

SENATE IN REVIEW

A look at the 2015 accomplishments of the **Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus**



JOHN J. CULLERTON
SENATE PRESIDENT

Communications Department ■ www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com



Senators,

It's been the department's honor to serve and support you in this new era of divided government. In an ever more challenging political and media climate, together we helped put a face on the governor's budget cuts, set new records in our social media engagement and continued to advance the leadership role of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Unfortunately, in order to produce this packet, we had to go to press before the session ended, so a few of your accomplishments and issues may have been missed. In the days ahead, we will produce a final, updated digital edition.

And while May 31 signifies the end of the legislative session, it marks the start of our efforts to work with you in your districts through job fairs, town halls and a litany of other events, which we look forward to working with you to produce in the weeks and months ahead.

John Patterson
Communications Director

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John J. Cullerton ▪ **Senate President**



LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Legislative accomplishments

In November, Illinois voters overwhelmingly signaled their support for raising the state's \$8.25 an hour minimum wage.

Illinois Senate Democrats responded to voters' wishes by proposing and passing SB 11, which would add 50 cents a year to the minimum wage until it reached \$11 an hour by 2019.

It marked yet another quick-strike policy action for what has become one of the most progressive and responsive legislative chambers in America. In recent years, Illinois Senate Democrats have led efforts to recognize marriage equality, break down citizenship barriers, improve school funding, close corporate tax loopholes and improve ethics.

This year, Illinois Senate Democrats advanced proposals dealing with the minimum wage and Dreamer law licenses, all while

fighting to protect the most at-risk populations from short-sighted budget cuts.

Minimum wage

For many, increasing the minimum wage seemed like a no-brainer. After all, 67 percent of voters said they wanted the wage raised. For perspective, 2,339,173 Illinois voters supported raising the minimum wage. Bruce Rauner won the governor's race with 1,823,627 votes.

In an ongoing effort to ensure every hard-working Illinoisan receives a living wage, Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford led the Senate's efforts to make the will of the people the law of the land.

Her plan would raise the minimum wage incrementally to \$11 per hour by 2019, instilling pride in low-income workers by allowing families the opportunity to better provide for themselves independent of state aid.



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

- 88 percent of workers who would benefit from a higher minimum wage are older than 20, and one-third are over 40.
- Women are nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers and two-thirds of tipped workers. Women of color are 23 percent of minimum wage workers, compared to 16 percent of all workers.



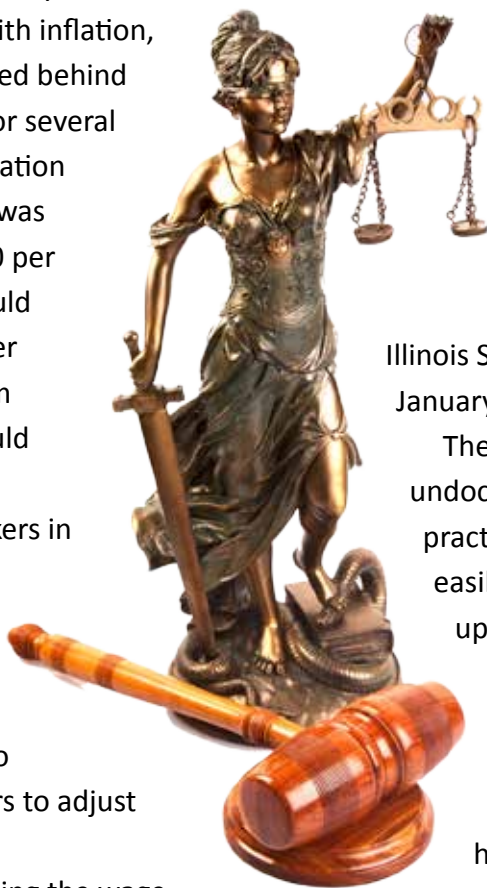
Supporters point out that full-time employees currently making the minimum wage remain eligible for government-assistance programs for food, housing and medical care.

The legislation is essentially an effort to better keep up with inflation, something which has lagged behind the needs of the people for several decades. Adjusting for inflation since the minimum wage was instituted in 1968 at \$1.60 per hour, the wage today should stand at more than \$10 per hour. Raising the minimum wage to \$11 per hour would increase annual wages to \$22,880 for full-time workers in 2019.

A tax credit for businesses with fewer than 50 employees would also be instituted to give businesses three years to adjust to the higher wage.

Lightford's push for raising the wage on the state level, coupled with the ballot referendum, even gave Chicago the push it needed to raise the minimum wage for the Windy City's workers.

Senator Lightford and other long-time supporters and sponsors continue to hope that the indisputable results of the referendum will help shape debate and garner support in the Illinois House.



Dreamer licenses

With immigration reform perpetually stalled in Washington, the Illinois Senate Democrats pressed on, expanding on their previous work to have state policies recognize everyday realities and offer an avenue for our undocumented neighbors to become licensed and insured drivers.

"We need to keep moving forward here. A license to drive was the first step for our immigrant neighbors. I'd like to offer them a license to dream," Illinois Senate President John J. Cullerton said in his January inauguration speech.

The Senate President's proposal would give undocumented immigrants an opportunity to practice law in Illinois. Within weeks, the Senate easily approved Cullerton's SB 23, even picking up a handful of supporters among the super-minority Republican members.

Current state law can block some non-citizens from getting law licenses. The Senate President's changes remove those hurdles and allow non-citizens who have received work permits to be eligible for law licenses. Cullerton's proposal would require that a prospective lawyer have a valid employment





document from U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services and that their request for “deferred action” be approved by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and be up to date.

Advocates for the at-risk

For too many people the state budget is nothing but a collection of numbers.

With Governor Bruce Rauner trying to slash those numbers, Illinois Senate Democrats made it a priority to put a face on the programs and services the governor is trying to eliminate.

Few stories this session were more compelling than those of the children raised by the state through the Department of Children and Family Services system who would suddenly find themselves cut off and kicked out upon turning 18.

“I’ve been in the system since I was two,” said college student Laretta Schaefer, a former foster child from Rockford who is able to attend school thanks to a state scholarship program the governor now wants to eliminate. “If they walk you kindly to the door when you’re 18, you’re still at the door. What does that do for me if you took care of me when I was two and now I’m 18 and I have nowhere to go?”

Schaefer was among the former wards of the state who travelled to the Capitol to tell lawmakers how caseworkers and support services have been the only parents they’ve known and how they’ve helped guide them to better lives.

Under the Rauner’s budget, DCFS’s budget faced a nearly \$150 million cut, nearly all accomplished by wiping out programs for college students, pregnant teens and other services that try to prepare wards of the state for life as young adults.

Illinois Senate Democrats rejected Rauner’s seemingly cruel hack at these at-risk children.



Deval Lamb, Antonesha Dixon and Laretta Schaefer testify before Appropriations I committee

Instead, Senate Democrats held the line on the funding and worked to reform the DCFS system that too often fails the children who rely most on the state.

It was just one example of Senate Democrats efforts to make people the priority this session.

Gov. Rauner’s efforts to force more seniors into nursing homes and close child care centers were similarly rejected as out-of-touch.

Senate Democrats heard from seniors who are able to stay in their homes thanks to an assistance program that not only lets aging Illinoisans retain their independence, but also saves the state money by keeping them out of more expensive institutional care settings such as nursing homes. Rauner wanted to slash funding for the program, apparently unaware of the longterm costs to taxpayers.

And after twice restoring funding for working families’ child care programs, Senate Democrats hope the governor will learn from his mistakes and not slash the program a third time.



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SPREADING THE NEWS



www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com by the numbers

Numbers exclude all computers and mobile devices in the Capitol complex

- 248,014: Total web hits from June 1, 2013, to May 27, 2015
- 3,441: Highest hit day, December 31, 2014
- 444,250: Combined pageviews in 2014 and 2015

Top mobile devices accessing www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com

- Apple iPhone
- Apple iPad
- Samsung Galaxy S5
- Samsung Galaxy S4
- Samsung Galaxy S IV



Social media

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

Twitter

Our Twitter feed at the State Capitol made great strides this session, constantly updating the Twitter world with critical news. We are still one of the top two most-followed state legislative caucuses in the nation, with an impressive 10,663 followers. Mentions, retweets and conversations steadily increased during session.



Full New York Senate ...	32,400
Full Texas Legislature ...	27,000
Full Utah Senate	15,600
1. PA House GOP	12,045
2. IL Senate Dems	10,663
3. PA House Dems.....	9,362
IL House GOP.....	9,258
IL Senate GOP	7,287
IL House Dems.....	0

Our Twitter feed has more followers than many media outlets/ reporters covering the capitol.

IL political media orgs

Capitolfax.....	13,078
ILSenDems.....	10,663
GregHinz.....	9,990
ChiTribCloutSt.....	8,204
Trib_ed_board	7,854
Capitolbureau.....	7,549
DailySouthtown	7,519
Ward_Room	7,340
Ilwatchdog.....	7,325
PoliticalEditor	7,274
SJRthedome.....	6,322
DHStatehouse.....	5,391
Early&Often	3,204
Blueroomstream	2,002

Instagram

We continue to grow and expand across the latest social media platforms. Instagram, an online photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service has allowed us to connect with a younger audience and share the work of our talented photographers.



Senate Dems

Followers on 5.29.15 320

Senate GOP

Followers on 5.28.15 0

LinkedIn

LinkedIn, the well-known business contact website has also grown. We believe in maximizing our content, and this is one more platform to capture more contacts.



Senate Dems

Followers on 5.29.15 334

Senate GOP

Followers on 5.28.15 0

Facebook

With more than 1.4 billion active users, Facebook continues to be a driving force for bringing new visitors to our website. IL Sen Dems Caucus: 7,244 fans, plus 34 staff-maintained member pages.





Facebook followers

1. Texas House Caucus... 14,492
2. Virginia Senate GOP ... 10,901
3. Mich. Senate Dems.. 11,293
4. Mich. House Dems..... 7,885
- 5. ILSenDems Caucus 7,244**
9. IL House GOP 4,333
18. IL Senate GOP 2,352
- ** IL House Dems 0

YouTube

- Overall views since the channel was created: 50,932
- Views this session: 15,499
- Minutes of video viewed: 22,000+



Slideshare

Slideshare is the world's largest community for sharing presentations and other professional content. Using this platform to turn stories into a more multimedia experience, the caucus received 17,519 hits on their 15 for 15: Top 15 New Illinois Laws for 2015 post. This post also generated the highest amount of traffic to date with 3,441 hits in one day. Slideshare shows the post has received 144,853 views on its site as well.

Top 5 videos from this session:

- Manar holds Senate Bill 1 press conference
- Sex trafficking victims should be protected from needless criminal charges
- Harmon reacts to the governor's budget address
- Sandoval reacts to the State of the State
- Sandoval reacts to the governor's budget address





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

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

Since October, VOICE logged more than 275,000 emails, web forms, phone calls and letters. Currently, there are 38 legislative assistants and 27 district offices using VOICE.

By the numbers...

This year VOICE has...

- Sent out e-newsletters and targeted blasts to 2,041,280 constituents
- Sent 27,543 emails and 706 letters to constituents
- Signed up 2,763 people for e-newsletters

Here is a snapshot of incoming constituent correspondence:

Method	Number of Incoming Correspondence
Email	250,865
Website	19,097
Letters	672
Phone	945
Fax	323
Total	271,902

Top 10 issues for this session:

- Budget: 6,535
- Taxes: 3,927
- Health care: 3,915
- Energy: 3,911
- Higher Education: 3,128
- Education: 2,641
- SB1585 (Exelon) — Support: 2,447
- Environment: 2,269
- GMO Labeling — Support: 2,221
- LGDF Funding — Support: 1,624

Tele-Town Hall meetings

This year, senators participated in telephone town halls reaching 385,000 people. The senators were given the ability to reach thousands of people with a single phone call, engaging them in a lively talk show format. The average number of participants on each call was 3,625. Senator Haine had the most successful call this year with a total of 6,439 people. The governor's proposed budget cuts and right-to-work plan dominated most of the calls. We look forward to offering this service again next year.

Tele-Town Halls	
Total called	385,000
Active participants	39,874
Live questions	106





Press conference at the Children's Place Association with Senators Heather Steans, Iris Y. Martinez and William Delgado

We spread our message among Latinos in English and en Español

This year we observed increased exposure for the Latino Caucus in all major Spanish language media outlets. The work of the Latino members was noticed by the Hispanic audiences thanks to earned media opportunities achieved in all media platforms: television, radio, print, digital and social media.

The successful organization of major media events, like the press conference at the Children's Place Association attracted all

leading Spanish language media outlets, and mainstream media outlets such as ACB7, FOX32 and WBBM. The stories that came out of the event included accounts of the consequences on real people if the administration's budget cuts were to be implemented. This event alone reached close to half a million viewers, listeners and readers combined.

Latino and non-Latino members alike enjoyed access to hundreds of thousands of Hispanic households through coverage of issues such as pension reform, the Secure Choice Savings Program, heroin overdose prevention and assistance to Puerto Rican drug addicts sent to Chicago, among others.





Our office continues to serve television networks taping interviews in video and audio in our studio. We share this content so media outlets can integrate it in their stories. The goal of this relationship is to maximize media opportunities in which our members can display their work and leadership within the caucus.

The Senate has become the de facto source of information and content of the General Assembly for Spanish language

media outlets. Despite having fewer members, the Senate Democratic Caucus has far more media appearances than our counterparts in the House. Reporters, producers and editors contact the Senate first when seeking information

and interviews on the issues the General Assembly tackles.

Following a suggestion from our office, Telemundo and Univision initiated “Agenda Legislativa” (“Legislative Agenda”), a television segment in which we explained our accomplishments and their positive

impact for our constituents.

Given the demographic and political rise of the largest minority group in the country, the Illinois Senate Democrats have deployed a comprehensive strategy to better serve this constituency.



LaRaza miércoles, 15 abril 2015 11:48 am

LOCALES NOTICIAS INMIGRACIÓN DEPORTES ENTRETENIMIENTO

TEMAS Cuba #Elecciones2016 NBL Abuso policial #MayPac Furi

Abogan para evitar recorte de fondos en cuidado infantil

Niños con necesidades especiales corren riesgo de quedarse sin recibir cuidado y educación preescolar ante el posible recorte de los fondos de una organización ubicada en el vecindario de Humboldt Park

f Comparte t Tweet g+ Google + Email

Sonia Reina junto a su nieto Ismael Rivera, quien recibe educación preescolar en la organización Children's Place Association.

VÍVELO HOY

Laboran para resolver deuda por pensiones

Por Jaime Reyes en Chicago 05/13/15 4:35pm



Senators Mattie Hunter (Caucus Whip), Donne Trotter (Assistant Majority Leader), Kwame Raoul, Jacqueline Y. Collins, Kimberly A. Lightford (ILBC Joint Chairman / Assistant Majority Leader), Napoleon Harris III, Toi Hutchinson, James F. Clayborne (Majority Leader), Patricia Van Pelt

Senate Black Caucus: Standing up for communities of color

As the 98th General Assembly turned into the 99th, the senators of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus sustained their steadfast dedication to defending the interests and well-being of many disenfranchised Illinoisans. They worked hard to promote their mission of assuring the interests of African-American citizens are given equitable representation

in the General Assembly. Senators committed to fighting for affordable housing, health and welfare, education, employment and minority business enterprise.

Illinois faced a new governor set to balance the state's budget on the backs of the disadvantaged. The ILBC pushed back against a budget agenda that would leave

thousands of needy children and families without a means to receive the help they need. At the core of the caucus' mission is ensuring that Illinois invests in minority communities – communities hardest hit by budgetary cutbacks.

The caucus collectively voted against an April budget plan because it did not restore funding to the levels previously agreed upon.

The caucus fought for original funding levels to be restored and was ultimately successful, as money for critical services, such as the Child Care Assistance Program, addiction prevention, autism services, assistance for the homeless and Teen Reach was saved.

Increasing diversity within the

Illinois business community is one of the greatest mechanisms for improving equality among demographic groups. For years, members of the Black Caucus have created laws aimed at leveling the playing field for minority contractors, so when the governor signed an executive order to review and study the issue of minority contracting, the Black Caucus viewed it as a positive step forward. Senators, such as Napoleon Harris III, hosted minority contracting summits to educate the minority-owned and small business community as to how best to grow and thrive in Illinois.

Youth employment funding was another of the caucus' main issues this year. Black senators joined forces with the Latino Caucus to challenge the governor's decision to defund youth after-school and employment programs. The governor informed more than 30

SINCE THE FIRST PRESENCE OF AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1876, 157 AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEGISLATORS HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE.



Chicago-area agencies providing youth employment and after-school programming that they were no longer allowed to spend state funds they were awarded as part of the Department of Human Services' Youth Development program.

The decision froze nearly \$8 million that had already been budgeted for after-school and summer programs, mentoring, job training and job

opportunities for young people, particularly in low-income and high-crime neighborhoods.

Senators worked together to ensure youth have job and apprenticeship opportunities. They created the Foster Youth Summer Internship Pilot Program, a two-year program to offer professional training for young people who age out of foster care into homelessness. Former wards of the state, especially minority youth, face high rates of joblessness, homelessness and incarceration.

The ILBC believes strongly in the merit of these critical programs that keep Illinois' young people competitive and on the path toward success.

Research shows that violent crime arrests decreased by 43 percent for teens who were employed and received support from mentors. The University of Chicago Crime Lab recently conducted a study revealing that an initiative pushed by members of the Black Caucus resulted in

lower violent crime arrests during summer months. The initiative creates the Summer Youth Employment Program to provide jobs for thousands of at-risk youth during the summer months.



Senator Emil Jones III
ILBC Senate Chairman

These summer job programs keep at-risk youth from entering into the judicial system by having an alternative activity that helps them develop career skills. The program provided employment and job skills

training for more than 1,800 youth, who worked part-time at partnering local businesses, government offices and non-profit organizations.

Members of the ILBC were not limited to focusing on budgetary concerns. The caucus stood up for social and civil justice by introducing initiatives to examine grand jury practices and to measure the racial impact of any new law passed in Illinois. Senators supported a young African-American baseball team, Jackie Robinson West, on the heels of a controversial decision to strip the children of their title. State Senators Donne Trotter, Kimberly A. Lightford, Jacqueline Y. Collins, Emil Jones III, Napoleon Harris III and Patricia Van Pelt pushed to rescind the decision.

The ILBC led the General Assembly in adopting powerful resolutions including one declaring Pay

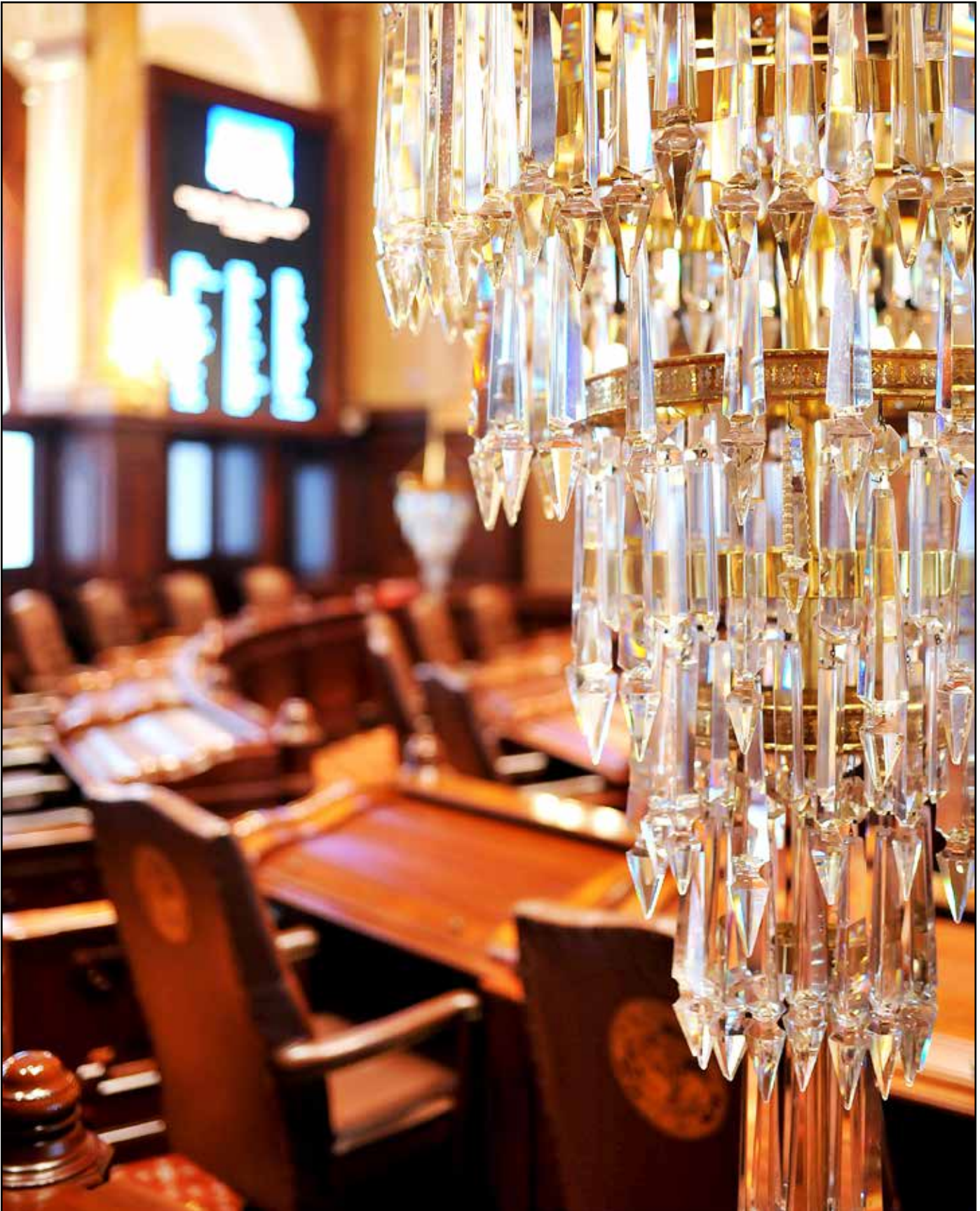
Equity Day, sponsored by Senator Toi W. Hutchinson, and another declaring Malcom X Day by Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins.

Putting youth first, the Black Caucus celebrated their First Civic Engagement Day, which saw nearly 600 eighth-graders from across the state descend upon the Capitol. Black Caucus Chair Senator Kimberly A. Lightford and other legislative leaders engaged with student leaders on how to affect the future for the better by addressing community issues.

Part of the day's activities included a rally with discussions from student leaders on issues facing local communities, including food deserts, police brutality, school funding and economic development.

Senators also celebrated Illinois' history of spearheading the movement of freeing slaves. They held a Black History Month Soiree, commemorating the ratification of the 13th Amendment by inviting re-enactors and highlighting the triumphs of African-Americans within and outside government.





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FEATURED STORIES



Senator Terry Link: "I think we all want this resolved quickly so our children can get back to learning..."

If striking teachers aren't getting paid, neither should administrators

With the Waukegan teachers strike headed for a fourth week, State Senator Terry Link said he's looking into proposing a state law that would force administrators to go without pay whenever schools shut down because of contract disputes.

Waukegan School District 60 teachers have been on strike since Oct. 2. Negotiations have stalled, resulting in school closures for 17,000 students.

"Perhaps administrators would be more interested in resolving this situation if they had more skin in the game," said Link, a Waukegan Democrat. "Superintendents shouldn't collect their salaries for showing up and turning on the lights when the classrooms are empty."

Link said he has asked Senate staff to look into drafting legislation. His idea would prohibit tax dollars from being used to pay administrative salaries during a teachers strike when educators are

going without pay.

Link said Waukegan teachers are among the lowest paid in the state. The administrators are not.

"I think we all want this resolved quickly so our children can get back to learning," Link said. "I think we could prevent these types of situations if both sides had a financial stake in the process."

Link said he would like to be able

FULL STORY:

<http://ilsendems.co/1nJHc6Y>

to have legislation ready for the upcoming fall session in November or the spring session, which starts in January.





Top 15 New Illinois Laws for 2015

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

Thank you for helping us share this important news.

FULL STORY:

<http://ilsendems.co/1uOJJde>

E-Cigs

- Must be behind the counter or sealed to keep out of kids' hands

Speed Up

- 70 mph now on tollways, as well as interstates
- 60 mph for semis on interstates (was 55 mph)

Pull Over

- No more police ticket quotas
- If stopped for a traffic violation, drive away with your license

Ins & Outs

- Home sellers must now disclose door or window damage, along with:
 - Flood-Damage
 - Lead Paint
 - Asbestos
 - Meth lab

Pregnant while working

- Reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers or it's a civil rights violation

Beer & Milk

- Beer rules updated to include malt ciders
- Milk definition now includes sheep, water buffalo, other hooved critters



Boats, booze & flags

- Boating under the influence will get your boat impounded

- Hoist an orange flag if boat passengers are in the water

Privacy for crime victims

- Strengthens security and privacy for automatic system that updates victims about offenders' parole, release

Reptiles and amphibians

- Permit required For venomous or otherwise dangerous herptiles

This is not a drill

- New school construction must include storm shelters

Cyberbullying

- Schools can discipline students who bully peers on personal phones or computers, not just at school

Wolves and cougars and bears (oh my)

- Now illegal to hunt / own / trade gray wolves, black bears and cougars

Medical marijuana for seizures

- Children with seizures now qualify for CBD (not pot) in Illinois' medical marijuana program

Eye in the sky

- Cops can use drones during a natural disaster or public health emergency

Just say no

- Outlaws LSD-like synthetic drugs known as N-Bomb
- Keeps minors from owning Kratom plants with opiate-like effects



Senator John Sullivan: “My overriding concern is to balance safety with our Second Amendment rights. This allows people with mild disabilities like Brent to show they are qualified, competent and can safely use a firearm while hunting.”

Sullivan passes developmental disability FOID updates

Brent Nicholson is a hunter and has been his whole life. Growing up, his father took him and his brother hunting, Brent passed the hunter safety course as a minor and when he turned 18, he applied for and received his Firearm Owner Identification card.

Brent carried that FOID card for 13 years until last summer, when the Quincy native received a letter from the Illinois State Police requiring him to surrender his FOID card.

Despite years of safely using a firearm while he was hunting without incident, he was forced to give up his FOID card and his right to hunt with a firearm because he has an intellectual disability. Under a 2013 law allowing concealed carry, FOID rules were updated to exclude people with intellectual and

developmental disabilities from using firearms.

A proposal allowing people with mild disabilities to appeal an Illinois State Police decision revoking or denying a FOID was approved by the Senate. State Senator John Sullivan (D-Rushville) sponsored the legislation.

“My overriding concern is to balance safety with our Second Amendment rights. This allows people with mild disabilities like Brent to show they are qualified, competent and can safely use a firearm while hunting,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan crafted the proposal with input from the State Police, representatives from the medical community and advocates for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

“This helps get rid of the

FULL STORY:

<http://ilsendems.co/1aBSc0s>

stigma surrounding disability. Hunting is a big part of my brother’s life. It’s something we do together safely and responsibly, and this would let him prove that to the state,” said Brent’s brother, Eric.

In addition to creating the appeals process, the proposal — Senate Bill 836 — would update how developmental disabilities are described under the law to match current medical definitions. It also updates how and when medical professionals must notify the state of someone meeting these criteria.

The proposal passed with bipartisan support and now moves to the House for debate.



Senator Toi Hutchinson: "If we are going to be questioning every dollar that the state spends on programs for seniors, people with disabilities and working families, we need to ensure we are also looking at the other side of the ledger in regards to corporate giveaways."

Hutchinson moves to close corporate tax loopholes

In the midst of several recent protests at the Capitol advocating against proposed cuts to services for children, seniors and working families, State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D-Chicago Heights) passed a plan out of the Senate Revenue Committee to close corporate tax loopholes.

"The governor's budget as it is proposed inflicts real pain on our most vulnerable while also increasing costs for middle-class families," Hutchinson said. "If we are going to be questioning every dollar that the state spends on programs for seniors, people with disabilities and working families, we need to ensure we are also looking at the other side of the ledger in regards to corporate giveaways."

The legislation proposes eliminating three major loopholes that allow corporations to avoid state income taxes, including:

- Eliminating a subsidy for Illinois companies with activities in other states, therefore encouraging businesses to invest in Illinois;
- Eliminating a loophole that currently allows Illinois businesses to avoid paying taxes on overseas production; and
- Repealing the non-combinational rule certain companies use to set up complex tax avoidance structures to avoid paying state taxes.

Combined, the loopholes amount to more than \$330 million in giveaways to corporations.

FULL STORY:

<http://ilsendems.co/1B8V9MR>

"While this proposal is by no means the only solution in solving our budget crisis, it does start a needed conversation on how everyone can be a part of the solution."

The bill, Senate Bill 717, passed the Senate Revenue Committee today and heads to the Senate floor for further debate.



Kate Drury, whose son was diagnosed with PANDAS, and Senator Tom Cullerton testify before the committee on Public Health.

Tom Cullerton advances PANDAS awareness initiative

Eighth birthdays are extremely important to children. It's supposed to be a day full of cake, presents and friends. However, this wasn't the case for Charlie on his eighth birthday.

He woke up on his birthday with unusual symptoms. The little boy who loved participating in talent shows and putting on skits was now scared of performing in front of crowds and talking to his friends. There was an immediate change in his personality.

The next two months of Charlie's life were the hardest time for his family. He instantly displayed symptoms of obsessive compulsive disorder. Charlie didn't want to be touched or hugged. He feared his food and was deathly afraid of water to the point where he couldn't shower or brush his teeth. When triggered, Charlie would go into fits of rage. He suffered from hallucinations to the extent he was unable to recognize his mother or father.

Charlie's mother was faced with a difficult situation, either being forced to institutionalize her son or place

her other two children in the care of a loved one. After two months of looking for answers, a doctor diagnosed Charlie with Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS).

PANDAS is characterized by a sudden onset of symptoms associated with obsessive compulsive disorder, Tourette's syndrome and other tics after a child has had a strep infection. Symptoms range from severe separation anxiety to motor tics that appear similar to seizures and hallucinations. The symptoms are severe enough to prevent children from attending school.

To raise awareness and educate medical professionals, State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) passed a measure to create an advisory council to make recommendations to the Illinois Department of Public Health on awareness and education among doctors, school-based health centers and mental health providers.

Early detection is key. After

FULL STORY:

<http://ilsendems.co/1CLPxZS>

observing Charlie, his mother Kate Drury was quickly able to diagnosis her younger son with PANDAS when he displayed early symptoms.

"No one wants to see young children suffer. I have three young children at home, stories like Charlie's display the immediate need to educate medical professionals and the general public on the PANDAS symptoms," said Cullerton. "It's our duty to ensure our children don't suffer. The faster we diagnose children affected by PANDAS, the quicker we can begin treatment."

PANDAS is potentially a lifelong disease that is estimated to affect nearly 175,000 children and adolescents in Illinois. It has even been found in adults.

Senate Bill 1684 passed the Senate and now moves to the House for consideration.



Senators Delgado, Martinez and Steans and Representative Guzzardi speak at a press conference at The Children's Place Association.

State funding cut could eliminate care services for children with HIV, disabilities

Illinois Senate Democrats rallied to the defense of families suffering from HIV/AIDS after Gov. Bruce Rauner proposed slashing state funding for a specialized child care center catering to these families educational needs.

The Children's Place Association in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood is a pre-K education facility that serves children of families stricken by cases of extreme illness and poverty. Many are families dealing with HIV/AIDS, and most of the children suffer from debilitating diseases and disorders such as autism, heart ailments, spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

For many of the children, this is the only early education facility in the area equipped to meet their needs.

So, it was shocking when Rauner proposed eliminating the state grant that supports the center, a cut that would force the

center to close.

To bring attention to the center's plight, Illinois Senate Democrats brought media outlets to the center to document its mission and the at-risk children who rely on it.

Senators William Delgado, Iris Y. Martinez and Heather Steans delivered a message directly to the governor: Visit the facility, speak with the parents and children, learn about the services that are offered there and then decide if funding for its mission is still worth eliminating.

The president and CEO of Children's Place's message was also very clear. "We basically serve the most vulnerable group of children and families in

FULL STORY:

<http://ilsendems.co/1Qdlpgg>

the state of Illinois," said Cathy Krieger. "If they are not helped here, they will not get the help that they need."

Thanks to Senate Democrats' efforts, thousands of people learned about The Children's Place Association's mission to help at-risk children and families.





SENATE IN REVIEW

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John J. Cullerton ▪ **Senate President**



YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



John J. Cullerton

Illinois Senate President | 6th Senate District



In 2010, with talk of pension reform swirling through the Capitol, Illinois Senate President John J. Cullerton

gave his top lawyer a key research assignment: Tell me what the constitution really says about public pensions.

That subsequent report published the following year provided the greatest detail to date regarding the guarantees the framers of the constitution put in place for state workers, university employees and public school teachers.

In retrospect, it was a clear warning that the pension proposals being pushed at the Capitol were clear violations of the Illinois Constitution, a view the Illinois Supreme Court backed up with a recent ruling that throws out the pension system changes enacted in 2013.

It's indicative of Cullerton's work at the Capitol, where he seeks to set aside the heated political rhetoric in order to identify the real issues that challenge us and, hopefully, find meaningful and lasting ways to address them.

The Senate President was among the first to show the devastating effects of Governor Bruce Rauner's proposed budget on working families and at-risk seniors and students. Pointing to the harsh mix of budget cuts and false savings, President Cullerton labeled the plan "as unworkable as it is unconscionable."

Later, the Senate President pointed out that the Illinois Constitution and a mix of state and federal laws and requirements made impossible nearly \$6 billion worth of the governor's budget proposal and urged everyone to acknowledge reality and work together to find consensus.

Under Cullerton's leadership, the Senate forged ahead with

progressive policies that have become the hallmark of his six years as Senate President.

Cullerton won approval for "license to dream" legislation that would open opportunities for undocumented immigrants to obtain law degrees and become licensed, practicing attorneys.

The Senate President also remains an outspoken optimist about his home state, challenging naysayers to realize the wonders of the state in which we live. His ILikeIllinois.com website and social media effort launched late last year and has attracted thousands of followers as it profiles people and businesses that have found success in Illinois and make the state unlike any other.





James Clayborne

Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 57th Senate District



In an effort to protect the people of the Metro East, Senate Majority Leader James F. Clayborne

Jr. remained dedicated in making residents safer, promoting minority business owners and protecting senior citizens.

Knowing that too many children across the state must cross through dangerous neighborhoods just to get to school, Clayborne sponsored legislation giving schools greater responsibility for getting students safely to school.

Clayborne's proposal requires schools to work with law enforcement to establish transportation options such as bus services for students living farther than 1.5 miles from school in areas that have a pattern of criminal activity. Clayborne said the first step to a successful education is being able to safely get to school, and state policies need to reflect that priority.

It was one of several efforts Clayborne led this spring at the Capitol to protect vulnerable students, workers and seniors.

He fought discrimination by

requiring day and temporary labor agencies to collect racial, ethnic and gender information from each person who requests employment. By doing so, the Department of Labor and Department of Human Rights can now check to see exactly what percentage of minorities are being hired and if the numbers are low, the departments can look at finding a solution.

In addition to advancing opportunities for people in the Metro East, Clayborne is working to protect at-risk senior citizens by requiring all nursing home and long-term care facilities have written policies regarding the use of electronic monitoring devices.

Clayborne continued his commitment to help expand the

horizons of local students by leading bus tours to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. These trips give students a broader college search experience and allow them to see historic monuments and places they may have never gone to. In turn, these students have a better understanding of their history and the importance of education. Clayborne received his undergraduate degree in political science from Tennessee State University, an HBCU in Nashville.

The tours are part of Senator Clayborne's mentoring program through which he routinely speaks to area youth and stresses that through hard work and dedication, anything is possible.





Don Harmon

President Pro Tempore | Executive chair | 39th Senate District



Several years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional to have mandatory life sentences with

no chance of parole for minors convicted of serious crimes. Since then, Senate President Pro Tempore Don Harmon has been working with state's attorneys and criminal justice reform advocates to develop a plan that is right for Illinois.

His plan removes automatic penalties for using firearms while committing a crime and requires judges to consider young people's life circumstances when they pass down sentences on minors convicted of murder and other serious offenses. Life without a chance of parole is still a possible sentence, but it is never automatic.

The legislation shows how Harmon has become a go-to negotiator for some of the state's top issues.

Harmon also proposed a clean energy plan that would help put Illinois at the forefront of states using renewable energy and protecting the environment.

His proposal would require Illinois to get 35 percent of its electricity from renewable sources -

like wind and solar power - within 15 years. It also sets an ambitious goal of reducing overall energy use by 20 percent by incentivizing purchasing more energy-efficient appliances and weatherizing buildings. The plan would create thousands of good-paying jobs in construction, sales and real estate.

The senator also kept a focus on his home district.

In response to the opening of a large number of pawnshops along the border of Chicago and Oak Park, he proposed a law to make it easier for the police to find stolen goods passing through these stores.

He also worked with a local township assessor and a group of concerned senior citizens to make sure that the "senior freeze"

property tax relief program always helps its intended recipients. Many local seniors were concerned the program didn't always do much to lower tax bills. Harmon's plan sets a minimum tax exemption of \$2,000 to help all seniors.

After hearing from several local residents who were concerned about pesticide spray, Harmon introduced legislation that requires professional lawn care companies to notify backdoor neighbors by posting signs when spraying. Many people prefer to keep their children and pets indoors when pesticides and herbicides are in the air, but they have to know when the chemicals are being applied.





Kimberly A. Lightford

Assistant Majority Leader | 4th Senate District



For years, minority children in schools throughout Illinois have been expelled and suspended at disproportionate rates.

That lingering racial inequality could finally change thanks to the work of Assistant Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford. She championed an overhaul of school discipline policies, forcing administrators to face the reality that the children they too often and too easily remove from public school classrooms are the very students who need educational opportunities the most.

Senator Lightford pushed to limit suspensions and expulsions to the most extreme disciplinary problems and required school officials to report to the state as to why such harsh measures are justified. Her legislation essentially eliminates zero-tolerance policies that had made it convenient for school administrators to solve their challenges by simply denying troubled children access to education.

Lightford's overhaul of student discipline laws continues her efforts to stand up for those whose needs tend to be shuffled aside.

Once again, she led efforts to raise Illinois' minimum wage

so those relying on it aren't also forced to rely on government assistance to make ends meet.

The proposal she guided through the Senate – Senate Bill 11 – would ultimately raise the minimum wage to \$11 an hour by 2019. Her efforts were backed by an overwhelming majority of Illinois voters who went to the polls last fall to support raising the state's current \$8.25 minimum wage.

Once again proving her ability as a keen negotiator, Lightford won over some business groups by accommodating their needs and concerns in the minimum wage proposal.

As a result, SB 11 also institutes a tax credit for businesses with fewer than 50 employees. The provision gives these businesses three years to adjust to the higher wage.

Lightford also spearheaded

policies designed to help students better prepare for life after school. She sponsored legislation requiring schools to inform students about the dangers of identity theft and offer information regarding student loans and consumer debt as part of consumer education classes.

Lightford also pushed for more comprehensive school physical examinations to better screen for mental and emotional health issues among students. Recent studies show that 14 percent to 20 percent of all school age children in the U.S. and 13 percent of preschoolers have an emotional or behavioral disorder. Lightford's legislation sought to implement social and emotional developmental screenings and a pediatric symptoms checklist for all children under 19 to accompany the current physical examination.





Terry Link

Assistant Majority Leader | 30th Senate District



In just five months, Lake County law enforcement personnel saved a dozen lives thanks to a new, fast

acting medication that counters heroin overdoses.

Faced with a growing heroin epidemic in the suburbs, the area's lawmakers have sought to change state policies to combat the plague, offer alternatives to addicts and expand use of the new drug Narcan that can rescue those who overdose.

One of the latest examples is Senator Terry Link's proposal giving legal protection to the good samaritans who administer the overdose antidote to try to save someone's life. Senator Link won Senate approval for SB 1810 in an effort to encourage more people to learn about Narcan and be prepared for worst-case scenarios.

It's just one example of Senator Link's efforts to help the people of Lake County with the real-life issues they face.

For example, when the Waukegan teachers strike shuttered classrooms for nearly a month, Link filed legislation that would force administrators to go without pay whenever schools

shut down because of contract disputes. Link argued that both sides would be more likely to bargain if both sides weren't being paid.

At the Capitol, Senator Link continues to be a leading advocate for modernizing the state's gaming industry in order to be more competitive with neighboring states. For example, Indiana props up its state budget by putting casinos just across the border from Chicagoland. The parking lots of those casinos are filled with cars bearing Illinois license plates as Illinois customers provide millions in gaming tax dollars to Indiana.

Link's goal is to make the Illinois industry more competitive and keep Illinois customers here so the millions going to Indiana could be used for local economic

development and state education funding.

Senator Link also remains a proponent of government consolidation. With SB 1853, he proposed making it easier for local police and fire districts to consolidate in order to save taxpayers money without reducing services.

And Link also sought to clean up the election process, filing SB 1529 in response to the scandal that saw Republican Congressman Aaron Schock resign from office. The proposal extends the timeframe for special elections to fill such unexpected vacancies in an effort to attract more candidates and more public interest.





Antonio Munoz

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



Faced with deep cuts to child care and after-school programs, State Senator Tony Munoz worked to restore

funding and maintain options for at-risk children.

As a former police officer, Munoz recognized that slashing investments in youth programs will only haunt communities through increased crime and, ultimately, higher costs to taxpayers.

Munoz worked with leaders in the Senate to reinstate the funding for these programs. Senate Bill 274 helped provide additional funding to these necessary programs to cover the shortage for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Continuing after-school programs and child care assistance ensures our communities' continued growth, and Munoz believes keeping our children safe is one of the state's top priorities.

His efforts to protect vital funding were just one example of the senator's work to protect the public.

More police officers could soon be on the streets thanks to a measure sponsored by

Munoz that would allow veteran officers to return to work to help fight gang and criminal activity throughout Chicago.

The sale of untaxed cigarettes attracts violence and crime to our communities, and at times promotes gang-related activities by rendering more profits than illegal drugs. Munoz sponsored Senate Bill 509 to allow cities and counties to enforce criminal action against retailers that sell cigarettes while avoiding required taxes.

Munoz also continues his efforts to push awareness of key public health concerns through his participation in the Legislative Diabetes Caucus and the Hepatitis C Task Force.

The Hepatitis C Screening Act he supported requires that every individual born between 1945

and 1965 who receives health services be offered a hepatitis C-related test. More than 75 percent of adults infected with hepatitis C are baby boomers born during this time span, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Most don't know they are infected with the serious liver disease that can lead to cancer and death if untreated.

The good news is that once detected there are life-saving treatments available. Detection is an important first step because the longer a person lives with an untreated hepatitis C infection, the greater the person's chances of developing life-threatening liver disease.





John Sullivan

Assistant Majority Leader | Agriculture chair | 47th Senate District



Brent Nicholson is a hunter and has been his whole life. Growing up, he hunted with his family, passed the hunter's safety

course and carried a Firearm Owner Identification card for 13 years.

Last summer, the Quincy native received a letter from the Illinois State Police telling him to surrender his FOID card. Despite years of safely using a firearm without incident, a technical change buried in the 2013 concealed-carry law forced Nicholson to give up his FOID card and his right to hunt with a firearm because he has an intellectual disability.

Brent and his family came to State Senator John Sullivan for help in battling the bureaucracy. In response, he negotiated and passed legislation allowing people with mild disabilities, like Brent, to appeal these decisions by the Illinois State Police.

Sullivan applies that same approach in addressing issues facing downstate along with a personal commitment in advocating for rural issues.

As an important fixture of western Illinois, the Quincy Veterans Home provides long-term care and medical attention

to aging and high-needs veterans. Sullivan passed legislation overhauling procedures and practices at the veterans home to protect the needs of its patients and assist the home's mission to serve those who served the nation. Among the new provisions is a protection for residents facing involuntary discharge, ensuring they receive a review before being removed.

As the only farmer in the Illinois Senate and chairman of the Agriculture committee, Sullivan oversaw negotiations on farmers' use of drones and mistreatment protections for horses and other livestock. He personally sponsored legislation allowing Illinois farmers to use synthetic gypsum, a byproduct of coal power generation, as a fertilizer. When power plants burn coal, the scrubbing process

used to clean the exhaust creates synthetic gypsum. It is chemically identical to naturally occurring gypsum already used by farmers to cut down on water usage.

Sullivan is also very active with agricultural education groups like FFA and 4-H that prepare students for careers in agribusiness as well as farming.

Sullivan often speaks at schools in his district about the role of the state legislature, civic engagement and the impact that state government has on people's everyday lives. He often serves as a guest lecturer on state politics and government at local universities and colleges in addition to regular visits to area K-12 schools. He also hosts student groups from his district at the Capitol.





Donne Trotter

Assistant Majority Leader | 17th Senate District



Over 3.1 million baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964 live in Illinois. They happen to be the largest at-risk group for a silent killer called hepatitis C. That's why State Senator Donne E. Trotter dedicated his efforts at the Capitol this spring to raising awareness, promoting screening and finding treatment for the disease that takes upward of 30 years before symptoms show.

Trotter introduced a measure, Senate Bill 1465, aimed to increase a physician's ability to prescribe interferon-free therapy for patients suffering from the hepatitis C virus.

And when he wasn't working on policies at the Capitol, Trotter was working in the community to raise awareness of the potentially deadly liver disease that can go undiagnosed for decades. That community involvement may have saved the life of someone in his district.

At a free hepatitis C, HIV and STD screening event sponsored by Trotter, an attendee received life-changing news that she required further medical assistance. The timely screening helped provide care for Chicagoans who otherwise would have gone unaware of their medical conditions.

Further illustrating Senator

Trotter's belief in quality health care, he rallied the Senate around a legislative agenda to address the startling rise in deaths related to drug overdoses. Trotter spearheaded the passage of bipartisan efforts to make opioid antidotes such as Narcan more readily available to combat the high number of heroin overdoses.

Narcan has proved effective in reversing overdose symptoms, and first responders have used it in a growing number of instances to save lives. Trotter sponsored Senate Bill 1201 and co-sponsored Senate Bill 1466, both plans to make lifesaving opioid antidotes available for first responders and pharmacists.

The veteran legislator used his experience as a budget negotiator to try to protect the most valuable citizens of Illinois. He's led efforts in the Senate to restore commonsense

preventive medical services that are too often targeted by short-sighted budget cutters looking to slash spending who fail to realize they are driving up long-term state health care costs. An example would be Medicaid dental services that, when cut, end up sending people to emergency rooms for dental care where the cost to taxpayers can be 10 times higher.

Trotter also helped the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus increase its voice on state and national issues including civil justice, equal economic opportunities and quality of life. For instance, Trotter sponsored and won Senate approval of SB 1798, which creates the Racial Impact Note Act to require all proposed Illinois laws to undergo analysis of how they would affect ethnic minority groups.





Ira I. Silverstein

Majority Caucus chair | 8th Senate District



A toddler strapped into the backseat has no choice but to inhale clouds of toxic secondhand cigarette smoke when

drivers or passengers light up. The well-known dangers of that secondhand smoke have, over the years, led to smoking bans in workplaces, restaurants and on college campuses.

Now, State Senator Ira Silverstein is saying children have gone unprotected too long. He's fighting to have Illinois join eight other states that have banned smoking in cars with minors. Adults who choose to light up in a car with children would pay a fine up to \$100 for that poor choice.

It's one of Senator Silverstein's efforts to have Illinois get with the times.

Teens are susceptible to alcohol, and parents everywhere see a growing trend in alcohol poisoning. Imagine if, on top of their pursuit of bottles of beer and liquor, young people had access to little one-ounce packets of powdered alcohol to hide in a pocket and carry anywhere. A product called Palcohol is expected to enter the market this year.

Powdered alcohol can be mixed in soda or juice or

sprinkled on food. It can be eaten or snorted without mixing. And it has the potential to boost alcohol consumption and poisoning, particularly among young people seeking easier ways to binge drink. Senator Silverstein wants Illinois to ban Palcohol before it is introduced here, as 26 other states are currently considering. A violation would be a Class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent offense.

New mobile devices enter the market every month, and Silverstein wants consumers protected from crime involving these devices. One of every three robberies in the U.S. today involves a mobile device, and many of those stolen are then resold by wireless phone dealers. Silverstein proposed a plan to make dealers selling used phones

keep written records so that police can apprehend thieves and unscrupulous resellers.

Silverstein unfailingly champions interests of the Jewish community. Just as U.S. lawmakers take action when other nations' policies conflict with American values and business practices, Silverstein declared state agencies should not contract with businesses that boycott Israel. This year the Food and Drug Administration changed their definition of milk products, making the contents uncertain for those who keep kosher. In light of FDA changes, Silverstein said dairy producers must ensure labeling meets kosher dietary standards.





William Haine

Majority Caucus Whip | Insurance chair | 56th Senate District



Senator Haine's district faced a devastating predicament this session when U.S. Steel announced it would

temporarily idle its Granite City plant. The U.S. steel industry has faced a tough challenge with the continued dumping of cheap, low-grade steel into the American market, further endangering an already threatened middle class.

Haine recognized the catastrophic impact this would have on the families of those employed at the plant, as well as the surrounding area. He quickly rallied the Illinois Senate to formally demand the President of the United States and Congress review the national tariff policy on steel goods, as well as consider all possible trade economic policies to protect the steel industry.

This is but one example of Haine's strong commitment to protecting working, middle-class families, not only in the communities he represents across the Metro East, but throughout the state.

As the chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, Haine remains an authority on the industry and used his expertise in the area to protect the needs

and rights of consumers while maintaining the proper balance in state law.

Haine led the way in keeping companies accountable for their payments on workers' compensation claims. He worked to amend the insurance code by establishing financial requirements for large deductible workers' compensation policies. The legislation ensures that companies are responsible to their commitments and report all outstanding obligations.

Haine continues to be a trailblazer in addressing statewide issues of insurance and criminal law while keeping a close watch on the local communities he represents. Senator Haine has shown a deep commitment to pushing the state forward and stimulating growth within the Metro East.

For example, he fought in the Senate for legislation that would keep the Illinois Auto Theft Task Force funded. The program is designed to mitigate the number of car thefts throughout the state. At its core, however, is consumer protection. The program has had as high as an 8:1 pay back on funding, and it allows insurance companies to be better equipped to handle instances of car thefts.

Senator Haine has also been an advocate for public safety. He led the way in passing legislation that would create buffer zones between adult entertainment facilities and schools, daycare centers and places of worship. Haine led this initiative in order to keep children safe and make sure people are able to feel protected from the lewd behaviors these establishments incite.





Mattie Hunter

Majority Caucus Whip | Public Utilities chair | 3rd Senate District



The youth unemployment rate in Illinois consistently ranks among the highest in Illinois. In Chicago alone, joblessness

among minority youth has skyrocketed to 90 percent for African-Americans and 79 percent for Hispanics.

Senate Majority Caucus Whip Mattie Hunter is fighting that epidemic. The veteran Chicago Democrat has traveled the state listening to youth talk about how employment programs keep them out of trouble and open new avenues for academic and economic improvement.

And she takes those personal stories back to the Capitol to advocate for those children and those opportunities.

This session she sent to the governor's desk a new summer internship program for foster children through the Department of Children and Family Services (SB 1255). Hunter said the program would offer professional training and experiences for at-risk children and, more importantly, provide Gov. Bruce Rauner with an opportunity to show he truly cares about making Illinois a compassionate state.

In addition, Senator Hunter also sponsored legislation to

create a Young Adult Recreation Corps (SB1808) that would have the state provide grants to local sponsors to pay young adults who work on conservation and recreation programs this summer.

Again, the goal is to find employment and educational opportunities for young people to teach them life skills and help keep them out of trouble. The proposals are the result of hearings she hosted in East St. Louis, Decatur, Rockford and Chicago to hear from local youth looking for opportunities to work and learn.

Hunter also remains an outspoken advocate for reform at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The Senator participated in several social media forums including a Twitterchat with former DCFS wards to learn from those who

have gone through the system how to best improve it.

Hunter spearheaded a policy to decrease household instability during guardianship battles in which guardians or parents move children out of state. Last year she won approval of laws protecting children while they remain in Illinois. This year she guided SB 786 to the governor's desk. It would prevent one parent or guardian from removing a child from Illinois without providing proper notice to the disputing parent.

And as the new head of the Senate's Energy and Public Utilities Committee, Senator Hunter fought to make Illinois competitive without increasing the financial burden on residents.





Iris Y. Martinez

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



When Senate Majority Caucus Whip Iris Y. Martinez found out that Gov. Bruce Rauner

wanted to eliminate funding for a local preschool program specializing in serving low-income families who have HIV/AIDS and a wide range of other serious medical conditions, the senator immediately spoke out in support of restoring funding.

After all, she said, for some families dealing with HIV/AIDS, the Children's Place Association is the only resource they have in all of Chicago.

Martinez's passionate response to protect the most vulnerable symbolizes her career in the Illinois Senate and service to the people of the 20th Senate District.

For example, Martinez – the first Latina ever elected to the Illinois Senate – was the first to publicly express her disappointment in the lack of Latino representation in Gov. Rauner's new administration and the number of Latinos he'd fired from state government jobs.

She urged the new governor to make his administration look more like Illinois.

Similarly, when Gov. Rauner proposed cutting funding for welcoming centers, Martinez also fought to preserve resources for the facilities that help Illinois' newest residents learn English, find jobs and become productive members of our economy.

Senator Martinez joined her Senate Democratic colleagues in advancing legislation to annually increase the current \$8.25 minimum wage until it reaches \$11 an hour in 2019. This anti-poverty measure would lift hundreds of thousands of people out of poverty and encourage economic growth by increasing spending in our local communities. And in an effort to help the business community, the legislation has a reasonable phase-in process and institutes a tax credit for businesses with

fewer than 50 employees.

In response to zero-tolerance laws enacted in Illinois in recent years, Senator Martinez passed legislation that will give ex-offenders a fair shot at obtaining a professional license and hopefully encourage their productive return to society. This legislation is particularly important to young people who are banned from certain professions after making a mistake at an early age.

Senator Martinez believes that those who have paid their dues and rehabilitated themselves deserve a second chance.





Scott Bennett

52nd Senate District



Freshman Senator Scott Bennett hit the ground running during his first session, fighting to protect the environment, improve

ethics and defend the people and communities he represents at the Capitol.

For instance, one of his first initiatives was protecting the Mahomet Aquifer, the major source of groundwater for 15 counties across east-central Illinois, from contamination.

The work he accomplished during his first 100 days in office will leave an everlasting impression on the region. The regulations put in place for the aquifer move us one step closer to ensuring safe drinking water for generations to come.

Good government begins with accessibility and accountability to taxpayers in Illinois. In an age when Internet access is commonplace, Bennett sponsored legislation requiring government boards to post their meetings online in an effort to expand public participation and accountability. Making this information readily available will help keep people informed and engaged.

Recognizing the repercussions, Bennett fought Governor Bruce Rauner's proposal to slash more than 30 percent of the University

of Illinois' state funding. Bennett argued that the state needs to recognize how vital the university is not just to east-central Illinois, but as an economic engine for all of Illinois.

The cuts the governor proposed guarantee higher tuition costs, smaller class sizes and fewer faculty, putting the university at a competitive disadvantage. Bennett's petition opposing the cuts collected more than 500 signatures to relay to policymakers the importance of the University to Illinois.

Bennett also sought to protect students who too often run up mammoth debts in paying for their college degrees.

He proposed changing the state law that suspends professional licenses and certificates in the event the person defaults on a student loan. The new senator said the situation makes no sense. If student debts force people out of

professional jobs, they won't be able to pay back the loans that are the source of the problems.

Bennett said state policies should focus on putting people to work, not excluding them. He passed an initiative to prevent licensing boards from denying, revoking or suspending individual professional licenses due to student loan default in Illinois, which is one of 22 states with such a policy.

Understanding that the key to responsibly solving the state's problems comes from the people he represents, Bennett kicked off his first year in office with an aggressive outreach plan by hosting nine town hall meetings to listen to residents' concerns and opinions. He is looking forward to continuing to meet with residents by holding a town hall meeting in all incorporated municipalities in the district.





Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant

49th Senate District



The difference between a fraction of a teaspoon and a tablespoon may seem insignificant, but when

it comes to pure, unregulated caffeine powder it can be the difference between life and death.

Responding to a string of tragic accidental poisonings across the country, State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant led efforts to ban the sale of pure caffeine powder.

The powder, which has become popular for young people to use, is nearly 100 percent pure caffeine and difficult to measure with common kitchen tools. Just one teaspoon of the powder is equal to drinking approximately 25 cups of coffee at once and can easily prove fatal.

Under Bertino-Tarrant's proposal, it would be illegal for caffeine powder to be sold to anyone under the age of 18.

It's just one example of the senator's efforts to find commonsense solutions.

For instance, Bertino-Tarrant won Senate approval of legislation that would allow the Department on Aging and local law enforcement agencies to create a state-wide awareness program to help locate individuals

with Alzheimer's and other cognitive diseases who go missing.

Sadly, nearly one-third of Illinois' more than 200,000 residents who have Alzheimer's disease or related dementias are likely to wander, and the state currently does not have an adequate system to alert the public.

Bertino-Tarrant also sought to reduce chronic unemployment by offering tax incentives for businesses to hire those out of work for six months or more.

Recognizing the benefits of public transportation, Bertino-Tarrant proposed equalizing tax credits for commuters to incentivize bus and train use, hopefully getting vehicles off the region's crowded highways.

The senator also sought to cut business costs and give local

schools relief from the litany of expensive state mandates.

She proposed dropping the state fee for registering a new business from \$500 to \$39.

And at a time when local school districts are seeing state dollars dwindle but are getting no relief from the numerous and expensive requirements the state passes down to them, Bertino-Tarrant stepped up with a commonsense solution. She was the lead sponsor of legislation that would allow local officials to identify mandates that they don't consider crucial to the mission of educating students. There would be a public hearing regarding them, and then the voters would be able to vote on whether bureaucratic state school regulations stay or go.





Daniel Biss

Human Services chair | 9th Senate District



Perhaps the only thing worse than hackers stealing millions of Target's customers' credit and personal

information was the weeks that passed before the retailer let people in on what had happened.

That infamous 2013 incident, in which nearly 42 million people had their credit or debit information stolen, spurred State Senator Daniel Biss and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan to join forces and come up with a way to better protect and inform consumers of data breaches that could jeopardize their financial and personal information.

Their proposal requires companies to have reasonable security measures and to disclose any data breaches to consumers and to the Attorney General so that we can understand when data is being lost, and how much.

It was one just one example of how Senator Biss worked this spring at the Capitol as a vigorous advocate for protecting private information, health rights and retirement security.

Biss continued to protect the privacy of sensitive information and citizen's health rights by pushing legislation that sought to diminish incidents in private

insurance where sensitive Explanation of Benefits (EOB) information is provided to a policyholder when it regards someone else on the plan. In an abusive situation this can prove to be a large barrier to medical care and can ultimately stop treatment.

Biss also fought for a state ban on so-called "conversion therapy" practices that have caused mental illness, trauma and suicide.

Senator Biss recognizes that too many families do not know when or from where their next meal will come. This is precisely why Biss fought for more families to receive federally-funded SNAP benefits in Illinois. Many more struggling, hard-working families will now have a lifeline to ensure they can afford the basic necessities of life.

Just as he championed efforts to protect privacy, health rights and food security, Senator

Biss spearheaded legislation protecting retirement security. Retirees should not live in fear that their pension will not be funded. Under Biss' legislation, employers who don't make adequate contributions into their local pension funds would be held accountable, preventing local retirement systems from falling into the same trap state pensions have.

Even as he is involved in numerous high profile issues, Biss remains an accessible public official and keeps the needs of the 9th Senate District front and center. This session, he has continued to use modern, innovative resources to engage with constituents, while going on several radio and television programs to share his ideas and initiatives for the district and state.





Melinda Bush

31st Senate District



In 1998, the Zion Nuclear Power Plant that had been the economic lifeblood of the Lake County community was shutdown

forever because of an employee's error in managing one of the reactors. Essentially, overnight the community lost more than half its tax base and hundreds of jobs. Due to nuclear storage requirements and federal foot dragging, prime Lake Michigan real estate now sits unusable as an ad-hoc spent nuclear fuel site and likely will for the foreseeable future.

Senator Melinda Bush refused to accept this status quo and is fighting to give the people of Zion a new voice and new revenues. Bush's proposal would give local communities the ability to impose fees on decommissioned nuclear plants that leave radioactive waste in communities. She succeeded in getting her plan through the Senate this spring and is increasingly drawing attention to an economic situation that nearly half a dozen Illinois nuclear power plant communities will someday face, but few have contemplated.

As heroin abuse and addiction continue to plague suburban communities, Bush is working with local activists who are calling for greater access to lifesaving

medication that can stop an overdose when time is critical. State law has added the safe, easy-to-use antidote Narcan to the tools available to police and first responders, but more work must be done so families of addicts can have it ready in a worst case scenario.

Working closely with law enforcement and a local organization fighting for greater access, Bush has pushed legislation that would help increase Narcan's prescription availability and provide people with training on how to use it in an emergency.

Bush's approach to common sense governance has been a touchstone of her public service since her time on the Lake County Board where she fought for reforms to the Lake County and Forest Preserve Boards. As she wraps up her second year as a

state senator, she's brought that spirit of service to Springfield with efforts to consolidate government and hold state boards and commissions accountable for their expenses. She sponsored legislation this year to crack down on payroll abuses of part-time boards and commissions that pay on a per-meeting basis.

Bush's experience as a founder of the Grayslake Downtown Merchant's Association and a small business owner also inform her legislative efforts. This year, she sponsored and supported business-friendly legislation that would help encourage businesses that border other states to remain in Illinois, lower the filing fees for starting a new business and bring all the necessary paperwork to start a new business to one website.





Jacqueline Y. Collins

Financial Institutions chair | 16th Senate District



Legislation protecting vulnerable senior citizens from losing their homes in reverse mortgage schemes was

one of Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins' signature achievements in a year in which she also lent her voice to those threatened by unprecedented budget cuts.

Collins, who chairs the Senate's Financial Institutions Committee and is an experienced advocate for consumers and homeowners, filed the reverse mortgage borrower protection measure in response to the scamming of dozens of low-income, minority seniors by a remodeler named Mark Diamond. Diamond convinced his victims to take out reverse mortgages on their beloved family homes to pay for home improvements, took the loan proceeds and never finished the promised repairs. Collins' legislation creates a three-day cooling-off period to allow borrowers to reconsider, requires lenders to provide would-be borrowers with information and a list of counselors and prohibits anyone who would benefit financially from the loan from facilitating a reverse mortgage.

As vital services such as child care assistance ran out of money

and the new administration proposed deep cuts in next year's budget to programs that serve vulnerable individuals, at-risk youth and disadvantaged communities, Collins emerged as an honest and prophetic voice for the voiceless. Early in 2015, she called attention to the governor's decision to suspend grants already awarded to youth employment and after-school programs that keep kids off the streets and teach them valuable skills in the 16th District and beyond. She spoke out strongly against slashing funding for HIV/AIDS treatment, Medicaid, violence prevention programs and more.

Collins also continued to support closing corporate tax loopholes and other budget-balancing solutions that equitably distribute the necessary

sacrifices. To relieve the pressure on low-income working families and boost local economies, she reintroduced her plan to double the state's earned income tax credit.

Collins sponsored or co-sponsored a wide variety of legislation dealing with issues from police-involved deaths to juvenile justice reform to chronic truancy. She worked to bring economic development, including a new Metra station and the film Chiraq, to her district. She also rallied Senate support for the young players of the Jackie Robinson West Little League team and proudly brought before the Senate a resolution recognizing Illinois as the first state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, 150 years ago.





Tom Cullerton

23rd Senate District



Senator Tom Cullerton's priorities remain connected to the residents of the 23rd Senate District. This year, his focus was addressing

the needs of the communities in DuPage and Cook counties.

As a father of three young boys, Cullerton sprang into action to raise awareness for Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS). When Cullerton first heard of concerns from local constituent Kate Drury regarding the severe need to educate medical professionals and parents of the symptoms caused by PANDAS, he knew something needed to be done. He knew we had to find ways for early diagnosis to prevent families from living months without answers. The earlier we detect these signs of PANDAS, the quicker children can begin treatment.

He advanced legislation to create an advisory council to make recommendations to the Illinois Department of Public Health on awareness and education among doctors, school-based health centers and mental health providers.

Residents in communities surrounding O'Hare International Airport have suffered from disturbances caused by planes

taking off from O'Hare during early mornings and late evenings. To alleviate noise pollution and restore their quality of life, Cullerton advanced a series of measures to help address this problem.

Cullerton recognizes state officials have attempted to resolve this issue. However, we are at the point where we need federal assistance to find a solution to restore the quality of life for our communities. To urge the federal government to take action by circulating a petition to urge the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to examine the environmental and human health impacts caused by O'Hare.

Good democracy begins with active and educated participation. In line with this principle, Cullerton advanced measures to ensure more people are engaged in the political

process. He passed legislation to require civics education in high school classrooms to ensure students know how government works to make sure government is working for them.

Under legislation Cullerton advanced to fight voter fatigue, residents will be given the opportunity to vote for their school board members alongside candidates for the White House and U.S. Senate. He recognizes that we can't force people to go out and vote but we can take steps to make it easier.

In addition to his work in Springfield, Cullerton continues to provide open and honest government to his constituents throughout the district. So far this year, he has hosted more than a dozen "Capitol on Your Corner" events in his efforts to bring state government to area residents.





Bill Cunningham

18th Senate District



When he heard that questionable compensation practices were occurring at Illinois' institutions of higher learning,

State Senator Bill Cunningham began working to reform that system. As chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee on Executive Compensation, Senator Cunningham worked to bring to light the abuses at these important institutions and is working to put a stop to them.

Cunningham will chair the subcommittee during the summer and fall in order to bring needed reforms to higher education, including more open contract negotiations and new, rigorous auditing practices.

Cunningham is also concerned about the future of the Cook County criminal justice system. Anyone who has lived in Cook County knows the system is plagued by issues ranging from an overcrowded jail to out-of-date regulations.

That's why Cunningham was eager to help find solutions when approached by the Cook County Sheriff's Office. Their goal was making the system more financially stable, increasing public safety and beginning to turnaround the public's perception of a broken system.

Years of overcrowding at the

Cook County Jail have led to many problems. In many cases, lengthy incarcerations on minor offenses result in skyrocketing costs to taxpayers. Cunningham worked with the Cook County Sheriff's Office to strike a balance that ensures public safety while safeguarding taxpayer dollars.

The resulting legislation — SB 202 — will create a special court for nonviolent offenders charged with retail theft, criminal trespass and other low-level offenses. Currently, many people arrested on those charges lack the resources to make bail and end up incarcerated, draining taxpayer resources when, arguably, they are not direct threats to the public. The pilot program will allow the sheriff to designate participants in the program based on past legal history and will help ease the burden in the courtroom and in the jail.

Cunningham and the Cook County Sheriff's Office also worked together on legislation to help protect wards of the Department of Children and Family Services. The Safeguard our Children Act spells out what is required from DCFS once a youth in the agency's custody is reported missing. The legislation states that DCFS must report the missing youth to local law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Illinois State Police must also develop a network to help locate missing DCFS wards.

Despite the workload in Springfield, Cunningham continues to maintain a full in-district schedule, including extending district office hours, sponsoring recycling and shredding events as well as hiring and job fairs for constituents seeking employment.





William Delgado

Education chair | 2nd Senate District



When news broke that drug addicts in Puerto Rico were being sent to Chicago with the promise of receiving world-class treatment only to end up neglected in abandoned apartments, Senator William Delgado went to work to get these vulnerable people help and to stem the abuse.

After visiting numerous treatment facilities to meet with the individuals and learn about how they got to Chicago, he pledged to them that he would find suitable rehabilitation facilities that fit their needs.

He immediately opened a direct line of communication with the Puerto Rican government, and spearheaded the effort to connect the Illinois Department of Public Health to its Puerto Rican counterpart. Now, Puerto Rico and Illinois are working together to find rehabilitation facilities for those who so desperately need them.

For Delgado, it was merely the latest example in a career built on helping the most vulnerable in society and giving them a voice in state government.

When the governor's budget threatened to cut services for those in his district, he spoke out

against the budget and stood up to defend the 2nd Senate District.

This culminated in Delgado gathering fellow lawmakers at The Children's Place Association in Humboldt Park to protest Governor Rauner's proposed elimination of funding for the pre-school center that serves families suffering with medical conditions such as HIV/AIDS.

Speaking to the Chicago media, Delgado challenged the governor to actually visit the facility, speak with the parents and children, learn about the services that are offered there and then decide if funding for the mission is still worth eliminating.

As chairman of the Senate Education Committee, he also took meaningful steps to protect Illinois students and ensure a quality education.

To counteract the ever-

present violent crime in Chicago neighborhoods surrounding some schools, he co-sponsored legislation that provides for safer transportation methods to school for students who live in areas with high rates of violent crime. The biggest risk in getting an education should not involve the walk to and from school.

Delgado also supported a Senate overhaul of school discipline policies that had too often resulted in disproportionate suspensions and expulsions for minority students. He argued that denying a student access to a public education must be reserved for worst-case situations that present an on-going threat to schools and fellow students.





Gary Forby

Labor chair | 59th Senate District



State Senator Gary Forby has long been an advocate of working-class families and has been ensuring the interests of Southern

Illinois residents are represented. The governor's budget proposal and agenda waged an all-out assault on working families and Southern Illinois' economy.

Senator Forby is continuing the fight to ensure workers are given fair working conditions and competitive wages. The new governor proposed policies that roll back decades of progress workers' rights advocates have accomplished. Right-to-work zones have been crippling to our neighboring states economies and wouldn't be equitable in Illinois.

Studies confirm that right-to-work laws reduce wages and salaries by an average of 3.2 percent. They also lower the share of workers who have important benefits like health care and pensions. These hostile policies also increase the amount of people who rely on taxpayer-funded government assistance.

According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics' Average Annual Pay for 2013, people in "right-to-work" states earn 12.2 percent less than people in other states, and families under these laws make 11.8 percent less than families in other states.

Senator Forby also fought to keep several items in the budget to ensure the Southern Illinois economy can sustain itself and continue to grow.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale serves tens of thousands of students throughout Illinois and surrounding states. Not only does Southern Illinois University serve as a learning institution, but it's also a driving force in the Southern Illinois economy. Governor Rauner's proposed cut of over \$64 million would be crippling to our region, causing massive layoffs and most importantly reducing educational opportunities for our future generation of leaders and innovators.

Senator Forby also worked to sustain funding for Franklin County Detention Center and Amtrak services.

During the governor's budget address, the governor announced his plan to shut down Franklin

County Detention Center. Franklin County Detention Center serves 26 counties throughout Southern and Central Illinois. The nearest juvenile detention center to Southern Illinois is a 4-hour round trip commute, which forces juvenile inmates to be housed in local prisons costing taxpayers close to three times the amount to house an inmate.

Southern Illinois residents were troubled to learn about Governor Rauner's plan to reduce transportation options. Rauner's recommendation to cut Amtrak services will have a detrimental effect on Southern Illinoisans. People travel from around the country to engage in thousands of outdoor activities Southern Illinois offers. Without reliable transportation options, a lot of small businesses who depend on tourists will be forced to close their doors and the cities will suffer.





Napoleon Harris III

15th Senate District



Drawing on the unique workplace realities of his NFL career, Senator Napoleon Harris III

advanced legislation that would allow out-of-state medical professionals to practice medicine in Illinois as part of their contract with visiting athletic teams. Harris' understanding of the importance of having qualified medical professionals who are familiar with athletes' medical history puts him in a place to be a strong advocate for the best medical care possible when injuries occur.

However, Senator Harris is much more than a former NFL player. As a business owner Senator Harris has emerged as a strong advocate for small businesses and led efforts to bring greater diversity to state projects and contracts.

Harris hosted several minority business summits throughout the state, and small business round table discussions in his district office in an effort to gain a better understanding of policies that would be useful in helping minority businesses thrive in Illinois.

These meetings have led to important legislation to create initiatives that would increase the opportunities small businesses and minority-owned businesses have throughout the state.

With the goal to ease the burden these business owners are facing, he sponsored a measure to increase opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses to win state construction contracts. Additionally, he pushed legislation that would require state agencies to hold pre-bid conferences at a location in the area where the work will take place in hopes of attracting more bids from local contractors.

These measures are a testament to Harris' continued efforts to sponsor legislation that

strengthens the communities he represents by giving families the resources they need to build businesses and provide for themselves.

Harris is also dedicated to improving family stability. He sponsored legislation that would allow grandparents who have taken on the role of primary caregiver to receive up to 12 weeks of unpaid family medical leave a year.

Senator Harris continues to be a strong advocate for those in his community, and he remains a strong voice on important state issues. He has been committed to working in a bipartisan fashion in order to address Illinois' most pressing issues.





Michael E. Hastings

19th Senate District



When Governor Bruce Rauner shut down state-supported child care programs for working families, Senator

Michael Hastings didn't have to look far to see the real-world impact.

The child care center located next to the senator's office in Richton Park served as a daily reminder of the shortsighted budget mistakes made by the new administration and the lasting harm caused to working parents.

Hastings carried the plight of those families back to the Capitol, emerging as a leading critic of the governor's cuts and voting to restore funding so parents could remain employed and their children could have stable care.

It was just one way in which the Tinley Park Democrat established himself as a staunch defender of the residents of the Southland communities he represents. For example, Hastings stood in opposition to the governor's raid on local budgets, which could have triggered local property tax hikes or deep cuts to public safety personnel and programs.

As a member of one of the Senate's budgeting committees,

Hastings challenged state agency directors to visit the south suburbs so he could personally show them the communities that would be affected by the proposed funding cuts.

In response to a local tragedy, Hastings worked to change state law to provide greater awareness of suicide and prevention. Hastings' sponsored Senate Bill 1793, which requires the Illinois State Board of Education to develop a model suicide awareness and prevention policy for all schools districts in the state.

He named the legislation AnnMarie's Law, in remembrance of AnnMarie Blaha, an Orland Park girl who committed suicide and whose family is working to raise awareness. The law's goal is to prevent teen suicide by teaching educators how to

identify and serve students who are displaying suicidal behavior.

As one of the youngest members of the Illinois Senate, he has tasked himself with supporting legislation that keeps Illinois in line with the constant advances in technology. Recognizing the growth in online purchases, he supported a measure that protects the data of these consumers by allowing the Attorney General's office to monitor and compile all relevant data when a consumer data breach occurs.

In addition to handling a full workload in Springfield, Hastings also earned his Juris Doctorate degree from John Marshall Law School, passed the state BAR exam and got married to his wife, Katie.





Linda Holmes

Commerce and Economic Development chair | 42nd Senate District



The poor, the sick and the elderly should not be the ones tasked with balancing the Illinois budget. Yet, as a budget shortfall from last year and budget proposals from Governor Rauner reveal, the state's most vulnerable are still being asked to do so. As a survivor of multiple sclerosis, State Senator Linda Holmes brings a personal understanding and compassion to issues of health care, elder care and human services as she speaks out against unfair burdens on working-class Illinoisans.

Holmes sent that message loud and clear this past year, speaking up for day care centers closed by the budget shortfall that kept important child care reimbursements from hardworking families.

She later joined caregivers and families at the Association for Individual Development in Aurora to speak out against proposed cuts to critical services, such as respite care for families with children with disabilities and mental health problems.

While fighting to keep attention on the struggles of the people she represents, Holmes also worked with state executive officers on important, bipartisan

ethics issues and business regulation.

Holmes collaborated with Comptroller Leslie Geissler Munger to pass legislation clarifying the self-auditing of state agencies and ensuring that state agencies without an internal auditor have the authority to use another agency's auditor or hire a private contractor.

Holmes also worked to pass another provision with Munger's help that would continue efforts to streamline the state's finances. Under a plan originally introduced by the late Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, the state would create a task force aimed at finding redundancy in special state bank accounts and issuing a recommendation on combining or eliminating specific accounts. As Munger has pointed out, the state currently operates more than 900

separate accounts, compared to Wisconsin's 60. Among other curious characteristics, the state operates a Salmon Fund that is inexplicably separate from its Fish and Wildlife Fund.

Cooperating with Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Holmes championed the rights of workers with legislation that updates and toughens regulations on employment agencies that send job seekers to unlicensed or unregulated employers. Many such employers abuse workers, and the Attorney General's Office has fielded complaints of mandatory six-day work weeks with 12-hour shifts, forcing employees to pay off their own referral fees and even housing workers in substandard conditions without access to medical attention for on-the-job injuries.





Toi Hutchinson

Revenue chair | 40th Senate District



Every year in Illinois, corporations cash in on millions of dollars' worth of tax breaks for, of all things, creating

jobs in other states. All this while our state struggles to find funding for public education and services for the elderly.

It's a situation that makes no sense and one that Senator Toi Hutchinson is working to expose and change. Through a series of hearings championed in her role as Senate Revenue Committee chairwoman, Hutchinson brought public attention to these corporate loopholes and pushed to do away with them.

By closing three major loopholes – none of which have anything to do with corporations improving economic conditions in Illinois – Hutchinson would end more than \$330 million worth of corporate welfare, money that could be used to pay state debts and reduce the burden on middle-class households.

At a time when vital services are being cut to balance the budget, Hutchinson said there must truly be a shared sacrifice that includes corporate taxes, too.

Targeting outdated corporate welfare was part of Hutchinson's continued effort this year at the

Capitol to protect Illinois' most vulnerable residents and the services, care and programs they rely on.

For example, Hutchinson won Senate approval for protecting victims of domestic violence and people with disabilities from possible eviction if their residence is the subject of repeated police calls. Many communities throughout the state have put in place so-called "crime-free" local laws in an effort to crack down on violence-plagued properties. But on the flipside, someone suffering from domestic abuse might hesitate to contact authorities for help for fear of being evicted. Hutchinson's legal fix offers protection for victims.

Hutchinson also helped advance legislation creating a business campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking

in an effort to connect victims to available resources.

After President Obama called on Congress to extend paid sick time for private-sector workers, Hutchinson took the lead in Illinois, introducing a plan that would provide workers up to seven paid sick days a year.

Hutchinson also joined many of her Democratic colleagues in supporting an increase to the state's minimum wage. The proposal she co-sponsored would take the current \$8.50 an hour rate to \$11 an hour by 2019, effectively putting more money in working family's pockets while also helping stimulate Illinois' economy through increased spending on goods and services.





Emil Jones III

Local Government chair | 14th Senate District



One of the major issues for South Side residents is the lack of transportation options.

So, as city officials

trumpet news of expensive expansion of the Red Line to O'Hare, Senator Emil Jones III is speaking out to demand fair resources for the communities he represents that have been ignored too long.

Since the 1970s, community advocates and church and business leaders have pushed to extend the Red Line beyond its current stop at 95th Street. There have been CTA plans and studies, town hall meetings and training programs to prepare people for possible work. Not having access to the 'L' between 140th Street and 95th Street has created and perpetuated economic problems for South Side residents.

In his dual roles as local state senator and the chairman of the Senate's Black Caucus, Jones has emerged as an outspoken voice for needed investment in the South Side in order to move people and information around the region, ensuring everyone participates in a modern economy.

Cities around the country are moving toward faster internet

capabilities to match the needs of consumers. Senator Jones sponsored a measure to require construction companies who are working on state-funded construction projects, to notify the city of Chicago so the city can install fiber optic network wires during the project.

Around the country, cities are switching to fiber optic networks to give consumers faster and more cost-efficient internet options. This measure allows the city of Chicago to contend on a global level because the ability to communicate with one another will be nearly instantaneous after the network installations are complete. Access to information gives people the ability to respond to problems quickly before a small issue becomes a disaster.

Jones is also focused modernizing state laws to make

sure people have access to the medical information the need.

A measure sponsored by Senator Jones allows health care professionals to notify a spouse or civil union partner when HIV test results are positive. In the United States, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a health crisis, especially in the African-American community. In an effort to fight this dangerous disease, Senator Jones passed legislation to extend the African-American HIV/AIDS Response Fund.

Currently, no person may order an HIV test without first receiving an informed consent document from a medical professional. Health care facilities that administer HIV testing may continue offering opt-out testing.





David Koehler

Environment and Conservation chair | 46th Senate District



In 2014, a family from Bartonville – the Predmores – experienced a terrible tragedy. Their college-age son, Chris,

committed suicide because of severe mental health struggles. However, rather than letting his death lead them to despair, the family decided to try to make a positive difference and help other families avoid their pain.

They worked with Senator Dave Koehler and other Peoria-area legislators to make it easier for colleges and universities to share mental health information with trusted loved ones.

In the end, Koehler passed legislation to require all colleges and universities to offer new students a chance to share their mental health information with a parent or designated friend. Because college students are adults, their mental health records are private information. If they sign the form, their college can share information when they become threats to themselves or others.

Koehler believes the new law is beneficial because it will also start conversations about mental health at a time of difficult transition when mental illnesses often first surface. College

students, who are often living away from home with roommates and more stressful schedules, struggle more than many other age groups. At least one study shows that as many as a third of college students suffer from anxiety or depression at some point during the time they are earning their degrees.

For Koehler, the proposal capped a legislative session in which he also worked to improve environmental and agri-business policies.

Senator Koehler was also deeply involved in negotiating a plan to increase Illinois' use of renewable energy, which would help create jobs, protect the environment and ultimately lower electric bills.

It called on the state to get 35 percent of its electricity from renewable resources, such as

wind turbines and solar panels by 2030. It also set a goal of reducing total electricity use by 20 percent through incentivizing consumers and businesses to purchase more energy-efficient technology and weatherize buildings.

The senator also sponsored legislation to follow up on his long-standing work to promote farmers markets and cottage industry. His plans helped unify and update many recent laws to help farmers grow local food intended for humans and to sell it in venues like farmers markets. He also sponsored legislation to require the state to only purchase vehicles made in the United States and Canada. This move would help create good-paying jobs across North America.





Dan Kotowski

Appropriations II chair | 28th Senate District



Every year in Illinois, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are set aside for special interest groups, no matter the condition of the state budget. In a difficult budget year where many programs were facing additional scrutiny, this made no sense to State Senator Dan Kotowski.

When the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and other important functions ran out of money, Kotowski introduced a proposal to pay for these necessary programs by using the funds normally reserved for special interests. Thanks to Kotowski's proposal, funding for CCAP was restored without raising taxes or any additional borrowing. Now, parents no longer were forced to choose between working and finding care for their children.

It was just one example of Senator Kotowski utilizing his knowledge of the state budget process to find commonsense solutions for working families across Illinois.

Kotowski also led the charge to protect children with autism and epilepsy when the governor unexpectedly slashed \$26 million in funding for social services. By again utilizing taxpayer money

set aside for special interests, Kotowski was able to find funding to pay for these essential programs. His proposal passed the Senate with bipartisan backing.

Kotowski also worked to lessen the financial burden of higher education for middle-class families. Many students attend community college to help lower the cost of higher education. However, upon graduating and enrolling in a four-year university, many find their credits may not transfer and are forced to pay extra to retake classes they already passed.

To help these students avoid additional costs, Kotowski sponsored legislation requiring all public community colleges to create specific programs for students wishing to later enroll in four-year universities. If the students are later accepted

into four-year universities, the universities must give them junior standing, potentially saving students thousands of dollars.

Back home in the suburban district, Kotowski continued hosting Town Hall meetings in several different communities. He also held several Property Tax Workshops to give homeowners an opportunity to learn about lowering their property taxes.

A new program Kotowski started called "Bagels for Better Government," gave area residents an additional opportunity to meet with him at local coffee shops around the district. These events, along with various office hours around the district, give Senator Kotowski the opportunity to inform local residents about state issues but also ensure he's addressing their concerns when in session at the Capitol.





Steven Landek

State Government and Veterans Affairs chair | 12th Senate District



With the first Republican governor in over a decade, Senator Steve Landek was ready for a new era of bipartisanship

that was needed in Springfield to overcome some of Illinois' biggest challenges during the 2015 spring session.

As a member of one of the Senate Appropriations Committees, he listened to testimony from child care providers and other social service agencies that warned of the devastating effects if no action was taken to plug the gap in the 2015 budget.

"Elected representatives from both parties agreed to move from their immovable positions and meet somewhere in the middle," Landek said after voting in support of the bipartisan fix to the 2015 budget.

In his third year as Chairman of the State Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, he remained committed to developing consensus with his colleagues from across the aisle to ensure legislation was carefully evaluated and prepared to move on for full consideration in the Senate.

Drawing upon his deep background and experience as

both an elected municipal mayor and a business entrepreneur, Landek worked to address issues related to county, township and municipal government.

Preferring not to add to the abundance of proposals in the Senate, Senator Landek strove to improve numerous pieces of already filed legislation to ensure they were fully developed and their implementation would not hinder businesses or the people of Illinois.

As a member of the Senate Local Government Committee, he consistently voiced his opposition to additional expansion of state government and unfunded mandates. As a business owner, Landek is familiar with the business costs created by the state and supported legislative measures to improve the business climate in Illinois.

With the general consensus among lawmakers and the people of Illinois that we need government consolidation, Landek brings actual experience in government reduction and consolidation. A strong proponent of limited state government, he welcomed the opportunity to reduce government waste and stopped legislation that went in the opposite direction.

Local leaders and constituents from the 12th District visited Senator Landek in Springfield throughout session. He hosted Mayor Kris Wasowicz and Trustees of the Village of Justice to discuss preserving local funding in the state budget, joined local leaders for Muslim Action Day and met with constituents advocating for a variety of causes.





Andy Manar

48th Senate District



In 1996, Andy Manar wasn't a state senator. He was a college student visiting the Capitol. He watched a governor and lawmakers

debate how to best fund schools and the glaring differences between schools with resources and those without.

In 1996 that plan to overhaul state school funding failed.

A year later, a watered down version became law and has remained largely unchanged ever since.

Almost 20 years later, State Senator Andy Manar renewed the needed debate on student resources and continues his advocacy for need-based school funding reform.

Illinois continues to be ranked the worst in the nation for school funding equity, placing a high burden on local tax payers and consistently cutting funding to schools in communities with high poverty. This reality is made worse by the proliferation of both urban and rural poverty.

Manar's work to change this system can now be found in Senate Bill 1. It creates a unified education funding formula that bases state aid on the needs and attributes of a school's students. This proposal replaces the nearly 20-year-old General State Aid formula that has

become unwieldy and underfunded.

Manar's SB 1 reverses Illinois' unsustainable trend of underfunding needy schools and is geared towards giving every child the same opportunities to succeed. This session he has worked across the partisan aisle and reached out to the Illinois House to find common ground on this much-needed reform.

While education reform remains Manar's top priority for Illinois, he has been involved in numerous key issues.

During this year's budget negotiations Manar served on both Senate Appropriation Committees. He invited community organizations, service providers and local government officials to testify about the real-life impact of the state budget and the ripple effect that budget cuts have throughout the state.

In addition to his work on the

budget and pushing for education funding reform, Manar worked with Central Illinois faith and civic leaders to sponsor legislation promoting workforce equality. He sponsored a proposal that would create an oversight commission to ensure that the state and federally funded high-speed rail project in Springfield meets diversity hiring goals.

Likewise, he sponsored legislation urging the federal government to update its minority hiring goals for companies that receive federal tax dollars and contracts. The overarching goal of both proposals was to ensure that the state's workforce represents the diversity of its people.

Manar continued his work with area after-school art programs for homeless and low-income children and he has maintained his practice of featuring area student artists' work in his offices.





Pat McGuire

Higher Education chair | 43rd Senate District



Every year, high school students across the country participate in Advanced Placement courses that hold the

promise of college credit upon completion. There is just one catch: the students must achieve at least a score of 3 on a 5-point scale.

For those diligent students looking to apply to schools in Illinois, it can often be unclear just which schools accept those hard-earned AP credits. While a score of 3 or above in History may get you credit at Western Illinois University, the same score might not be enough to garner credits at Northern Illinois University.

For State Senator Pat McGuire, it seemed to be utterly perplexing that there was no existing standard regarding the acceptance these course credits. As the chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, he took to his role and worked at length with leaders from various institutions across Illinois to come up with legislation that would keep some of Illinois' best students looking at universities at home rather than neighboring states. Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin all have

standardization when it comes to state colleges and universities acceptance of AP credits so Illinois students already know their credits will count there.

It is just one way that former educator McGuire has been working to leverage his position in the Illinois State Senate to benefit students. But education has not been his only focus. His remains dedicated to rehabilitating Joliet's Collins Street prison facility, the iconic former state prison that has quickly deteriorated after being shuttered amid budget cuts. McGuire is a charter member of the Collins Street Task Force, which works with the City of Joliet in an attempt to transform the facility and its grounds into parks or historic landmarks.

As a member of the Appropriations II Committee,

Senator McGuire has been a vocal opponent against what he sees as unnecessary cuts made to state programs that serve the most vulnerable across the state. He helped restore funding to keep child care centers open and make payroll at state prisons. McGuire also spoke out against the governor's efforts to shut down the Illinois Welcome Center at the Joliet Spanish Community Center.

Through his work as a member of the Illinois State Senate, Senator McGuire is a dedicated advocate for the constituents of his district. He is a lifelong resident of Will County, where he lives with his wife Lora. The McGuire's have one daughter, Molly.





Julie Morrison

29th Senate District



When former Gov. Pat Quinn arranged for one of his top campaign workers to get a cushy job at the Illinois Sports Facilities

Authority, State Senator Julie Morrison was furious.

In response, she pushed to change state ethics laws to ban such last-minute appointments by a lame-duck governor.

It was part of Morrison's ongoing work at the Capitol to increase ethics and trustworthiness of state government and streamline the state's economic development efforts.

Senator Morrison, a Deerfield Democrat, sponsored a law to require independent groups who spend money on elections to report more information to the public, helping people keep track of money in politics.

Morrison also worked to improve the state's business climate by pushing state agencies to be more streamlined and make it easier for people who want to start businesses to find the information they need.

She introduced several laws to help bring Illinois into the 21st century. One requires the state

to put all business licensing and permitting forms online. The other requires all of these forms to be posted on a centralized website.

The senator believes that entrepreneurs shouldn't have to navigate a series of a poorly maintained state agency websites and fill out paper forms when they are trying to get started.

Morrison also continued her work to reform the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Spurred on by a series of horrific news reports that revealed some of the most vulnerable and abused children were being beaten, sexually abused, allowed to become prostitutes and allowed to run away from state-contracted residential centers, Morrison

proposed a series of new laws to help turn around the troubled Department of Children and Family Services.

She proposed a law to require DCFS to compel these privately run facilities to immediately discipline any employees who abuse children in their care or who turn a blind eye when children mistreat each other or run away.

In response to the stories of DCFS wards who ended up victims of prostitution, she also introduced a plan to post the Human Trafficking Hotline at all bus stations, train stations, rest stops and other high-traffic locations. Victims often pass through these areas, and seeing the hotline number might give them another opportunity to escape.





John G. Mulroe

Public Health chair | 10th Senate District



When a measles outbreak in Chicago's suburbs brought attention to loopholes

in Illinois' public health law, Senator John G. Mulroe stepped up to offer solutions intended to protect communities and modernize lax laws.

His legislation would tighten the exemptions the state currently allows for the mandatory vaccines that had all but eliminated numerous diseases, such as measles, that once claimed thousands of lives.

As proposed, individuals seeking religious exemptions from getting immunized would have to speak with their doctors, discuss the risks involved with not immunizing and get the doctors' signatures to certify that they were informed of the dangers.

It was the kind of effort that has come to define Senator Mulroe's initial tenure as chairman of the Illinois Senate's Public Health Committee.

Mulroe has emerged as a progressive leader on public health issues, using the chairmanship position to advance women's health issues and

protect children from the re-emergence of potentially deadly ancient diseases.

Mulroe pushed to have insurance companies cover 3D mammography technology, or tomosynthesis, with Senate Bill 54. Tomosynthesis allows the radiologist to view the mammogram in multiple layers, providing a greater level of detail through dense breast tissue and detecting small growth cells that are often missed in traditional screening methods.

With his legislative district surrounding Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, Mulroe worked to resolve growing noise problems from the reconfigured runways at what is often the nation's busiest airport. With the addition of new runways,

the airport shifted arrivals and departures and exposed entire communities to aircraft noise they'd never experienced.

Mulroe sponsored Senate Bills 636 and 637 seeking to maintain the existing diagonal runways. His efforts won overwhelming Senate support. Upon learning that the Chicago Department of Aviation was moving to speed up decommissioning of one of the diagonal runways, Mulroe issued a letter to the state Attorney General asking for help in defending the surrounding communities.

Senator Mulroe is a lifelong resident of the Northwest Suburbs and resides in Edison Park with his wife, Margaret, and their four children.





Michael Noland

Criminal Law chair | 22nd Senate District



Two years ago, Illinois labs finally finished their analysis of 4,000 backlogged rape kits dating back to 1978.

Unfortunately, for many of the victims the results came too late for the legal system to pursue charges and bring justice.

Senator Michael Noland is working to make sure this horrible situation never happens again. He pushed to give prosecutors more time by extending the statute of limitations, having it begin from the time a kit is tested rather than when the crime was reported.

Noland's effort was inspired by Rosa Pickett, a rape victim whose attacker was never prosecuted because her rape kit was lost in the backlog. Under the legislation Noland passed, those affected by the backlog will no longer be forgotten and will receive the justice they deserve.

The issue serves to define Senator Noland's influential tenure as chairman of the Senate's Criminal Law Committee and membership on the Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform.

He co-sponsored legislation to ensure safety for victims of human trafficking. SB 1588 would allow courts to hold private hearings to determine whether there are safety concerns when a person accused of prostitution provides testimony, thereby ensuring the safety of those impacted by human trafficking.

At a time when the state's prison population – and taxpayer cost – is at an all-time high, Noland emerged as a leader on the need to rethink whether it makes sense to send non-violent offenders to prison.

After months of discussions, Noland passed a proposal that would begin to reform the sentencing of those accused of possessing small amounts

of marijuana. He put forth a proposal that would make possession of small amounts of cannabis a civil penalty, subject to a fine of no more than \$125, while also putting in place a threshold for driving under the influence of cannabis.

As member of the Senate Education committee, Senator Noland also realized the need for reform in education funding, fighting for equity and adequacy. Noland continued to advocate for better education funding, endorsing efforts to overhaul the state's antiquated school aid formula and replace it with one that addresses – rather than exacerbates – inequalities by distributing resources based on student needs.





Kwame Raoul

Judiciary chair | Pension Investments co-chair | Restorative Justice co-chair | 13th Senate District



Seizing on broad bipartisan support for criminal justice reform, Senator Kwame Raoul pushed

through several major pieces of legislation designed to make the public safer, policing and sentencing fairer, prisons less crowded and the entire process more transparent.

Raoul sponsored a law enforcement reform package that included comprehensive rules for the use of officer-worn cameras, or “body cams,” so Illinois law enforcement can start deploying the devices and recording police encounters. Many departments are already purchasing the cameras, which have great potential to protect officers from false accusations and members of the public from police misconduct.

Raoul was also instrumental in securing passage of legislation overhauling the juvenile justice system.

His reforms aim to reduce the population of Illinois’ juvenile justice centers by curtailing unnecessarily long sentences and emphasizing community-based programs. They will also reduce the number of juvenile offenders

shuttled into the adult corrections system, where they are less likely to receive age-appropriate services.

Raoul also sponsored successful legislation requiring judges to consider whether a defendant has been a victim of domestic violence as a mitigating factor in sentencing.

And in response to a report revealing that 20 percent of the Cook County jail’s inmates — a disproportionate number of them racial minorities — are there because they can’t afford bail, Raoul passed a measure limiting the amount of bail the Cook County Clerk can retain.

In addition to passing important criminal justice reform legislation and serving on the governor’s Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing

Reform, Raoul made strides in protecting youth from brain injury.

His legislation strengthens protections for student athletes as they return to practice and competition after a concussion but also requires schools to make academic accommodations for students who have suffered concussions. Doctors acknowledge that a gradual return to both mental and physical activity is the best way to prevent lasting brain injury as a result of concussions.

Raoul continued to serve as a strong voice for health care access, education and a fair and constitutional approach to the pension crisis.





Martin Sandoval

Transportation chair | 11th Senate District



Some Illinois parents find themselves struggling to provide basic necessities for their children, too often

leaving them feeling defeated and alone. One of the most common problems faced by middle class families trying to raise children is the high cost of diapers.

State Senator Martin Sandoval took the initiative to change that, proposing a new state law to lower the tax on baby diapers and treat them like other necessities in tax law.

As proposed, diapers would be reclassified under the lower medical and food sales tax categories rather than general merchandise. The difference is that the medical necessities and food are subject to a 1 percent sales tax versus the 6.25 percent state rate for merchandise.

When you think about how many diapers a baby goes through a day, anyone can see how expensive that can get. Sandoval recognized that diapers are as vital as any medicine to a new family and fought to make state tax law reflect reality. At a time when new parents should be enjoying their new bundle of joy, Sandoval said the government

should give them a break and worry less about a profit.

The goal was to ensure that families who may struggle for basic necessities wouldn't have to worry as much about purchasing diapers for their children. The reduced tax would leave extra cash for other necessities and reduce some of the burden for working parents.

Helping the middle class stay above water and ensuring the safety of Illinoisans was Sandoval's goal this year at the Capitol.

As the influential chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, Sandoval helped direct policies to keep up with modern needs and protect everyday motorists. For instance, he sponsored legislation to protect motorists

from unscrupulous towing companies that operate without authorization of law enforcement.

Sandoval worked diligently outside of the Capitol as well. He took pride in speaking to groups.

He also sponsored International Women's Day in early April, where he spoke on the radio with Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti and other prominent Latinas. He met with various people and groups such as the Illinois Dental Society, elementary schools, health care professionals as well as many other groups.

Senator Sandoval's agenda as a lawmaker continues to focus on the men and women who work hard every day who deserve to be able to live off of the wages they earn.





Steve Stadelman

34th Senate District



For the past few years, State Senator Steve Stadelman's hometown of Rockford has been undergoing a

significant transformation. Many new real estate development projects have begun, in part thanks to Stadelman's work in Springfield.

However, many of these projects will be in jeopardy if the River Edge Historic Tax Credit is to expire in December 2016 as currently scheduled. Under this program, developers are given an income tax credit equal to 25 percent of the cost to restore a business in a historic building.

Many local historic buildings have been refurbished thanks to this credit, including the Prairie Street Brewhouse. At a Commerce and Economic Development hearing in Rockford, many local developers testified that without the credit, their projects would not be profitable.

That's why Stadelman is sponsoring legislation to extend the River Edge Historic Tax Credit an additional five years to encourage developers to continue investing in Rockford.

It is just one example of Stadelman's work to establish

Rockford as a priority for state economic development after years of state neglect.

For instance, Stadelman continues to work extensively with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Amtrak to find funding to extend passenger rail to Rockford. Last year, funding for extending the Amtrak line to Rockford was announced. This year, however, the new governor put the project on hold.

But Senator Stadelman isn't giving up. He hosted a Senate Transportation Committee hearing in Rockford to give members of the community the ability to speak about the economic benefits of extending the railway to Rockford. Local elected officials, business owners and community members attended the hearing to support

the project. Stadelman has continued to use the testimony they provided to advocate on their behalf in Springfield.

Additionally, Stadelman proposed legislation to expand access to drug courts to non-violent offenders, a move that the National Drug Control Policy estimates could save up to \$20,000 in taxpayer dollars per participant. These courts allow non-violent drug offenders to be sentenced to a strict treatment program in exchange for lessening their sentence. The programs save taxpayers money by reducing incarceration costs and get people the help they need to hopefully turn their lives around.





Heather Steans

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



This year, Senator Heather Steans found time to sponsor legislation on a wide variety of topics, even as she

spent many hours chairing budget hearings and sitting at the negotiating table, advocating for a responsible budget that also protects the state's most vulnerable.

Steans' initiatives included business-friendly measures such as lowering the cost of filing to establish a limited liability company and making the health inspection process less burdensome for food service establishments with a low risk of spreading foodborne illness.

Her innovative special transit district legislation will create TIF-like zones around mass transit to help fund the Union Station Master Plan, the Red Line South extension and other projects.

Acknowledged as one of the legislature's foremost experts on the Medicaid program, Steans passed proposals to expand the use of managed care and coordinated care entities and collect more accurate data on Medicaid eligibility and enrollment.

She continued her push to improve health care access by

easing restrictions on Advanced Practice Nurses and to raise the wages of personnel serving those with developmental disabilities.

Steans secured passage of legislation granting immunity to those seeking medical assistance for their friends who show symptoms of alcohol poisoning, and she sponsored a plan to limit the detention of youth under age 13 in juvenile justice centers. She spearheaded efforts to strengthen environmental standards for the disposal of products containing mercury and to penalize employment discrimination against veterans.

As chair of the Senate Appropriations I Committee, Steans has remained a fierce advocate for children, working families, individuals with developmental disabilities and those experiencing mental health

challenges.

When the new administration slashed funding for autism services and when resources for child care assistance ran dry, Steans was at the forefront of finding equitable solutions to the immediate budget crisis while still directing attention toward Illinois' long-term fiscal well-being. She was especially eloquent in articulating the state's moral responsibility to assist wards of the state in transitioning to healthy, productive adulthood.

Through it all, Steans stayed active in her district, collaborating with other area officials to host informative events, promote community involvement on the North Shore and connect constituents with services.





Patricia Van Pelt

5th Senate District



Every day, hundreds of prison inmates complete their sentences, walk through the prison gates and back into society.

Despite serving their sentences and paying their debts to society, they find past convictions deny them opportunities for work and re-integration to society regardless of whether they've rehabilitated their lives and learned from past mistakes. The result is a crushing unemployment rate, an overall sense of hopelessness, a continued reliance on government welfare and, too often, a return to criminal behavior and prison.

State Senator Patricia Van Pelt is working to combat this plague that has doomed too many generations and too many communities. She understands the hardships faced by those doing their best to become productive members of society. That is why she continues to work to help former felons re-enter society and improve their lives by sponsoring legislation in Springfield to help those formerly in the criminal justice system and by holding educational events for the recently released in the 5th Senate District.

This past April, Senator Van Pelt, along with many of her legislative colleagues and other elected

officials, held a "Re-Entry Resource & Education Summit." This successful event helped formerly incarcerated individuals meet and talk with experts who can assist with successful community re-entry, sealing and expunging of records, assistance with housing and work placement as well as help registering for educational opportunities.

Senator Van Pelt has also sponsored legislation, proposed by the Illinois State Board of Education and Cabrini Green Legal Aid, to limit the types of convictions that would automatically disqualify individuals from employment within a school district, disqualify individuals from obtaining an educator's license or result in revocation of an educator's license.

A new task force designed to help at-risk women and their

families advanced thanks to Senator Van Pelt's work. The 'Opportunities for At-Risk Women Task Force' will work with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to develop plans to help formerly incarcerated women, as well as their families, become more economically stable.

Those who have been wrongfully convicted will now have an avenue of recourse with a plan championed by Senator Van Pelt. The legislation would increase the amount of money available to wrongfully convicted individuals in order to help them get their lives back in order.

Senator Van Pelt continues to stay active in the district, holding numerous events to help businesses and individuals, including job fairs and business resource events.

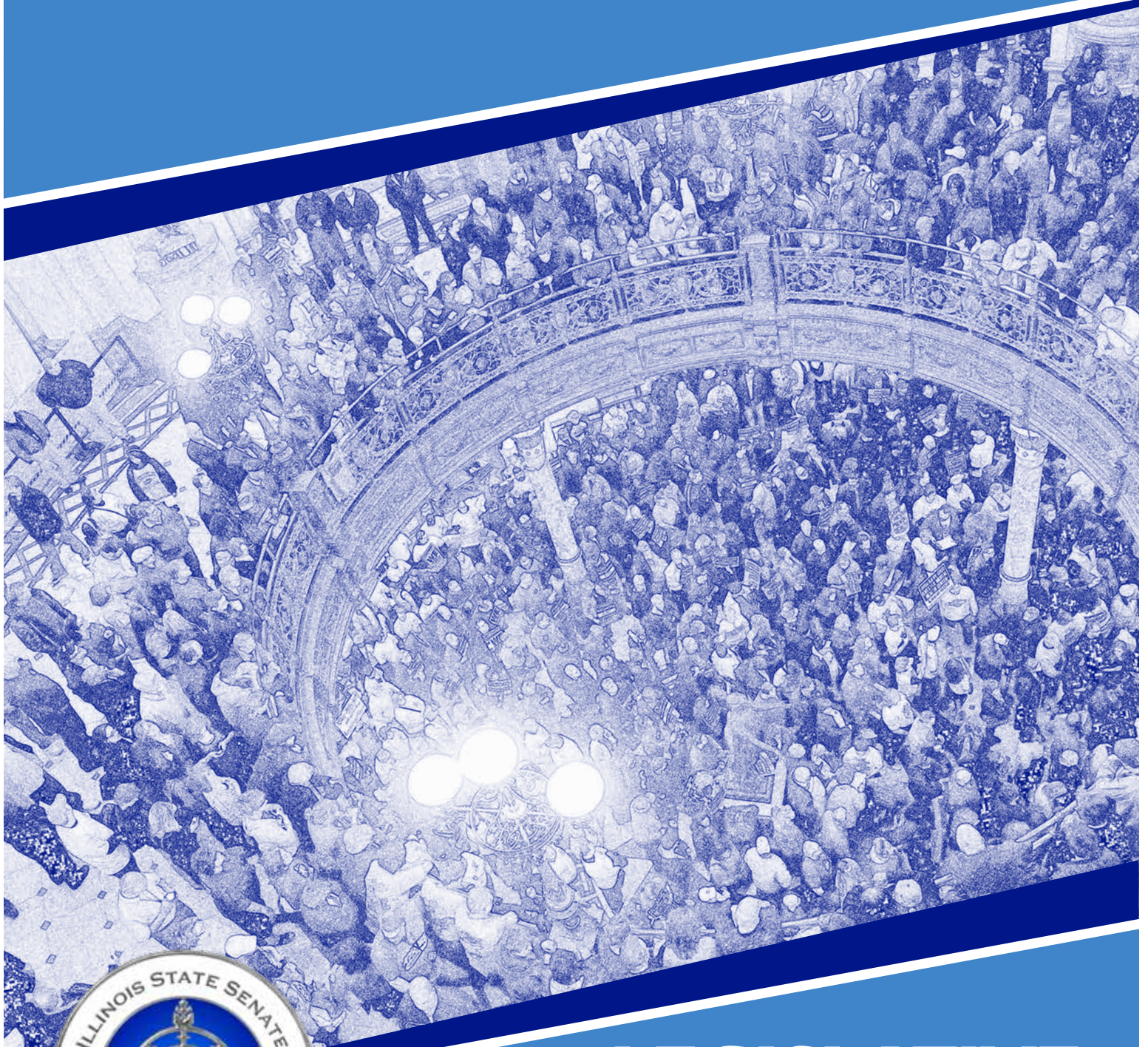




SENATE IN REVIEW

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John J. Cullerton ▪ **Senate President**



LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY ISSUE



NOTE: This digital version includes legislation signed through Sept. 30.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- HB 0352 Legalizes bobcat hunting.
- SB 0800 designates sweet corn as the official state vegetable.

HB 0123	Reforms Illinois' mining laws, including increasing bond penalties
HB 0132	Clarifies that certain public health rules apply only to farmers' markets
HB 0352	Legalizes bobcat hunting
HB 3101	Allows beef producers to self impose a fee on cattle sales to finance a beef marketing program
HB 3234	Changes the age requirement for a youth hunting license from 16 and under to 19 and under (or until the youth wants to hunt by himself or herself)
HB 3240	Increases penalties for not obtaining required licensing permits for building on public bodies of water
HB 3457	Requires DNR to prioritize building handicap-accessible playground equipment construction
HB 3523	Requires commercial wind energy companies to enter into agricultural impact mitigation agreements
HB 3747	Changes Ag Fair Act; requires transfer of funds
SB 0543	Classifies the use of mined gypsum or synthetic gypsum as a beneficial-use coal combustion byproduct (deregulating gypsum under the IEPA and registering it with the Department of Agriculture)
SB 0800	Designates sweet corn as the official state vegetable
SB 1735	If an animal owner is arrested for animal cruelty, the animals can be impounded onsite

Budget

- HB 317 and HB 318 address critical shortfalls in the current fiscal year's budget, allowing the state to meet obligations such as paying correctional officers and maintaining child care assistance for working parents.

HB 0317	FY 15 fix appropriation
HB 0318	FY 15 fix budget implementation act
HB 0576	Prevents legislators and certain executive branch officials from receiving a COLA in FY 2016
HB 3229	Authorizes annual transfer of state funds to the Auditor General for the Audit Expense Fund



HB 3763	Makes appropriations for K-12 education
HB 4166	Construction appropriations
SB 0842	Pensions budget implementation act
SB 2042	Allows the state to spend federal funds earmarked for specific purposes

Business and Economic Development

- HB 3429 amends the Illinois Securities Law by creating intrastate crowdfunding exemption.
- SB 0398 rolls back some restrictions on happy hours.
- SB 1921 requires state agencies to make all licensing applications available online

HB 1422	Updates security guard training requirements and some of their firearms rules
HB 1666	Establishes that forklift license plates need not be visible at all times
HB 2477	Authorizes banks and credit unions to undertake savings promotion raffles
HB 2486	Allows people to produce food in home kitchens for charitable activities; expands the jams and jellies cottage food operators can sell and increases the allowable income to be a cottage food operation
HB 2513	Updates tobacco dealer training requirements
HB 2557	Allows a bingo licensee to conduct special permit bingo games at the same location as its regular bingo games
HB 2797	Creates an online process for applying to be a notary public
HB 3237	Allows brew pubs to brew more beer and take advantage of new business opportunities; makes other liquor-related changes
HB 3429	Amends the Illinois Securities Law by creating intrastate crowdfunding exemption
HB 3485	Creates a task force to investigate disparities in procurement affecting African-American businesses
HB 3887	Requires State agencies review rules to make sure they're not burdensome to businesses
HB 3910	Allows title insurance companies to meet some state requirements using electronic communications and payments rather than paper processes
HB 4007	Legalizes using dust suppressants on fuel
HB 4015	Allows businesses to be issued lines producer licenses for insurance policies in certain situations
HB 4018	Clarifies that non-alcoholic goods can be distributed by alcoholic beverage distributors
SB 0038	Provides that union members whose contracts have alternate shift schedules are not entitled to overtime
SB 0046	Clarifies that food service sanitation managers and instructors must achieve passing scores on food safety exams (rather than a specified percent correct)
SB 0094	Clarifies how and when the director of the Department of Insurance must value life insurance contracts relative to the effective date of a new Valuation Manual
SB 0096	Telecom Update



SB 0368	Extends the Higgins Road/River TIF in Rosemont and extends an Industrial Jobs TIF district in Granite City
SB 0398	Liquor Omnibus; requires servers to complete alcohol training, allows hotels to operate additional bars adjacent to the hotel, rolls back some happy hour restrictions, more exemptions for locations near churches, schools, etc.
SB 0507	Allows retailers to apply for sales tax rebates when they never actually collected the money due to bad debt issues
SB 0508	Requires DCEO to create tourism grants for local convention centers
SB 0659	Requires the creation of a state website for businesses considering relocating to or opening in Illinois
SB 0936	Extends the U.S. Route 6 East Ottawa TIF and extends a TIF district in Crestwood
SB 1205	Allows doctors to use the term “retired” on their physician profiles
SB 1222	Extends a TIF district in Granite City from 23 years to 35 years
SB 1228	Clarifies that raw milk does not fall under federal labeling requirements, allowing it to be sold in certain circumstances
SB 1256	Authorizes the sale of alcohol within 100 feet of a church in Chicago
SB 1446	Allows alternative retail electric and gas suppliers to ask the ICC to keep certain business-related information confidential
SB 1504	Allows optometrists to use testimonials in their advertisements as well as the words “hospital” and “university” if they have relationships with one of these institutions; makes other licensing-related changes
SB 1516	Prohibits hotels, motels and restaurants that also distill alcohol or make wine from holding liquor licenses
SB 1548	Changes sales tax sourcing to where the equipment or item is delivered instead of where the equipment is located before it is shipped
SB 1571	Employers, property and casualty insurers are not required to reimburse a person for cost associated with medical use of cannabis
SB 1608	Lowers late filing fees for merchants who collect sales tax
SB 1714	Extends Arcola and Paris TIF districts
SB 1781	Clarifies that the Illinois Insurance Guaranty Fund is only required to pay up to \$500,000 on excess indemnification policies issued by self-insuring companies that are reimbursed for workers’ compensation claims they have already paid
SB 1805	Establishes financial requirements for high-deductible workers’ compensation policies
SB 1861	Allows banks to restructure in order to pay dividends
SB 1882	Allows currency exchanges to offer more services; limits the number of currency exchanges within specified geographic areas; makes other related changes
SB 1894	Repeals requirement of DHS to annually report to the governor and GA on the Work Opportunity Tax Credit the number of employers that have claimed, the amounts claimed and the size of the business
SB 1921	Requires state agencies to make all licensing applications available using online forms



Civil Law

- HB 217 prohibits gay conversion therapy and referring to homosexuality as an illness when advertising conversion therapy service.
- HB 2922 creates a \$2 filing fee for civil cases to fund pilot legal aid programs, including a legal aid hotline to help veterans.
- SB 0023 allows undocumented residents and the children of immigrants to obtain law licenses.

HB 0095	Brings Illinois statute into line with Supreme Court rules for the pretrial discovery process
HB 0217	Prohibits gay conversion therapy and referring to homosexuality as an illness when advertising conversion therapy service
HB 1485	Allows challenges to administrative determinations of paternity on the basis of fraud, duress, or material mistake of fact; creates a new statute of limitations for challenging paternity
HB 2505	Clarifies that temporary guardians are granted the limited powers and duties of a guardian
HB 2635	Makes changes to the legal process relating to liens
HB 3079	Updates Illinois' laws regarding intercountry adoptions
HB 3086	Clarifies that non-taxable entities don't have voting rights in real estate investment trusts
HB 3552	Allows a person to determine how his or her gender identity is addressed in the disposition of his or her remains
HB 3620	Allows civil courts to determine if witnesses or litigants are capable of expressing themselves in English; creates procedures for the appointment of an interpreter
HB 3704	Allows school IEPs to count as evidence of disability for disqualifying jurors
HB 3933	Creates a \$2 filing fee for civil cases to fund pilot legal aid programs, including a legal aid hotline for veterans
SB 0023	Allows undocumented residents and the children of immigrants to obtain law licenses
SB 0057	Makes changes to laws regarding marriage, separation, divorce and the custody of children
SB 0159	Clarifies and improves the Health Care Power of Attorney Act, including changes such as permitting agents to receive medical information right away
SB 0735	Adds more situations to the list of situations where a special representative is not needed when a person with a mortgage dies
SB 0810	Reduces the waiting period for retaking the public adjuster license exam
SB 0834	Reduces venue shopping in mental illness commitment and discharge hearings
SB 1268	Changes the way structured settlements are paid out
SB 1308	Requires courts to compel appearance of anyone who is liable to the estate of a ward pursuant to any civil cause of action
SB 1335	Allows prosecutors to receive copies of unfounded reports of child abuse if the same victim/perpetrator are involved in a new case of child abuse
SB 1877	Allows a trustee to furnish a certification of trust instead of a copy of the trust instrument in certain circumstances



Consumer Protection

- SB 344 requires O'Hare, Midway and newly constructed airports to create breastfeeding rooms.

HB 0313	Raises the minimum amount to qualify for annual (rather than monthly) gas and oil rights payments to \$100 (from \$25); establishes rules for determining when a well is inoperative
HB 1424	Extends and updates the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding and Nail Technology Act of 1985
HB 1496	Requires dentists who did not graduate from American or Canadian universities to take an additional two years of training
HB 2763	Prohibits hospitals from charging patients more for out-of-network surgical assistants than in-network
HB 2814	Establishes that mortgages are not automatically invalid if they involve unlicensed brokers
HB 3103	Adds several consumer protection measures relating to ticket brokers and resellers of tickets
HB 3369	Makes a variety of changes relating to mortgage brokering and lending licensing
HB 3766	Prohibits an electric utility or an alternative retail electric supplier from inducing an early termination fee or penalty exceeding \$50 for residential customers and \$150 for small commercial retail customers
SB 0066	Defines businesses that buy and sell used cell phones as resale dealers, making them subject to more legal safeguards to detect stolen goods
SB 0344	Requires O'Hare, Midway and newly constructed airports to create breastfeeding rooms
SB 0731	Requires the DPH to use the International Hearing Society's exam in licensing hearing instrument dispensers, set an exam fee and require at least one hour of continuing education credit in Illinois law and ethics
SB 0749	Extends the sunset for geologist licensing and increases fines
SB 0837	Extends the Physical Therapy Practice Act for 10 years; makes various changes
SB 0838	Extends the Illinois Roofing Industry Licensing Act and Athletic Trainers Act for 10 years
SB 1440	Consumer protections for borrowers considering reverse mortgages
SB 1445	Establishes that ComEd and Ameren may allow a customer to return to an ARES within two months of switching back to regular utility service
SB 1680	Allows for all documents relating to insurance coverage be stored and transmitted electronically, under certain conditions
SB 1726	Requires public utilities to hold public hearings and provide landowners with multiple notices when seeking easements for high-voltage lines
SB 1800	Requires retail food stores in towns in Cook County to submit to an inspection or conduct a self-inspection report every two years
SB 1820	Requires pawnbrokers to keep an accurate record of all goods they receive and to wait at least 10 days before disposing of any item and 15 days for items that are missing serial numbers due to normal wear
SB 1866	Prohibits debt reclamation activities against victims awaiting crime victims' compensation until after that compensation has been received



Criminal Law

- House Bill 2471 ends mandatory life sentences for minors.
- House Bill 3531 prohibits any person from smoking tobacco in any area of a day care center, day care home or group day care home.
- SB 1304 puts rules in place for the use of body cameras for police officers; amends the way arrests are handled.

HB 0341	Protects law enforcement and correctional agencies from liability for preventing the possession or use of cannabis by a medical marijuana cardholder while the cardholder is in law enforcement custody
HB 0356	Creates a drug field testing pilot program in Cook County
HB 0369	Allows the statute of limitations time period to pause when sexual assault evidence is being collected, submitted and analyzed
HB 1119	Prohibits the cost amount retained by the Cook County clerk of the court as bail bond to exceed \$100 in Cook County
HB 1337	Requires law enforcement to notify foreigners who are arrested of their right to seek help from the consul
HB 1359	Automatically suspends the license of any health care worker who is convicted of a health care-related crime
HB 1418	Lengthens the statute of limitations for prosecuting a variety of crimes if they were committed at the same time as sexual crimes
HB 1453	Creates aggravated speeding offenses for speeding 26 or more mph in excess of the posted speed in a construction, maintenance or school speed zone
HB 2471	Ends mandatory life sentences for minors
HB 2673	Gives circuit courts jurisdiction over all people alleged to be in need of treatments of psychotropic medication or electroconvulsive therapy
HB 3149	Allows a person who earned a high school diploma, associate's degree, career certificate, vocational technical certification, bachelor's degree or passed the GED during the period of his or her sentence to petition for sealing
HB 3184	Increases the penalty for aggravated assault against a peace officer, firefighter, emergency management worker or emergency medical technician from a misdemeanor to a felony
HB 3231	Enhances penalties for abusing a pet in the presence of a minor
HB 3475	Changes who is considered an eligible offender for good conduct
HB 3531	Prohibits any person to smoke tobacco in any area of a day care center, day care home or group day care home
HB 3670	Requires the state to revoke the driver's license of anyone convicted of causing a death while violating the Vehicle Code after notifying that person by mail
HB 3718	Juvenile justice reform, including raising from 15 to 16 the age at which juveniles charged with the most serious crimes must be tried as adults
HB 3785	Allows a detainee's conduct while confined in county jail pending trial or sentencing to be used against him or her for purposes of revoking good behavior credits
HB 3884	Allows prisoners to be given 90 days (rather than 60) of sentencing credit for completing their GED



HB 3930	Modernizes the definition of sexual orientation in three hate crime related statutes to include actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality and bisexuality as well as gender-related identity
HB 3977	Repeals two statutory hearsay exceptions involving witnesses who are unavailable due to the defendant's wrongful conduct
HB 3988	Requires people who intentionally falsely call 911 to reimburse the local government for all costs (up to \$10,000)
HB 4044	Allows various levels of local government to establish Juvenile Justice Councils
SB 0045	Streamlines the procedure for out-of-state subpoenas to be served on Illinois residents for purposes of discovery
SB 0125	Creates a Class A misdemeanor for a person who causes a dog or cat to suffer from exposure, resulting in injury or death
SB 0201	Creates an aggravating factor for sentencing if offenders promoted or patronized a prostitute if they knew that prostitute was ward of the state
SB 0202	Allows the Cook County Sheriff's Office to refer some defendants to the Accelerated Resolution Court
SB 0207	Authorizes a harsher sentence for a person convicted of a sexual crime when he or she committed the crime against a person with a developmental disability he or she was legally or professionally responsible for caring for
SB 0209	Allows being a victim of domestic violence to be a mitigating factor at sentencing
SB 0509	Clarifies that "contraband cigarettes" include cigarette packs without tax stamps
SB 0627	Requires people with a restricted driving permit from DUIs resulting in death or injury or who have two or more DUIs to only operate vehicles with ignition breathalyzers; requires law enforcement to inform individuals suspected of DUI of the consequences of refusing an alcohol test in writing
SB 0844	Speeds up the time span for getting criminal records sealed or expunged
SB 1062	Allows people who research controlled substances to obtain a registration issued by IDFPR to possess, manufacture, distribute and research these substances
SB 1129	Adds various synthetic drugs to the list of Schedule I controlled substances
SB 1304	Puts rules in place for the use of body cameras for police officers; amends the way arrests are handled
SB 1377	Criminalizes falsifying any information on an application, permit, record or other document required for submission to the Department of Natural Resources
SB 1389	In taking testimony from a minor or person with a developmental disability in a sex offense case, the court may allow the use of a service dog
SB 1560	Juvenile justice reform, including limits on prison sentences and a clarification of who can be charged as a juvenile
SB 1588	Creates an affirmative defense to prostitution for victims of human trafficking; establishes several other new rules to help victims of trafficking in the court process
SB 1688	Authorizes certification or copy of a birth certificate to be issued upon the request of a state's attorney for a criminal prosecution
SB 1734	Allows for fees for subpoenas and summons served by special investigators
SB 1938	Requires courts to share reports with holding facilities when criminal defendants are found medically unfit to stand trial



Education

- HB 163 prohibits ISBE from establishing separate performance standards for students based on race or ethnicity.
- SB 7 puts in place stricter guidelines for allowing youth who have suffered concussions to return to the playing field and the classroom.
- HB 4025 requires two years of high school social studies, at least one semester of civics.

HB 0152	Requires schools to have carbon monoxide detectors
HB 0163	Prohibits ISBE from having separate performance standards for students based on race or ethnicity
HB 0165	Allows students to voluntarily engage in individual or collective student-initiated, non-disruptive prayer or religious meetings during non-instructional time
HB 1360	Requires charter schools to comply with all state non-curricular health and safety requirements; requires the State Board of Education to post on its website a list of non curricular health and safety requirements that a charter school must meet
HB 2657	Authorizes ISBE to use funds to incentivize teacher retention
HB 2683	Creates a new way of measuring school progress and success
HB 2781	Allows students to use an e-learning program while not at school for a limited number of school days; creates pilot program
HB 3093	Allows a specific school district to declare interest income not previously declared
HB 3123	Makes minor changes to the law regulating IEPs for students with disabilities
HB 3159	Allows North Shore School District 112 and Sandoval Community Unit School District 501 to exceed their debt limitations and issue bonds if the individual voters approve through proposition
HB 3197	Creates an ISBE Attendance Commission to study strategies to prevent chronic absenteeism
HB 3527	Clarifies under what circumstances schools can require students to cooperate in investigations involving social media accounts
HB 3577	Requires the ISAC to consider giving grants to those attending a medical assistant program in the Roseland Community Medical District
HB 4025	Requires two years of high school social studies, at least one semester of civics
SB 0007	Establishes guidelines for preventing and treating youth sports concussions in schools
SB 0082	Makes it easier for community unit school districts, combined school districts and community consolidated school districts to pass referenda allowing them to elect school board members at large, without restriction by area of residence within the district
SB 0100	School discipline reform, including limits on the use of suspensions and expulsions
SB 0220	Temporarily exempts teachers from going through a duplicative CMS grading process for employment with the IL School for the Deaf or IL School for the Visually Impaired
SB 0665	Requires education unions to be notified if their members work in "priority" (low-performing) districts
SB 0672	Adds identity-theft security, debt and student loans to the list of required subjects in the financial literacy component of consumer education
SB 0813	Allows rather than requires the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Illinois to establish a Rural Transition program



SB 1319	School code cleanup; amends the registration and recognition process for schools
SB 1340	Extends the deadlines for two school-related task forces' reports
SB 1484	Designates Sept. 19 of each year as "Preventing Lost Potential Day"
SB 1591	Requires charter school proposals to disclose any known criminal or civil investigation by a law enforcement agency into the individual or organization
SB 1679	Creates the Virtual Education Review Committee
SB 1793	Requires the ISBE to develop a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy; requires teachers to take 4 hours training on suicide prevention every 5 years
HB 0806	Allows a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 to enroll in a course, where the student attends school, offered by the high school that the student would attend
HB 1790	Establishes that teachers who received a CTE endorsement before Jan. 1, 2015, need not take a basic skills test to renew the endorsement
HB 2807	Adds museums to the list of entities approved to provide professional development activities for Professional Educator License renewal
SB 0224	Sets forth criteria to be considered when there is a petition to change school district boundaries
SB 0226	Requires DHS and ISBE to develop a training program for case workers in every public school to register students who are developmentally disabled and qualify for services (under the PUNS list)

Elections

- SB 248 requires a political committee that makes an independent expenditure of at least \$1,000 to file a disclosure report within five days or within two days if the expenditure is made within 60 days before an election.

SB 0248	A political committee that makes an independent expenditure of at least \$1,000 must file a disclosure report within five days or within two days if the expenditure is made within 60 days before an election
SB 1265	Changes the time frame for special elections to Congress to accommodate military personnel serving overseas

Environment and Energy

- House Bill 1326 prohibits dumping certain pollutants in the Mahomet Aquifer.
- House Bill 3152 updates IEPA rules to account for properly incinerated drug evidence so it isn't considered discarded or waste.
- Senate Bill 681 designates a number of new toxic weeds.

HB 0437	Allows the collar counties to permit one-day compostable waste collection events and permanent waste collection points without an EPA permit
HB 1014	Changes the classification of a specific landfill to allow it to accept special waste
HB 1015	Permits hazardous waste entities to no longer submit manifests to the EPA
HB 1326	Prohibits dumping certain pollutants in the Mahomet Aquifer
HB 1362	Requires state agencies that manage public land to review their compost procurement rules relating to stormwater runoff



HB 1429	Creates a procurement preference for purchasing recycled goods when there is little to no difference in price
HB 1445	Establishes that high-quality sewage waste products used as fertilizer won't legally be considered sludge and can be used as fertilizer
HB 1455	Makes several changes to electronic recycling requirements to address the e-waste recycling problem affecting local governments
HB 2495	Requires DCEO to work with national consumer groups to develop symbols to indicate containers are recyclable or compostable
HB 3152	Updates IEPA rules to account for properly incinerated drug evidence so it isn't considered discarded or waste
HB 3341	Exempts generators and other non-road machinery from EPA emissions rules
HB 3560	Creates a task force to study the implications of installing and maintaining renewable energy facilities on state-owned property
HB 3624	Extends by five years the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's authority to propose "fast-track" rulemaking to the Pollution Control Board relating to the Clean Air Act
HB 4029	Requires shelters to scan for microchips and use other methods of identification within 24 hours of taking in an animal; makes other changes to promote animal welfare
SB 0547	Allows Chicago to regulate its own underground utility facilities
SB 0679	Requires mercury thermostat collection programs to also collect mercury ampoules; requires mercury thermostats to be removed from all commercial buildings before they're demolished
SB 0681	Designates a number of new toxic weeds
SB 0920	Counties and municipalities may establish standards for wind farms notwithstanding any other provision of law.
SB 1312	Requires the Illinois Commerce Commission to report on the availability of residential solar energy production and how smart grid tech may improve availability; clarifies that certain utility early termination fee caps only apply to electric service
SB 1378	Establishes a process for determining oil and gas wells abandoned
SB 1408	Limits the fee a local government (outside of Cook County) can charge certain facilities for recycling activities
SB 1518	Extends a pilot program that allows waste transfer stations to accept food scraps
SB 1590	Requires the EPA to evaluate an applicant's tire storage experience before issuing storage permits
SB 1672	Creates a Prevention of Significant Deterioration pollution permit program
SB 1707	Allows water pollution control loans to be used for a broader spectrum of projects
SB 1803	Requires IDOT to study agricultural, manufacturing, mining and other industrial operations in La Salle County and its bordering counties

Ethics

- HB 303 makes severance agreements for public bodies FOIAable.
- HB 3593 sets limits on community college contracts.

HB 0175	Establishes that the 60-day window for requesting a review of an alleged violation of the Open Meetings Act begins 60 days after discovering the violation rather than 60 days after it occurred
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HB 0303	Makes severance agreements for public bodies FOIAable
HB 0362	Updates regulation so rules governing recordings of meetings cover digital recordings; replaces references to film
HB 2474	Requires county boards to provide more notice regarding their budgets
HB 3593	Sets limits on community college contracts
HB 4078	Removes late-term executives of boards controlled by executive officers 60 days after a new executive takes office
SB 0792	Requires truth in taxation notices to be posted on taxing districts' websites
SB 1444	Allows board members to collect per diems and stipends for only one meeting when meetings are held within a seven-consecutive-day period, with exceptions

Family

- HB 3684 creates a foster children's bill of rights.
- SB 1383 creates a program called ABLE to allow families to save for individuals with disabilities in an account that must be used to supplement other sources of care/income.
- SB 1775 requires DCFS to report a child missing if the child is not seen by a DCFS employee for 12 hours or if the child is gone from the facility without prior approval.

HB 1530	Increases certain requirements of child care facilities that provide temporary homes to DCFS wards, including that they evaluate risk of running away and violence and establish rules to prevent curfew violations
HB 1531	Updates the Parentage Act, extending equal rights to every child and to his or her parent or to each of his or her two parents, regardless of the legal relationship between the parents
HB 2567	Prohibits a minor under 13 years of age to be admitted or detained in a detention facility unless a local youth service provider has been contacted and has not been able to accept the minor
HB 2791	Requires HFS to study the barriers to paying child support
HB 3284	Creates a task force to strategize and design a plan for the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to aid the economic stability and growth of at-risk women and their families
HB 3512	Updates the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
HB 3684	Creates a foster children's bill of rights
HB 3967	Gives biological grandparents access to the Adoption Registry, giving them more access to needed medical and other important information
SB 0786	Improves notification requirements for guardianship hearings
SB 1383	Creates a program called ABLE to allow families to save for individuals with disabilities in an account that must be used to supplement other sources of care/income
SB 1775	Requires DCFS to report a child missing if 1) the child is not seen by a DCFS employee for 12 hours and 2) the child is gone from the facility without prior approval

Gaming

HB 3538	Makes several changes to the law governing poker runs
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Health

- HB 1335 gives dying patients the right to try treatments that have not been fully approved by the FDA.
- SB 9 prohibits selling powdered caffeine to minors, and SB 67 prohibits selling powdered alcohol to anyone. Both substances can be dangerous and cause overdoses.

HB 0235	Requires health insurance coverage to include anesthetics and charges for people under age 19 who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder
HB 1004	Extends the repeal date and changes definitions concerning the African-American HIV/AIDS Response Fund
HB 1335	Allows people dying from illness to try experimental treatments
HB 1407	Requires hospitals to provide information about SIDS to new parents that includes safe sleeping instructions
HB 1496	Requires dentists who did not graduate from American or Canadian universities to take an additional two years of training
HB 1660	Creates a hepatitis C task force within the Department of Public Health
HB 2677	Allows dental service plans to enter into reinsurance agreements for dental service
HB 2763	Prohibits hospitals from charging patients more for out-of-network surgical assistants than in-network
HB 2788	Requires the Department of Public Health to accept evidence of accreditation from the American Association for Ambulatory Health Care with regard to the health care network quality management and performance improvement standards
HB 2812	Medicaid managed care organizations may not send out bills or other correspondence that divulges sensitive health information
HB 3133	Requires the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to explain its rationale on the record when voting on items relating to the Civil Procedure Code; allows it to accept in-kind services in addition to fines from non-compliant facilities
HB 3137	Prohibits insurers who provide coverage for prescription topical eye medication from denying coverage for refills when certain conditions are met
HB 3158	Requires IDPH to keep statistics and info on Down syndrome; prenatal physicians may pass this on to parents when a child is diagnosed with Down syndrome
HB 4120	Allows funeral directors and embalmers to transport bodies outside Illinois for 3 days for organ donation or autopsy without a transportation permit
SB 0009	Prohibits the selling of powdered caffeine to anyone under the age of 18
SB 0067	Prohibits the sale of powdered alcohol products
SB 0689	Allows home health care and hospice nurses to pick up patients' prescriptions
SB 0748	Sets requirements for becoming a dental emergency responder
SB 0751	Protects dentists who administer vaccinations at public health clinics from liability unless their actions constituted willful or wanton misconduct
SB 0785	Allows certain out-of-state health care professionals to practice medicine in Illinois while on contract to provide care to an athletic team
SB 0818	Protects records and communications made providing mental health and developmental disability services from disclosure



SB 0986	No person may be employed in a child care facility that cares for children under 6 unless he or she has received the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) and MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccines
SB 1298	Mandates hospitals provide patients with an opportunity to designate a caregiver before leaving the hospital
SB 1309	Gives representatives and human services providers of disabled adults access to specific records under adult protective services
SB 1410	Requires parents who wish to exempt their child from the public education immunization requirement to submit a certificate detailing their religious prohibition on vaccines
SB 1498	Expands the definition of "free medical clinic" in the Good Samaritan Act to include programs organized by a certified local health department utilizing members of the Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps
SB 1665	Establishes that medical foster homes overseen by the Department of Veterans Affairs are not nursing homes
SB 1764	Expands the requirement that insurance cover fertility treatments to include inability to conceive

Higher Education

- HB 3428 requires public universities to accept AP testing scores over a 3.
- HB 3599 requires colleges and universities to give new students the opportunity to give parents or others access to their mental health records if they become a threat to themselves or others.
- SB 806 makes it easier for students who achieve associate's degrees at Illinois community colleges to transfer to Illinois public universities.

HB 1744	Transfers property to Kaskaskia College
HB 3102	Makes several technical changes to the State Universities Civil Service Act seeking to increase diversity in the workplace
HB 3428	Requires public universities to accept AP testing scores over a 3
HB 3599	Requires colleges and universities to give new students the opportunity to give parents or others access to their mental health records if they become a threat to themselves or others
HB 3897	Allows the students on the ISAC advisory council to qualify for MAP grants
SB 0223	Creates ISAC grants for people exonerated and released from prison to use at public universities for undergraduate, graduate or GED studies
SB 0760	Requires community colleges to accept credit hour from private vocational working hours in certain fields
SB 0806	Makes it easier for students who achieve associate's degrees at Illinois community colleges to transfer to Illinois public universities
SB 1455	Requires high schools to give students a college readiness exam that is accepted by Illinois' public universities
SB 1818	Limits the number of scholarships the U of I can grant to the children of veterans to three per county and updates the periods of hostility that qualify



Housing

- HB 2627 raises the “high risk home loan” trigger on loans for a principal dwelling classified as personal property, purchased for \$50,000 or less.
- HB 3464 prohibits real estate discrimination based on familial status.
- SB 780 allows homestead exemptions in Cook County to continue for the rest of a taxing year after a sale. The measure also requires the assessor to notify the new owner of all applicable applications they must fill out to continue to qualify.

HB 1319	Clarifies that landlords who own buildings with more than 25 units must only pay lessees interest on their deposits at the end of the year if the value of interest is greater than \$5; still requires full interest payment when the renter moves out
HB 1361	Changes the funding structure of the Rental Housing Support Program
HB 2627	Raises the “high risk home loan” trigger on loans for a principal dwelling classified as personal property, purchased for \$50,000 or less.
HB 2640	Allows condo association members to participate in meetings over the phone or other electronic means and requires at least 48 hours notice before an association meeting
HB 3193	Allows a Home Equity Assurance Program to establish a Low Interest Home Improvement Loan Program by a resolution of its governing commissions (currently this type of program can only be established through a public referendum)
HB 3464	Prohibits real estate discrimination based on familial status
SB 0780	Allows homestead exemptions in Cook County to continue for the rest of a taxing year after a sale and requires the assessor to notify the new owner of all applicable applications they must fill out to continue to qualify
SB 1487	Requires Cook County to establish a pilot program that permits documents to be recorded against a foreclosed property by judicial order only
SB 1942	Allows high-risk home loan lenders to recoup certain third-party fees if the borrower pays off the loan early; makes other changes

Human Services

- SB 1763 is a comprehensive DCFS reform package passed after the Senate held hearings to investigate allegations of neglect and mistreatment of wards of the state living in residential facilities.
- SB 1847 expands SNAP benefits to anyone who is elderly, blind or disabled and makes 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level, and to anyone who makes less than 165% of the federal poverty level.
- HB 4115 requires the Department of Agriculture to post listings online of all gas stations that assist people with disabilities.

HB 1876	Gives HFS more time to start accepting monthly billing from nursing homes and to make payments electronically
HB 2543	Clarifies that DCFS is supposed to check with adult relatives before placing a child with an unrelated foster parent
HB 2556	Requires a variety of businesses to post human trafficking notices
HB 3311	Requires DHS to cross-reference its roster of public aid recipients with the DPH's electronic reporting system for death registrations



HB 4096	Moves a grant program for children with mental and behavioral illnesses from DHS to DHFS
HB 4107	Cleans up the law by deleting references to a program that hasn't existed for years
HB 4115	Requires the Department of Agriculture to post listings online of all gas stations that assist people with disabilities
SB 0013	Clarifies the role of the Children and Family Services Advisory Council in advising DCFS
SB 0043	Directs IDOT to work with DHS to promote awareness of the human trafficking hotline through roadsign signs, signs at truck stops and so on
SB 1255	Creates the Foster Youth Internship Pilot Program to provide foster youth with professional training and experience through internships
SB 1763	DCFS reform package
SB 1847	Expands SNAP (food stamp) benefits to anyone who is elderly, blind or disabled and makes 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level, and to anyone who makes less than 165% of the federal poverty level
SB 1947	Expands the definition of sexual abuse of DHS wards to include showing them sexually explicit images electronically

Labor

- HB 3619 establishes that the Equal Pay Act applies to all employers.
- SB 1334 increases the percentage of state contracts aimed at going to disadvantaged businesses.

HB 3619	Establishes that the Equal Pay Act applies to all employers
HB 3683	Increases the penalty for knowingly failing to withhold the amount designated in an income withholding notice
HB 3765	Creates a high speed rail oversight commission for Springfield to ensure local involvement and non-discrimination in contracts
SB 0993	Changes the date a labor report is due from contractors and requires it to be submitted electronically
SB 1334	Increases the percentage of state contracts aimed at going to disadvantaged businesses
SB 1859	Prevents employment agencies from violating the Minimum Wage Law, the Wage Payment and Collection Act or interfere with rights granted by any wage law of the state

Local Government

- House Bill 373 allows cities to purchase lands for park districts and museums.
- Senate Bill 764 requires county sheriffs and municipal police departments with more than 100 employees to maintain AEDs and train an adequate number of personnel to administer them.

HB 0182	Allows township road districts to maintain privately owned roads that have essentially become public roads
HB 0220	Allows fire protection districts to ask the voters to raise their property taxes by referendum; Also allows Adams County to collect a similar tax that was approved by voters (Dept. of Revenue refuses due to missing information on the ballot)



HB 0299	Establishes that court security officers are not subject to Sheriff's Merit Commissions except in specific circumstances
HB 0373	Allows cities to purchase lands for park districts and museums
HB 0404	Extends the boundaries of the MWRD
HB 0405	Clarifies that park districts that wish to sell less than 3-acre plots must notify the public at least 10 days in advance
HB 1363	Allows park districts to enter into joint ventures with other non-contiguous park districts
HB 1498	Allows local governments to hold closed meetings to discuss school safety issues
HB 2685	Extends the RTA's authority to issue Working Cash Notes worth more than \$100 million
HB 2744	Establishes that when a municipal boundary is in conflict, the involved municipalities can cede the territory to a non-involved third municipality
HB 2745	Creates a process for courts to review municipal code violations
HB 3104	Allows county boards to make appropriations in excess of their adopted budget during emergencies and if two-thirds of the board agrees
HB 3273	Consolidates sanitary districts in Cook County
HB 3334	Allows electors of a rescue squad district to petition allowing the board of trustees of that squad to be elected
HB 3389	Changes due dates for information cities must give to the comptroller
HB 3444	Removes an official elected to a municipal office if the officeholder fails to pay a debt to the municipality he or she serves
HB 3556	Allows municipalities to share up to 1 percent of revenues from specific taxes related to one business district to pay for eligible costs in another business district
HB 3664	Removes Quarry Township from America's Central Port District but allows the municipality of Grafton to stay
HB 3672	Requires real estate agents to file paperwork before helping property owners in counties that have property fraud alert systems
HB 3693	Allows for the dissolution of Belleville Township in the Metro East if a majority of the township board votes to adopt a dissolution ordinance
HB 3812	Allows counties to use money from a specific transportation fund to buy equipment for law enforcement
HB 3882	Technical change for Park Districts
HB 4130	Conveys some land from the Illinois National Guard to the City of Streator; if the land is no longer being used for public purposes, it will revert back to the state
SB 0086	Allows counties to use private collection agencies and attorneys to collect unpaid fines and penalties
SB 0087	Allows counties to deposit up to 5% (rather than 3%) of their incomes into capital improvement accounts
SB 0369	Allows cities to annex tracts of land smaller than 1 acre if they're separated by only some type of nature preserve or open land program
SB 0376	Places Cook County Forest Preserve police officers under the direction of the local police they're assisting if they are outside of district boundaries



SB 0378	Allows Cook County Forest Preserve board to designate another officer besides president to sign contracts
SB 0379	Clarifies that only specific county building rules apply Cook County Forest Preserve building rules apply to the district, not county building codes or municipality codes
SB 0621	Allows authorized vehicles that are occasionally used as rescue vehicles to use red or white oscillating lights when responding to an emergency call
SB 0663	Creates the Coroner Training Board, which will establish mandatory standards relating to the training of coroners
SB 0764	Requires county sheriffs and municipal police departments with more than 100 employees to maintain AEDs and train an adequate number of personnel to administer them
SB 0791	Allows forest preserves to lease or sell buildings and parking lots
SB 0804	Allows county court service fees to exceed \$25 in some circumstances to reflect the rising cost of court security
SB 1252	Allows the Gray Township Board to transfer money between specified funds by 1/1/16
SB 1374	Allows common interest community associations to organize as a limited liability company.
SB 1470	Allows budget officers of municipalities with fewer than 10,000 residents to hold another municipal elected or appointed office, including mayor or president (compensation for both offices is prohibited)
SB 1547	Prohibits local governments from penalizing tenants or landlords who contact the police regarding an emergency situation and from penalizing people with disabilities who contact the police (primarily aimed at helping domestic abuse victims)
SB 1630	Allows the Kane County Board to impose a judicial facilities fee for building new facilities
SB 1704	Allows local governments to temporarily prohibit or limit highway use

Pensions

- HB 422 requires more frequent audits of the pension systems, helping prevent fraud and determine the growth or reduction in the unfunded liability.

HB 0422	Requires the pension systems to conduct internal investigations more frequently
HB 2502	Clarifies pension reporting laws for Chicago charter schools
HB 2916	Allows IMRF to begin enforcement action against employers who have failed to remit contributions when the contributions are 60 (rather than 90) days overdue
HB 3484	Makes a variety of changes relating to university pensions
HB 3592	Requires IMRF employees to pay more to buy in time



Public Safety

- HB 821 requires higher education institutions to adopt a comprehensive policy to address student allegations of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking
- SB 1410 requires parents who wish to send their children to school without immunizations to provide further proof that their child has a medical condition that prevents vaccinations or that they have a bona fide religious objection.
- SB 1645 requires utilities to defer deposit fees for 60 days for victims of domestic violence with orders of protection who flee their abusers.

HB 0233	Reduces from 45 days to 30 days the time coroners and medical examiners have to transmit bodily specimens to the police when a homicide has occurred
HB 0821	Requires higher education institutions to adopt a comprehensive policy to address student allegations of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking
HB 1121	Implements the crime victim constitutional amendment adopted in the last general election
HB 1336	Prohibits issuing liquor citations to individuals who seek medical assistance for alcohol poisoning
HB 1665	Removes the legal liability from private school bus operators when their employees intentionally commit criminal acts
HB 2823	Allows IEMA to issue subpoenas in radon investigations
HB 3161	In cases where an order of protection involves the surrender of a child, the surrender of a firearm or FOID card or the possession of a home, process must be served by law enforcement, not by a special process server (Cook County only)
HB 3359	Changes the definition of "amusement ride" to include slides (excluding at public parks)
HB 3674	Allows youth hunters to use crossbows during the first week of deer bow season, under adult supervision
HB 3909	Allows the Fire Marshal and the Department of Insurance to prohibit the release of information to insurance companies if it would endanger physical safety
HB 4089	Requires jails to transfer information to DHS when inmates are transferred
HB 4090	Allows DHS to send certain identifying information to law enforcement when someone in its custody escapes a mental health facility
HB 4097	Prohibits law enforcement agencies from refusing to accept missing person reports based on the person's mental state or medical condition (e.g. Alzheimer's)
HB 4112	Requires Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board to develop a curriculum for a mental illness crisis intervention training program
SB 0044	Creates a task force on drones
SB 0706	Makes changes to criminal history information disclosure requirements for applicants for employment
SB 0718	Gives the Office of the State Fire Marshal (rather than the Elevator Review Board) power to authorize elevator worker licenses and prescribes a standard inspection form that must be used, even if local governments use their own elevator inspectors
SB 0793	Prohibits putting sharp objects (needles, syringes and other medical waste) into recycling



SB 0836	Makes some changes to requirements for reporting developmental and intellectual disabilities to the State Police for FOID purposes; allows a person with a mild developmental or intellectual disability to appeal a decision to revoke the person's FOID or deny his or her application
SB 1410	Requires parents who wish to exempt their child from the public education immunization requirement to submit a certificate detailing their religious prohibition on vaccines
SB 1424	Lets garbage trucks use amber flashing or oscillating lights
SB 1645	Requires utilities to defer deposit fees for 60 days for victims of domestic violence with orders of protection who flee their abusers

Revenue and Taxes

HB 2554	Sets the postmark date as the date filed for tax correspondence in regards to property tax disputes
SB 1906	Creates a variety of charitable income tax checkoffs

Seniors

- HB 2462 allows residents of nursing homes or their representatives to use surveillance systems in their rooms at their own expense.
- SB 1846 ceates a Silver Alert system for missing adults with Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive impairments.

HB 1588	Broadens the civil cause of action that exists against a person who commits financial exploitation of an elderly or disabled person
HB 2462	Allows residents of nursing homes or their representatives to use surveillance systems in their rooms at their own expense
HB 2811	Allows seniors and people with disabilities to receive discounts on specialty plates in addition to regular license plates
HB 3510	Requires the Health Facilities and Services Review Board Long-Term Care Facility Advisory Subcommittee make recommendations on policies and procedures relative to long-term care
HB 3753	Allows the Department on Aging, subject to appropriations, to provide grants that integrate mental health services for older adults into primary health care settings
HB 3841	Changes background check procedures for nursing homes
SB 0090	Creates a presumption that wills written after a person becomes disabled are not valid; creates a process for people who have become disabled to legally modify their wills
SB 1846	Creates a Silver Alert system for missing adults with Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive impairments



State Government

- HB 228 will help prevent the creation of new taxing bodies by preventing the creation of new units of local government for four years.
- HB 208 designates pumpkin pie the official state pie. Illinois is the nation's No. 1 producer of pumpkins.
- SB 1761 shows strong solidarity with U.S. ally Israel by prohibiting the state from entering into contracts with companies that boycott Israel.

HB 0208	Designates pumpkin pie as the official State Pie
HB 0228	Prohibits creating new levels of government for four years
HB 0330	Creates a recyclable metal theft task force
HB 0364	Allows the secretary of state to decline electronic payments received in the mail and to charge fees for those declined payments
HB 0573	Authorizes the Secretary of Human Services to convey certain real property to the City of Elgin
HB 0642	Creates the Women's Business Ownership Council within the DCEO to review the status of women-owned businesses statewide
HB 1490	Creates the Commission on Young Adult Employment
HB 2547	Allows mobile homes missing VIN numbers to proceed under an annual tax judgment, sale, redemption or forfeiture
HB 2705	Requires DCFS to review its rule regarding non-custodial grandparent visitation of children in DCFS custody
HB 2722	Removes the requirement that inmates released early from the Department of Corrections have their home addresses listed on the Community Notification of Inmate Early Release website
HB 2731	Mandates HFS publish monthly reports on its website, including detailed data on the enrollment of people in Medicaid, those on Medicaid enrolled in managed care organizations and Medicaid eligibility redeterminations
HB 2824	Changes the Homeland Security Preparedness fund from a special state fund to a federal trust fund
HB 2932	State flags must fly at half-staff when an Illinois resident dies during training for active military duty
HB 3141	Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to send a report to the General Assembly about various financial and demographic factors
HB 3172	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to place a locked suggestion box in each of its residential treatment centers
HB 3203	Allows individuals who turned 35 while serving in the military and currently under the age of 40 to take an exam for a firefighter position
HB 3220	Transfers the administration of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program from the Department of Revenue to the Secure Choice Savings Program Board and the Treasurer
HB 3268	Allows the Department of Human Rights to coordinate its activities with other state agencies (stemming from its role in working with the Department of Labor on equal pay claims)
HB 3332	Extends and updates the Collection Agency Act
HB 3375	Expands DPH authority from owners to operators of body piercing and tattoo facilities, and to unregistered tattoo and body piercing establishments; and to assess late fees for failures to renew facility permits



HB 3430	Allows the Department of Natural Resources the option of issuing a letter notifying an applicant for an oil or gas drilling permit of a deficiency in the permit application instead of just denying the application
HB 3497	Allows the Capital Development Board to continue using the Single Prime with protected subcontractor contract delivery method for procuring construction projects, within certain parameters
HB 3504	Makes changes to the Health Facilities Planning Act to streamline the process when a health care facility changes ownership
HB 3543	Makes several changes to how banks are regulated, including allowing the Secretary of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to assess receivership fees against banks that are not FDIC insured
HB 3587	Extends the repeal date for the provisions creating the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council
HB 3622	Allows DNR to give up plats with permission of the governor
HB 3667	Reduces the mandate that 25 percent of new state vehicles run on alternative fuels to 15 percent
HB 3797	Gets rid of the fee for registering a vehicle if the vehicle belonged to a deceased spouse
HB 3840	Creates the Equal Economic Opportunity Task Force
HB 3895	Limits what materials DHS sexually violent persons can FOIA; includes materials already available to them and staff personnel records
HB 3896	Moves up the timeframe DHS must send notification of the release of a sexually violent person
HB 4049	Amends how the state references people with disabilities in Illinois law
HB 4137	Corrects various technical problems throughout state law
SB 0418	Creates exceptions to the rule that no more than 10 percent of supplemental LIHEAP funds carried over from a previous year may be spent on administration
SB 0563	Grants DPH more time to review veterans' home facility plans from the DVA
SB 0564	Requires the governor's office of boards and commissions to create an email listserv to send users notifications of meetings and list all meetings online for at least 48 hours beforehand
SB 0653	Requires DCFS to establish a child protection training academy for child protective investigators and others dealing with child welfare
SB 0721	Extends the reporting deadline for the Children's Justice Task Force
SB 0740	Changes the Fire Hydrant Act to require people noncompliant with the code to pay for the cost of bringing the fire hydrant to code
SB 0809	Makes various changes to the law regarding state's attorneys appellate prosecutors, including defining when prosecutors' investigators must cooperate with local law enforcement
SB 0903	Requires the Comptroller to maintain the existing online databases The Ledger and The Warehouse
SB 1102	Prohibits the state or any local government from indemnifying or providing legal representation for any employee in a criminal proceeding arising out of the employee's government employment
SB 1448	Authorizes the Secretary of State and county clerks to institute an online filing system for statements of economic interest to be approved by ethics officers
SB 1458	Renames the Mine and Mineral Regulatory Fund as the Oil and Gas Resource Management Fund
SB 1482	Extends the repeal date of automobile insurance verification by the Secretary of State to Dec. 31, 2016



SB 1523	Allows Illinois' library systems to use funds from grants to pay for services provided to members of other library systems
SB 1595	Creates the Music Therapy Advisory Board Act that must report recommendations for the certification, training, curriculum and best practices of music therapists.
SB 1683	Allows the director of Labor to deal with workplace safety inspections of places of business, and authorizes the director to require the testimony of witnesses and production of evidence under oath during inspections
SB 1717	Authorizes DNR to convey Prairie Wind Trail real estate to some adjacent owners
SB 1739	Repeals a provision in the Nuclear Safety law that authorized community water supplies to request the IEMA to determine if they are in compliance with nuclear contamination levels
SB 1761	Prohibits the state from entering into contracts with companies that boycott Israel
SB 1782	Allows the Illinois Insurance Guaranty Fund to recover funds when it discovers it has paid on a claim that could've been paid for by another insurance entity
SB 1806	Pushes back the date the Insurance Guaranty Fund must submit a financial report
SB 1898	Makes various changes relating to Illinois ID cards, including limiting the SoS to issuing 3 ID cards per year and 10 per the life of the individual, with some exceptions
HB 3374	Changes the Environmental Barriers Act; changes the date CBD publishes the Illinois Accessibility Code

Transportation

- HB 198 prohibits parking a regular car at an electric car charging station.
- HB 1051 creates regulations for ride sharing companies like Uber and Lyft.

HB 0198	Prohibits parking a regular car at an electric car charging station
HB 0246	Proclaims Dec. 23 Scott's Law Day to remind drivers to slow down in work zones
HB 1051	Specifies how companies like Uber and Lyft must pay insurance claims
HB 1377	Requires driver's licenses to note when a person is sentenced to an ignition interlock device
HB 1446	Allows a barred person with a revoked driver's license to apply for a restricted driving permit after 5 years if certain conditions are met
HB 1516	Increases penalties for commercial drivers and their employers who violate transportation safety rules
HB 2503	Clarifies the process of resolving conflicts regarding vehicle titles
HB 2515	Makes a variety of changes to large-vehicle regulations to comply with federal regulations
HB 2580	Allows groups of at least three non-farmer landowners to appeal highway commissioner decisions to add lanes or expand roads; creates a process for changing weight restrictions on roads
HB 3241	Department of Transportation's annual land transfer legislation
HB 3269	Requires all proceeds from the sale of the Master Mason license plates to be deposited into the Illinois Masonic Charities Fund



HB 3384	Gives civilian employees of the military longer to update their license plates after they move back to the US
HB 3533	Requires individuals convicted of a second DUI to use a breath alcohol ignition interlock device (BAIID) for at least five years
HB 3788	Extends the time a car rental company can contest a toll violation
HB 3944	Allows motorcycles to have decorative lights
HB 4074	Allows people whose driving privileges were revoked in another state to get IL driver's licenses if they have lived here for 10 years and meet other criteria
SB 0625	Updates the duration of rental car license plates and registration; allows either 2-year or 5-year registration
SB 0626	Caps the amount of rental liability insurance for cars with an MSRP less than \$50,000 and sets rules for cars worth more; also changes collision waiver rules
SB 0636	Increases the number of runways O'Hare can operate from eight to ten without obtaining state authorization; creates new noise reporting requirements
SB 0784	Allows the state to sell real estate to the Rides Mass Transit District for \$1
SB 1388	Requires temporary stop signs be placed when regular signs are stolen/destroyed; specifies requirements for how long they are to be used before permanent signs are placed
SB 1441	Allows law enforcement to impound a vehicle if driven by an uninsured driver who has a prior conviction; requires law enforcement agencies who do street patrol to maintain a tow rotation list (does not apply to Chicago Police Dept); increases the fine for a tow truck soliciting at the scene of an accident
SB 1620	Extends repeal date of the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act to 2020
SB 1641	Establishes the amount withheld from a state employee's paycheck for parking fees shall be deposited into the State Parking Facility Maintenance Fund; allows charitable organizations to design veterans decals; makes a number of other parking and vehicle-related changes
SB 1899	Requires low-speed vehicles to meet certain requirements for street operation

Veterans

- HB 3122 allows private employers to adopt veterans preference hiring policies.
- HB 3692 allows veterans utilizing pre-9/11 G.I. Bill education benefits to be classified as in-state residents while attending Illinois public universities or community colleges for tuition purposes.
- SB 1603 exempts veterans returning from combat missions from paying vehicle registration or renewal fees for a year.

HB 3122	Allows private employers to adopt veterans preference policies for hiring
HB 3425	Requires consumer reporting agencies to implement a free credit freeze for active military personnel
HB 3686	Creates a veterans discount program, where veterans and active military can use an ID to get discounts at participating businesses
HB 3692	Allows veterans utilizing pre-9/11 G.I. Bill education benefits attending either public universities or community colleges in Illinois to be deemed in-state residents for tuition purposes



HB 3721	Allows active National Guard service to count as military service
SB 0107	Establishes that accessibility improvements cannot be used to increase a property's assessed value for seven years and gives additional benefits to disabled veterans
SB 1457	Creates a higher education task force to determine how to award credits for military service
SB 1589	Establishes that Korean, Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans no longer pay fees for license plates; also clarifies how SoS fees are distributed
SB 1603	Exempts armed forces members returning from combat missions from paying registration or renewal fees for vehicles for one year
SB 1610	Ensures that an employer who participates in a recruiting incentive program sponsored by the armed forces is not subject to charges of discrimination based on the employer not hiring a service member with an unfavorable discharge



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99th General Assembly - Spring 2015

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