater safety package she intends to continue pushing through summer hearings and future legislative sessions at the Capitol.

During her initial legislative session, Morrison drew upon her 15 years as a West Deerfield Township supervisor and past involvement with child and family welfare issues and agencies in setting her agenda.

For example, Morrison filed proposals to bolster background checks for the Department of Children and Family Services in an effort to improve safety and ensure the state complies with federal guidelines. The first measure allows DCFS to conduct back-



ground checks for non-licensed service providers and volunteers.

The second updates DCFS background check regulations to keep up with federal standards concerning criminal background checks for workers in child services.

Morrison’s first became involved with the key child welfare agency in the mid-1980s when she began a decade’s worth of service on the Governor’s State-wide Advisory Council to the Department of Children and Family

Services.

Morrison also worked to promote good government initiatives at the Capitol.

She sponsored a measure to force lobbyists who hire other lobbyists to disclose who is actually benefitting from the work. Her legislation sheds light on who’s representing who at the Statehouse and makes it far easier for the public and media to be able to find out this often crucial information.

In addition, Senator Morrison sponsored legislation requiring the governor’s budget office to put its full budget plan online every year within days of unveiling the proposal.



## John Mulroe [website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Public Health chair**  
*10th Legislative District*

This spring at the Statehouse, State Senator John G. Mulroe continued his work to further the goals of the residents of his district and improve the state.

He has worked diligently on the issues of pension reform and the state budget and has been instrumental in discussions aimed toward stabilizing the state's finances and paying the backlog of bills owed to private and public vendors.

Since joining the Senate, Mulroe has spent a great deal of time working to make housing affordable and to curb foreclosures in Illinois. This session, he put forth legislation that continues to provide foreclosure protections. One such bill provides protections for tenants whose buildings are being foreclosed. Another creates a property tax incentive to those who purchase and rehabilitate abandoned properties. He has also worked to increase financial counseling opportunities for Illinois residents who are facing foreclosure.

Senator Mulroe also worked equally hard to protect the small businesses and lenders within our communities. Mulroe holds annual events in his district that appeal both to residents and business owners.

Mulroe has maintained a strong commitment to fighting



violent crime and protecting children. He passed legislation that makes the sale of electronic cigarettes to persons less than 18 years of age illegal. He also sponsored legislation that removes the statute of limitations for civil actions based on childhood sexual abuse, as well as legislation that calls for the implementation on anti-bullying programs in our schools.

Mulroe led Senate passage of legislation that seeks to improve traffic safety and save lives by prohibiting the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.

There has been a great deal of research proving that hands-free cell phone use provides for safer roads. Statistics show that drivers who use hand-held devices are four times more likely to get into serious crashes that result in injuries or death.

Nearly 80 Illinois municipalities and 10 other states have already enacted similar restrictions. Crash rates have decreased considerably in communities that have implemented hands-free cell phone use laws while driving.

Mulroe's background in public service and law aid him in his duties as chairman of the Public Health Committee and vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He also sits on the Insurance and Criminal Law Committees.



# Michael Noland [website](#)

**Criminal Law chair**  
*22nd Legislative District*

Senator Michael Noland continued his strong advocacy for the Elgin community, the environment and good government in pressing issues at the Capitol this session.

A long-time Elgin resident, Noland is committed to the interests and institutions of his hometown and district.

For example, he sponsored legislation that paves the way for Elgin Community College expansion. This measure was supported by the City of Elgin and rezoned an area of the city to sell to the community college. This will allow for beneficial use of the previously unused land.

During this session Noland also built upon his strong environmental record in the Senate.

He introduced a measure that would ban mining on forest preserve land. This legislation ensures that land the people set aside as permanent forest preserves, by referendum, will be protected and will not be used for any sand, gravel or other mining operation.

Noland also passed legislation to protect the environment by creating a pilot program for the waste transfer station in Elgin to accept food scraps mixed in with



landscape waste. This will help keep food waste out of landfills, instead allowing it to be composted and used by

farmers.

Noland is a noted reformer and has worked hard to fight corruption in Illinois.

He showed his commitment to ethical and election reform this session by introducing the Illinois Clean Elections Act. The Act would establish public financing

of the campaigns of candidates for statewide constitutional offices and the General Assembly. This would help eliminate the influence of money in politics, getting rid of the pay-to-play politics that in the past have run rampant in Illinois.

A member of the Illinois Senate since 2006, Noland has risen through the ranks to now serve as chairman of the Criminal Law Committee, a position that allows him to utilize his legal knowledge and background to make sure everyone's voice is heard in debating how to best improve public safety statewide.



## Kwame Raoul [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Judiciary chair, Pensions and Investments chair**  
*13th Legislative District*

Senator Kwame Raoul has never been afraid to take on the toughest issues in the General Assembly, from redistricting reform to pensions. This year he worked with gun rights advocates, gun control proponents, victims' groups, law enforcement and his colleagues across the aisle to draft a sensible plan to allow concealed carry in Illinois.

Motivated by a federal court ruling, a respect for the rights of law-abiding gun owners and a deep concern for the children and neighborhoods impacted by gun violence, Senator Raoul proposed a plan that balanced public safety, Second Amendment freedoms and local control. Concurrently, he introduced legislation strengthening mental health reporting requirements and closing the private sale loophole so people who shouldn't own guns can't keep acquiring them.

Raoul took on a new leadership role this session as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also remained involved in criminal justice reform, passing a "second chance" law that expands job opportunities for ex-offenders by adding to the list of offenses for which a court can order the sealing of a criminal



record. Concerned about the rights of law enforcement and suspects, Raoul sponsored legislation that expands the use of videotaped interrogations as evidence in court.

After several well-publicized incidents of "flash mob" violence on Michigan Avenue and elsewhere in Chicago, Raoul secured passage of a law that will allow tougher sentences for perpetrators who coordinate criminal mob action using electronic means

such as Twitter, Facebook or texting. The legislation is aimed not only at "flash mob" organizers but at gang members who use social media to locate a victim and plan a hit.

Senator Raoul also sponsored legislation enhancing penalties for individuals who deface tombstones or monuments memorializing veterans, members of the Armed Services or first responders and a measure that would extend early voting through the day before an election. Back in the 13th District, Raoul served as a vocal advocate for tourism, economic development and safe, thriving neighborhoods.



# Martin Sandoval

[website](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Transportation chair**  
*11th Legislative District*

Senator Martin Sandoval, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, has continued his fight to ensure everyone has access to public transportation.

When a new, temporary CTA route through an underserved section of his district was at risk of being discontinued, Sandoval worked with CTA officials to ensure the vital service continued beyond the trial run.

The new line provides an essential service to seniors and students who have no other access to public transportation, which is why Sandoval had fought to bring the new route to the area for a test run in the first place.

Sandoval has also worked to ensure the safety of communities throughout the 11th Senate District. He recently worked with stakeholders in the Brighton Park Neighborhood to demolish abandoned buildings that posed a risk for students at a nearby school. Burroughs Elementary students voiced concerns of the dangers of the abandoned property. As a haven for drug dealers and gangbangers, the property posed a risk for students walking to school.

Sandoval was successful in convincing a judge that the property had to be demolished and, as a result of the action, the students of Burroughs Elementary have a



safer commute to school.

In his continued efforts to ensure students have access to a quality education, Sandoval

fought this year against Chicago Public Schools and plans to shuttering dozens of schools across the city, which will unjustly affect minority communities.

Sandoval is continuing his fight to ensure that the millions of dollars that CPS will save from these closures helps relieve the current overcrowding situations at some schools, as well as replacing antiquated mobile units.

Focusing on his priority of

safety, Sandoval passed Senate Bill 1009, a measure that will help prevent deadly accidents caused by inexperienced young drivers. This legislation was named Kelsey's Law in honor of Kelsey Little, who received serious injuries in an accident caused by a young driver who had a graduated driver's license. The GDL has been successful in curbing the number of teen driving deaths since it became law in 2008. Under previous law, a GDL applicant is not required to report any pending traffic citations. This initiative will prohibit the issuance of a graduated driver's license to any applicant under the age of 18 years until all of the applicant's pending traffic citations have been resolved.



## Steve Stadelman [website](#)

*34th Legislative District*

Fulfilling his promise to bring jobs, economic security and improved government transparency to Rockford, State Senator Steve Stadelman focused on strengthening the area he represents, an effort highlighted by his proposal that could make Rockford the premier Midwest recreational sports destination.

The freshman Democrat's legislation creates a \$13 million funding mechanism to help pay for the nearly \$37.5 million Reclaiming First project that seeks to convert a former industrial property into a showcase, riverside indoor sports complex in downtown Rockford. The project has rallied support from across Winnebago County and surrounding regions as the city attempts to boost tourism and become the regional amateur sports tournament leader.

A proponent for quality education for all, Stadelman helped pass legislation creating the Lincoln Promise Zones Act that would give local governments the authority to establish promise zones.

These zones — initially established in Rockford, Aurora and East St. Louis — allow certain low-income public school students to be awarded full tuition scholarships for an associate degree at a local community college



such as Rock Valley Community College.

Stadelman also helped to eliminate conflicts of interest in local elec-

tions by giving more control over ballot access disputes to county election officials. The measure is in response to a Chicago Tribune report that found local electoral boards are often used by incumbents to run challengers off the ballot. In many cases where local candidates were kicked off the ballot, the panel doing so sometimes utilized questionable legal reasons and the panels often included members with a political

interest in the outcome of the election.

Stadelman's proposal changes who could rule on ballot challenges. Instead of mayors, trustees and school board members ruling on challenges in their own towns, townships and districts, the power will be shifted to a centralized county panel that already hears challenges for other local races.

The call for more transparency in local government also led Stadelman to sponsor House Bill 2482, requiring county officials to have a detailed statement showing any bonuses or increase in salary in their annual budget. This is an effort to keep the taxpayers aware of how their tax dollars are being allocated and is a bipartisan effort.



# Heather Steans

**Appropriations I chair**  
*7th Legislative District*

Senator Heather Steans once again combined a key role in budget negotiations this spring with sponsorship of several major pieces of legislation and a number of other measures dealing with health care, human services, education, criminal justice and the environment.

Early in the session, Senator Steans led the charge on same-sex marriage, achieving a historic Senate vote in favor of equal rights under state law for all committed couples.

She also secured passage of an initiative to expand Medicaid, making Illinois eligible for billions in federal dollars for health care at little cost to the state. This will ensure that hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans at risk of being left with no coverage don't fall through the cracks and instead have an opportunity to have access to regular health care and not rely on emergency rooms.

Having crafted landmark Medicaid reform legislation during the previous General Assembly, she took a leadership role in Illinois' implementation of the Affordable Care Act, including the opportunity to build an Illinois Health Benefits Exchange to connect people to health insurance plans and federal premium subsidies.



Later in the spring, Senator Steans passed legislation requiring schools that offer sex education to provide students with medically accurate information about pregnancy, sexually transmitted illnesses and contraceptive options.

Faced with stark budget realities, Senator Steans made tough choices that prioritize society's most vulnerable individuals and the state's most essential functions. As one of two Senate appropriations committee chairs, she fought to restore the gov-

ernor's draconian cuts to public school funding and repair the frayed social safety net by using available resources wisely while at the same time addressing the state's \$96 billion unfunded pension liability and working to make sure the people who do business with the state get paid on time.

Senator Steans' many other successful legislative efforts this session included treating 17-year-olds charged with crimes as juveniles rather than adults, giving advanced practice nurses greater flexibility to treat patients, defining when the State Board of Education can intervene in a school district and relaxing composting regulations to encourage urban farming and gardening.



# Patricia Van Pelt

5th Legislative District

[website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Although this was Senator Patricia Van Pelt’s first session in the Illinois General Assembly, she was able to pass significant legislation and has proven herself a strong advocate for her district.

Van Pelt brings a wealth of experience as a community activist to the Senate and has already taken on some of the most pressing issues in her district. This session, Van Pelt has focused on job creation, ex-offender rehabilitation and public safety.

Knowing the real-life struggles of the people of her district, Van Pelt sought to shape public policy to reflect their needs and improve the community.

For example, Van Pelt believes that employment is the key to stopping the violence in Chicago. As such, her first substantive piece of legislation expanded tax incentives for businesses that choose to hire ex-offenders. This legislation passed with bipartisan support and aims to create jobs and fight recidivism.

Van Pelt sponsored another job creation bill expanding the tax credit for films made in Illinois. This tax credit has already attracted films to Illinois and in 2012 resulted in \$184 million being spent in Illinois by film production



Illinois.

Van Pelt also sponsored a measure to protect witnesses of gang violence. This act would create a fund to help witnesses who actively assist law enforcement. The fund will provide an incentive for people who might be afraid of retribution to come forward and

companies. Expanding the tax credit will create good paying jobs for performers and behind-the-scenes workers in

fight crime.

In another act aimed at halting the cycle of crime and rehabilitating offenders, Van Pelt sponsored the Redeploy Illinois expansion to Cook County. This plan reduces the number of juvenile incarcerations, using the money saved to fund community services and treatment.

In other areas of the state Redeploy Illinois reduced juvenile imprisonment by 50 percent. Cook County has not participated in the program, and this expansion will help at risk children of Chicago stay out of juvenile detention.



# LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY ISSUE

JOHN J. CULLERTON, SENATE PRESIDENT  
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT | [WWW.ILLINOISSENATEDEMOCRATS.COM](http://WWW.ILLINOISSENATEDEMOCRATS.COM)



**NOTE:** This digital update includes all legislation passed after Wednesday, May 29, that wasn't included in the paper version you received on May 31.

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

- HB 743 extends the youth-only deer hunting season by one day.
- HB 2918 provides a tax exemption for exploration equipment used for coal mining.
- SB 1831 makes it illegal to hunt on another's land without first obtaining permission from the land-owner.

HB 0733	Allows impounded livestock to be offered up for adoption or euthanized
HB 0743	Extends youth-only deer hunting season by one day
HB 1003	Exempts water from the definition of "baiting" for turkey and deer hunters
HB 1272	Designates the first Saturday of each month Eat Local, Buy Illinois Products Day
HB 1569	Changes the agency governing the Kankakee River Dam Transfer Act from IDOT to DNR
HB 1650	Requires commercial fishermen to acquire sport licenses if they wish to sport fish and expands the definition of commercial fishing devices to include watercraft
HB 1651	It is lawful to shoot any fur-bearing mammal with a shot gun slug
HB 1652	Criminalizes the use of drones if they interfere with hunting and fishing; if someone is guilty of interference and have a hunting or fishing license DNR may ban them from hunting or fishing for a maximum of 5 years
HB 2335	Makes it easier to establish commercial composting operations, particularly outside of Cook County
HB 2709	Director of Ag should implement a temporary wheat development program committee
HB 2748	The Illinois finance authority must have two members with an expertise in agri-business
HB 2918	Provides a tax exemption for materials used for coal mining
HB 3120	Authorizes DNR to exchange and transfer certain state land
SB 1538	Allows the taking of certain types of fish with a sling shot bow
SB 1831	Makes it illegal to hunt on another's land without permission

## Budget

- SB 1410 gives local governments more freedom to budget for local park districts.

HB 0190	Capital reappropriations
HB 0206	Makes appropriations for FY 13 for a supplemental, pension payment, group health and debt service
HB 0207	Changes an appropriation to the Department on Aging and adding an appropriation to DHFS
HB 0208	Makes appropriations for FY 14 to education
HB 0213	Makes appropriations for FY 14 for human service agencies and Medicaid
HB 0214	Makes appropriations for FY 14 to general services, statewide offices and legislature
HB 0215	Makes appropriations for FY 14 to IDOT, public safety, capitol reappropriations and DNR
HB 2869	Reauthorizes capital construction bonding



HB 3035	Changes the disaster relief fund collection and disbursement process
HB 3122	Requires the Comptroller to transfer funds to Audit Expense Fund from certain funds
SB 1329	FY 2014 Budget Implementation Act
SB 1410	Allows local governments to approve supplemental appropriations for park districts if funds are available
SB 1951	Transfers 25% of the money collected under the Service Use and Service Occupation Taxes into the Common School Fund and changes distribution procedures for payments by Dept of Revenue to certain funds if there is a lack of appropriations
SB 2555	Appropriates \$6.62 billion GRF to ISBE
SB 2556	Appropriates \$1.43 billion to Higher Education facilities

## Business & Economic Development

- SB 622 fixes a fund shortage that was slowing the process of medical professionals licensing.
- SB 2320 ensures female and minority owned small businesses receive the correct portion of state contracts under law by separating the two in procurement law.
- HB 1200 increases access to educational and cultural enrichment by requiring museums in Cook County to be open free to the public 52 days per year and museums in all other counties to be free for 26 days per year.

HB 0963	Extends a TIF for the village of Ohio
HB 0982	Allows insurance companies to pay liabilities using other specified funds if certain guarantees are in place
HB 1048	Changes LLC formation laws; requires LLCs that become different business entities to file a report with the SoS
HB 1200	Lowers the number of days museums and aquariums must be free to the public to 26 days from 52 days
HB 1338	Prohibits IDFPR from printing certificate holders' home addresses on certificates that must be displayed to the public
HB 1486	Changes certain liquor importer and distributor documentation rules
HB 1571	Allows certain insurance companies to invest in government-issued bonds
HB 2210	Changes definition of "school" for Barbers, Cosmetologists, Esthetics, Hair Braiding and Nail Techs
HB 2508	Prohibits motorcycle manufacturers from requiring franchisees to install certain components, buy only that manufacturers' parts, display manufacturer-made parts specially or change facilities
HB 2606	Restricts beer manufacturers from having any interest in a licensed distributor
HB 2613	Establishes that unused money for capital projects must stay in the fund and cannot be used for any other purpose
HB 2614	Removes language in the procurement code regarding contractors
HB 2616	Allows funeral home owners to have personal contact with consumers while a funeral director is present
HB 2623	Allows municipalities to require energy providers to disclose the fuel type



HB 2649	Requires Dept of Labor to notify employers of violations and penalties for violating the Employee Classification Act, as well as the timeframe to request hearings
HB 2687	Requires convention and tourism bureaus to raise at least 50% of funding to receive matching grants from DCEO
HB 2720	Removes certain real estate valuation practices from being considered appraisals under licensing laws
HB 2721	Updates qualifications, testing and the application process for certified shorthand reporters/stenographers
HB 2726	Updates, adds definitions and clarifies licensing for accountants
HB 3349	Creates Environmental Response Trust Fund Task Force; provides a method for drycleaners to re-enroll in the Drycleaner Response Trust Fund if their insurance lapses; requires them to pay overdue premiums and allows a grace period
HB 3359	Creates a Precious Metal Purchasers Task Force to examine how pawnbrokers can better provide police more timely information on these materials when pawned
SB 0020	Comprehensive economic development program
SB 0092	Creates new licensing requirements for real estate auctions
SB 0572	Creates the Small Business and Workforce Development Taskforce
SB 1245	Requires employers to report annual health insurance claims to COGFA
SB 1293	Changes license cycle for refrigerated warehouses to match the state fiscal year
SB 1379	Reduces job retention standards for business enterprises located in an enterprise zone to qualify for an exemption from municipal and State utility taxes
SB 1495	Requires food service managers to undergo 8 hours of training and test above 75% in order to be certified
SB 1659	Raises the tax credit for hiring an ex-offender and extends the period during which a business may qualify for it; makes it easier for businesses to qualify
SB 1667	Allows “federally exempt banks” to exempt their mortgage agents that already hold a mortgage loan originator license from getting a residential mortgage license
SB 1801	States the exemption for materials, parts, equipment, components, and furnishings incorporated into an aircraft applies only to the sale of a qualifying tangible personal property to persons who modify, refurbish, complete, replace, or maintain an aircraft
SB 2306	Allows an employer to attain account information or access an employee’s social networking website if the account is a professional account and the access is necessary for the employer to comply with certain laws

## Civil Law

- HB 3128 strips parental rights from fathers when the child is conceived by sexual assault.
- SB1210 creates the Bill of Rights for the Homeless, which prohibits discrimination by the government and employers on the basis of housing status.
- SB 1399 removes the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse cases concerning the awarding of damages.

HB 1013	Establishes new rules for the Secretary of State to issue apostilles and certifications; establishes penalties for removing the state seal from apostilles and certifications
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HB 1694	Allows McHenry County to use quick-take eminent domain procedures for specific property
HB 2473	Courts may not use officers to bring a defendant hearing (a “body attachment order”) for failure to pay child support
HB 2787	Requires DCFS to create new rules for labeling unfounded reports as intentionally false; creates time limits for transmitting reports to guardians ad litem; allows certain minors to participate in hearings
HB 3128	Strips parental rights from fathers when the child is conceived by sexual assault
SB 0048	Repeals the Unified Child Support Services Act
SB 1044	Makes a variety of changes to the code of civil procedure
SB 1207	Allows accused perpetrators under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act to ask DCFS to amend or remove their report if they were found not guilty; provides for hearings and changes the deadline for filing
SB 1210	Creates the Homeless Bill of Rights; including prohibiting discrimination by the government, emergency rooms, and employers on the basis of housing status
SB 1280	The inspector general for DHS, when looking into complaints of elder abuse, can petition for guardianship of that person until the issue is resolved
SB 1287	Prohibits felons who threatened or harmed minors from becoming the guardians of disabled people
SB 1340	Eliminates certain legal fees relating to certain Juvenile Court cases
SB 1358	Requires every administrative support order accompanied judicial registration to provide notice to the other party by first-class mail
SB 1399	Takes out the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse cases concerning the awarding of damages going forward
SB 1606	Specifies how condominium associations can change their governing rules
SB 1846	Allows for the creation of court-sponsored pro bono programs
SB 1912	Makes certain changes regarding settlements in actions for money damages; specifically requiring a settling defendant to pay all sums due under a settlement agreement within 21 days after the plaintiff returns the executed release
SB 1953	Redefines “net income” for the purpose of Public/Private Venture (PPV) Housing

## Consumers

- SB 1639, the “Puppy Lemon Law,” allows a person who buys a cat or dog with an undisclosed illness to obtain a refund, exchange or reimbursement for veterinary costs.
- HB 2934 expands Internet Dating Safety Act to include services allowing people to find child care, home care and senior care providers online. Services must disclose if they run criminal background checks.
- HB 3300 protects domestic violence victims who are on their abusers’ health insurance policies by requiring their insurance companies to mail claims information to a different address upon request.

HB 0049	Prohibits the sale of devices that steal credit card information
HB 0101	Allows IDFPR to impose higher civil penalties on pawnbrokers that break the law; eliminates certain unenforced reporting requirements



HB 0188	Tanning is not permitted for anyone under the age of 18
HB 0532	Extends the Electrologist Licensing Act and makes changes to the licensure process
HB 0533	Extends the Registered Surgical Assistant and Registered Surgical Technologist Title Protection Act and makes changes to the licensure process
HB 0576	Requires water utilities with more than 15,000 customers to use bill inserts to notify customers of past and impending rate increases, options to install separate water and sewer meters and water conservation tips
HB 0595	Makes changes to the community association manager licensure process
HB 0630	Allows homemade brewed beverages to be available at public events for tasting and sampling
HB 0991	Brings Illinois' insurance rehabilitation and liquidation laws in line with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act
HB 1217	Extends the Illinois Plumbing License Law until 2024
HB 1323	Requires IDFPR to set and disclose fines for violations of the Payday Loan Reform Act and Consumer Installment Loan Act
HB 1327	Requires physicians to report to IDFPR any criminal convictions or disciplinary actions that occurred in the past 10 years (currently only five years)
HB 1335	Allows title insurance companies to disburse funds from certain protected accounts if conditions are met
HB 1545	Prohibits title insurance agents from having felony convictions for theft or dishonesty
HB 1572	Defines the circumstances under which IDFPR may penalize a credit union
HB 2432	ATM operators no longer required to post physical signs disclosing fees
HB 2783	Adds criminal and administrative penalties to a law prohibiting the sale of eggs without a license
HB 2934	Expands the Internet Dating Safety Act to include Internet child care, senior care and home care services as websites that must disclose whether or not they conduct criminal background checks
HB 3300	Requires insurance providers to send claims notices to a different address at a patient's request if mailing confidential medical information to the policyholder's address could endanger the patient
HB 3380	Allows the parent or guardian of a minor or the court-appointed guardian of a person with a disability to request a freeze on the dependent's credit report
SB 1191	Eliminates the mandate that all full lists of product recalls be mailed to childcare providers without internet access and instead requires DCFS to work with these providers to ensure they have pertinent recall information
SB 1639	Allows the buyer of a pet with an undisclosed illness to receive a refund, a replacement or reimbursement for reasonable veterinary costs; requires pet shops to report disease outbreaks
SB 1775	Allows auto insurance cards to be issued and kept electronically
SB 1829	Requires the disclosure fees for reloadable prepaid cards to be done in written or electronic form
SB 2101	Requires (under certain circumstances) a mobile home park's licensee or owner to disclose information regarding methamphetamine production to potential mobile home buyers
SB 2136	Institutes a \$500 statutory penalty for calls made to individuals on the Do Not Call List
SB 2266	Gas utility modernization legislation



# Criminal Law

- HB 1139 creates the Gang Crime Witness Protection Program Fund, which assists victims and witnesses who are actively helping in the prosecution of gang members.
- HB 1199 prohibits using electronic tracking devices on vehicles without the consent of the owner or a legitimate law enforcement purpose.
- HB 0806 creates penalties for acquiring meth-making ingredients for a third party.
- HB 2590 allows employers to seek an order of protection to protect an employee.
- SB 2231 increases the criminal penalty for defacing property which memorializes police officers, fire fighters, members of the Armed Forces, National Guard or veterans.

HB 0131	Requires law enforcement to be trained on the use of tasers and similar devices
HB 0181	Establishes that additional child pornography fines shall be remitted to the State Police not the treasurer
HB 0801	Extends aggravated assault to an attack on an on-duty nurse, makes it a Class 3 Felony
HB 0804	Creates the offense “failure to report sexual abuse of a child;” expands the definition of sexual penetration
HB 0806	Creates penalties for acquiring meth precursors for a third party
HB 0821	When a court issues a certification of innocence it must also enter an expungement order with the State Police
HB 0827	Requires States Attorneys to notify victims and their family members of their rights to testify at sentencing hearings
HB 0830	Allows default fees to include court costs
HB 0958	Increases the penalties for domestic battery if the defendant has prior convictions
HB 0984	Clarifies that fees imposed for automated record keeping shall be paid upon being judged guilty or granted supervision for violations under the State Parks Act
HB 1063	Prosecution for certain sex crimes involving minor victims may commence at any time if corroborating physical evidence is available or a mandated reporter failed to report the crime
HB 1139	Creates a gang crime witness protection program
HB 1199	Prohibits using electronic tracking devices on vehicles without the consent of the owner or a legitimate law enforcement purpose
HB 1309	Increases the penalty for assault if one audio or video records the assault with the intent of disseminating the recording
HB 1311	Expands the eligible enforcing officers of the Methamphetamine Precursor Movement to include probation and court services departments, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Probation and Pretrial Services System and the US Parole Commission
HB 1443	Creates the crime of “failure to report hazing” for school employees as a Class B misdemeanor; if great bodily harm or death occurs it is a Class A misdemeanor
HB 2404	Makes “minors” persons 17 and under instead of 16 and under for the purposes of delinquency and criminal records
HB 2471	Requires child sex slave victims’ name, initials or description to be disclosed in court records
HB 2590	Employers can seek an order of protection to protect an employee



HB 2647	Possession of each individual item of child pornography counts as a separate violation; allows judicial discretion on sentencing for child pornography involving minors over the age of 13
HB 2690	Allows counties to impose a fee on convictions where supervision is granted
HB 2893	Creates a Crimes Against Police Advisory whenever a police officer is injured, killed or missing as a tool to locate the suspect or officer
HB 2905	Increases the penalty for unlawful clouding of title
HB 2969	Clarifies that the statute of limitations for securities fraud cases begins when the alleged violator could reasonably have been aware of the violation and extends for three years
HB 3010	Allows for second chance probation under the criminal code for those who are convicted of a drug charge and it is their first offense this does not apply to violent offenders or crimes of deceptive practice or fraud
HB 3011	Removes statute of limitation for residential arson
HB 3023	Restricts child sex offenders from loitering within 500ft of a publicly accessible playground on private property
HB 3029	Allows the notice of a release of a prisoner that had a felony charge to be emailed to the State's Attorney, sheriff, etc
HB 3038	Parents/guardians cannot be sued for eavesdropping on electronic communications of minors in their care
HB 3043	Creates an enhanced penalty for vandalizing a historic site
HB 3061	Allows convicted criminals to petition the courts to seal the records of a variety of non-violent crimes
HB 3172	Removes State's Attorney's from the list of parties that can object to a continuance in a case involving a minor
SB 0039	If someone is arrested for a violent crime the judge can confiscate their passport if granted bail
SB 0093	Provides for the use of Chester Mental Health as a sequestered holding area for those who are convicted as sexually violent persons
SB 0115	Makes it a crime to accept payment for altering a criminal record
SB 1005	Creates harsher sentences for criminals accused of using electronic communications to create flash mobs
SB 1006	Requires law enforcement to tape juveniles during interrogations relating to certain violent crimes
SB 1170	Prohibits owning poached or illegally taken animals or parts of animals if it is illegal to take the animal in the jurisdiction it was taken from
SB 1192	Allows the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide aftercare services offered by the pilot program to paroled juveniles statewide
SB 1322	Establishes that evaluators, rather than psychiatrists, shall examine sexually dangerous persons; establishes that sexually dangerous persons can appeal only once every two years rather than annually
SB 1330	Establishes civil penalties for non-recipient medical assistance fraud
SB 1609	Includes threatening a human service provider under the offense of threatening a public official
SB 1620	Makes it illegal to wantonly waste or destroy usable meat from game animals
SB 1735	Increases the penalty for driving on a revoked or suspended license and causing an accident that causes bodily harm



SB 1764	States any individual transporting passengers of any age in a school bus or vehicle for-hire while also under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is guilty of aggravated DUI; clarifies that the enhanced penalties for driving on a suspended or revoked license only apply if the prior conviction was for reckless homicide, DUI or leaving the scene of an accident
SB 1814	Adds child abduction involving luring of a child to the list of offenses for which evidence of the prior commission of that offense or other enumerated offenses may be introduced at trial to prove a propensity of the accused
SB 1843	Clarifies how probation fees are collected when a case is transferred from one jurisdiction to another
SB 1844	Allows those 18 and older who have a petition of delinquency filed against them to be confined in an adult detention facility
SB 1849	Requires alleged drunken drivers who are in an accident that causes death or injury to cover the cost of blood tests up to \$500
SB 1851	Provides that a prosecution for the offense of unauthorized video recording may be commenced within one year after the discovery of the offense by the victim of that offense
SB 1852	Allows a peace officer to conduct temporary questioning or make an arrest outside of his/her jurisdiction if the officer becomes aware of the immediate commission of a criminal offense
SB 1854	Amends the definition of "imprisonment" to include electronic home detention when an offender in the sheriff's custody is placed in an electronic home detention program; also establishes that placement in electronic home detention may satisfy the minimum term of imprisonment requirements
SB 1872	Eliminates felony enhancements for prostitution, making every prostitution offense a Class A misdemeanor; provides mental health court programs for qualified persons charged with prostitution
SB 1923	Allows juvenile courts to release juvenile records for inspection by agencies, associations, news media and other interested parties
SB 1940	Establishes that providing false insurance information when applying for vehicle permits and licenses are guilty of a Class C misdemeanor beginning in 2016
SB 1968	Allows certain criminal prosecution cases for theft and deception to use video conferencing on foundation testimony
SB 2154	Allows vehicles to be impounded for interfering with a funeral procession
SB 2231	Increases the criminal penalty for defacing property which memorializes police officers, fire fighters, members of the Armed Forces, National Guard or veterans

## Education

- HB 2675 requires any public school sexual-education course offered to 6th-12th graders to include abstinence and contraception.
- SB 1307 ensures children receive a proper education by lowering the compulsory education age.
- SB 2178 requires school districts offering high school sports to provide insurance for injuries.

HB 0003	Extends the time period during which a school district other than CPS may transfer moneys from specified funds for any purpose from June 30, 2013 to June 30, 2016
HB 0064	Makes it illegal for schools to ask for/demand a student's social networking password without cause; requires parental notification for elementary and secondary school students



HB 0129	Permits school boards to designate the first Monday in October each year as “Bring Your Parents to School Day” to promote parental involvement
HB 0160	Extends the time period school districts (other than CPS) have to transfer moneys between specified funds
HB 0192	Allows Township High School District 113 to issue 25-year bonds
HB 0490	Requires those seeking a Professional Educator License to completing an educator preparation program
HB 0494	Establishes a one year moratorium on establishing charter schools with virtual-schooling outside of CPS
HB 0513	Requires teacher candidates in the alternative certification program at GSU to be admitted before March 31, 2014, complete course work on or before August 31, 2015 and be entitled to certification on or before September 31, 2015
HB 1225	Requires IHSA to post a CPR/AED video on its website if one can be found that is free; requires schools to encourage students, parents and athletes to watch it
HB 1288	Requires State Board of Education create procedures that allow a parent, individual, organization, or advocate to file a signed, written complaint alleging that a school district has violated the rights of one or more children with disabilities
HB 1446	Makes changes to special education requiring services be provided no later than 10 school attendance days after notice is provided to the parents
HB 1868	Creates new requirements for a technical career endorsement licensing for middle and high school teachers
HB 2245	Requires all school personnel, including substitute teachers, to complete abused and neglected child reporter training within a year of employment and at least every 5 years after that
HB 2267	Establishes procedures for dissolving and combining small school districts with voter consent
HB 2322	Allows school social work services to include anti-bullying programs
HB 2420	Allows marriage and family therapists to sign off on school service personnel renewal certificates
HB 2428	Creates a task force on civic education
HB 2675	Any public school sex-ed course offered to 6th-12th graders must cover both abstinence and contraception
HB 2768	Increases the interaction between a school’s principal and law enforcement agencies involving gang activities
HB 3063	If a principal is restricted from reviewing teachers performance for his or her first year and a teacher’s contractual review occurs during that year, a new plan is created
HB 3070	Expends teacher and counselor training to include signs of mental illness
HB 3112	Charter schools located near a military base may reserve 33% of their enrollment for students from military families
HB 3190	Requires proof of meningitis vaccination for students entering 6th and 12th grade
HB 3236	Changes the due date of a governmental report
HB 3379	Defines teen dating violence and creates procedures for addressing it in the school code
SB 0084	All back fees and registration concerning teacher certification must be paid by the effective date of this act



SB 1221	Creates a state seal of biliteracy to honor high school students who graduate proficient in two or more languages
SB 1307	Makes the compulsory age for attending school 6 rather than 7; excludes CPS
SB 1550	Requires the first Individual Education Plan when a student turns 14 1/2 to include measurable post-secondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments and other information available regarding the student that is related to independent living skills
SB 1625	Law enforcement drills at schools may include a shooting incident; also provides that during every academic year, schools must conduct a law enforcement drill to address a school shooting incident
SB 1762	Makes several changes to mandates and evaluations of teachers resulting from SB 7
SB 1791	Puts ISAC in charge of the Golden Apple Scholars and other technical changes
SB 1931	Creates the School Security and Standards Task Force to study the security of schools in Illinois
SB 2157	Allows school boards to waive the P.E. requirement for students with individualized educational programs (students with special needs) who participate in adaptive athletic programs
SB 2178	Requires all public and private high schools to maintain catastrophic accident insurance for all student athletes injured while participating in school-sponsored or school-supervised athletic events
SB 2199	Allows candidates who are applying for education licenses to begin internships and residencies before they have passed certain tests; extends requirements for in-state service personnel candidates to out-of-state school service personnel licensure candidates

## Elections

- HB 2418 modernizes the election process by allowing online voter registration and online absentee ballot requests.
- HB 0226 allows 17 year olds to vote in a primary election if they will be eligible to vote by the next general election, ensuring that their votes are the equal of any other citizen's during an election cycle.

HB 0226	Allows 17 year olds to vote in a primary election if they will be 18 by the following general election
HB 1560	Allows election authorities to close early voting locations on Easter, Good Friday and Holy Saturday of 2013
HB 2418	Allows for online voter registration and online absentee ballot requests and makes other changes
SB 0206	Requires the secretary of state to provide leaves of absence to employees elected to office for five years; allows longer leaves at his or her discretion

## Environment

- HB 1070 allows co-ops that own and operate agriculture-based biogas systems to organize as non-profits.
- HB 3243 adds cigarette butts to the definition of litter.
- HB 1201 allows municipalities to ban wind turbines.
- SB 9 allows ComEd and Ameren to implement "Smart Grid" technology by permitting them to raise rates.

HB 1070	Allows cooperatives that own and operate agriculture-based biogas systems to organize as a non-profit
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HB 1201	Allows municipalities to ban wind turbines
HB 1209	Changes the name of the Waste Management and Research Center at the U of I to the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center; transfers various duties to the Prairie Research Institute
HB 1292	Transfers ownership of Wildlife Prairie State Park from the state to a local not-for-profit group
HB 1534	Utility customers can apply to DCEO as a self directing customer
HB 1745	Limits electrical aggregation opt-out referendums to unincorporated parts of counties that lack an electrical aggregation ordinance
HB 2036	Requires the IEPA to establish maximum time limits for processing permit applications
HB 2586	Extends the repeal date of the supplemental approp funds for the low income energy assistance fund
HB 2753	Requires DNR to create a detailed wind turbine citing matrix for Lake Michigan
HB 3104	Allows gas utilities serving more than 1.6 million customers to change their depreciation schedules
HB 3243	Adds cigarettes to the legal definition of litter
HB 3319	Creates rules for rural agricultural composting facilities
SB 0009	Allows ComEd and Ameren recover costs and allow them to implement “Smart Grid” technology
SB 0033	Allows EPA to accept electronic submissions concerning information required under state law
SB 0072	Repeals a number of EPA funds and transfers the dollars for Industrial Hygiene as well as makes other changes to the EPA Public Water Supply Act
SB 0105	Allows electric utilities to provide market settlement service
SB 0850	Grants a temporary exemption for a specific landscape and food waste processor from pollution control facility statutes
SB 1042	Waives liability rules for landowners who allow people onto their property for a variety of nature and recreation activities as long as they don’t charge a fee
SB 1704	Allows an applicant for an air permit (who files a timely and complete application) to continue the terms and conditions of the previously issued permit while awaiting the review of the renewal application
SB 1715	Comprehensive hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” regulatory package
SB 1925	Requires the IEPA to consider past actions of an asphalt shingle recycling company before issuing permits; prohibits issuing permits in cases where an owner/operator has a history of environmental neglect
SB 2183	Requires the state to create a sustainability plan for freight services
SB 2226	Forbids landfill owners from accepting asphalt shingles for disposal when there is a recycling center within 25 miles of the landfill
SB 2350	Requires large electric and gas utilities to offer an energy efficiency on-bill financing program to owners of multi-family residential or mixed-use buildings with no more than 50 residential units

## Ethics

- HB 2482 requires counties to specify in their budgets any raises or bonuses given to employees, including increases above those collective bargaining agreements.

HB 0058	An officer in a municipality with a commission form of government may serve on the board of a public service corporation as long as it is not investor-owned
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HB 0962	Makes Illinois Global Partnership officers, employees and their spouses subject to conflict of interest provisions
HB 2482	Requires county budgets to line-item raises and bonuses for all non-union employees and for union employees when the raise or bonus exceeds what was collectively bargained
HB 2925	Requires appointed county authorities to follow ethics laws
HB 2943	Requires lobbyists to disclose their ultimate employers
HB 2955	Requires the state budget to be published in its entirety on GOMB's website within 60 days of enactment
SB 2380	Prohibits state grant recipients and their employees from knowingly using grant funds for political activities or to compensate for time spent on political work

## Family

- HB 2843 requires casinos and tracks to withhold winnings if the winner owes child support.
- HB 2786 ensures that a child's benefits are transferred when legal guardianship changes by requiring DHS to inform the appropriate agencies.
- HB 2992 requires parents in a joint-custody relationship to first offer the other parent the option of temporarily caring for a child before seeking third-party child care.

HB 0946	Creates the Young Adult Heroin Use Task Force
HB 2659	If the courts determine a child needs to be placed in foster care it does not constitute a judicial determination
HB 2786	If a child's legal guardian changes, DHS must inform the appropriate agency so benefits can be transferred as well
HB 2809	Updates definitions of interstate and intercountry adoptions
HB 2843	Requires casinos and race tracks to withhold winnings if the winner owes child support
HB 2992	Parents in a joint-custody relationship must first offer the other parent the option of temporarily caring for a child before seeking third-party child care
HB 3147	Motions to reinstate parental rights can only be filed by DCFS or the minor, in cases of abuse or neglect
SB 1169	Establishes that notices of income withholding for child support shall no longer include a termination date
SB 1565	Provides any time after the appointment of a temporary custodian, a court may vacate any short-term guardianship for the minor, provided the vacation is consistent with the minor's best interests
SB 1686	Changes the definition of an unfit person in the adoption act

## Gaming

- SB 1354 requires all gaming facilities in Illinois to establish a goal of 20% of all contracts with businesses be from those owned by women, minorities, persons with disabilities or veterans.
- SB 2197 allows proceeds from the Multiple Sclerosis Scratch-Off Ticket to be used for research purposes.

HB 0996	Extends the charitable gaming license period to two years and allows more charitable gaming in the same venue and allows the gaming board to contract with outside authorized companies to test gaming equipment
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HB 1140	Prohibits non-gambling video gaming terminals for gambling purposes
HB 1570	Deletes language concerning the location of video gaming establishments near race tracks
HB 1589	Requires riverboat casino equipment suppliers to only affix their logo on chips, markers and related gaming pieces
HB 2506	Requires horse racing facilities to have at least 2 AEDs accessible on the backstretch while workers are present
HB 2520	Allows poker runs for charitable purposes
SB 0070	Video gaming license location restrictions do not apply if a school or church is built after the original liquor license is granted
SB 1354	Requires gambling facilities to establish a goal of making 20% of contracts with businesses owned by protected classes
SB 1738	Makes various changes to the Video Gaming Act and adds definitions
SB 1884	Reauthorizes advance deposit wagering on horse races
SB 2197	Makes revisions to the Lottery Control Board's role in reviewing advertising campaigns and allows the Department of Public Health to use revenues from the multiple sclerosis scratch-off game for grants to organizations that conduct MS research
SB 2234	Allows electronic gaming machines to dispense and accept electronic vouchers for more plays as well as cash; allows the gaming board to test machines
SB 2371	Changes the definition of licensed establishment concerning video gaming

## Health

- HB 0001 allows for the use of medical marijuana for the treatment of certain debilitating medical conditions.
- SB 0026 expands Medicaid covering over 300,000 uninsured Illinoisans by allowing Illinois to collect billions of dollars in federal funds.
- HB 2640 allows victims of human trafficking to be reimbursed for the removal of tattoos given by their traffickers.

HB 0001	Allows for the use of medical marijuana in the treatment of debilitating medical conditions if certain conditions are met
HB 0061	Repeals the requirement that IDPH give notice of the identity of a child diagnosed with HIV/AIDS to the principal of the school in which the child is enrolled
HB 0071	Defines Medicaid fraud as any person who knowingly obtains unauthorized medical benefits or any vendor that knowingly assists or fails to prevent a person from committing violations and provides for penalties
HB 0084	Regulates the sale of drugs that are in short supply
HB 0104	Mandates HFS to identify persons receiving medical assistance through the state who may be or may have been covered by a third party health insurer and imposes penalties for companies that don't comply
HB 0530	Changes the definition of hearing instrument to hearing aid and allows them to be sold on the Internet
HB 1017	Allows health information exchange entities to exchange certain information without a patient's consent; recipients must be notified that they can opt out



HB 1046	Allows incarcerated people to apply for medical assistance within 30 days of their release
HB 1052	Limits written collaborative agreements concerning advanced practice nurses
HB 1233	Limits the number of hospice residences per county based on population
HB 1388	Changes “podiatrist” to “podiatric physician” in statutes concerning health
HB 1455	Designates November COPD Awareness Month
HB 1458	The custodian of another person can petition the court to institutionalize the person and allows police officers to take them directly to the institution, instead of a hospital
HB 1809	Expands the list of impairments that qualify a person as disabled including mobility limitation resulting from cancer or its treatment
HB 2009	Requires IDPH to develop informational materials on the Strep infections for distribution to schools
HB 2199	Requires Illinois State Diabetes Commission to report to the General Assembly once every 2 years
HB 2339	Amends Illinois’ organ donation law; updates definitions
HB 2452	Care providers in a health care facility must wear an ID badge
HB 2638	Centers for Nursing Advisory Board must meet annually to elect a chair and vice-chair
HB 2640	Allows for the reimbursement for the removal of tattoos received by victims of human trafficking
HB 2661	Requires all hospitals and birth centers to test newborns for congenital, genetic or metabolic anomalies
HB 2760	Allows doctors licensed outside Illinois to oversee home healthcare so long as the direct caregivers are licensed in Illinois and the oversight is being transferred to an Illinois doctor within 6 months
HB 2812	Requires state agencies to give the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board notice if they plan to build, modify, establish, close or change state-run health care facilities
HB 2839	Describes “home health services,” limiting it to treatment prescribed by a licensed doctor and carried out by that doctor, a physicians assistant or advance practice nurse
HB 2996	Changes the definitions, referral requirements and educational requirements for occupational therapists and their assistants
HB 3175	Requires the Dept. of Public Health to start a campaign to inform breast cancer patients about programs available to help with breast reconstruction/prostheses
HB 3191	Requires hospitals to create flu and pneumonia immunization policies
SB 0026	Expands Medicaid coverage to over 300,000 uninsured Illinoisans
SB 0032	Deletes rules that DHS shall form a medical advisory panel, focused on treating mental illness, that provides advice on care
SB 0062	Changes the definition of Clinical Psychologist to a person licensed by IDFPR
SB 0622	Transfers funds to the IL State Medical Disciplinary Fund and increases physician licensure fees
SB 0626	Establishes criteria for insurance policies that cover early intervention services
SB 1194	Creates licensed insurance navigators to help people use the insurance exchange
SB 1217	Allows dentists to give vaccinations if they meet certain training requirements
SB 1226	Requires all autopsies to determine if epilepsy or a seizure was the cause of death; requires SUDEP to be listed as the cause of death for infants who are suspected to have died from SUDEP



SB 1226	Requires all autopsies to determine if epilepsy or a seizure was the cause of death; requires “SUDEP” to be listed as the cause of death for infants who are suspected to have died from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy
SB 1303	Changes the definition of a student intern in a nursing home
SB 1623	Offers the pertussis vaccine to parents, guardians and immediate family members of a newborn child in a neonatal intensive care unit and provides the family information on the vaccine
SB 1658	Clarifies that the nonparticipating facility-based physicians and providers clause of the Illinois Insurance Code does not change the prudent laypersons provisions governing respect to emergency services
SB 1756	Prohibits a person from directly or indirectly selling, offering for sale, give or furnishing any alternative nicotine product to a person under the age of 18
SB 1847	Eliminates a presumption that certain illnesses and conditions arise out of and in the course of employment for EMTs or paramedics that are employed by a private employer if the employee spends the preponderance of the time engaged in medical transfers
SB 1876	Replaces “therapeutic optometrist” with “optometrist” in an act concerning lab testing
SB 1911	Establishes a 17-member Hepatitis C Task Force
SB 2218	Includes decorative and plano power contact lenses under the definition of contact lenses
SB 2314	Requires those who provide mammography services to notify their patients if they have dense breast tissue in an effort to educate women about the issue
SB 2353	Any care facility that is a chain must submit the same paperwork to Illinois that it submits to the federal government

## Higher Education

- HB 0194 gives Aurora, East St. Louis and Rockford public school students new community college scholarships by creating “Promise Zones” that provide new opportunities for qualified, low-income students.
- SB 1900 promotes collaborative research by creating Open Access to Research Task Forces that make public university studies more available.
- HB 3067 saves community colleges money by giving them more freedom while purchasing perishable food and beverages.

HB 0194	Allows East St. Louis, Rockford and Aurora to create a “Promise Zone” that provides qualified low-income students scholarships for community college; funding comes from private donations
HB 0631	Allows alcohol to be sold at non-student events at CSU
HB 2674	Repeals the law stating that ISAC must develop a college savings program
HB 3067	Adds an exception changing how community colleges form contracts for purchasing perishable food and beverages
SB 1603	Changes leasing procedures for public universities; allows municipalities to issue bonds to care for or replace trees suffering certain ailments; creates a farm debt relief program; changes energy utilities reporting of energy/cost efficiency improvements
SB 1688	Deletes language requiring a community college to allocate funding based on non-residential square footage



SB 1792	Extends the period of applicant eligibility to 2016 for any pre-professional architect license applicant
SB 1900	Requires public universities to create Open Access to Research Task Forces
SB 2332	Expands those targeted for diversity in engineering scholarship program

## Housing

- HB 0099 helps keep people in their homes by extending homeowner mortgage foreclosure protections until 2016.

HB 0099	Extends certain homeowner mortgage foreclosure protections until 2016
HB 1588	Alters which funds certain real estate fees are distributed to
HB 2374	Makes changes to the definition of family members for those serving on the board of a common interest community association
HB 2527	Requires an open meeting and vote before a residential housing co-op can be dissolved
HB 2830	Allows the Housing Development Authority to take control of limited-profit entities that are in violation of their agreements
SB 0056	Provides protections for individuals who are renting homes in a foreclosed building
SB 1674	Contains various clean up language to PA 97-1164 (foreclosure legislation), allowing a mortgagor to seek reimbursement directly from the clerk of the court in the event of overpayment when reimbursing the plaintiff for the filing fee; clarifying the process to determine which filing “tier” a plaintiff belongs; and clarifying that the 2% filing fee shall be retained and deposited into a specific circuit court clerk fund
SB 1790	Extends flexibility to the State Housing Appeals Board to render a decision on an appeal from a housing developer within 120 days

## Human Services

- HB 2765 allows long-term care prescreening for seniors with Alzheimer’s or who are blind or deaf to determine if they can receive home care.
- HB 2517 allows veterinarians to dispense drugs in emergency situations.
- HB 2262 requires DCFS to disregard assets when assessing eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

HB 1005	Adds clinical professional counselors to the list of people who may order the use of restraints or seclusion for people with mental health issues or developmental disabilities
HB 1538	Requires DHS to administer a training program on how to identify and assist an individual that is experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis
HB 2262	Requires DCFS to disregard assets when assessing TANF eligibility
HB 2401	Allows the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board to authorize the Dept. of Human Services to turn over its responsibilities under Redeploy Illinois to Cook County
HB 2517	Allows veterinarians to dispense drugs in emergency situations
HB 2765	Allows long term care prescreening for seniors with Alzheimer’s or who are blind or deaf to determine if they can receive home care



HB 2802	Requires DHFS to complete interagency agreements concerning nursing home prescreening before Oct. 2013
HB 3111	Increases access to justice by allowing county law libraries to include self-help centers, establishing certain legal assistance programs for veterans and waiving certain fees for attorneys participating in pro bono programs
SB 0047	Changes the way various public aid programs can contact people involved in a claim, demand or cause of action for injury
SB 1373	Changes language defining “resident’s representative” in the Nursing Home Care Act
SB 1599	Allows DCFS to access background information for all employees in addition to their criminal history record; includes fingerprinting

## Labor

- HB 0922 extends the reporting and recordkeeping timeframe of prevailing wages for state public works contractors to five years.
- HB 2591 requires state agencies to promote competitive and integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- HB 3223 requires contractors to submit certain payroll records to the Dept. of Labor, including wage information, overtime rates, fringe benefit rates, as well as the sponsor and administrator of fringe benefit plans.

HB 0922	Extends the reporting and recordkeeping timeframe of prevailing wages for state public works contractors to five years
HB 0923	Establishes new reporting requirements for construction contractors that make payments to entities that are not classified as employees
HB 1370	Changes a pilot program to the “E-Verify Program” in the Human Rights Act
HB 2540	Public bodies must post the Dept. of Labor prevailing wage no later than July 15 of each year
HB 2583	Creates new regulation for CPS as it relates to the pension fund: cannot reclassify non-hourly employees, presumes that any employee is a member, creates penalties for failure to submit payroll and requires charter schools to create pension officer
HB 2591	Requires state agencies to promote competitive and integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities
HB 2993	Makes administrative changes to SURS board and changes to annuity age requirements for Tier 2
HB 3125	Requires IDES to create a veterans’ outreach program paid for with federal funds and requires contractors to post jobs on IllinoisJobLink.com
HB 3223	Requires contractors to submit certain payroll records to the Dept. of Labor, including wage information, overtime rates, fringe benefit rates, and the sponsor and administrator of fringe benefit plans
HB 3390	Makes changes to how a permanent partial disability is determined under the Workers’ Compensation Act
SB 1568	Provides for the imposition of fees to the Department of Labor when an employer is ordered to pay wages, final compensation or wage supplements; Provides the amount of the fee to increase based on the amount of unpaid wages



SB 1830	Clarifies that the Illinois Labor Relations Board shall have the authority, not the obligation, to set compensation levels and establish procedures for suspension or dismissal of mediators selected by state and local panels
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## Local Government

- HB 1020 expands the ability of counties to order the expedited removal of buildings that are hazards to the community to include non-residential buildings and high-rises.
- HB 1192 permits municipalities to enter into intergovernmental agreements with local health districts that serve the entire municipality to regulate and inspect retail food establishments.
- SB 1824 allows counties, townships, municipalities and park districts to maintain memorials within their respective jurisdictions.
- SB 1826 allows municipalities to accept documents with electronic signatures.
- SB 1585 states that if 10% of voters petition to get rid of a township organization, then it is put to referendum.

HB 0125	Requires joint regional planning commissions to appraise any real property they sell or convey
HB 0163	Mandates telecommunications carriers must provide documentation new cell towers including the proposed location, site plan and elevation for Lake County
HB 0438	Allows a specific county in Southern Illinois to use the tax for emergency ambulance service to pay for 911 services; subject to voter referendum
HB 0479	Changes Illinois Medical District Commission auditing rules
HB 0956	Requires a charitable organization applying for an exemption from local ordinances concerning solicitation in certain locations to provide the them with a list of 3 alternate locations
HB 0973	Creates an alcoholic catering rules exemption for a building owned by the Oswego Fire Protection District
HB 0983	Changes the backdoor referendum petition requirements for certain bonding decisions downstate
HB 1020	Expands the ability of counties to order the expedited removal of buildings that are a hazard to the community to include non-residential buildings and high-rises
HB 1045	Extends the final report date of the Local Government Consolidation Commission Act of 2011
HB 1188	Allows a specific taxing district to exceed PTELL tax caps because it passed a successful referendum
HB 1192	Permits a municipality to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with a local health district that serves the entire municipality to regulate and inspect retail food establishments for the municipality
HB 1203	Establishes that various local government notices don't need to include metes and bounds if they provide common street addresses
HB 1353	Park districts and forest preserves can invest their funding in bonds
HB 1404	Raises the threshold for requiring political subdivisions to acquire surety bonds for construction projects from projects totaling \$5,000 to projects totaling \$50,000
HB 1405	Allows counties to charge a \$3 additional fee to cover the cost of providing access to countywide GIS maps; provides that upon the dissolution of the Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District Act, any remaining funds shall be used for the care of people with tuberculosis; allows the Animal Control Fund to be used for enforcement and to address public health and public nuisances in Cook County
HB 1522	Allows DuPage and Peoria to create fees to benefit storm water management facilities



HB 1709	Provides the redevelopment project in the TIF district in Orangeville, IL must be completed by December 31 of the 35th year
HB 1710	Allows municipalities to give a slight preference to people who have participated in a police explorer or cadet program when making hiring decisions
HB 2232	Allows park districts to enter into utility contracts that last between 1 and 3 years
HB 2239	Allows a sanitary district that missed a deadline to appoint a trustee
HB 2454	Notice must be posted 15, instead of 10, days before a township meeting
HB 2488	Requires political subdivisions to advertise and file a notice before contracting for surveying
HB 2664	Authorizes sheriffs in Cook and the collar counties to require municipal police depts. to file their own arrest warrants for failure to appear and to transport wanted to persons to the county jail
HB 2716	If a township committee chair violates certain rules, his/her party will not be allowed to nominate candidates during the next election, providing they could have done it during a caucus.
HB 2761	Allows the state and local governments to join mutual aid agreements with authorities outside of the state for emergency response and training
HB 2807	Certification of a tax levy that was approved through a ballot initiative can be certified any time after the election
HB 2832	Creates system for counties to investigate fraudulent tax filings
HB 2856	Requires the Illinois Commerce Commission to create and publish a navigable directory of 911 systems and all local emergency response authorities
HB 3233	Allows fire districts to tax property up to .4% for ambulance services
SB 0041	Allows the Cook County to recover property taxes from owners who received a homestead exemption that they were not entitled to
SB 0494	Allows the DuPage County Board to dissolve appointed levels of county government
SB 0723	Allows the sale of alcohol near a specific location in Chicago
SB 0724	Allows an elected official of a city or village to hold a liquor license
SB 1409	Creates the Elmwood Park Grade Separation Authority
SB 1417	Allows local fire chiefs to charge fees for putting out open burning that is not safe due to atmospheric conditions
SB 1430	Allows counties to sweep funds as long as they pay them back within 2 years and borrow from banks, as long as they don't exceed debt limits
SB 1456	Makes changes to the qualifications of those appointed to a board of fire commissioners
SB 1475	Requires Metropolitan Water Reclamation District employees to be US citizens
SB 1499	Allows the Cook Co. Forest Preserve to acquire land to create additional preserves
SB 1585	Stipulates if 10% of voters petition to get rid of a township organization, then it is put to referendum
SB 1657	Provides that 2 members of the property tax review board be members of the same political party as the county official receiving the highest vote total for any county office; Also makes changes to the process of filing property tax assessment complaints in every county except Cook
SB 1691	Expands the corporate limits of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
SB 1718	Exempts Wrigleyville rooftops from the prohibition on happy hours and allows the City of Chicago to issue liquor licenses to two Target stores that are located within 100 feet of schools



SB 1824	Allows counties, townships, municipalities and park districts to maintain memorials within their respective jurisdictions
SB 1826	Allows municipalities to accept documents with an electronic signature
SB 1859	Authorizes Winnebago County to impose a 2% hotel tax if certain conditions are met
SB 1869	Provides the corporate authorities of cities and villages must also maintain storm sewers, detention basins and retention basins for drainage purposes
SB 1930	Gives the Joliet Park District longer to sell a certain tract of land
SB 1950	Allows any level of local government to invest in another unit of government's bonds
SB 1954	Reduces the North Shore Sanitary District's maximum indebtedness cap; also makes a number of changes to certain governance provisions
SB 2182	Establishes that TIF reports must be filed with the comptroller electronically; also requires all taxing districts to submit a Fiscal Responsibility Report Card to the State Comptroller
SB 2268	Clarifies that townships must lease or sell property when they dispose of it
SB 2318	Allows retired police officers to serve summons for municipalities with a population over 1 million people

## Pensions

- HB 1351 prevents workers from collecting retirement annuities and paychecks at the same time by establishing that retirees are considered employees if they work more than 599 hours per year.
- SB 1515 implements the governor's retiree insurance agreement with AFSCME, which requires current and future retirees to pay more for health insurance, saving the state money.

HB 0140	Eliminates insurance and pension benefits for future members of the RTA, PACE, Metra and the CTA
HB 1351	Establishes that a retiree is considered an employee if they work more than 599 hours annually
HB 1375	Increases the amount an unwed surviving child receives from downstate firefighter pensions
HB 1444	Allows local governments to set the number of years used when calculating IMRF employee contribution
HB 2620	Exempts certain follow-on and closed-end funds from competitive selection for pension investment
HB 2656	Outlines procedures for transfers from the downstate police fund to the IMRF
HB 2767	Establishes that commission and board stipends shall not count toward public employee pensions
SB 1366	Defines "earned annuity" in Cook County Pension Code and extends early retirement options until 2016
SB 1515	Implements the governor's retiree insurance agreement with AFSCME
SB 1534	Allows individuals who opt into a state or local government's deferred compensation program to participate in Roth IRAs and rollover plans
SB 1584	Extends funding to Chicago for city police, fire, laborer and other municipal employee health care annuities until 2016
SB 1921	Increases transparency of the voting process for the Board of Trustees of the Cook County Pension Fund



# Public Safety

- HB 183 allows concealed carry in Illinois by creating training and licensing requirements as well as prohibiting firearms in certain areas.
- SB 923 deters drivers from illegally passing school buses by permitting school districts to install cameras.
- HB 2737 allows buildings used as civic centers to be available for emergency purposes, and it requires governments to cooperate with IEMA to facilitate their use.
- HB 3081 creates a \$50 mandatory minimum fine for littering.
- SB 0722 allows people at wineries to seal and take home one bottle of opened wine.
- SB 2304 allows park police to patrol zoos.

HB 0083	Puts requirements in place for lawfully tethering a dog outdoors
HB 0100	Allows Chester Mental Health Center to temporarily use restraints on certain non-inmate detainees
HB 0183	Concealed carry; is a shall-issue bill that sets out requirements for licensure, education, training and background checks as well as makes changes to home rule so there is not a of patchwork ordinances for transporting a weapon in the state
HB 0702	Creates exemption and rules for used needle disposal
HB 1189	Requires universal background checks by requiring private sellers of firearms to confirm that buyers' FOID cards are still valid as well as reporting requirements for lost or stolen weapons
HB 1349	Fire protection district may require, by ordinance, the instillation of an override system within a structure
HB 2737	Buildings used as civic centers should be available for emergency purposes and the local government should cooperate with IEMA
HB 2776	Exemptions for seat belt use does not apply to fire marshal, ambulances
HB 2879	Creates the Violence Prevention Task Force
HB 3081	Creates a \$50 mandatory minimum fine for littering
HB 3255	Shifts responsibility for obtaining a public demonstration permit to the organizer and allows the permitting authority to prohibit areas that cross railroad tracks
HB 3388	Provides a training program in animal fighting awareness and humane response for law enforcement officers; includes nonlethal techniques for subduing dogs
SB 0722	Allows people at wineries to seal and take home one bottle of opened wine
SB 0923	Establishes that school districts may elect to have cameras on their school buses to track drivers who pass stopped school buses that have their arms extended
SB 1458	Commissioners under the Gas Pipeline Safety Act can issue notices of possible violations
SB 1587	Law enforcement cannot use drones to gather information unless they have a search warrant, there is a risk of terror attack, to locate a missing person or for crime scene photography
SB 2184	Allows Dept of Labor to adopt safety rules to govern amusement rides; allows Dept of Labor to revoke permits; require liability insurance and change criminal penalties
SB 2304	Park police may be used to patrol a zoo



## Revenue

- SB 0338 taxes certain small cigars at the same rate as cigarettes.
- HB 2654 allows funds to be transferred from the Hospital Basic Service Fund to GRF if the funds are no longer necessary.

HB 1206	Exempts property owned by the Executive Board of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System from taxation
HB 1389	Allows the RTA to issue bonds
HB 1682	Requires each state agency to report all of the bills held on June 30 to the Comptroller
HB 2498	Allows tax refunds under \$5 to be issued with a paper check instead of current policy of electronic transfer only
HB 2499	Clarifies that the tax exemption for aircraft fuel does not apply to non-commercial aircraft
HB 2518	Revenue omnibus bill
HB 2654	Allows funds to be transferred from the Hospital Basic Service Fund to GRF if the funds are no longer necessary
HB 2752	Department of Revenue cannot place a lien on a retailer during a repayment period
HB 3157	Allows various changes to how businesses file tax returns with Illinois
HB 3370	Expands what can be covered under MWRD's annual tax levy
SB 0338	Taxes certain small cigars at the same rate as cigarettes
SB 1404	Changes notification requirements for property tax scavenger sales due to delinquent taxes
SB 1730	Allows the Department of Insurance to issue a lien against someone for not paying taxes, fees, etc.
SB 1737	Allows county tax collectors to collect and assess fees on unpaid taxes that were not collected due to administrative error
SB 1772	Imposes a 5% tax on automobile rentals for periods of less than one year with a corresponding exemption from sales tax for these vehicles
SB 2155	Requires the Department of Revenue to forward severance tax information to the chief county assessment officer for the purposes of assessing property taxes at the county level
SB 2243	Excludes electricity from being classified as tangible personal property for purposes of Illinois' sales tax
SB 2326	Department of Revenue "clean up bill", making changes to the rolling stock provision of the bill for aircraft and watercraft

## Seniors

- HB 0948 reduces abuse of adults receiving in-home care by creating new reporting methods and streamlining state investigations
- SB 1292 helps seniors make better decision about long-term care by requiring nursing homes to post important financial information online.
- SB 1229 ensures nursing home residents receive proper nutrition by requiring medically prescribed diets to be managed by physicians and implemented by qualified employees.

HB 0948	Requires the Department on Aging to establish a centralized Adult Protective Services Helpline to report abuses; consolidates investigations of abuse of the elderly and adults with disabilities under Aging
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HB 1191	Expands the authority of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and allows the Department on Aging to require fees to attend conferences, training programs and other programs
HB 2275	Community Care Program reform; cost saving initiatives and revenue increases
SB 1197	Requires nursing homes provide new residents or a legally responsible adult with a disclosure form stating that it is necessary to disclose the financial assets and income of the residents and their spouses under the federal law
SB 1225	Repeals the unsuccessful Senior Citizens Child Care Support Act, which provides seniors who want to work or volunteer in day cares with training
SB 1229	Requires a medically prescribed diet for nursing home residents to be developed by a physician and carried by out by a proper employees; allows for telepractice
SB 1292	Requires nursing home information be posted on the Internet; nursing homes must report financial information to the GA and certain agencies
SB 1894	Caps senior homestead tax exemption based on location/population for 2012 and in the future

## State Government

- HB 3047 creates an Office of New Americans to help immigrants and their families in Illinois.
- HB 1533 changes the process for appointing retired judges to the Illinois Sentencing Advisory Council. Judges will be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.
- HB 1871 promotes transparency and minimizes paper waste by requiring the state to post employee and retiree employment information online.
- HB 0002 creates a single audit commission that will research best practices of grant administration in other states.

HB 0002	Creates a Single Audit Commission and requires the commission to conduct research regarding the practices of other states in the administration of grants
HB 0156	Allows the governor to give his budget address on the first Wednesday in March 2013
HB 0198	Creates the Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Fund, allows for the issuance of memorial license plates and allows distribution of the money in the fund to pay for the construction of a police K-9 memorial monument
HB 0981	Expands the Illinois Insurance Guaranty Fund board of directors to include two additional public members appointed by the Director of Insurance
HB 0986	Abolishes the Senior Pharmaceutical Assistance Review Committee
HB 1295	Allows the Illinois Urban Development Authority to use funds for transportation projects
HB 1379	Provides a new method to establish a ratemaking base for large public utilities that acquire small water or sewer utilities
HB 1441	Cuts legislative compensation by 10% and prohibits COLAs for legislators and executive elected officers
HB 1462	CDB must update the Illinois accessibility code to incorporate 2010 ADA standards
HB 1533	Shifts authority for appointing retired judges to the IL Sentencing Advisory Council to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
HB 1544	Requires DCEO to create an annual strategic economic development plan; creates the Illinois Business Development Council; requires businesses receiving state funds to provide quarterly reports on job creation



HB 1552	Removes requirements on Dept. of Insurance to mail quarterly invoices to companies
HB 1573	Creates procedures for Liquor Control Commission to appoint hearing officers in cases of multiple complaints
HB 1683	Mandates whenever a State mental health facility or developmental disabilities center is closed, DHS must transfer funds from the closed facility to the appropriate line item providing funds for the new venue
HB 1773	Common Interest Community Association may not enter into a contract with certain board members
HB 1854	Requires flags to be flown at half-mast for EMS workers killed in the line of duty
HB 1871	Requires the state to post employee and retiree employment information online and to minimize the use of print notifications
HB 2269	Extends the repeal date concerning the notarial records Act and changes requirements for title transfer in Cook County
HB 2362	Redefines "residential services" to remove services for which DCFS can set rates
HB 2363	Allows the comptroller to issue replacement warrants; prohibits certain state employees from being listed on public comptroller documents; repeals a provision that prohibits certain employees of the comptroller from being employed by the state in other capacities
HB 2369	Allows the Comptroller to post certain financial reports to the website
HB 2381	Adds an effective date to and changes the name of a facility already in law- PA 97-1138
HB 2423	Exempts doctors from facility regulations if their practice is in an existing hospital/medical facility
HB 2470	Creates procedure where State's Attorneys must consult state police before reviewing petition to vacate, modify or reconsider a petition to seal or expunge a criminal record
HB 2624	CMS must keep the ITAP database current with information received from library districts and provide a searchable database of both current employees and future employees sorted separately by employing unit of government, employment position title, and current pay rate and year-to-date pay
HB 2723	Updates definitions of Locksmiths, private detectives, private security etc.
HB 2771	Amends the reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act to protect communications between attorneys and their clients
HB 2775	Designates the 2nd Wednesday in May as Mother Mary Ann Bickerdyke Day
HB 2820	The Public Building Commission can rent to not-for-profit organizations
HB 2862	Exempts certain land conveyed to Kane County from the State from requirements that it be used for educational or recreational purposes
HB 2947	Requires the budget to indicate if there is a surplus, deficit or if it is balanced, based off of estimates; also must include estimate of unrefunded tax overpayments
HB 2994	Makes corrections and eliminates duplicates in state statutes
HB 3003	Creates the Childhood Cancer Research Board; restricts reimbursement of members for work-related expenses unless funds become available
HB 3047	Creates Office of New Americans under the Govs office to assist immigrants and their families
HB 3049	Shifts Latino Family Commission Act to DHFS from public aid; adds a liaison from labor and outlines where funding comes from



HB 3207	Reduces the term length of the Emergency Telephone Systems Board and stagger their appointment schedule
HB 3270	Creates the Hispanic Employment Plan Advisory Council and requires CMS to consult with it when preparing its State Hispanic Employment Plan
SB 0030	Grants jurisdictional authority of Thomson Prison to the federal government
SB 0063	Makes changes to the composition, terms and appointments of the State Rehabilitation Council
SB 0205	Enables the comptroller to hire a third-party vendor to process offsets; allows the comptroller to charge an additional \$5 fee for offsets processed by a private vendor
SB 1213	Expands the definition of “employee” under the State Employee Indemnification Act to include Department of Juvenile Justice contractors
SB 1216	Makes money in the Fraternal Order of Police Fund subject to appropriation by the General Assembly and distribution by the Secretary of State
SB 1256	Implements Executive Order 1 (2012), which deals with government management of health insurance
SB 1321	Strikes several measures relating to prostate and testicular cancer from DPH’s annual report
SB 1341	Allows DNR to increase from 50-90% assistance to distressed local governments for acquiring open land
SB 1598	Requires law enforcement agencies to collect racial and ethnic information after an arrest, imprisonment or transfer
SB 1621	Repeals various outdated boards and acts
SB 1637	Mandates at least 50% of any grant made to a unit of local government under the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Act must be paid to the unit of local government at the time the Dept. awards the grant
SB 1640	Creates the Multiple Sclerosis Task Force and sets forth the makeup of the task force and compensation
SB 1655	Makes changes to the Real Estate License Act of 2000
SB 1664	Updates certain regulatory obligations and institutes a new sunset for the telecommunications, cable and video portions of the Public Utilities Act
SB 1670	Requires CMS to provide uniform forms to state agencies to report certain workforce characteristics; requires such data to be made publicly available
SB 1693	Allows peace officers to provide their work address when applying for an ID, drivers license or instruction permit
SB 1723	Amends the Capital Development Board Act in regards to the selection process of works of art for display in public buildings and makes technical changes to the establishment of design-build committees
SB 1729	Includes fraternal benefit societies to the list of types of insurers that must submit risk-based capital reports to the Department of Insurance
SB 1758	Allows individuals selling or soliciting credit insurance policies to obtain limited lines licenses from the Director of the Department of Insurance
SB 1768	Allows the Supreme Court to determine the amount of certain court fees for filing, copying and record-keeping
SB 1828	Allows the secretary of state to collect a delinquent vehicle dealer transfer fee
SB 1853	Makes exemptions for those who have to register as a fingerprint vendor



SB 1862	Redirects the fee assessed for drug-related and meth-related offenses into new task forces and funds
SB 1910	Exempts certain positions from the scope of the Management Act so they can continue to be represented by various unions
SB 1929	Clarifies that the exemption from parking fees for disabled persons only applies to metered street parking or public parking areas and not to public parking structures
SB 1988	Lowers dollar value requirement, from \$25 to \$5, on the Treasurer to collect information from presumed owner of abandoned property
SB 2106	Creates a working group to develop a plan to make the state budgeting process the most transparent in the nation
SB 2169	Allows the Department of Revenue to deny a certificate of registration to any applicant if any owner, partner, manager, etc. is in default on state taxes or fees
SB 2186	Amends Article 4A to provide that it shall continue to apply to remittance transfers that are outside of EFTA coverage
SB 2233	Extends the repeal date for provisions regarding design-build contracts in Cook County; Also states design-build projects must not exceed 50% of the moneys spent on construction projects
SB 2255	Allows the Coal Mining Act to allow the Office of Mines and Minerals to administer a mine electrician certification program
SB 2320	Allows businesses owned by minority women to choose to participate as both a Minority and Female certified business in the Business Enterprise Program
SB 2339	Requires joint insurance pools to file an opinion by an independent actuary that the pool's reserves are adequate for the payment of claims with the Director of the Dept. of Insurance
SB 2378	Allows the secretary of state to enter into agreements with public or private entities to lease parking spaces at state-owned SOS facilities
SB 2381	Requires the chief information officer to work with each state agency to develop information systems to accurately report on the management and administration of grant funds

## Transportation

- HB 1247 increases road and highway safety by requiring drivers to use hands-free devices for their cell phones.
- HB 1461 allows spouses of retired legislators to keep their General Assembly license plates after the member passes away.
- HB 2585 improves public safety by increasing the penalty for using a cell phone while driving if it results in serious injury or death.
- HB 3139 lets motorists use an electronic device to prove they have insurance.

HB 0167	Creates Prince Hall Freemasonry license plates; fees go to the Master Mason Fund
HB 0772	Raises the requirement for taking driver's education before obtaining a driver's license from age 18 to age 21; establishes rules for special driver's education courses aimed at 18-21 year olds
HB 0774	Allows certain IDOT vehicles to have red and blue emergency lights for responding to emergencies
HB 0989	Creates Public Safety Diver license plates; fees go to public safety diving and water rescue services
HB 1009	Kelsey's Law; Secretary of State cannot issuing a driver's license to minors if they have an unresolved traffic citation; allows prosecutors to petition the court to have the driver's licenses of minors convicted of accidents involving a death or serious injury invalidated



HB 1010	Prohibits court supervision in accidents resulting in a death for minors with previous moving violations; "Patricia's Law"
HB 1238	Creates H Foundation Committed to a Cure for Cancer special license plates; funds go to Northwestern University's cancer research center
HB 1247	Prohibits using cell phones for any purpose while driving; exempts GPS systems and one-touch hands free devices
HB 1330	IDOT land conveyance bill
HB 1345	Adam's Law; re-enacts the fatal accident memorial marker program
HB 1402	IDOT can reimburse airports for installing or upgrading automated weather observation systems
HB 1460	Expands definitions of automobile service contracts and road hazards
HB 1461	Allows the widow or widower of a retired legislator to keep their GA plates
HB 1529	Creates the retired law enforcement license plates; fees go to different Illinois Sheriffs' Association funds
HB 1539	Allows authorities to certify people as traffic controller for specific events, giving them the same authority as police officers, firefighters and crossing guards for directing traffic
HB 1810	Creates Legion of Merit Award license plates
HB 1814	Separates speeding in a work zone into two offenses: when workers are present and when workers are not present
HB 1815	Creates Diabetes Awareness license plates; fees go to the Diabetes Research Checkoff Fund
HB 1817	Creates Illinois Police Benevolent and Protective Association license plates; fees go to the Illinois Police Benevolent and Protective Association Fund
HB 2273	Requires certified measuring devices to have an identification plate or a paper certificate
HB 2310	Cement mixing trucks manufactured and registered before 2025 are may follow maximum weight limits
HB 2361	Establishes weight limits for various large vehicles like cement mixers and sewer cleaning trucks
HB 2382	Requires IDOT to put up signs for business that are open during construction projects explaining alternative routes and locations
HB 2393	No longer requires that vehicle insurers send new copies of policyholder information each time an insured individual renews his or her insurance
HB 2477	Allows graduated penalties if new driver's violations match prior convictions which resulted in a suspended license and establishes that a driver's license can be subject to multiple suspensions or revocations
HB 2489	Extends the time counties have to obligate funds allocated to them from 24 to 48 months
HB 2584	Increases the amount that a car rental company can charge for a collision damage waiver to \$13.50 per day
HB 2585	Creates an aggravated offense for driving while using a cell phone for both misdemeanors and felonies if the usage results in death or serious injury
HB 2641	Allows fire department vehicles to have permanent registration license plates
HB 2695	Requires the state to purchase vehicles which are electric or powered by natural gas after Jan. 1, 2016; provides for the construction of charging stations and 25% of state police vehicles must use alternative fuels



HB 2754	Creates National Wild Turkey Federation and Curing Childhood Cancer license plates; fees go to respective funds
HB 2764	Makes changes to how “on-premise” and real estate signs are displayed and where they are located in areas with a population over 2 million
HB 2777	EMS vehicle renewals may be at least every 4 years and require annual inspections
HB 2822	Creates Alzheimer’s Awareness license plates; fees go to the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Association
HB 3054	Restricts what vehicles have flashing, oscillating or rotating emergency lights; allows law enforcement to impound unauthorized vehicles
HB 3057	Creates Illinois State Police Memorial Park license plates; fees go to the Illinois State Police Memorial Park Fund
HB 3139	Allows motorist to prove insurance with an electronic device; restricts authorities from accessing other information; the motorist is responsible for damages to the electronic device
HB 3267	IDOT can make low-interest loans to disadvantaged business enterprises; loan selection committee members are not compensated
HB 3367	Exempts bicycles from the prohibition on 2 wheeled devices passing on the rights of another vehicle not propelled by human power
SB 0922	Allows tow vehicles to have yellow and white flashing lights
SB 0925	Removes limits on how long employers can require an employee to operate a motor vehicle
SB 1294	Reduces penalty for operating a vehicle without a certificate of safety to a \$95-\$250 fine unless an accident occurred
SB 1310	Establishes that people being towed by a boat (water skiers, etc.) shall count toward the total number of passengers; increases penalties for a number of boat-related offenses; lowers penalties for a number of others offenses
SB 1383	Creates Nurses license plates; fees go to the Illinois Nurses Foundation Fund
SB 1439	Creates American Red Cross license plates; fees go to the American Red Cross Fund
SB 1474	Changes bidding requirements for the RTA to \$40,000 (from \$10,000) for certain goods and services
SB 1479	Allows secretary of state to revoke someone’s driver’s license for operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol; requires BAC testing if an accident occurs
SB 1524	Preempts home rule for regulating window tints
SB 1530	Prevents low-speed/non-highway vehicles from crossing interstates or toll roads; clarifies that small, non-motor racing boats are not required to have floatation devices
SB 1757	Brings the state into compliance with federal laws regarding commercial driver learner permits and testing
SB 1871	Allows the Secretary of State to cancel the driver’s license of a non-resident or former Illinois resident who has paid off any financial obligations
SB 1898	Increases the minimum automobile liability insurance levels
SB 2356	Changes the speed limit to 70 mph on certain highways throughout the state; allows counties in Chicagoland and the Metro East to establish lower speed limits



# Veterans

- HB 2353 lowers college tuition for veterans by offering in-state tuition to veterans attending public universities and community colleges.
- SB 2229 give individuals who have served in the National Guard at least 10 years an additional two free years at a public university or community college.
- SB 2245 grants veterans priority registration at state universities.
- SB 1908 allows police educational requirements to be waived for equivalent time spent as active duty military service members.

HB 1548	Allows the Prisoner Review Board to grant expungement to honorably discharged veterans for certain felonies
HB 2353	Requires universities to offer veterans in-state tuition
HB 2408	Allows CMS to enter into an agreement with a private vendor to administer the Workers' Compensation Revolving Fund
HB 2563	Any driver with equivalent military commercial vehicle experience qualifies for the skills test waiver for a CDL
HB 2639	Abolishes the Governor's Regiment and replaces it with a recognition system
HB 3186	Requires Department of Public Health to recognize applicable military training and experience of EMT applicants; also allows 50% of time spent as a volunteer EMT toward relicensing requirements and adds continuing education requirements
HB 3346	The Illinois Discharged Service Member Task Force shall include the needs of Female Veterans
SB 0050	Allows Illinois veterans to obtain an Illinois Hunter Education card after completing the online course provided by DNR
SB 0204	Establishes that individuals who have won military service awards can waive the Illinois State Police's college education requirements
SB 1497	Provides veterans are eligible for specific veterans courts if they are eligible for probation or depending on the nature of the crime
SB 1703	Makes Oct. 7 a commemorative holiday (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Remembrance Day)
SB 1908	Allows police educational requirements to be waived for equivalent time spent as active duty military service members, if honorably discharged and they possess a bachelor or associates degree, but this educational requirement may be waived
SB 2163	Requires public universities to give their employees leave for military service and compensate them the difference of their military pay
SB 2229	Allows individuals who have served in the National Guard at least 10 years an additional two free years at a state university or community college
SB 2245	Grants veterans priority registration to state universities



# Your Communications Staff

## 98th General Assembly - Spring 2013

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