



# SENATE IN REVIEW

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

**John J. Cullerton, Senate President**

Communications Department • [www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com](http://www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com)



Senators,

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

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

John Patterson  
Communications Director

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# LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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# Legislative accomplishments

## Senate takes additional vote on Marriage Equality

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

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

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

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

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



## Pension Reform

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

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

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

### Pension proposal explainer:

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



## Constitutional Amendments

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

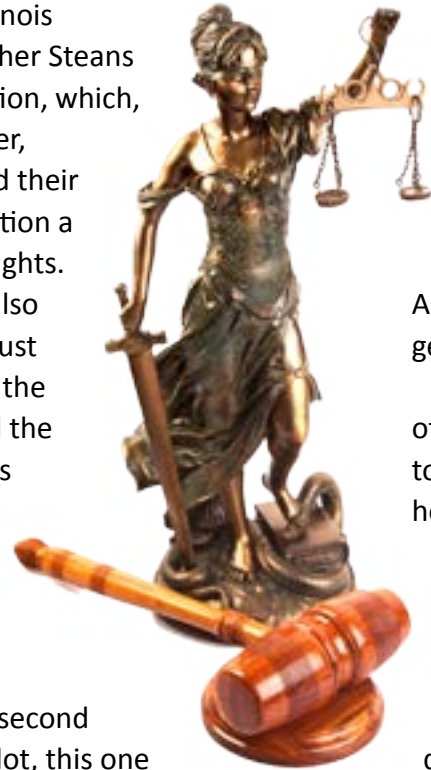
One, known as Marsy's Law, would strengthen the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, already a part of the Illinois Constitution. Sen. Heather Steans sponsored the proposition, which, if approved in November, would allow victims and their family members to petition a court to enforce their rights.

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

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

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

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



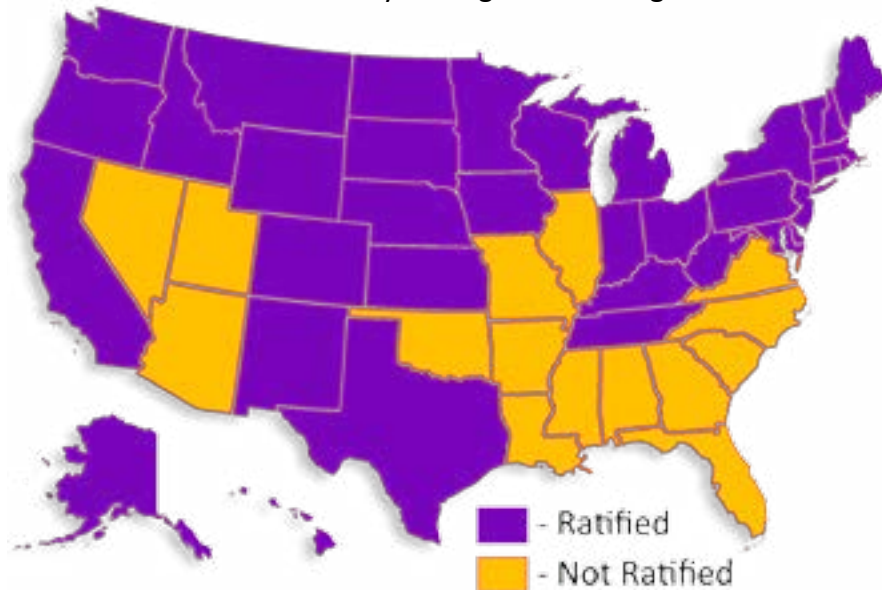
## Equal Rights

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

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

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

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



## Minimum Wage

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

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

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

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

help the very poor live from day to day.

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

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

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



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

- 84.2 percent of minimum wage earners are adults older than the age of 20.
- Although minorities are disproportionately minimum wage earners at 43 percent, the majority of people trying to survive on the minimum wage are white.



# SPREADING THE NEWS

**John J. Cullerton, Senate President**  
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# Spreading the news

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

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

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

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

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

Our website posts increasingly feature multi-media productions. By utilizing our growing audio, video and photography capabilities we've produced popular slideshows, video interviews and actual audio from key Senate debates that have spurred

web visits and media use. So far this year, we posted 25 items with audio clips and produced an astounding 153 videos.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com by the numbers

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

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

### Top mobile devices accessing www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com

- Apple iPhone
- Apple iPad
- Samsung Galaxy S3
- Motorola Droid Razr 4G
- Samsung Galaxy S4



### Social media

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

### Twitter

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

NOW VERIFIED!!



- Full New York Senate ... 26,900
- Full Texas Legislature ... 12,300
- Full Utah Senate ..... 11,600
- 1. PA House GOP ..... 9,536
- 2. IL Senate Dems ..... 8,225**
- 3. PA House Dems..... 7,073
- 10. IL Senate GOP ..... 5,666
- 22. IL House GOP ..... 4,543

### Senate Dems

- Followers on 5.31.12 ..... 4,004
- Followers on 5.28.13 ..... 5,784
- Followers on 5.29.14 ..... 8,225

### Senate GOP

- Followers on 5.31.12 ..... 2,539
- Followers on 5.28.13 ..... 3,949
- Followers on 5.29.14 ..... 5,666

### House GOP

- Followers on 5.31.12 ..... 2,824
- Followers on 5.28.13 ..... 4,324
- Followers on 5.29.14 ..... 4,543

**House Dems:** No Twitter presence

### IL political media orgs

- Capitolfax..... 9,756
- ILSenDems..... 8,225**
- GregHinz..... 7,735
- Ward\_Room ..... 6,419
- SouthtownStar ..... 6,276
- ChiTribCloutSt..... 6,250
- Capitolbureau..... 6,243
- Ilwatchdog..... 6,198
- Trib\_ed\_board ..... 6,059
- PoliticalEditor ..... 5,759
- WBEZpolitics..... 5,353
- SJRthedome..... 5,282
- DHStatehouse..... 4,297
- Blueroomstream ..... 1,447
- Early&Often ..... 1,411

### Instagram

This year the department expanded its social media presence to include Instagram. Instagram is an online photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that enables its users to take pictures and videos. By adding this service we were able to showcase the work of our talented staff while utilizing cross promotion between our web platforms. In just a few short months we have gained 171 followers.



### LinkedIn

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



### Facebook

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



IL Sen Dems Caucus: 6,805 fans, plus 24 staff-maintained member pages.

1. Texas House Caucus... 13,732
2. Virginia Senate GOP... 10,400
3. Mich. Senate Dems.... 8,566
4. Mich. House Dems..... 7,665
- 5. ILSenDems Caucus .... 6,805**
9. IL House GOP ..... 3,652
18. IL Senate GOP ..... 1,994

### YouTube

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



### Top 5 videos from this session:

- [Police Memorial 2014](#)
- [Women's History Month 2014](#)
- [Senator Sandoval holds press conference on ridesharing](#)
- [Senator Biss discusses his legislative agenda](#)
- [Senator Manar discusses education funding reform](#)



### Slideshare

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







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

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

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

### By the numbers...

This year VOICE has...

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

Here is a snapshot of incoming constituent correspondence:

Method	Number of Incoming Correspondence
Email	243,259
Website	29,032
Letters	1,688
Phone	1,104
Fax	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>275,091</b>

### Top 10 issues for this session:

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

### Tele-Town Hall meetings

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

Tele-Town Halls	
Total called	447,515
Active participants	53,699
Live questions	123

### Constituent surveys

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



### Latino / Spanish Language Outreach

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

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

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

In an effort to reach out to news providers, several senators toured newsrooms to do interviews, as well as meet journalists and media executives. These visits helped build relationships between newsmakers and media outlets that cover the Senate.

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





**YOUR MEDIA COVERAGE WOULD HAVE COST \$27.7M IF YOU WERE BUYING ADS.**

Logos included: JOURNAL, SOUTHTOWNSTAR, JournalStar, THE TIMES, INNISTON ROUNDTABLE, AP Associated Press, BTN BIG TEN NETWORK, Daily Herald, WBEZ CHICAGO, WVU 92.7 Local, abc 7, Rockford Register Star, O2 cbs2chicago.com, TELEMUNDO, PURE NEWS USA, Journal Register, WGN9 TELEVISION CHICAGO, The Courier-News, FOX 32 CHICAGO, The Southern, Aledo Times Record, NBC 5 CHICAGO, The Daily American, Peoria Public Radio WCAU89.9, Extra! PART 3: COUNTRY SUBURBS, Quad-City Times, BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT, SHINE.FM, Skokie Review, LAWDALE news, Herald-News, Chicago Tribune, NEWS 25, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, Crusader, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, HERALD-WHIG, The News-Gazette, The Beacon-News, DEFENDER, Suburban Life, hoy, Mundelein Review, The McDonough County VOICE, The Times Weekly, N AUSTIN WEEKLY news, UNIVISION, Herald Review, EL NUEVO SIGLO, Citizen, LaRaza Chicago's Leading Hispanic Publication, News-Sun, BRIGHTON PARK LIFE, McGINLEY PARK, HYDE PARK HERALD.



# FEATURED STORIES

John J. Cullerton, Senate President  
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Senator Andy Manar delivers his closing remarks on the Senate floor regarding Senate Bill 16. The proposal would overhaul Illinois' decades-old school funding system.

# Senate approves Manar's plan to reform school funding system

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

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

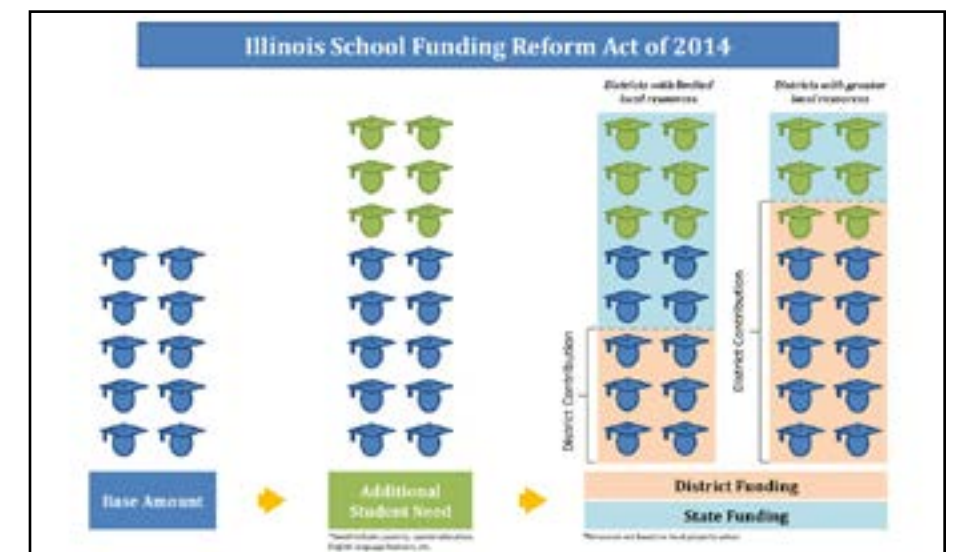
Over the past year, Manar has been developing a new school funding formula that will change

the way the state distributes \$6.7 billion in aid to education. Unchanged since 1997, the current education funding system only distributes 44 cents for every \$1 invested in education on the basis of district need.

Under the new funding system, 92 cents of every \$1 invested by the state in the K-12 education

**FULL STORY:**  
<http://ilsendems.co/1oJQm0e>

system, with the exception of funds for early childhood education, construction projects and high-cost special education, would flow through a single funding formula.





# Top 14 New Illinois Laws for 2014

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

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

**FULL STORY:**  
<http://ilsendems.co/18nRuSA>

Thank you for helping us share this important news.

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

Starting in 2014, drivers caught holding cell phones up to their ears could be subject to a \$75 fine. Using a Blue Tooth headset or speakerphone are both still acceptable as long as they can be activated by a voice command or single-button touch. [Read more.](#)



*House Bill 1247*

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

Recognizing that some conditions respond better to therapeutic qualities of cannabis than traditional medication, the General Assembly passed legislation allowing patients suffering from certain specific conditions to use medical marijuana with their doctors' permission. The Illinois Department of Public Health is in charge of setting up the system. [Learn more.](#)



*House Bill 1*

**3. Under 18? No more tanning for you.**

Under previous Illinois law, young people were allowed to tan with their parents' permission. However, study after study has demonstrated that tanning - particularly during your formative years - greatly increases the risk of cancer. The new law prohibits all commercial tanning facilities from allowing people younger than 18 to tan unless they have a doctor's prescription. Underage tanning in private homes is still allowed.



*House Bill 100*

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

The idea is that if you're going to be able to vote in the General Election, you should be able to help select the candidates you will be voting for. For example, if you will be 18 in November of 2014, you can vote in the March primary in addition to the General Election.



*House Bill 221*

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

Some restrictions apply. [Read more here.](#)



*Senate Bill 1037*

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



*House Bill 3091 and House Bill 3240*

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

And, you no longer have to fear eavesdropping lawsuits from your little angels if you read their text messages.



*House Bill 41 and House Bill 3030*

**8. Tired of going 65 on Illinois interstates? So are lawmakers. Now you can go 70.**

Counties in Chicago and suburban St. Louis have the ability to opt out.



*Senate Bill 2356*

**9. We've all thought it: why such high penalties for work-zone speeds when nobody's there?**

Now there are higher penalties for speeding by workers and lower penalties when the worksite is empty.



*House Bill 1014*

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



*Senate Bill 522*

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

However, schools still have the ability to opt out of sex ed altogether, and parents can take their kids out of the classes if they find the content objectionable. [Read more here.](#)



*House Bill 2473*

**12. If you and your ex have joint custody, you must ask if he or she wants to take care of your children before you hire someone.**



*House Bill 2092*

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


The winery can cork it and send it home with you. Illinois already has a similar law for restaurants. The wine must be re-corked and placed in a tamper-evident bag.



*Senate Bill 722*

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

The Illinois Tollway will be allowed to post names of people with the highest outstanding tolls on its website, much like a Most-Wanted list.



*House Bill 1071 and Senate Bill 1214*



Senator Iris Y. Martinez and Co-Sponsor Senator Dan Kotowski speak in favor of Senate Bill 2636. April 2, 2014.

# Medical Cannabis extension to children with seizures passes Senate

The Illinois Senate passed a measure to expand the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act to allow doctors to provide CBD, which is distinct from THC, for children with epilepsy. Senate Bill 2636, sponsored by Sen. Iris Y. Martinez, follows the example of Colorado and New Jersey in allowing use of the cannabis oil that is dramatically decreasing the frequency, pain and duration of seizures.

The orally ingested oil contains cannabidiol (CBD), a derivative of marijuana without

the THC element that causes the high feeling users of marijuana experience. Scientific studies have demonstrated that CBD relaxes the nervous system and can significantly reduce the frequency

**FULL STORY:**  
<http://ilsendems.co/1wfofud>

of seizures in these patients — even stopping them completely in some cases.

Sen. Martinez and co-sponsors Sen. Dan Kotowski, Sen. Melinda Bush, Sen. Bill Haine and Sen. Mattie Hunter received thank you emails and notes from the families of dozens of Illinois children who may experience a better quality of life from this change.

The families sent this thank you photo.



Rosa Pickett testifies before the Senate Criminal Law Committee about being brutally attacked and raped in 1977. Despite the hospital's care to assemble a rape kit for Rosa's case, justice for both Rosa and her rapist was denied. February 26, 2014.

# Noland pushes for rape victims' right to prosecute

Rosa Pickett was on her way to her sister's birthday party when it happened.

A man approached her from behind while she was walking down a dark street in Robbins, Illinois. After dragging her behind a bush, the man beat and raped her repeatedly and finally knocked her unconscious.

Attendants at the hospital rushed to collect samples for a rape kit that could assist police and prosecutors in bringing her attacker to justice.

After the hospital, Rosa returned home to heal.

Thirty-six years later, that healing remains incomplete.

Despite the hospital's care to assemble a rape kit for Rosa's case, justice for both Rosa and her rapist was denied. The kit went untested and the police never pursued the attacker. By the time she confronted authorities about it, the statute of limitations

on her case had expired. Her attacker could never be charged. He would remain free.

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

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

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

Sadly, Rosa Pickett's case is not exceptional. Before 2013, more

**FULL STORY:**  
<http://ilsendems.co/1st5DVL>

than 4,000 rape kits remained untested in Illinois State Police custody.

Last year, State Police completed the analysis of all 4,000 kits responding to a 2010 law sponsored by State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D-Chicago Heights) that pushed the agency to eliminate the backlog.

Senator Noland hopes that backlog never reappears. But if it does, he says victims shouldn't suffer.

"In these cases, justice delayed is truly justice denied," Noland said. "This isn't about assigning blame for what is an institutional failure. It's about making a promise to the victims of rape: you will no longer be forgotten."



"If you work 40 hours – or more – per week, you should be able to keep a roof over your head and food on the table without government assistance," Lightford said. "The minimum wage needs to be a living wage." - State Senator Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood)

## Lightford revives minimum wage debate in Illinois Senate

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

Lightford's plan, Senate Bill 68, would make Illinois' minimum wage the highest in the nation - \$10.65 per hour. The increase would be phased in over a three year period to give employers time to adjust. Illinois's current minimum wage is \$8.25 per hour, which equals roughly \$16,500 per year for a full-time worker. Lightford's proposal would bring that number up to approximately \$21,000 per year – nearly double the federal poverty level for a one-person household.

Lightford's plan is more aggressive than both the president's and the governor's. Earlier this year, Obama raised the minimum wage for federal employees to \$10.10 per hour, while Quinn has called for an increase to \$10.00 per hour.

"Right now, you can't support

**FULL STORY:**  
<http://ilsendems.co/1gillIN>

yourself, let alone a child, on minimum wage," Lightford said. "For \$10.65 an hour, it would be hard, but you could."



Senators Martinez and Steans applaud as Marsy's Law secures passage in the Senate.

## Crime Victims' Bill of Rights passes Senate

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

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

Marsy's Law for Illinois is part of a nationwide movement to codify crime victims' rights in every state. The push began in California, where the brother of murder victim Marsy Nicholas

worked for the passage of a state constitutional amendment after his mother was confronted in a grocery store by Marsy's accused killer, who had been released on bail with no notification to the family.

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

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

**FULL STORY:**  
<http://ilsendems.co/1qWMQ1q>

"Because of this amendment, victims across the state may be given more opportunities to secure a sense of justice and closure."

The Illinois Constitution currently contains a Crime Victims' Bill of Rights but does not provide an avenue for victims to assert those rights in court. If approved by voters, the amendment would require courts to hear and rule on a crime victim's request for enforcement of any of his or her constitutional rights.



Diana Pisone and Senator Michael E. Hastings testify before the Senate Criminal Law committee. "Revenge porn is the ultimate form of cyberbullying, and we currently don't have a criminal recourse that would deter a person from committing this heinous act," said Hastings.

## 'Revenge Porn' passes the Senate

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

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

Senator Hastings welcomed a victim of this practice to a Criminal Law Committee hearing;

the woman was threatened by her ex-husband with exposure of sexually explicit photos after they broke up. She cited the fear that such exposure would damage her personal and professional reputation with no means of legally preventing the action.

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

"This can be extremely devastating and humiliating to an unsuspecting victim," Senator

**FULL STORY:**  
<http://ilsendems.co/1lpdJMZ>

Michael E. Hastings (D – Tinley Park) said.

Hastings has introduced legislation that would make it a felony to knowingly post explicit images or videos of another person without their consent. Illinois law protects minors from similar situations, but nothing currently exists to protect adults.

The legislation would also make it illegal to host a website requiring victims to pay a fee to have their photo or video removed from the site.



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**John J. Cullerton, Senate President**  
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# John J. Cullerton

## Illinois Senate President | 6<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Illinois Senate President John J. Cullerton strengthened his role as an outspoken champion of the state of Illinois, gladly

and repeatedly defending the state's riches of human and natural resources in the face of naysayers too often motivated merely by politics and profit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the same time, the Senate Democrats remain progressive in seeking equality and fairness, leading successful recent efforts for marriage equality, outlawing pregnancy discrimination and ensuring access to the polling place.







# James Clayborne

Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 57<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Economic revitalization is needed in the Metro East, and State Senator James Clayborne remains

dedicated to improving the region's economic standing. One of the most important features of economic and urban development is encouraging locally owned small businesses.

Clayborne passed legislation helping ensure fair minority employment by requiring companies competing for state contracts to report their standards for minority hiring. He also promoted the expansion of minority investment managers for state retirement benefits.

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

In addition to advancing the Metro East's opportunities, Clayborne is working to protect

vulnerable senior citizens. He passed legislation establishing the rights of nursing home residents.

The Nursing Home Residents' Managed Care Rights Act guarantees the basic rights of people living in nursing homes. These rights include: quality care regardless of who is paying, care as prescribed by doctors, a simple appeals process, autonomy in decision making and the ability to stay in the living center they call home.

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



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

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



# Don Harmon

President Pro Tempore | Executive chair | 39<sup>th</sup> Senate District



This year, Senate President Pro Tempore Don Harmon focused on issues relating to the state

budget. He spearheaded a campaign to bring more fairness and equity to Illinois' tax code, and he fought to keep the cash-strapped Illinois Poison Center open.

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

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

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

He introduced a constitutional amendment to make a Fair Tax in Illinois. He also proposed a rate

structure that would result in a tax cut for 94 percent of Illinois households.

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

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

Harmon brokered a deal that will guarantee the center a reliable revenue stream through 2018. At the same time, he helped make a Chicago-area

hospital group eligible for more federal Medicaid funding, allowing it to better serve its customers – especially people with lower incomes. All of these improvements came at a cost-savings to the state.

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

Harmon strongly supports the center because, as a parent, he has called it himself and found the service professional and reassuring.





# Kimberly A. Lightford

Assistant Majority Leader | 4<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford has never been someone who backs

away from a challenge. This year, she rededicated herself to making Illinois' minimum wage a living wage and to improving educational outcomes for all of the state's children.

For years, Lightford argued Illinois' minimum wage is too low. She firmly believes the purpose of the minimum wage is to ensure no one with a full-time job is forced to rely on government assistance. This year, she made real progress in convincing her colleagues that increasing the minimum wage is the right thing to do, and she hopes for a vote on the issue as early as next fall.

Lightford also continued her longstanding efforts to ensure Illinois' education system prepares every child for a good-paying job and to become a productive member of society. This year, she focused on student safety.

In Chicago, the local school administration decided to close dozens of schools. This move forced thousands of children to travel through dangerous parts

of the city to reach their new schools. Though the city provided "safe passages," many parents are still concerned, especially after a teenage girl was raped a block from a safe passage. In response, Lightford brought forward legislation that would allow parents to apply to the state for reimbursement to pay drivers to take their children to school.

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

Lightford's plan limits suspension and expulsion to only the most extreme discipline problems, largely eliminates

zero-tolerance policies, and requires school officials to report to the state why these harsh punishments are necessary when used.

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



# Terry Link

Assistant Majority Leader | 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District



In an effort to protect the health of college students across Illinois, state Senator Terry Link has

been working with state and local officials to make college campuses smoke free.

For Link, this push continues his fight to improve public health by limiting the general public's exposure to second-hand smoke and hopefully prod people to either quit or, better yet, never take up the dangerous habit.

His latest proposal would ban smoking on all state-supported university and community college campuses beginning July 1, 2015. Each campus will have a task force composed of campus and community officials who will coordinate how to implement the ban.

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

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

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

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

qualified to do the job.

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

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

For Link, it's part of his commitment toward working to protect the public and consumers.





# Antonio Munoz

Assistant Majority Leader | Executive Appointments chair | 1<sup>st</sup> Senate District



With Chicago serving as a transportation crossroads for the nation, it is no surprise Senator Tony Munoz has emerged as a

leader on the issue in protecting the interests and people of the 1<sup>st</sup> Senate District in the city.

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

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

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

In addition, Munoz is sponsoring legislation to regulate ride-

share companies that transport passengers in personal vehicles prearranged through dispatchers for a fee.

These commercial ride-share services such as UberX, Sidecar and Lyft, are technology-based services that connect individuals with drivers for a fee. Passengers book the nearest driver by smartphone and then track the vehicle on a map as it approaches.

Because the drivers use their personal vehicles, they rely on their personal policies to cover them while offering ride-sharing. These types of insurance policies exclude commercial activities, so these drivers do not have proper insurance coverage. Senator Munoz has worked to ensure protections for the commuting public in the face of the evolving technology.

Munoz has also been instrumental this session in creating

and promoting both the Legislative Diabetes Caucus and the Hepatitis C Task Force.

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

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

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



# John Sullivan

Assistant Majority Leader | 47<sup>th</sup> Senate District



As the only farmer in the Illinois Senate, John Sullivan drew upon his background this session to address

pending farmland issues ranging from wind farm zoning to the expansion of ethanol-blended fuels.

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

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

These issues are representative of the array of needs and interests that are nearly as vast as

the sprawling west-central Illinois Senate district that Sullivan represents. Geographically, his district is the largest in the state, including small towns and cities, farms and factories.

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

In addition to supporting local

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

Sullivan is also active with agricultural education groups who advocate for increase funding and programming like 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

Sullivan also recently expanded his local outreach efforts by opening a satellite office in Galesburg.





# Donne Trotter

Assistant Majority Leader | 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Many lawmakers come to Springfield saying education is their top priority, but

this year State Senator Donne Trotter shook things up in an effort to have the General Assembly own up to its priorities and commitments.

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

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

His fight for school funding was part of his overall agenda attempting to aid struggling families, increase youth safety and empower the people and communities of the 17th

Senate District. He utilized his encyclopedic knowledge of the state budget to advocate for the protection of the state's most vulnerable.

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

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

And in an effort to protect children, Trotter proposed new laws that would allow children whose guardians are under

DCFS investigation to be placed under the care of a close family friend that has an established, healthy relationship with the child or child's family. This move would give DCFS more options in trying to keep children in safe environments and with people who care for them.

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



# Ira I. Silverstein

Majority Caucus chair | 8<sup>th</sup> Senate District



As drivers come to realize that texting while driving and talking on a cell phone while behind the wheel aren't

safe, the motoring public now faces a new challenge – wearable technology that effectively turns eyeglasses into a computer on your face.

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

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

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

would be free to discipline the students causing the harm.

Along the same lines, the advent of 3-D printing technology has sparked a wave of innovative design and uses for the new technology. However, 3-D printers have created new opportunities in the production of firearms.

Silverstein sponsored a measure that would require individuals and companies using 3-D printers to build firearms to have the same licensing as traditional gun manufacturers. This would guarantee that guns – either plastic or metal – built this way would be documented and tracked the same as any other gun.

Silverstein's focus on protecting the public from undocumented firearms also

extended to a proposal for firearm owners insurance. By requiring firearm owners to carry insurance for their weapons, his measure would shield the owners of guns from legal action in case of an accident – similar to liability insurance for a car.

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

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





# William Haine

Majority Caucus Whip | Insurance chair | 56<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Whether it is closing loopholes in existing laws or creating needed consumer protections for people with insurance

policies, State Senator Bill Haine focused this session at the Capitol on making the insurance industry more stable and equitable.

As the chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, Haine remains a leading authority on the insurance industry and the needs and rights of consumers and has used his knowledge to find the proper balance in state law.

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

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

Haine's legislation, individuals could sign up for multiple insurance policies and get reimbursed by each insurer for any procedure. The Senate closed that loophole by allowing insurers to coordinate benefits and proactively prevent this type of fraud.

Haine also created new standards for condominium insurance, improved intergovernmental insurance pools and updated guidelines for industrial insurers.

Drawing on his past experience as a state's attorney, Haine also worked to resolve issues within the criminal justice system. Haine passed a bill fundamentally reforming the handling of defendants who are unfit to stand trial and declared not guilty by reason of insanity. Haine's legislation limits the amount of time these defendants can be held for misdemeanor offenses. The measure also requires all mentally unfit

defendants to be safely and securely housed by the Department of Human Services.

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

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



# Mattie Hunter

Majority Caucus Whip | Human Services chair | 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



From East St. Louis to Chicago, Decatur to Rockford, Senator Majority Caucus Whip Mattie

Hunter led efforts to ensure opportunities continue for children and young adults to find work, learn responsibilities and gain skills that will help them throughout their lives.

As the leading member of the Senate's Human Services Committee, Hunter focused on youth employment programs and created a traveling subcommittee that took her to underserved communities across the state, where she learned firsthand how important these state programs are. Hundreds of youth turned out to talk about the skills they learned and how the programs changed their lives, and local leaders testified how the programs improved their communities.

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

and veterans. Hunter also passed an initiative to create conservation jobs for at-risk youth.

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

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

Hunter continued her leadership role in protecting public health by raising awareness of how sugary soft drinks are linked to obesity and diabetes. She also passed legislation

allowing public administration of insulin shots. Locally, Hunter will continue her efforts to educate the community through a nutrition town hall and health fair.

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

As a strong advocate for social justice, Hunter also passed two measures protecting seniors from financial exploitation. One measure reports health care workers with dubious records of financially abusing seniors. The other measure requires financial institutions to report suspicions of financial abuse.





## Iris Y. Martinez

Majority Caucus Whip | Pensions & Licensed Activities chair | 20<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Nicole Gross had little choice but to say goodbye to Illinois, her husband and one of her children in

order to seek modern medical treatment for her son who suffers from a severe form of epilepsy.

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

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

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

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

Gross was among the parents

who gathered at the Capitol to witness Martinez's legislation advance.

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

For example, one of her priorities has been enhancing services and civic life for people with limited English language proficiency. She guided approval of legislation requiring hospitals to provide translators for patients who speak languages prevalent in the areas the hospitals serve. She has also begun work on an innovative pilot program allowing jurors who are otherwise qualified to serve but do not speak or understand English well to be accompanied by interpreters throughout a trial.



In the wake of lawsuits challenging a federal contraception coverage mandate, Martinez proposed asking voters to weigh in this November on whether Illinois should continue to require insurance companies to include birth control coverage in their prescription plans. If the Supreme Court strikes down the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate, Illinois must decide whether to uphold its commitment to equal health care access and women's rights.

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



## Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant

49<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Drawing upon her history as both an educator and an advocate, State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant

spent this year at the Capitol fighting to provide schools with additional resources and increased independence.

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

In an effort to save lives, Bertino-Tarrant also championed a proposal to make sure people directly contact emergency services when they call 911. The problem is that in many settings a caller may need to dial a "9" in order to access a line to then call 911. Quite often a caller wouldn't know to do this, and there have been tragic cases stemming from the confusion.

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

Closer to home, Bertino-Tarrant is involved with the Will

County Center for Economic Development, the Joliet Chamber of Commerce and the Wilco Area Career Center. She remains focused on strengthening job creation and bolstering the economy through fostering business at the local level. Even in her brief time in the legislature, she has worked to pass legislation that invests in state jobs and strengthens the business climate in the 49<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

As a former small business owner, Bertino-Tarrant has striven to be the voice at the Capitol for the small-businesses community. She supported a measure reducing state filing fees for small businesses in an effort to make Illinois' fees the lowest in the nation and encourage more entrepreneurs to launch businesses here.



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

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

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



## Daniel Biss

*9<sup>th</sup> Senate District*



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

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

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

Biss took his concern for retirement security to the private sector, introducing Illinois Secure Choice, a program that would automatically enroll most of the state's private sector workers in a portable 401(k)-like account

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

And continuing his push for government ethics and accountability, he closed a loophole that exempted some

county board appointees from state ethics laws and began taming the Chicago-area mass transit Hydra, imposing additional revolving door, transparency and contract review requirements on the scandal-prone RTA, CTA, Metra and Pace.

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



## Melinda Bush

*31<sup>st</sup> Senate District*



There are nearly five dozen appointed boards and commissions scattered across Lake

County that control everything from zoning to transportation planning. And yet there has been nothing in state law to hold these pivotal appointees accountable once local county officials approve them for the posts.

State Senator Melinda Bush is working to change that and ensure an ethically rogue appointee can be removed by the same entity that put the person in the position in the first place.

For Bush, her efforts to promote appointee accountability and transparency as an Illinois state senator are simply an extension of her good government agenda during her own time on the Lake County Board, where she also fought for reforms to the Lake County and Forest Preserve Boards.

Similarly, as a former small business owner and founding member of the Downtown Merchant's Association in Grayslake, Bush understands that business and job retention

are key to Illinois' long-term economic success. She championed legislation that seeks to improve the business climate of Illinois' border counties, which too often are susceptible to losing businesses and skilled workers to neighboring states.

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

Senator Bush was also involved in efforts to modernize the state's school funding system and provide greater opportunities for students throughout the state.

Bush supported proposals to safeguard the most vulnerable students, such as English as a second language learners, students with learning disabilities and children who transfer due to their parents' occupations. She is also working to provide college tuition relief by supporting measures that make college more attainable and affordable.

Transportation needs have long been a concern in Lake County. Bush has been working closely with Lake County residents and the Lake County Board to identify the most problematic and dangerous high-traffic areas for commuters and is partnering with state officials to meet the transportation needs of the district.





# Jacqueline Y. Collins

Financial Institutions chair | 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District



When the Illinois Housing Development Authority's executive director, Mary Kenney, presented Sen. Jacqueline

Y. Collins with the agency's "Legislator of the Year" award, she called Collins "a true champion and the housing expert in the Illinois Senate." The description fits; Collins, chairwoman of the Senate Financial Institutions Committee, saw the housing bust coming before others did. She has dedicated much of her time since then to crafting one of the nation's most effective state government responses to the foreclosure crisis.

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

its current rate has kept 294,000 Illinois residents out of poverty since 2010.

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

At the same time, Collins served on a task force she created

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

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



Western access to O'Hare International Airport has long been considered the linchpin to reducing

chronic suburban traffic congestion. Improved access can renew economic growth throughout the communities west of the airport, which serves as an international transportation hub fueling Chicagoland's economic engine.

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

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

The Elgin-O'Hare effort highlighted Cullerton's focus

# Tom Cullerton

23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

on improving suburban transportation. But he also prompted debate about the need for more funding for suburban public transportation. Population shifts have resulted in higher demand for suburban mass transit, and Cullerton sponsored legislation bringing funding for Metra and Pace up to appropriate levels.

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

As a former mayor, Cullerton knows firsthand the impact that state law has on the everyday operations of local government

and potential cost to local taxpayers. He makes it a priority to help out local governments, work to expand suburban transportation options and also support the numerous centers in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District that serve and care for the intellectually and developmentally disabled.

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







## Bill Cunningham *18<sup>th</sup> Senate District*



In response to parents and teachers warning that the school curriculum is being overrun by testing

rather than teaching, State Senator Bill Cunningham sought to remedy the situation at the Capitol.

Cunningham, who is finishing his second year in the Illinois Senate, sponsored legislation to give teachers more freedom to teach. His efforts were supported by numerous parents and teachers who turned out at a Senate Education Committee in Chicago to testify about the negative effects nearly 38 hours of testing each school year can have on students.

Cunningham's proposals sparked an ongoing debate at the Capitol and within the education community about the proper role of testing and making sure teaching is the top priority for our schools, and that students and educators alike aren't overburdened with bureaucratic testing.

The situation reflects how Cunningham remains dedicated and responsive to the needs of the people of the 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

Cunningham also made public safety a major focus this year.

After hearing of 911 operators who would legally tip off criminals on the actions of law enforcement to help them carry out their crimes, Cunningham co-sponsored legislation to change the law. Now, 911 operators who attempt to help criminals would be charged with a Class 3 felony.

Additionally, private schools currently do not have to enforce the same safety standards as public schools. Thanks to Senate Bill 2710, which Cunningham sponsored, children in private schools will now have the same basic protections as children in public schools. He also co-sponsored legislation requiring all schools in the state to have electronic safety plans in place. Both measures aim to increase

school safety for all crisis scenarios.

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

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



## William Delgado *Education chair | 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District*



As the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Senator William Delgado

focused his efforts this year on Chicago Public Schools and emerged as a leader in the fight to bring newfound scrutiny to charter schools and ensure student rights are protected.

Angered over charter schools improving their academic scores by expelling students, Delgado fought back in Springfield, sponsoring legislation allowing the State Board of Education to annually evaluate charter schools throughout Illinois. Delgado also sponsored legislation giving local voters the final decision as to whether they want charter schools located in their neighborhoods.

Recognizing that learning cannot begin if students cannot safely get to school, Delgado worked with his Senate colleagues on legislation to ensure safe passage to school. He also supported anti-bullying proposals designed to provide added protections for some of the most vulnerable students.

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

The program tracks all prescription drugs classified as controlled substances. It serves as a clinical tool to assist medical providers. A website set up by the state's Bureau of Pharmacy and Clinical Services allows prescribers and pharmacists to view a current or prospective

patient's prescription history to help prevent the misuse, abuse and diversion of controlled substance medications.

Finally, Delgado pushed for the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 42, urging Congress to convene a convention of the states to propose a constitutional amendment in order to restore free and fair elections in America.

The goal of the convention would be to reverse the Supreme Court ruling on Citizens United, the ruling that gave corporations "personhood" and led to the creation of super PACs, not only in Illinois, but throughout the nation.

Similar language has been proposed this year in at least 10 additional states.





## Gary Forby

Labor chair | 59<sup>th</sup> Senate District



The Du Quoin Fairgrounds are a prized gem for Southern Illinois and a major economic driver for the region.

But like other state facilities, the fairgrounds need major improvements, and the reality is it's difficult to find funding for these projects when the state budget is shrinking.

That's why Senator Gary Forby supported legislation to create the Illinois State Fairgrounds Foundation, a not-for-profit entity, to help raise private funds to cover the cost of facility upgrades and repairs. He hopes it will result in increased investment to maintain the fairgrounds and facilities, which are a vital economic showplace for Southern Illinois.

It's part of Senator Forby's overall focus on investing for the future and helping people and regions rebuild.

In 2012, tornadoes tore through Harrisburg, Carrier Mills and other parts of Southern Illinois, leaving a path of destruction in their wake. Hundreds of families were forced to rebuild their homes, which is why Forby passed legislation to aid in that effort. The law ensures

that no one who rebuilds his or her home is hit with higher property taxes.

The town of Gifford is facing a similar rebuilding project after storms ravaged the small town back in November. Knowing the immense effort it takes to recover from such a disaster, Forby joined the effort to provide assistance to Gifford residents. He supported legislation, similar to his 2012 proposal, to provide property tax relief to small businesses forced to rebuild. These small businesses will be hit with higher property taxes due to increased value added by new construction.

If you spend enough time driving the highways in Southern Illinois, you are bound to encounter a pack a motorcycle riders partaking in one of the many weekly poker runs. Poker

runs are a favorite pastime of folks in Southern Illinois, as they are a fundraising event commonly used to generate funds for local charities or families struggling financially as a result of a tragic hardship such as a death in the family, a sudden illness or disaster. Unfortunately, state bureaucrats began cracking down on these unlicensed events, causing concern for many charitable organizations and avid bikers.

In response, Forby, a strong advocate for motorcycle riders and avid participant in poker runs, sponsored legislation to protect these cherished events. His proposal will make poker runs a licensed activity, which will ensure generous bikers across the state can continue riding for a cause.



## Michael Frerichs

Higher Education chair | 52<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



In light of the destruction left by the November 16 tornadoes in his hometown of Gifford, Senator Mike

Frerichs advanced legislation to provide relief and support rebuilding efforts.

For example, Frerichs advanced legislation brought to him by the Champaign County Board to help protect small businesses struggling with the costs of rebuilding from higher property taxes due to the value added by new construction.

And when the federal government refused Illinois' request for federal aid, Senator Frerichs took action to provide relief for the tornado-ravaged communities. He worked with a bipartisan group of legislators to create a plan for the state to administer grants to disaster-affected communities in cases where federal aid, insurance and other resources are not available.

Similarly, when Hoopeston experienced a massive tire fire in 2013, the fire burned for weeks, forcing evacuations and months of environmental cleanup. This year, Frerichs worked with the Illinois EPA for better oversight of

used tire storage and processing facilities to prevent future catastrophes.

As he helped Gifford rebuild for its future and protected the environmental future of Hoopeston and other communities, Frerichs also sought to assist prospective college students with the costs of higher education, so they can build a stronger economic future for themselves.

Frerichs, Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, hosted a series of community hearings on college affordability at universities and community colleges across the state. Students and faculty from all walks of life shared personal stories and their struggles to pay for a college education.

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

In addition to higher education, Frerichs continued to focus on job growth and economic development, understanding that a skilled workforce is key to the state's economic growth. With this in mind, he introduced legislation that seeks to better match Illinois' workforce with the needs of employers.





# Napoleon Harris III

15<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Throughout the second session of the 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Senator Napoleon Harris III

made it his focus to protect and promote the safety and security of Illinois students and their parents, the elderly and the disadvantaged.

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

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

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

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

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

Harris co-sponsored Senate Bill 2793, which would require school districts home to disproportionate numbers of arrests to provide state education officials with discipline improvement plans designed to reduce expulsions and suspensions and keep children

facing problems in school, getting them assistance rather than dumping them on the streets with no help.

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

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



# Michael E. Hastings

19<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Technology is changing at a rapid pace, which has led to major advancements in how we communicate.

But as our communication platforms expanded, so too has the ability to use these new technologies for harm. Cyberbullying was a foreign phrase 20 years ago, but now it has increasingly and unfortunately become a household term and societal plague.

As the youngest member of the Illinois Senate, Michael E. Hastings led the charge this legislative session to ensure our criminal justice system can keep pace with our rapidly changing, technology-based environment. Hastings focused his attention on one particular form of cyberbullying, a heinous online intimidation tactic often referred to as "revenge porn" in which compromising photos or videos are posted online, often by disgruntled exs looking to embarrass or terrorize their former partners.

Hastings sponsored legislation making such acts a felony

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

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

Having served in the military himself, Senator Hastings continues to advocate for military families and veterans. For example, he passed legislation to ensure military families with a disabled dependent don't lose access to funding or services if the family is required to move because of a military assignment.

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





# Linda Holmes

Environment chair | 42<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



As head of the Senate's Environment Committee, Senator Linda Holmes was an outspoken advocate for Illinois' treasured natural resources this session at the Capitol.

In hopes of helping foster the return of former native species, such as the American black bear, gray wolves and mountain lions, Holmes passed legislation adding these animals to the Illinois Wildlife Code in order to afford them greater protection. These animals were at one time native predators, but have been largely absent for decades in Illinois.

The problem now is that when there is a rare sighting, the animals are often shot out of safety concerns. Holmes' proposal allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to regulate their population growth. Almost every other mammal, including bobcats and coyotes are already regulated under state wildlife laws.

Holmes worked with conservation enthusiasts and the Illinois Farm Bureau in crafting compromise legislation to help restore native wildlife but not sacrifice public and agricultural animal safety.

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

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

The legislation Holmes' helped advance would prohibit the manufacture of products with microbeads starting December

31, 2017. The proposal also stipulates that businesses cannot sell products with micro-beads purchased after December 31, 2018.

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

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



# Toi Hutchinson

Revenue chair | 40<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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

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

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

themselves, providing the trauma centers and shelters with the resources necessary for the continued survival of the victims of this heinous industry.

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

Continuing her tradition of fighting discrimination and inequality, Hutchinson led efforts to recognize April 8 as "Pay Equity Day" to bring attention

to the on-going pay inequalities between men and women. April 8 represents the date women must work to in order to achieve the same annual earning as men did the previous year.

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

Hutchinson remains committed to bringing attention to this ongoing issue that too many unfortunately consider a problem of the past.





# Mike Jacobs

Energy chair | 36<sup>th</sup> Senate District



State Senator Mike Jacobs continues to be an outspoken advocate for his local communities, finding

innovative ways to increase employment and bring much-needed investment in projects and people to northwestern Illinois.

For instance, Jacobs recently oversaw the finalizing of the sale of the Thomson maximum-security prison to the federal government. That sale meant extra money for the state and could finally allow the local economy to realize long-ago promised jobs and economic investment.

The Thomson Correctional Center, built in 2001, cost the taxpayers of Illinois \$140 million. It, however, had never been operational because the state lacked the funds to open and maintain the facility. The U.S. Justice Department agreed to purchase Thomson in October of 2012 for \$165 million. Once operational, the facility should provide over 1,000 jobs in Thomson and the surrounding region.

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

Senator Jacobs introduced Senate Bill 3379, which focused on expanding employment and education opportunities to low-income and at-risk youth throughout the state. By providing educational services, job training, counseling and job placement services, the YouthBuild program is able to help kids become skilled and productive members of society.

Evidence of the program's success can be found with its program in the Quad Cities. Area

youth restored a home to be environmentally sustainable, and along the way, those involved learned about green building techniques and were able to earn their environmental certifications.

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



# Emil Jones III

Local Government chair | 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



As the chairman of the Illinois Senate Black Caucus, State Senator Emil Jones III channeled his efforts toward

promoting job growth in Illinois by continuing to advocate for employee rights and employer protection by ensuring all people are provided the best possible conditions to find work and grow their businesses.

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

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

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

Jones also supported efforts

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

In addition to working to create new jobs, Senator Jones focused on clearing hurdles from the paths of people trying to get their lives back on track. He supported legislation requiring state police to annually erase police records of youth who were arrested when they were minors. The legislation would call for records to be

cleared once the youth turns 18 or has been arrest-free for six months.

Jones understands the economic impact and discriminatory effect of even a single juvenile arrest. That mark on a young person's record hinders the ability to compete for educational opportunities, scholarships and employment.

Understanding the immediate needs of his constituents, Jones hosted a re-employment workshop in which unemployed or underemployed residents could apply for job training programs and connect with area professionals.

Jones is working to ensure all citizens have equal access to opportunities.





# David Koehler

Agriculture and Conservation chair | 46<sup>th</sup> Senate District



In 2014, Senator David Koehler continued his work to improve access to healthy, locally grown

food throughout Illinois. He also addressed several important issues brought to him by local officials.

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

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

Koehler also continued to advocate for legislation to require companies to notify consumers when their products contain

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

In addition to his work on food safety, Koehler worked to address specific concerns from his district.

After deadly tornadoes swept through Washington, Pekin, East Peoria and other communities last fall, they appealed to the federal government for aid. They were denied. Koehler and a bipartisan, bicameral coalition of legislators came together to try to figure out

a way the state could help.

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

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



# Dan Kotowski

Appropriations II chair | 28<sup>th</sup> Senate District



The idea of banks taking a cut of a parent's child support check made no sense to State Senator

Dan Kotowski. So the Park Ridge lawmaker stepped up with new consumer protections, pushing legislation at the Capitol that simply stops banks from charging fees on people who collect their child support payments through debit cards.

Many of these individuals are single parents from low-income families who deserve and need every child support dollar to provide for their children.

For Senator Kotowski, the legislation reflects his commonsense approach to financial matters at both the family and state level. As chairman of one of the Senate's two budgeting committees, Kotowski continues to focus on identifying programs that work and getting rid of those that don't.

This simple philosophy is the driving force behind Kotowski's Budgeting for Results Commission, which this year travelled the state hosting

hearings on state financial priorities and identifying programs that have the greatest impact on people's lives.

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

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

information about why taxpayer money is necessary to support their programs.

Kotowski believes these dollars deserve the same scrutiny as any other state spending programs, and he plans to continue pushing for increased transparency in the budget process.

Aside from financial matters, Kotowski remains a leading advocate for those with epilepsy, having been diagnosed as a child. Kotowski co-sponsored legislation adding patients with epilepsy or seizures to the state's medicinal cannabis pilot program. Similar treatments have been shown to reduce symptoms significantly for patients, sometimes eliminating seizures completely.





# Steven Landek

State Government and Veterans Affairs chair | 12<sup>th</sup> Senate District



State Senator Steven Landek offered his unique and valuable perspective as both a senator and mayor of a

southwest suburban community to ensure the concerns of local governments across Illinois and the 12<sup>th</sup> Senate District were heard during the 2014 spring session.

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

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

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

communities to a natural resource that we all rely on.”

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

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

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



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

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

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



# Andy Manar

48<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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

school funding system.

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

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

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

fund schools in more than 15 years.

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

You can drive through Main Street in any small town in southern and central Illinois and find at least one historic structure that needs to be rehabilitated. To encourage private developers to repurpose these historic buildings, and to spur job growth, Manar sponsored a proposal to create

a statewide historic tax credit. Senate Bill 336 will create a Rehabilitation and Revitalization tax credit on state income taxes for the rehabilitation of historic buildings.

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

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





## Pat McGuire

*43<sup>rd</sup> Senate District*



The legislative session in Springfield might take Pat McGuire away from his hometown, but his Capitol agenda

remains thoroughly rooted in the needs of the Will County communities he represents in the Illinois Senate.

McGuire has been active in clean energy initiatives this year, focusing on ways to bring clean energy jobs to Will County. McGuire wants to make sure Illinois has the policies in place to attract investment in the fast-growing clean energy industry.

And while Senator McGuire looks to attract employment through the technology of tomorrow, he was also working to revitalize the industries and facilities of Will County's past.

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

McGuire considers it irresponsible for the state to build these complexes and then walk away with no plans to maintain

them, let alone market them for future use. Last year, he sponsored legislation to create incentive programs for investors who find ways to breathe new life into shuttered state facilities. And the Senator spent the last year working with community stakeholders and government agencies to find a way for the city of Joliet to buy the shuttered historic prison in order to turn it into a museum.

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

McGuire is also pushing for state funding for needed school construction projects for the fast-growing local schools. Four school districts in the 43<sup>rd</sup>

Senate District are on the next statewide construction list. McGuire has been working to ensure that these schools stay at the top of the list when funding for construction projects comes available.

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

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



## Julie Morrison

*29<sup>th</sup> Senate District*



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

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

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

One of the key points that emerged during the hearing was that the rules governing DCFS's safety plans don't go far enough to protect children. DCFS implements safety plans when the agency's investigators determine that allegations of abuse or neglect are serious but do not yet warrant putting the

child or children in protective custody or foster care. The requirements of the plans vary, but they often involve placing the child in the home of a relative like an aunt or grandparent, requiring a family member to temporarily leave the home or requiring another family member to move in and supervise contact.

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

In addition to her work on safety plans, Morrison introduced legislation to require DCFS to file annual reports on its day care

licensing system, which serves more than 300,000 children; to encourage all mandated child abuse reporters to complete training every five years; and to develop multi-disciplinary teams of DCFS investigators, law enforcement officers, doctors and other relevant professionals to investigate cases of potential child abuse.

Senator Morrison believes that as the General Assembly increases the accountability and transparency of DCFS, she and other legislators will find it easier to identify ways to make further improvements to Illinois' system of protecting children who cannot protect themselves.







# John Mulroe

Public Health chair | 10<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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

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

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

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

Concerned with the recent media attention to the uptick of nearly extinct diseases, Mulroe created a subcommittee on immunizations this past year. He will lead the new immunization

subcommittee in discussions about these recent trends and their correlation to vaccinations and immunizations.

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

Mulroe also led a proposal through the Senate that requires CPR training for high school children and to make sure they

know how to use AED machines that are required in schools. Mulroe feels that if everyone is given the opportunity to learn how to operate these machines, lives will be saved.

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



# Michael Noland

Criminal Law chair | 22<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



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

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

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

Noland's proposal would start the clock on prosecuting rape at the moment law enforcement completes analysis of all rape kits in the case rather than at the moment of the crime, as the law currently states. With

this safeguard in place, stories like Rosa's should never happen again. In large part because of Rosa's powerful and courageous testimony, Senate Bill 2609 passed the Senate.

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

As a member of the Senate





# Kwame Raoul

Judiciary chair | Pensions and Investments chair | 13<sup>th</sup> Senate District



In 2008 and 2012, Kwame Raoul volunteered as an election attorney in Florida. While there, he witnessed

senior citizens and minorities discouraged from voting.

The experience has shaped one of Raoul's recurring priorities as a member of the Illinois State Senate, where he has secured approval of numerous voter protections including the proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution that Raoul guided through the General Assembly this year and onto the November ballot for public consideration.

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

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

Nowhere was this more evident

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

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

Battle-tested on the pension issue, Raoul later took up similar legislation to reform Chicago

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

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



# Martin Sandoval

Transportation chair | 11<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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

access to health care.

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

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

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

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

As chairman of the Senate

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

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

companies into line with other like industries.

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

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





# Steve Stadelman

*34<sup>th</sup> Senate District*



Next year, an Amtrak train will rumble into a Rockford depot for the first time since 1981.

The long-awaited return

of passenger rail service to the Forest City came about thanks to State Senator Steve Stadelman, who had made it one of his top priorities upon arriving at the Capitol last year.

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

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

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

Employers benefit because

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

In addition to his work on economic development, Stadelman worked hard to maintain the state's investment in Rockford facilities.

First, he introduced legislation to revitalize Singer Mental Health Center on Rockford's northwest side. The state closed the center under previous budget cuts. Stadelman's idea is to make it easy for local governments to gain control of the shuttered state properties and use tax credits to entice developers to find new uses for them. The plan



has the potential to encourage job growth and improve property values in the neighborhood.

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

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

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



# Heather Steans

*Appropriations I chair | 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District*



Seeking to right a more than three-decade old black mark on Illinois' reputation, State Senator Heather Steans

won final Senate approval of the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The ERA was a lightning rod of controversy in the late 1970s and early 1980s when proponents sought to amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit discrimination based on gender.

At the time, Illinois failed to support the change, and the protests by supporters resulted in arrests and civic turmoil at the Capitol.

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

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

Steans achieved another victory for equal rights when she secured a favorable vote for Marsy's Law, an amendment

to the Illinois Constitution's crime victims' bill of rights. The state constitution already protects crime victims during the trial process, but Marsy's Law, if approved by voters this November, would add additional notification requirements and opportunities to be heard. It would also give crime victims and their families standing to petition a court to enforce their rights.

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

Steans sponsored a ban on cosmetic "microbeads," tiny plastic pieces often found in face

washes and other personal care products. And while the plastic bits effectively clean pores, they also find their way into waterways such as Lake Michigan, where they absorb toxins and can pollute fish and other aquatic life.

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

Steans holds degrees from Princeton University and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She lives with her husband, Leo Smith and their three children in the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago.





# Patricia Van Pelt

*5<sup>th</sup> Senate District*



In her second session in the General Assembly, Senator Patricia Van Pelt continued her focus on social

justice issues and protecting workers' rights while remaining a tireless advocate for the people of the 5<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

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

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

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

In a successful attempt to

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

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

African American families in Illinois.

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

Beyond legislation, Van Pelt hosted a small business fair this April for those small business owners striving for economic success and looking for opportunities to expand and grow their labor force. Businesses received training in contracting, lending and loans, and became aware of state programs to utilize for future progress.



# LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY ISSUE

**John J. Cullerton, Senate President**  
Communications Department • [www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com](http://www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com)



**NOTE:** This digital version includes legislation passed after 3 p.m. Thursday, May 29, may not be included.

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

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

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

## Appropriations

HB 3793	Budget bill reappropriation for construction, AFSCME back pay
HB 3794	Mini-capital construction program funding
HB 6060	Budget bill: supplemental, Medicaid related expenses
HB 6093	Budget bill: K-12 Ed
HB 6094	Budget bill: higher ed



HB 6095	Budget bill: constitutional officers, GA, CMS, agencies
HB 6096	Budget bill: CMS, agencies
HB 6097	Budget bill: IDOT, ISP, DOC, DJJ

## Budget

HJR 0080	Lists the general funds estimated by the House for FY 15
SB 0230	Requires only university presidents (rather than presidents and boards of trustees) to sign off that they understand the state appropriations they receive each year
SB 2612	Allows the Department of Revenue to use 5% of the Tax Compliance and Administration fund to hire new auditors
SB 3447	Standardizes the statutory language relating to a Department of Revenue practice

## Business and Economic Development

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

HB 0008	Protects pregnant women from employment discrimination
HB 3681	Exempts software companies from license requirements if they don't actually transfer money to process payments from wireless devices
HB 3829	Requires the Illinois Business Development Council to study border states' economic development policies and recommend best practices for border counties
HB 3924	Extends a TIF district for the city of Ottawa
HB 4185	Creates a TIF extension for Arlington Heights
HB 4286	Extends a TIF district in Machesney Park
HB 4535	Allows nonresidents who earn advanced degrees in architecture to waive English language tests
HB 4677	Allows title insurance settlement funds to continue to be disbursed; allows coordination of benefits between small insurance non-group insurers
HB 4687	Reduces the fee for shipping medical nuclear isotopes less than 100 miles entirely within Illinois
HB 4769	Allows surety bond authorizers to have a financial strength of A- (rather than A)
HB 4790	Makes various minor changes relating to hair care licenses and certifications
HB 5342	Allows credit unions to establish charitable donation accounts; makes other changes regarding credit union law
HB 5685	Finishes the process of repealing the Savings and Loan Act by moving all of its pieces to other areas of statute
SB 0226	Creates the Support Your Neighborhood Commission to help increase the number of American- and Illinois-made products purchased by Illinois consumers; requires state gift shops to have sections or booths selling products made in America and Illinois



SB 0499	Changes the Tri-City Regional Port District to the America's Central Port District and expands its jurisdiction
SB 0504	Extends several TIF districts
SB 0647	Regulates how telehealth plans are to be covered by insurance plans
SB 0727	Creates various liquor code exemptions in Chicago
SB 0728	Resets the clock on multiple sales of alcohol to minors every five years
SB 1778	Creates regulations for resale dealers, similar to pawnshop brokers; excludes areas with populations over a million
SB 1999	Allows day care/child care licensing applicants to meet the requirement of proving they have graduated high school by proving they have graduated college
SB 2071	Extends several TIF districts
SB 2634	Shortens the posting requirement before holding a meeting to change an insurance mutual company into a stock company from 60 days to 30
SB 2922	Prohibits public insurance adjusters from accepting payment over 10% of the insurance settlement for catastrophic events; allows exemptions
SB 2952	Amends Self-Storage Facility Act, allows notifications to be sent via email. Defines verified mail and electronic mail
SB 3044	Removes a provision requiring that real estate broker license requirements include real-time discussion between the instructor and students
SB 3103	Expands the definition of beer to include all beverages brewed or fermented from malt products, specifically hard ciders
SB 3259	Creates a property tax abatement for commercial or industrial property rebuilt following a tornado
SB 3290	Exempts off-road riding facilities from liability for noise emissions
SB 3322	Clarifies the type of actuary intergovernmental insurance pools must use
SB 3324	Makes a variety of changes to the law regulating purchasing industrial insurance from unauthorized insurers
SB 3423	Brings Illinois standards into line with federal hazard insurance guidelines
SB 3438	Allows co-op owners to own up to 10 shares (rather than 5) and increases the maximum allowed share price; changes the definition of co-ops to include both fees for shareholders and sale to others
SB 3488	Clarifies architecture test timing requirements for individuals who want to become licensed architects

## Civil Law

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

HB 4360	Allows companies to use "Chicago 2016" in their business names and changes several LLC filing rules
HB 4417	Allows probation officers to carry firearms in accordance with their jobs after taking the same training as peace officers
HB 4534	Fee not exceeding \$15 will be charged to certain defendants to defray automated record keeping expenses



HB 5512	Changes specific time requirements under civil procedure for disability rules; in no case can a period of limitation be stayed more than 10 years
HB 5686	Changes probate rules for minors with short-term guardians
HB 5824	Changes how a vacant judge position is address in DeKalb County
HB 5950	Strengthens state laws requiring convicted offenders to provide restitution to their victims
SB 1098	Allows people to indefinitely sue corporations after they dissolve but takes away that right if they reform; adds that officers can not be held liable for the dissolution if the entity is reinstated
SB 1219	Changes sale rules for a highway interchange project in Will County
SB 2002	Protects fiduciaries who are directed to take part in certain legal proceedings regarding trusts from liability
SB 2656	Clears up issues relating to the transfer of real residential property after someone's death
SB 2730	Establishes a procedure to address part-owners of foreclosed upon buildings who were inadvertently left out of the foreclosure process
SB 2829	If the court reverses the decision of a municipal code hearings officer they can award the plaintiff all reasonable costs associated with the action
SB 2954	Courts can compel a disabled adult ward's guardian to petition to initiate legal proceedings -- including marriage, divorce and adoption on behalf of his or her ward if it is in their own best interest
SB 2984	Clarifies what a virtual representative in a trust is
SB 2985	Requires the assets of dead people with small estates to be used to pay debts before being distributed to heirs
SB 3023	Allows mechanics' liens to be subordinated to mortgage under certain circumstances
SB 3231	Creates a more precise procedure for awarding maintenance after the dissolution of a marriage

## Consumer Protection

- HB 5354 allows people to sell up to \$1,000 worth of homemade food from their homes. This law was inspired by a young girl who was selling cupcakes to make a little extra money. The local health department shut her down, causing a local and national outrage.
- SB 2597 requires homeowners and real estate agents to inform potential buyers of damage to doors and windows. Replacing doors and windows can add unexpected costs when families buy new homes.

HB 2962	Gives the director of Insurance more authority to penalize insurance companies that engage in improper claims practices
HB 3963	Creates examination requirements for professional licensed engineers
HB 4381	Creates a task force to determine how to regulate commercial tax preparers
HB 4505	Sets new rules for cooking oil and grease disposal
HB 4725	Requires insurers to develop risk management plans to comply with federal law
HB 5354	The Cupcake Bill; allows public health departments to inspect kitchens in the event of a foodborne illness outbreak, much like with the cottage food law
HB 5575	Raises the amount of money insurance arbitrators can award following accidents involving uninsured and under-insured drivers



HB 5926	Changes alcohol server certification requirements for Cook County
SB 0232	Clarifies that IDFPD can take disciplinary action when someone violates the terms of his or her license
SB 0643	Increases penalties for unlicensed genetic counseling and makes changes to the licensure process
SB 0644	Establishes that nothing concerning arbitration under the insurance code can preclude a party from going to court
SB 0646	Sets requirements for domestic societies that provide insurance
SB 1045	Extends foreclosure protections to homeowners who have applied under the Federal Home Affordable Program for two years
SB 1470	Makes changes concerning the recall of meat products
SB 1787	Allows the SoS to revoke or refuse to issue a funeral or burial license if the applicant is engaged in a lockout that is bad for consumers
SB 2597	Adds damage to doors or windows to the report homeowners must provide to potential buyers
SB 2608	Allows insurers to produce "certificates of insurance" to demonstrate a customer has property or casualty insurance
SB 2811	Changes the term "hearing-impaired" to "deaf or hard of hearing" throughout law; updates the training requirements for hearing aid makers
SB 2999	Requires roofers to submit proof that they pay unemployment insurance to IDES
SB 3029	Changes the way checks and other similar financial documents are numbered
SB 3157	Aligns Illinois' milk safety laws with federal standards
SB 3294	Allows counties and municipalities to require recycling bins to be labeled with the name and for-profit/non-profit status of the recycling operator
SB 3504	Makes a variety of consumer-friendly changes to mine subsidence insurance rules
SB 3506	Allows the use of "urgent care" in the name of urgent care centers, bringing Illinois in line with the other 49 states

## Criminal Law

- SB 2956 requires state's attorneys to seek court orders to force people charged with sex crimes to get tested for STDs. Prompt treatment can help limit health consequences for victims who are infected by their attackers.
- HB 4290 creates criminal penalties for giving out false concealed carry certification. Both gun rights advocates and gun safety advocates want to make sure everyone who applies for a concealed carry permit has proper certification.
- HB 4269 increases criminal penalties for drug dealers who booby-trap their homes. These criminals put the lives of law enforcement officers at risk.

HB 0671	Makes an exemption under the prohibition on selling or purchasing a minors information; applies if the information is being used in a criminal or civil investigation or is otherwise lawful
HB 0802	Changes how criminal eyewitness lineups are conducted to increase reliability and ensure uniformity
HB 2378	Allows criminal records to be sealed for additional minor crimes



HB 3744	Court may order person charged with certain violent offenses to undergo risk assessment evaluation to determine if GPS surveillance is needed
HB 4082	Grants state's attorneys the discretion to determine whether to file charges for delinquency when minors violate probation
HB 4093	Increases the penalty for manufacturing meth near a school
HB 4236	Prohibits charged and convicted stalkers from receiving DHS drug and alcohol addiction treatment
HB 4266	Strengthens laws that protect the privacy of crime victims
HB 4269	Makes booby trapping your residence a crime and increases penalties if the residence is used for drug manufacture or distribution
HB 4290	Creates penalties for instructors who give out false concealed-carry certification
HB 4410	Increases the fines for violating animal welfare laws
HB 4516	Clarifies that child sexual abuse must be intentional contact with genitals or anus for the purposes of sexual fulfillment
HB 4594	Allows judges to issue search warrants via video conference
HB 4781	Creates age and education requirements for Dept. of Juvenile Justice rehabilitation staff
HB 5290	Makes it a crime to solicit naked pictures of a child from the child's parents as a means of seducing the child or the parent into performing a sex act
HB 5415	Allows the Illinois State Police to claim that a reward "may" be available for helping locate a missing sex offender rather than a reward "will" be available
HB 5523	Allows law enforcement agents to seize vehicles and vessels for felony retail theft
HB 5526	Prohibits children from owning kratom plants, which are a mild pain reliever with side effects similar to opium
HB 5682	Creates new SNAP and TANF fraud provisions for misrepresenting recipients of these benefits
HB 5815	Allows courts to seal orders of supervision and convictions on municipal ordinances
HB 5899	Allows the state's appellate prosecutor's office to form a committee to evaluate and recommend best practices on issues related to investigations and prosecutions of serious criminal offenses
HB 5922	Enhances penalties for trespassing on mass transit property rights of way with the intent to delay service
HJRCA 0001	Crime victims' rights amendment
SB 0852	Applies penalties to the rules addressing no-smoking signs and ashtrays
SB 0978	Requires ISP to annually expunge certain non-delinquent minors' arrest records when they turn 18; other expungement changes
SB 1007	Adds programs addressing trauma from prostitution and human trafficking to the list of mental health court programs for probation
SB 2650	Establishes that if defendants' convictions are reversed by findings of factual innocence they will not be required to pay any related fees or fines and will be refunded any fees or fines they have already payed
SB 2695	Makes it a crime for a law enforcement official to use or communicate information they learned at work to hinder a criminal case, excludes informants



SB 2709	Establishes that donating blood to a blood bank cannot count toward community service requirements for a juvenile probation sentence
SB 2800	Extends a pilot program reinstating a provision that requires that defendants who require medical care are returned to the county jail and reexamined before standing trial
SB 2801	Fundamentally reforms the way defendants who are unfit to stand trial and declared not guilty by reason of insanity are treated
SB 2852	Allows search warrants to be issued via email
SB 2937	Prohibits police from using privately owned drones for surveillance without a court order
SB 2956	Requires state's attorneys to seek court orders for people charged with sex crimes to be tested for STDs
SB 2995	Creates a procedure for post-conviction forensic testing for individuals who plead guilty
SB 3074	Allows courts to extend probation periods
SB 3110	Allows physicians to disclose information about a patient if that patient is charged with a criminal action of sexual assault, homicide, battery, domestic battery or aggravated domestic battery
SB 3267	Creates time credits for non-violent offenders on probation or conditional release who have completed a GED, associate degree, vocational certificate or bachelor's degree
SB 3275	Outlaws the psychedelic drugs 25C-NBOMe and 25B-NBOMe
SB 3405	Criminalizes frivolous patent litigation
SB 3434	Allows law enforcement to seize watercraft used in the commission of repeated crimes involving DUIs
SB 3538	Creates a criminal penalty for impersonating the guardian of a person with disabilities

## Education

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

HB 1002	Allows the Lebanon School District to issue construction bonds if certain conditions are met
HB 1152	Creates the Chicago Educational Governance Task Force to examine and recommend the best structure for governing CPS schools
HB 1711	Clarifies that directors of Education Service Centers have the same responsibilities and authority as ROEs, including appointing replacement school board members
HB 2513	Requires all new school construction to include storm shelters
HB 3232	Increases transparency and accountability of charter schools
HB 3662	Requires CPS to reimburse the parents of students who must walk or travel along safe passage routes or qualified transportation expenses
HB 3695	Allows AP computer science classes to count toward math high school graduation requirements as long as students have also completed Algebra II





HB 3700	Requires ISBE to include dyslexia in the state's special education provisions and create training modules for teachers
HB 3724	Requires high schools to teach CPR and AED use in health classes; allows parents to withdraw students if they have objections
HB 3777	Allows ISBE to make grants to special education cooperatives for school maintenance
HB 3937	Extends the moratorium on virtual charter schools until 2016
HB 3942	Validates a school district referendum that passed this March
HB 3948	Changes Grow Your Own Teacher candidate requirements
HB 4207	Cyberbullying expansion, extends schools' disciplinary authority for cyberbullying if the computer is accessed away from school if it hinders a student's ability to learn
HB 4262	Gives schools the authority to require their employees to undergo additional health screenings, including for tuberculosis
HB 4336	Changes the name of General Educational Development (GED) tests to high school equivalency tests
HB 4407	Clarifies that schools must continue to follow a students' current IEP while that IEP is challenged by the state, school or parents
HB 4440	Increases the amount of the Early Childhood Block Grant spent on birth-to-3 programs from 11% to 14%
HB 4522	Reduces the number of school districts in a city needed to form a K-8 math and science partnership with a college from four to two districts
HB 4527	Requires charter schools to comply with all federal and state laws pertaining to public schools and special education and the instruction of English language learners
HB 4591	Requires charter schools to return money paid for dismissed students to the local school district
HB 4612	Creates a study on shared school bus services
HB 4616	Allows a school board to use remaining funds on hand in the fire prevention and safety fund for safety inspections
HB 4652	Increases the number of fee waivers that DCFS can award to its wards who attend college from 48 to 53
HB 4767	Gradually repeals an alternative teacher certification program
HB 4995	Allows the Monticello School District to issue bonds if approved by referendum
HB 5283	Allows the Milford Township School District to issue bonds for school construction with voter approval
HB 5286	Changes school psychologist qualifications and establishes that working four years as school support personnel shall be counted toward a principal endorsement
HB 5288	Establishes new requirements for school counselors' duties
HB 5330	Creates a task force to review standardized assessments
HB 5393	Changes standards for a variety of teachers' continued education scholarship programs
HB 5397	Requires schools to submit fitness testing results to ISBE
HB 5431	Requires ISBE to create a concussion awareness certification program for coaches
HB 5546	Changes how laid-off teachers can be recalled to work; based on performance instead of seniority
HB 5588	Eliminates duplicative and obsolete language in the school code



HB 5619	Clarifies that developer donations and impact fees can be used for technological infrastructure improvements at schools
HB 5707	Defines the policy on bullying under the school code and provides specific information that must be included when schools file reports on bullying
HB 5716	Encourages schools to have their emergency and crisis plans stored in digital format
HB 5892	Allows trained school personnel (in addition to nurses) to administer EpiPens
SB 0578	Allows certain teaching certificates and endorsements to be changed into non-teaching endorsements, requires an application from ISBE; also changes renewal procedures for lapsed teaching licenses
SB 0587	Cuts a round of teacher technical skills renewal testing for teachers who have already passed the basic skills test
SB 1595	Exempts schools that applied for funding for construction projects prior to 7/1/09 LEEDS standards
SB 2710	Requires private school to conduct school safety drills at least once a year
SB 2747	Creates a task force within the State Board of Education to make recommendations regarding improved school security; exempts these recommendations from FOIA
SB 2793	Requires information addressing student discipline to be included on the annual school report card submitted to the State Board of Education, includes Charter schools
SB 2945	Requires the Illinois Purchased Care Review Board to approve the rates for certain out-of-state, private autism programs that serve Illinois residents
SB 2972	Allows a school official who has at least two years in a full-time general administrative position to qualify for a superintendent endorsement
SB 2989	Changes licensing requirements for school psychologists; bases it on national certification organization guidelines
SB 3081	Establishes that the first day of charter schools' fiscal years will be July 1; clarifies a contract certification issue relating to charter schools
SB 3113	Allows new consolidated school districts to continue collecting taxes to pay for bonds connected to one of the original districts
SB 3274	Allows PE teachers to conform to the same qualifications as academic teachers
SB 3412	Changes the schedule and requirements for K-12 standardized testing

## Elections

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



## Environment and Energy

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

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



## Ethics

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

HB 1040	Creates Chief Information Officer of the State, coordinates financial information reporting with state agencies; requires reporting of state grants and pension contributions
HB 4208	Expands county ethics laws to include people appointed by members of county boards
HB 4216	Makes it a crime to intentionally and unlawfully hide or destroy public records
HB 5853	Requires ITAP to provide basic contact information for all state agencies, changes immediate effective date to Jan. 1, 2015
SB 0506	Requires coroners to disqualify themselves from their regular duties when they have a potential conflict of interests
SB 1941	Creates methods to authenticate that legal documents published online are accurate
SB 3552	Gives collar county boards the authority to create additional ethics standards and fire appointed officials for breaking these standards

## Family

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

HB 4495	Temporarily allows 16-year-olds to be placed in DCFS custody for delinquency (currently the age threshold is 15)
HB 4636	Clarifies and modernizes several terms used in the Child Care and Adoption Act to address civil unions and expand the definition of "relative" to include great-grandparents, step-grandparents and cousins
HB 4916	Clarifies the appeals process for guardians and attorneys when DCFS finds allegations of child abuse unfounded
HB 5598	Creates a program to prevent parents from abandoning their children for the children to obtain mental health services
HB 5949	Changes various provisions affecting adults who were adopted
SB 0640	Prohibits charging fees on child support cards
SB 1051	Tightens probate law concerning guardians of adults with disabilities
SB 2782	Clarifies that a court may appoint parent, legal guardian or other person to act as educational surrogate for an alleged abused minor
SB 2783	Establishes that witnesses in child abuse proceedings can be reimbursed the same way criminal witnesses can be



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

## Gaming

- HB 11 reinstates advance deposit wagering for horse races.

HB 0011	Extends Advanced Deposit Wagering until 2017; requires contractors to issue regular reports; changes licensing rules
HB 5017	Makes a number of changes to Illinois' gambling laws, including allowing some truck stops to operate up to 10 video gaming machines and limiting the number of video gaming parlors to 200
SB 0219	Creates a Special Olympics lottery scratch-off game for the Special Olympics
SB 3312	Allows charitable motorcycle poker runs; provides for regulation of poker runs as raffles
SB 3318	Significantly updates Illinois horse racing wagering laws

## Health

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

HB 1322	Increases a per-bed fee for hospitals, gives rehabilitation hospitals the option not to have emergency services, redefines "never-events" to meet the national standard
HB 1584	Requires nursing home chains to submit annual reports
HB 2778	Allows in-field service level upgrades for rural ambulance providers to match the highest level EMT license by anyone held in the ambulance
HB 3638	Requires insurance companies to approve or deny prior authorization requests within 72 hours
HB 3765	Requires information provided by the Department of Public Health regarding breast cancer to explain the complications created by dense breast tissue



HB 3830	Adds financial exploitation to the list of offenses included on the DPH worker registry
HB 4033	Clarifies that Community Care and Community-Integrated Living Arrangements employees don't have to wear ID badges; creating a more "home-like" setting
HB 4035	Allows the Department of Public Health to track pediatric cancer cases for statistical purposes
HB 4403	Changes the ballot language for a referendum to raise a tax rate increasing municipalities' mental health services
HB 4405	Defines "clinical professional counselors" in law
HB 4486	Expands the medications that direct care staff can administer in homes for people with disabilities licensed by DHS
HB 4501	Allows minors to give consent for primary care services from a physician under certain circumstances and the physician shall not incur civil or criminal penalties
HB 4523	Expands the list of health care professionals who can staff ambulance operations in rural areas
HB 4542	Requires the Young Adults Heroin Use Task Force to study use in grades 6-12
HB 4600	Clarifies when nursing homes count their populations to determine reimbursement rates
HB 4694	Allows therapists to disclose records and communications relating to a developmentally disabled deceased person if a coroner is investigating the death
HB 5410	Cleans up the language of Illinois law relating to lead poisoning
HB 5412	Creates a board to research and set up standards for community health workers
HB 5488	Aligns Long Term Acute Care paperwork guidelines with federal standards to prevent their employees from filling out two separate sets of paperwork
HB 5657	Establishes uniform standards for farmers' markets
HB 5697	Helps ensure that people with developmental disabilities who are dependents of military personnel retain access to services when the personnel move
HB 5742	Creates the Acute Stroke-Ready Hospital designation
HB 5828	Allows rural EMS service providers to apply for in-field service level upgrades, which allows them to function at the highest level of an emergency medical technician; changes rules for vehicle upgrades
HB 5868	Requires alternative nicotine products (e-cigarettes) to be sold behind the counter
HB 5925	Allows health information exchanges to transmit data about HIV and genetics; prohibits life insurance companies from using genetic information without the customer's consent
SB 0741	Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative; restores adult dental, podiatry services, access to anti-psychotic drugs, adequate rehabilitation services and kidney transplants; funds the Illinois Poison Center
SB 0822	Provides that the proceeds of selling a state mental health facility must be spent on programs and construction addressing mental health
SB 1630	Prohibits a markup of anatomic pathology services under the medical patients rights act; allows for referrals
SB 2187	Allows psychologists to prescribe certain specific medications as part of a written collaborative agreement with a physician after meeting extensive training requirements
SB 2202	Prohibits smoking on college campuses
SB 2586	Requires a governor's mental health and drug treatment working group to review specific aspects of regional community-based programs



SB 2636	Adds a form of epilepsy to the list of conditions that can be treated using medical marijuana; allows minors to be included for epilepsy seizure treatments; allows DPH to create rules for minors to use non-smokeable medical marijuana to treat other diseases with parental permission
SB 2769	Grants CMS greater rule-making authority over blood and organ donation and adds that participating employees must submit their time off prior to the procedure and allows for only certain amounts of time to be granted for each procedures
SB 2958	Creates a medication aide pilot program under IDFPR; limited to 3 years and 10 facilities
SB 2998	Changes procedures for maintaining and renewing an advanced practice nurse license
SB 3048	Allows nursing homes to count as health care providers for HMO and patients' rights laws
SB 3076	Makes a variety of small changes related to physician orders for life-sustaining treatment forms and do not resuscitate orders under IDPH
SB 3077	Makes a small change relating to physician assistants' request for blood sample analysis in blood banks
SB 3109	Allows optometrists to prescribe hydrocodone to provide treatment for 72 hours with federal approval
SB 3115	Allows physical therapists to use testimonials in advertising
SB 3228	Updates power of attorney forms
SB 3256	Requires DHFS to create electronic means to accept monthly reimbursement claims for developmentally disabled community care facilities
SB 3406	Provides additional possible valid qualifications to be licensed as a clinical psychologist
SB 3409	Allows dentists who participate in Medicaid, Medicare or a medical system to administer flu vaccines to adults with standing prescriptions, as long as the dentist informs their doctors
SB 3414	Brings Illinois in line with national EMT and EMS training standards
SB 3440	Allows the Center for Rural Health to charge a fee to international medical graduates who participate in their programs
SB 3465	Allows IDPH to set the definition of an ambulatory surgical treatment center but requires this definition to address certain Medicare requirements
SB 3532	Clarifies the conditions under which a person who has been prescribed psychotropic medication or electro therapy can seek a second opinion; codifies current practice
SB 3554	Adds a non-voting member to the Illinois Purchased Care Review Board; this member must be an administrator of a private, nonpublic, special-ed school

## Higher Education

- HB 5323 creates a study on a “Pay it Forward, Pay it Back,” a higher education payment program that could potentially reduce tuition burdens for prospective students. The potential program would require the state to pay for students’ college education, in return for a commitment to work and pay taxes in Illinois.
- HB 4910 allows community colleges to enter into public-private partnerships.
- SB 3306 establishes that MAP Grant application periods will be twice, instead of once, per year.

HB 4244	Redistributes grant money originally set aside for independent colleges that fail to meet the standards of being independent colleges
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HB 4284	Clarifies that a student trustee at the U of I need not pay in-state tuition to qualify as an Illinois resident if they meet all other normal qualifications of residency
HB 4340	Changes the title of the head of the Illinois Community College Board from "president" to "executive director"
HB 4910	Allows community colleges to enter into public-private partnerships
HB 5323	Creates a study on a Pay it Forward, Pay it Back higher education payment program
HB 5678	Allows WIU to sell, lease or transfer land in Rock Island County and keep the funds
HB 5679	Eliminates the high school feedback system between public universities and ISBE
HB 5681	Requires one of the WIU board of trustees quarterly meetings to be held on the Quad Cities campus
SB 2765	Makes EIU tuition discount limitation pilot program sunset after the 2018-19 school year; renames it the Tuition Affordability Discount Program
SB 3306	Establishes that MAP grant application periods will be twice, instead of once a year
SB 3441	Sets standards for distance learning courses offered by accredited universities to protect consumers and make credit transfers easier
SR 0903	Directs ISBE to create a self-study guide for public universities to examine Latino enrollment and achievement

## Housing

- HB 5322 allows condo boards to conduct business using email.
- HB 4123 requires mobile home park owners to disclose more information to their tenants.
- SB 3057 allows Common Interest Community Associations to develop their own rules regarding leasing situations; requires homeowners to provide copies of their leases to their local associations unless the association adopts its own rules.

HB 4123	Requires mobile home park owners to disclose more information to their tenants
HB 4782	Allows condominium boards to lease seized condominiums without additional judicial approval
HB 4783	Protects the right of condo boards to represent the condominium complex in legal proceedings; voids arbitration and mediation clauses in condo policies unless the board votes to keep them in place
HB 4784	Allows communications between condo boards and condo owners via email and text message
HB 5322	Allows condo boards to conduct business using email
HB 5938	Establishes that mobile homes are considered real property if they are affixed to a permanent foundation, allowing their owners to qualify for mortgages and other similar financing arrangements
SB 0336	Allows county assessors to reduce the assessed value of home improvements in distressed areas
SB 0498	Clarifies that the same rules apply to all regional development authorities
SB 2664	Limits the back assessments someone who purchases a foreclosed-upon condo must pay to 9 months (currently 6), but increases notification requirements
SB 3014	Sets standards for condominium insurance
SB 3057	Allows common interest community associations to develop their own rules regarding leasing situations; requires homeowners to provide copies of their leases to their local associations unless the association adopts its own rules



SB 3147	Provides that housing opportunity abatement program applies through 2024
SB 3176	Makes several minor changes to laws relating to mobile homes
SB 3286	Provides that an employee of gated communities or closed condos must allow process servers to enter the facilities

## Human Services

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

HB 2544	Provides that every accountable care organization must establish an advisory board to consider guidelines for clinical laboratory testing
HB 4579	Creates a Department of Human Services ambassador pilot program, subject to appropriation
HB 4593	Allows IDFPR to grant "volunteer practice" licenses to health care professionals who work at free or public clinics
HB 5307	Creates financial protections for people in Community-Integrated Living Arrangements
HB 5858	Allows minor victims of human trafficking, child prostitutes and minor members of gangs to have their tattoos removed
HB 5990	Expands child advocacy centers' authority over child sexual abuse victims to include victims of maltreatment
SB 1724	Provides that upon completion of second certificate by a psychiatrist that respondent is subject to involuntary admission, copy provided to respondent
SB 3332	Clarifies the legal circumstances that face sexually violent people who escape secure residential facilities
SB 3421	Allows IDFPR to grant continuing education credit for child abuse mandated reporters who update their training
SB 3522	Clarifies that meth offenders qualify for certain treatment programs as long as they meet all other prerequisites and that if DHS is appropriated money under a certain line item relating to programs for helping offenders reintegrate, it must use the money for that purpose
SB 3558	Exempts under-aged prostitutes from solicitation prosecution; creates new fines for human trafficking and keeping a place of prostitution; creates a fund to support victim recovery services

## Labor

- HB 3814 creates an advisory ballot referendum asking voters if they support a higher minimum wage.
- HB 5688 requires law enforcement agencies to provide their agents with bullet-proof vests if they are given proper funding.
- SB 1103 creates a state-level Occupational Safety and Health Act.

HB 3814	Creates an advisory referendum about raising the minimum wage
HB 4157	Establishes that unpaid interns have the same sexual harassment protections as regular employees



HB 5563	Allows Dept. of Labor to refer equal pay violations to the Dept. on Human Rights
HB 5606	Excludes water and soil conservation work from prevailing wage
HB 5622	Establishes requirements for the use of payroll cards by employers; requires other payment options; employees must consent to be paid by this method; other protections for employees
HB 5688	Requires all law enforcement agencies to provide their agents with bulletproof vests if the state and federal government provide the majority of the funding for these vests
HB 5701	Prohibits employers with more than 15 employees from inquiring about job applicants' criminal history until after they have been deemed qualified for the job or selected for an interview; excludes EMS and security-related employers
HB 5935	Codifies several current practices of the Department of Human Services
SB 1103	Creates a state-level OSHA
SB 1841	Allows individuals who have records for certain infractions to petition to have the public record of those infractions removed from state websites for a fee
SB 2826	Gives local civil service commissions the authority to set the minimum passing score for firefighter written examinations
SB 3038	Allows employers to apply for workplace protection restraining orders and clarifies that employers cannot discriminate against employees on the basis of protective orders
SB 3287	Establishes that a worker's compensation lawsuit protection that currently applies to services "retained" by the employer shall only apply to services "wholly owned" by the employer
SB 3432	Requires hospitals to notify private emergency services providers if a patient they treated has a dangerous or infectious disease
SB 3551	Increases the Department of Public Health's ability to inspect migrant camps

## Local Government

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

HB 0961	Clarifies that transfers from the General Revenue Fund to the Local Government Distributive Fund must occur within 60 days
HB 1463	Allows the Chicago Liquor Control Commission to close bars or liquor stores for up to 30 days if there is evidence linking it to criminal activity; specifies the activity that triggers a closure and provides protections for distributors
HB 2317	Clarifies that property tax bills can only be sent via email at the taxpayer's request
HB 2327	Allows county boards to increase the court automation and court document fees from \$15 to \$25
HB 3798	Allows local workforce investment area boards from large geographic areas to meet via teleconference
HB 3912	Allows the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to help with local storm-water facility projects and to purchase real property



HB 4113	Allows sheriffs to enter into agreements with local governments to develop job training programs to rehabilitate houses; allows rehabilitated houses to be used for transitional housing for the mentally ill, the homeless and low-income families
HB 4418	City or village that operates fire departments cannot halt operations or maintenance unless approved by referendum
HB 4483	Creates an alternative method for park district members to meet training requirements
HB 4597	Allows park district boards to take out bank loans as long as the loan is only for two years
HB 4743	Gives counties (in addition to municipalities) the authority to impound vehicles
HB 4811	Lowers the frequency of audits for governments that bring in less than \$850,000 per year; gives them an option of filing a separate report
HB 4956	Gives Mundelein quick-take authority for a project
HB 5438	Gives the comptroller the authority to reduce fees for local reports
HB 5503	Requires county auditors to deliver copies of audit results to county board members and post them on county websites
HB 5593	Provides that the state legislators who represent the Plainfield Park District shall each appoint one commissioner to the board of commissioners, who will be elected from that point forward
HB 5623	Establishes that local units of governments or school districts with more than 1 million people must maintain websites and email addresses where the public can communicate with elected officials
HB 5709	Establishes that municipal and county employees with a certain amount of training do not have to have licenses to perform property valuations worth less than \$10,000
HB 5785	Allows certain units of government to consolidate or annex other units of government by resolution
HB 5812	Allows county and municipal officers to hold positions with a not-for-profits but sets limitations on participation and makes corresponding changes in the criminal code
HB 5856	Allows fire protection district voters to vote to dissolve and consolidate their fire protection districts
HB 5889	Allows Will County board to enact judicial fees by ordinance to build a new judicial facility
SB 0492	Reenacts design build contracts in Cook County
SB 0497	Creates a process for initiating advisory referendums at township boards' annual meetings; requires townships to post agendas 15 days before their annual meetings (rather than 10)
SB 1047	Allows the Rosehill Cemetery to use modern investment practices and modernizes the election process for its trustees
SB 1681	Consolidates fire protection districts into regional fire protection agencies addressing regional fire safety needs; excludes those local governments that have already entered into consolidation agreements
SB 2598	Allows road districts in collar counties to use up to 50% of accumulated road taxes to maintain or improve non-dedicated roads; allows districts to acquire those non-dedicated roads
SB 2721	Extends the period for spending flood relief bonding money in Jackson County from a 1994 referendum and bond sale
SB 2770	Requires community water operations to have a "responsible person in charge" who is responsible for the distribution of the water to the community
SB 2814	Clarifies that a sanitary district's boundaries shall be used when determining how to select its board of trustees



SB 2928	Creates a pilot program in Lake County where police collect and dispose of pharmaceutical drugs in an effort to prevent them from being flushed down the toilet
SB 2975	Provides that the Byron Forest Preserve District may not incur indebtedness in excess of .6% of the assessed value of taxable property in the district
SB 2980	Allows township clerks to provide written, unaudited statements about their townships' finances (rather than read them aloud) at annual meetings
SB 3027	Gives county collectors additional factors to declare the administrative sale of a mobile home in error
SB 3036	Allows property tax collectors' records to be kept and transferred electronically
SB 3056	Increases transparency at the RTA by enacting a number of ethical safeguards and requiring the agency to create a transparency website
SB 3071	Allows libraries to reject the lowest bid for some contracts and choose a higher cost vendor
SB 3387	Consolidates two parks in Fox Valley
SB 3411	Counties and municipalities cannot require a law enforcement officer to issue a specific number of citations in a designated period of time and that the number of citations cannot be held against the officer for evaluation purposes; changes limitations of home rule power
SB 3425	Authorizes the village of Indian Head Park to issue bonds for roadway construction
SB 3427	Establishes competitive bidding requirements for Fire Protection Districts expenditures worth more than \$20,000
SB 3495	Gives the McHenry County Board the authority to use quick-take to improve the intersection of Miller Road and Illinois Route 31
SB 3507	Caps townships and municipalities fee to connect new water and sewer users

## Pensions

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

HB 3902	Changes the definition of employees with a specific, non-IMRF retirement plan; excludes them from the IMRF system
HB 4691	If a referendum creating a separate downstate police pension fund passes, IMRF must transfer employee and employer contributions with interest into the new system
HB 5592	Changes the timing of an annuity decision for IMRF employees
HB 5696	Makes a number of minor changes relating to IMRF
SB 0452	Requires state pension and investment boards to increase their use of minority-managed businesses
SB 1523	Reforms the Chicago Park District pension system
SB 1922	Chicago pension reform (excludes teachers, firefighters and police)
SB 3309	Requires pension funds to recalculate incorrectly calculated benefits after the mistake is discovered and to take back the money from the retiree in the case of an overpayment



## Public Safety

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

HB 4304	"Provides that individuals that injure themselves but not another person as a result of driving under the influence are still eligible to receive a monitoring device driving permit"
HB 4653	Increases the penalties for domestic battery if the person has prior convictions
HB 5689	Requires e-cigarette liquids to be sold in child-resistant packaging
SB 2690	Increases the limit of loans for the purchase of fire trucks or brush trucks to \$350,000 from \$250,000
SB 2731	Requires boat drivers who are towing people to display orange flags
SB 2808	Creates the Freedom From Location Surveillance Act; will prevent law enforcement from accessing location information without a court order based on probable cause or consent of the owner of a relevant electronic device
SB 3313	Requires business that have private switchboards or runs a switching service to ensure dialing 9-1-1 automatically transfers the caller to the 911 service
SB 3468	Allows law enforcement to take minors to mental health facilities if they have reason to believe the minors may be a danger to themselves or others

## Revenue and Taxes

- HB 3816 creates an advisory ballot referendum asking voters if they support a 3% tax on incomes greater than \$1 million.

HB 1604	Provides that property that has received an erroneous homestead exemption may be considered omitted property
HB 2494	Requires stores that sell tobacco to get a \$75 license from Revenue; new penalties for selling to minors or improper training; supports sting operations
HB 3816	Puts a referendum on the millionaire's tax on the ballot
HB 3885	Creates a \$7,500 fine for divulging confidential tax return information; allows the Dept. of Revenue to give certain financial information to cities in addition to counties and townships
HB 5613	Allows county recorders and registrars of titles to use electronic stamps instead of physical stamps
HB 5893	Adds fire protection districts to the list of local gov bodies that the Dept. of Revenue must notify when property tax exemptions worth more than \$100,000 affect a property
SB 0345	Allows local governments in PTELL districts to levy Social Security and Medicare taxes without a referendum as long as the total tax levy does not increase
SB 0347	Allows property tax rates to be calculated beyond 3 decimal points for more accuracy
SB 0352	A retailer who offers promotional codes in Illinois is presumed to be doing business in the state for use-tax purposes
SB 2778	Changes the date that the Cook County treasurer must start the tax sale process
SB 2854	Extends the statute of limitations to claim a property tax refund in Cook County from 5 years to 20 years



SB 3224	Construction bill; authorizes \$1.1 billion in bonds for statewide construction projects
SB 3234	Removes an obsolete reference concerning tire user fees
SB 3262	Amends the Motor Fuel Tax code to bring it into line with Federal Law and removes requirement that certain carriers must pay via certified check
SB 3334	Removes the statute of limitations on applying for a tax refund for people who cannot do so due to illness or other uncontrollable circumstances
SB 3448	Lowers the amount of warning the Department of Revenue must provide to retail businesses that their certification will not be renewed due to delinquent taxes

## Seniors

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

HB 3819	Clarifies that the Department on Aging can run the Senior/Disabled Ride Free Program and the License Plate Discount Program
HB 4329	Reduces fishing and hunting fees for seniors over age 75
HB 4525	Creates the voluntary FBI Fingerprint Demonstration Project for long-term care facility personnel and provides grant money to those facilities that participate; includes state background checks; allows fingerprints to be submitted electronically
HB 5703	Allows people to make complaints about nursing homes via electronic means
HB 5852	Creates Home Care Consumer Bill of Rights
SB 0798	Expands the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program to cover over-60 seniors without disabilities and under-60 adults with disabilities; makes other changes
SB 1048	Presumes that gifts to caregivers of more than \$20,000 are invalid unless certain conditions are met
SB 2955	Provides that civil offenses and criminal convictions can bar people who exploit, abuse or neglect the elderly from inheritance
SB 2968	Requires nursing home administrators to give 60 days' notice of facility closure rather than 90 days'; brings Illinois in line with federal standards; provides the IDPH plan must include notifying residents

## State Government

- SB 125 allows the Secretary of the Senate to loan or donate property to the Obama Presidential Library.
- SB 2934 permits the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to give k-12 schools and colleges grants for safety improvements.
- HB 4786 requires tollways to pay landowners the highest permitted amount when claiming property by eminent domain.

HB 2453	Creates a statewide 911 system for areas outside of municipalities larger than 500,000 people; sets up an advisory board and funding procedures
HB 2535	Creates a Developmental Disabilities Regulatory Advisory Board



HB 2747	Creates a new Act to establish uniform administrative requirements and audit requirements for state and federal grants to non-federal entities and allows the audit commission to adopt rules concerning conflicts of interest and disclosures among other things
HB 3748	Provides that the Commission to End the Disparities Facing the African-American Community report findings to the General Assembly by 2016
HB 3831	Exempts statewide master contracts from a Minority Contractor Opportunity Initiative fee
HB 3961	If the Smoke Free Campus bill (SB 2022) becomes law, this will take effect to allow people to smoke in their cars on campus
HB 4083	Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to adopt mental health care standards and inspect each facility at least once per year
HB 4205	Clarifies that when the state awards a contract, it must include the total number of unsuccessful bidders in the official posting
HB 4235	Allows attorneys licensed in other states to appear before hearings officers, judges, officers or bodies of state government, the ICC and independent tax tribunals and other bodies approved by the Supreme Court
HB 4422	Expands the definition of disability to include impairment relating to cancer; allows the secretary of state to revoke driver's licenses for military offenses that are similar to civilian offenses that result in license revocation
HB 4569	Changes some comptroller's reporting requirements; allows petty cash to be used for purchases of up to \$100 (rather than \$50)
HB 4590	Allow state employees or annuitants to withhold a portion of their salary or annuity as a donation to Red Cross chapters in areas affected by natural disaster; authorizes the comptroller to create system
HB 4707	Allows CPAs from other states to account in Illinois for up to 6 months while DFPR processes their applications
HB 4713	Allows the treasurer to spend money in the bank services trust fund for legal and technological services
HB 4731	Establishes that people who provide legal services to state's appellate prosecutor offices are considered employees in certain situations
HB 4745	Establishes that parents cannot let minors use their campers, watercraft, private planes or other property to drink alcohol
HB 4773	Creates a DCFS Statewide Youth Advisory Board to advise the agency on foster services
HB 4786	Clarifies that when the toll highway uses its eminent domain powers, it shall use the higher of the payment structure established by state or federal law
HB 5433	Requires all state payments to an entity from a payroll or retirement voluntary deduction to be made through direct deposit
HB 5464	Adjusts rules concerning when pesticide licensees must apply for certification
HB 5491	Makes the procurement code more consistent and streamlined
HB 5504	Repeals the provision allowing the director of State Police to name sections of highway after deceased state troopers
HB 5564	Allows income taxpayers to elect to apply all or a portion of the refund to the next year's tax liability
HB 5585	Provides for the transfer of certain funds to the Audit Expense Fund



HB 5684	Provides that the SOS shall suspend or refuse to issue or renew the license of a motor vehicle dealer, transporter, wrecker, or rebuilder for tax violations
HB 5735	Creates the Home Repair and Construction Task Force to review whether or not Illinois should create licensing for home repair companies
HB 5793	Requires all state agencies that collect data on racial or ethnic classifications to follow federal laws and regulations in an effort to create uniformity
HB 5845	Extends the deadline for the Precious Metals Purchasers Task Force to report to the GA
HB 5864	Changes the membership of the board of directors of the Illinois Public Safety Agency Network and grants the board the ability to lease and purchase property
HB 5968	Allows the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to create forms for its staff and makes other changes regarding board procedures
SB 0116	Allows the city of Chicago to quick-claim deed land to go to the New Horizon Center for the Developmentally Disabled
SB 0119	Grants the Merit Commission another 15 days to hear complaints relating to the secretary of state's office
SB 0121	Expands the African American Family Commissions objectives based off of previous findings and makes changes to ensure the African-American Family Commission is structured the same way as a similar Latino commission
SB 0125	Allows the secretary of the Senate to loan or donate property associated with Obama to his presidential library or a museum
SB 0220	BIMP
SB 0221	Provides that if the Office of Legislative Inspector General is vacant, the commission will name an acting replacement until the position is filled
SB 0229	Requires the governor's office to track and report demographic data on gubernatorial appointees
SB 0274	Requires COGFA to conduct a volatility study of GRF
SB 0333	Makes minor changes to correct drafting errors in a law that passed in 2013
SB 0641	Changes elevator inspection licensing duties from the fire Marshall to a 3rd party private agency, as long as they are properly licensed
SB 1227	Pushes back the governor's budget address
SB 1600	Directs how sex offender fees are distributed between state and local agencies
SB 1812	Allows the state treasurer to invest locally while keeping federal funds insured under FDIC
SB 2352	Creates the Independent Juvenile Ombudsman position, which is appointed by the governor with Senate approval; acts as an investigator independent of Department of Juvenile Justice
SB 2640	Creates the first 2014 general revisory act
SB 2668	Lowers hours of training for people who collect samples for DOC employee drug tests from 40 to 15; adds specific training guidelines; requires testing
SB 2728	Extends the reporting date of the Civic Education Task Force
SB 2773	Creates the Long-Term Services and Supports Disparities Task Force under HFS
SB 2803	Exempts the secretary of state's office's larger vehicles from the requirement that 25% of all state-owned vehicles be fueled by electricity or natural gas





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

## Transportation

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

HB 3659	Prohibits members of the Chicago Transit Board, the RTA and the Commuter Rail Board from holding any other office or employment with any local, state or federal government
HB 3685	Allows bus drivers for religious organizations, senior citizen transportation and for-profit ride sharing to reapply for driver's licenses if there was a less than 30-day lapse
HB 4075	Ride sharing regulations; creates licensing and registration
HB 4385	Allows IDOT to sell any CMS-approved, surplus self-propelled motorized equipment in excess of 25 horsepower and attachments to local governments
HB 4386	Establishes that employers cannot allow or require employees to drive without valid CDL licenses
HB 4395	Land conveyance from IDOT to 5 counties
HB 4442	Extends a traffic stop statistics study
HB 4462	Extends the sunset for a \$35 serious traffic violation fee from 2014 to 2020
HB 4561	Provides that all drivers education instructors go through a criminal background check and the applicant must pay for the background check
HB 5326	Makes permanent vehicle registration plates for official vehicles available for a one-time fee of \$8 for counties, townships and municipalities



HB 5331	Ride sharing trailer; changes the timeframe that cars can be used for ride-sharing before needing to get registration plates; changes how municipalities regulate rates; requires dispatchers to carry insurance; other changes
HB 5468	Establishes that medical certificates for tinted windows only need to be renewed every 4 years rather than annually
HB 5664	Makes the Pace "bus on the shoulder" pilot program permanent
HB 5692	Creates a committee to establish an electronic systems for determining whether drivers have car insurance
HB 5895	Creates nighttime driving permit for people with impaired vision who meet certain criteria
HB 5897	Requires night-driving, vision-impaired drivers licenses to be renewed every four years instead of every year; requires license holders to send in a vision report annually
SB 0927	Allows toll highway maintenance vehicles to use flashing emergency lights
SB 0930	Clarifies that the maximum speed for large vehicles in Cook and the collar counties is 60 mph on Interstate highways and 55 mph on other roads
SB 1381	Creates flashing yellow light traffic signals to indicate a yield
SB 2015	Clarifies that all interstate and tollway speed limits are 70 mph unless there is a speed restriction in state law
SB 2583	Prohibits requiring people to surrender their driver's licenses for petty traffic violations like speeding tickets
SB 2620	Creates a weight-limit exemption for vehicles executing emergency repairs in Cook and some of the collar counties
SB 2633	Adds exemptions to the ATV stamp fee; exempts vehicles used exclusively on private land or for commercial purposes; changes the fee for ATV stamps: \$15 for engines larger than 75 cc, \$10 for engines smaller than 75cc
SB 2761	Extends the sunset for an IDOT target market program from 2014 to 2017
SB 2791	Changes how passengers removed from a train or boat for annoying language are refunded; captains or conductors may enlist the help of other passengers; captains and conductors can issue citations under local ordinances
SB 2802	Allows people to drive without valid registration stickers as long as they have a receipt proving that they have paid for a sticker but have not received it yet
SB 2978	Limits the ISP Memorial Park License plate to active police, retired police, family members and donors
SB 3096	Requires speed cameras to be calibrated and tested more frequently, adds judgment creditors to the list of officials who may forward loan nonpayment reports that require driver's license suspensions
SB 3130	Regulates the use of autocycles - vehicles that have three wheels, but seating like a car rather than a motorcycle or bicycle
SB 3398	Allows trucks less than 12,000 pounds hauling registered farm trailers to enjoy the privileges of registered farm trucks; also adds a \$10 surcharge; defines farm truck
SB 3402	Exempts vehicles from other states from Illinois' dealer plate requirements if they are simply being transported for repair



SB 3433	Creates a boating safety certificate; anyone born during or after 1991 cannot operate a boat over 10 horsepower without a certificate; anyone between the ages of 10-12 must be supervised by an adult who has a certificate and those between 12 and 18 must have a certificate or have supervision of a certified adult
SR 0639	Urges the inclusion of Cross-rail Chicago as part of the mid-decade update to Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's GOTO 2040

## Veterans

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

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



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*98th General Assembly - Spring 2014*

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