

2025

SENATE IN REVIEW



Don Harmon,
Senate President

Communications Department
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com



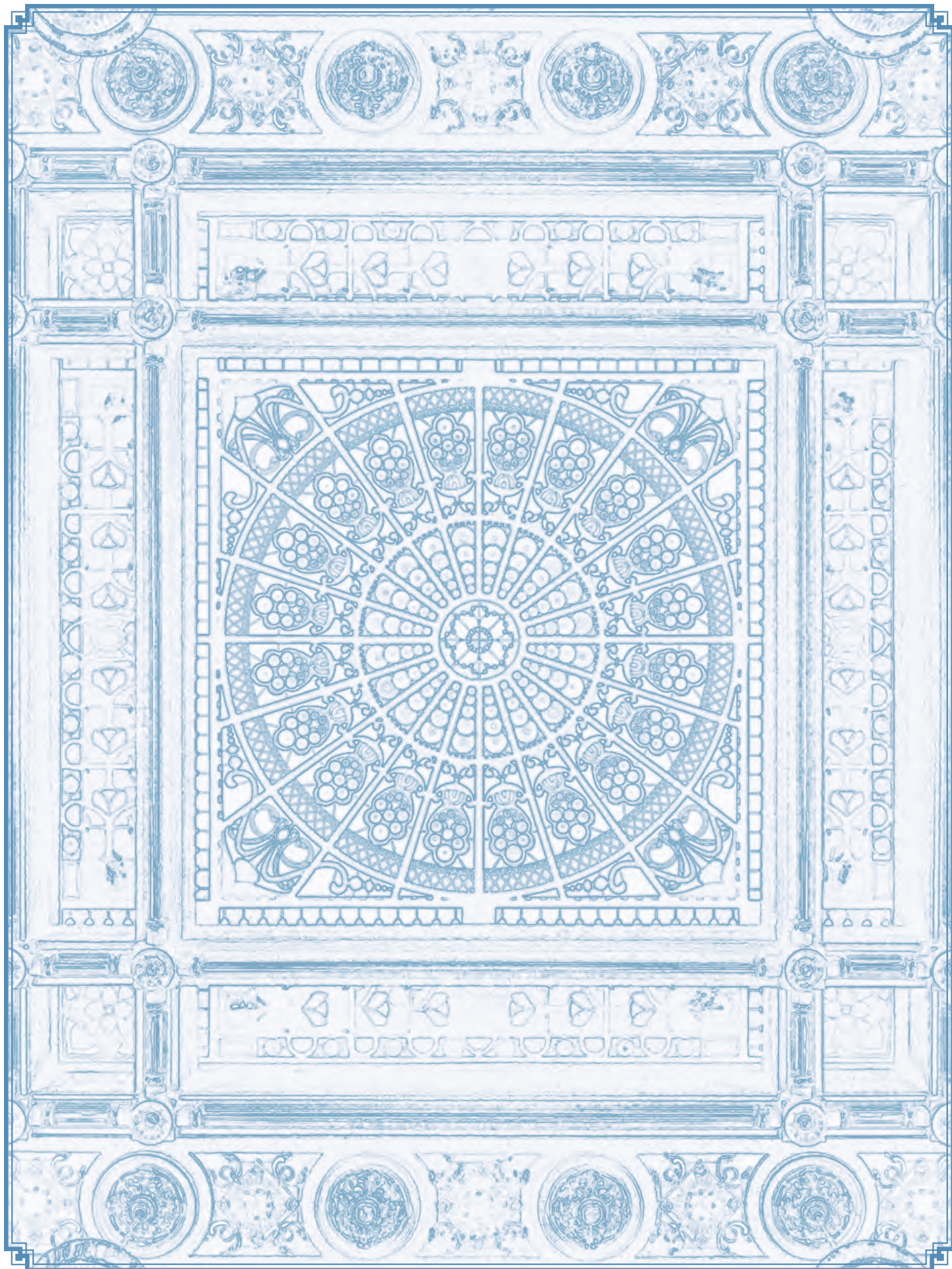




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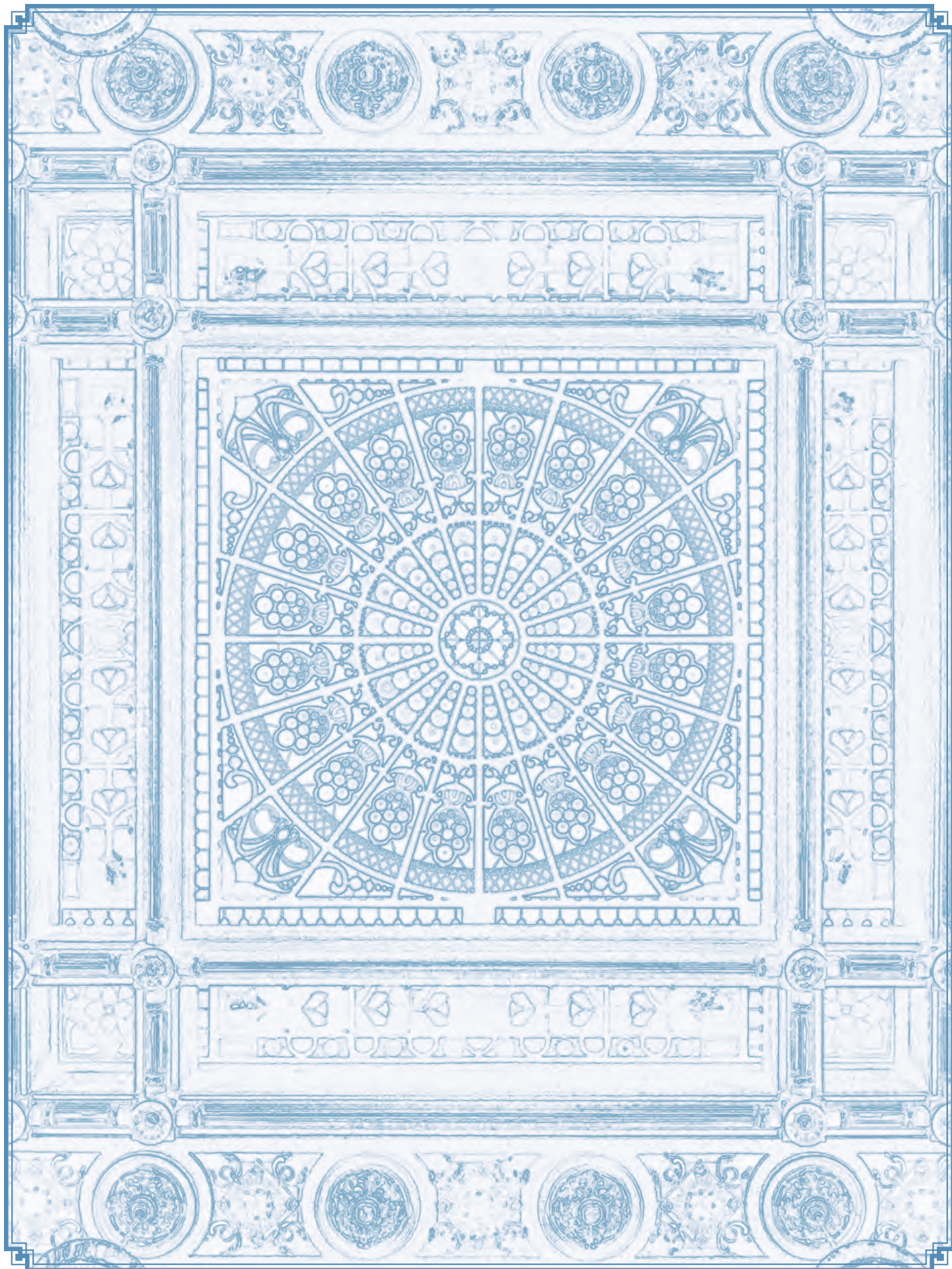
LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Don Harmon,
Senate President

Communications Department
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







Legislative Accomplishments

Entering the 104th General Assembly, the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus passed hundreds of measures to serve and assist Illinoisans in all corners of the state.

The General Assembly focused its efforts on enhancing health care affordability, increasing access to higher education, protecting survivors, and much more.

Enhancing health care affordability and accessibility

Local pharmacies are vital to communities across Illinois – especially in smaller towns and underserved areas. State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) led a measure to ensure pharmacy benefit managers who act as the middleman in the prescription drug industry will no longer have a strangle hold on consumers and neighborhood pharmacies.

House Bill 1697, the Prescription

Drug Affordability Act, targets pharmacy benefit managers, entities that manage prescription drug benefits for insurers. This measure ends harmful practices, such as “spread pricing,” where pharmacy benefit managers profit by charging insurers significantly more than what pharmacies receive. It also will restrict PBMs from profiting from the sale of drugs to pharmacies, and would require them to return 100% of pharmacy rebates back to the individuals or sponsoring organizations.

It will also prevent pharmacy



Promoting access to higher education opportunities

The two biggest barriers facing students today are time and money, leading State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) to sponsor a measure to have more opportunities to earn college credit during high school.

Under House Bill 2697, school districts are required to seek partnerships with local community colleges to offer dual credit courses to students. School and community college districts will work together to ensure their curriculum is in line and establish guidelines on factors like class sizes. Recognizing that some students might not have access to a nearby college campus, the law allows credentialed high school instructors to teach dual credit courses at high schools, further reducing the burden on students.

Understanding how convoluted the financial aid process can be,

benefit managers from unfairly steering patients toward particular pharmacies and stops PBMs from limiting an individual's access to a drug from a pharmacy by classifying it as a "specialty drug."

Last year, State Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview) led the Healthcare Protection Act, making health care more accessible and affordable for Illinoisans. The law banned step therapy requirements, prohibited prior authorization for inpatient mental health care at hospitals, banned junk insurance plans, and ended unchecked rate increases for large group insurance companies.

Building on this effort, she led House Bill 3019 to extend the prior authorization ban on inpatient mental health care to outpatient services and partial mental health treatment hospitalizations covered by state-regulated insurance, private insurance plans and Medicaid. The new law also requires insurers to report how they are spending dollars

from insurance premiums to the Department of Insurance in order to ensure consumers' premium dollars are being properly spent.

Additionally, regulated commercial insurers must reimburse individuals for travel costs associated with attending behavioral health appointments when the distance traveled exceeds the network adequacy requirements.





State Senator Javier Cervantes led two measures to provide more support to high schools applying to college.

House Bill 3096 requires high schools to designate a member of their staff to serve as a point of contact for students on matters concerning the application. This creates clarity on who young people can turn to if they have questions or need assistance with the process.

Additionally, House Bill 3097 requires that schools provide time during the school day for students to fill out or ask questions about their financial aid applications. Each school may determine how they will provide this time, whether it is included in personal finance classes, offered in one-on-one sessions, or focused workshops, but any method would give students more time to work on these important applications and help set them up for future success.

Also understanding the college



admissions process can be difficult for students to navigate, State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea) worked to make the process easier for high school juniors, seniors and community college transfer students.

House Bill 3522 offers direct admission to qualified applicants at all public universities and community colleges that participate in the program. Under the new

law, students will no longer face the burden of repeated application processes or unnecessary application fees, ensuring a smoother transition into postsecondary education. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, high school students will be able to elect to participate in the direct enrollment program through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Protecting survivors

Survivors deserve compassionate care that meets their needs and empowers their choices. To support sexual assault survivors, State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) advanced a measure to remove barriers and improve protections for individuals seeking medical care.

Senate Bill 1602 works to create a more supportive and responsive system for those receiving care after a sexual assault. Prior to administering medical forensic





services, Morrison's measure will require informed consent from the survivor or, for minors, from a parent or guardian. It also sets clear guidelines for providing timely and appropriate care by defining a recent sexual assault as within 72 hours for children under 13 and within seven days for those 13 and older. Children will be allowed to be transferred to a pediatric health care facility to receive age-appropriate care. The measure will also allow all hospitals, including transfer hospitals, to issue sexual assault services vouchers that cover expenses related to medical treatment at no cost to survivors.

To ensure domestic violence survivors get the assistance they need, State Senator Mary Edly-Allen (D-Libertyville) led House Bill 2682 to help survivors and streamline crisis assistance.

The measure will require DHS to implement the federal Family Violence Option when making determinations to an individual's compliance with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. In addition, the bill will establish the good cause waiver and the family safety notice form qualifications and overview within DHS, allowing an individual to apply for a waiver if domestic or sexual violence causes them to fail to comply with TANF requirements.

State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) believes survivors of crime deserve compassion and transparency. That is why she led House Bill 3710. It affirms individuals



who report being a crime victim have the right to be treated with fairness and respect, including during the investigatory stage. The measure will

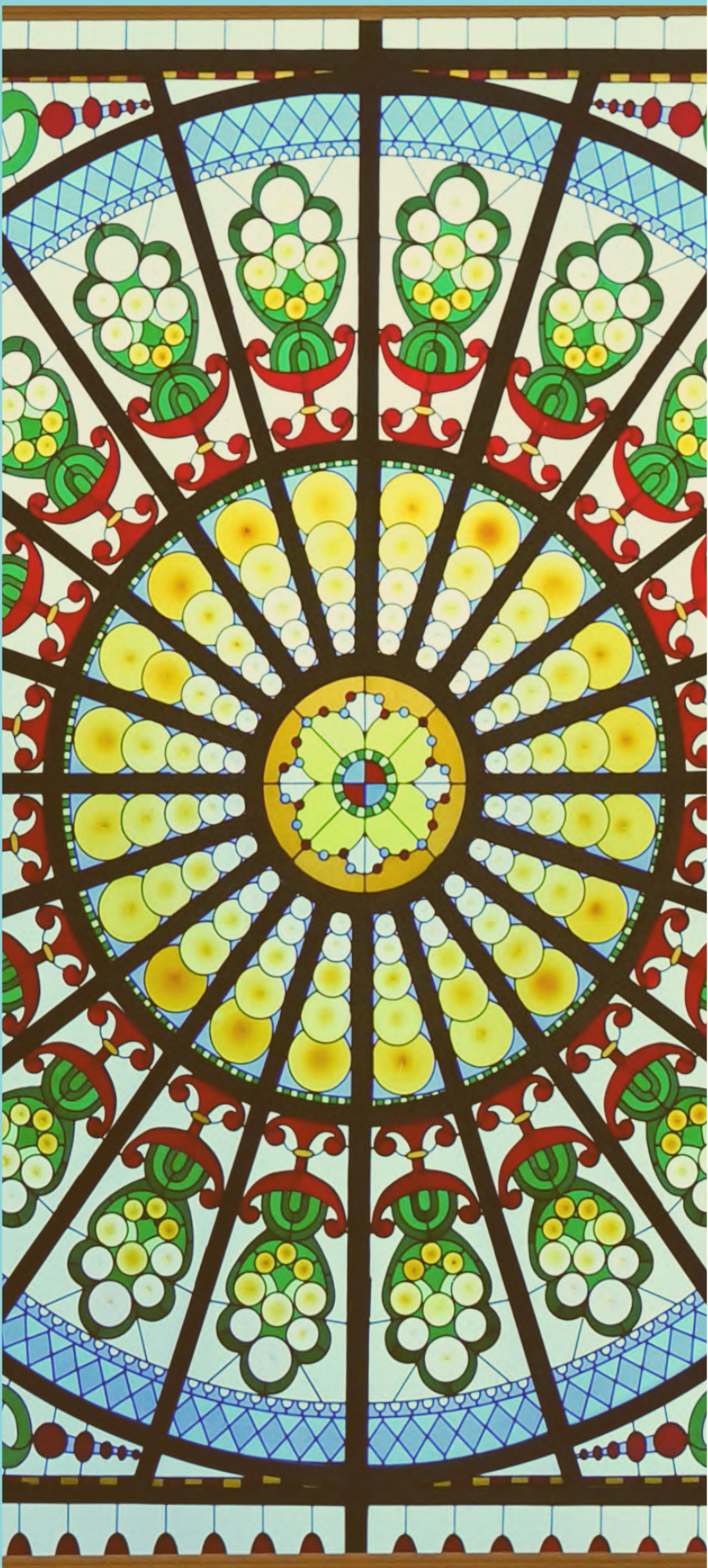
also prohibit the use of deception by law enforcement, defining it as the knowing communication of false facts about evidence.

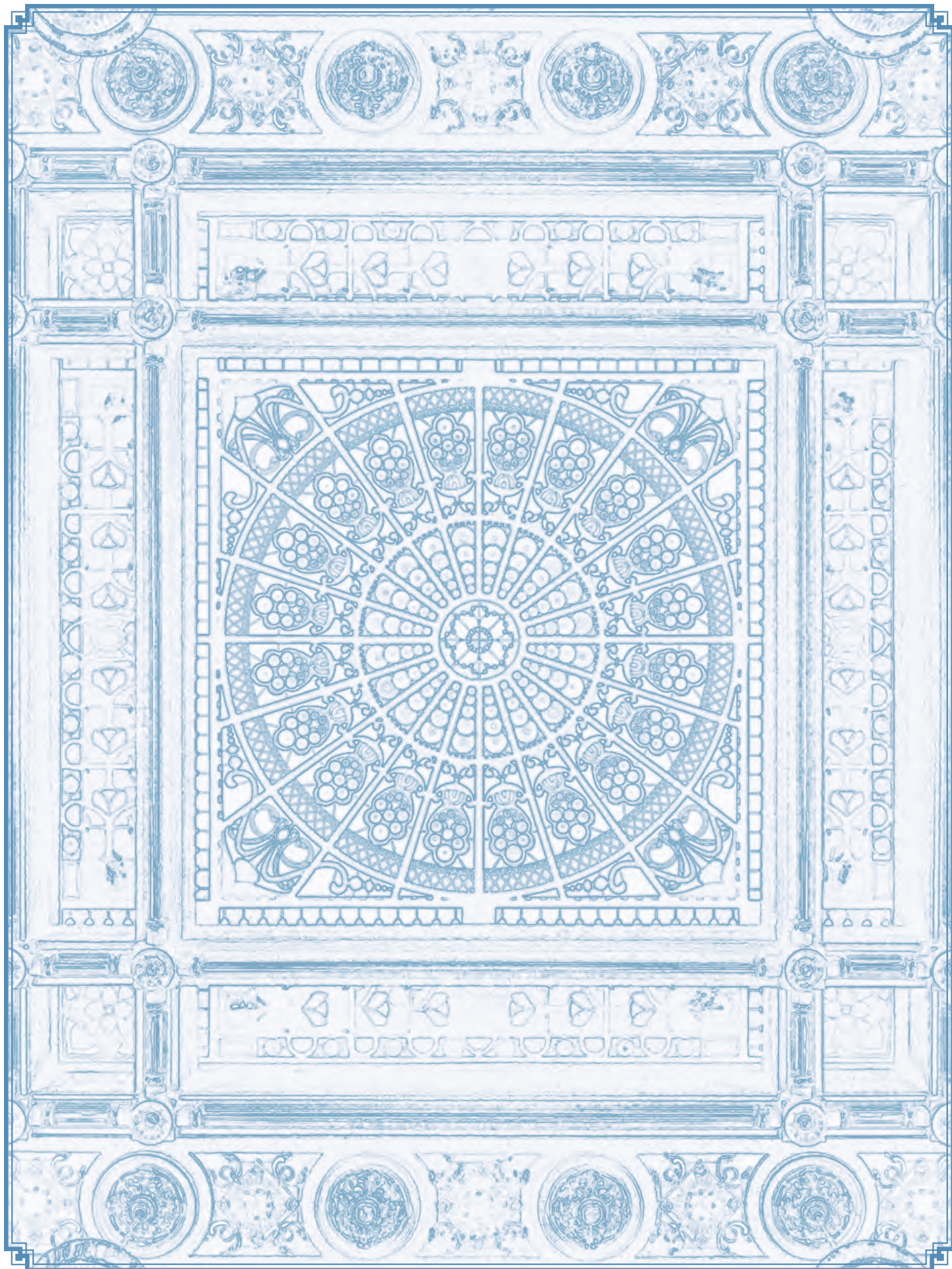
SPREADING THE NEWS



Don Harmon,
Senate President

Communications Department
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







TOP 5 ISDC ACCOUNTS

@ilsendems



@DonHarmonIL

7,729

1



@SenatorSara6

7,364

2



@ElgieSims

4,216

3



@LLCoolK_4

3,896

4



@SenatorFine

2,988

5



TOP 5 ISDC ACCOUNTS

@IllinoisSenateDemocraticCaucus



@StateSenatorKVilla

10,000

1



@KimberlyALightford

6,800

2



@SenatorSara6

6,300

3



@SenatorDonHarmon

5,800

4



@RobertMartwick

4,500

5



TOP 5 ISDC ACCOUNTS

@ilsendems



@SenMikeSimmons

3,674

1



@SenatorCelina

3,224

2



@SenatorKarinaVilla

2,826

3



@SenatorSara6

2,376

4



@SenLakesiaCollins

2,326

5



TOP 5 TWEETS

@ilsendems

1

#SenExecutive Committee is underway in Room 212, starting with a subject matter only hearing on the public transit package, presented by @SenVillivalam. Subject matter only = no voting.

May 31, 2025

2,939 Impressions



2

The #SenTourism Committee has been called to order by chair @SenatorSara6. The committee is meeting in Chicago today for a subject matter hearing on Senate Bill 2053.

May 2, 2025

1,922 Impressions



3

@SenatorBelt helped secure \$2.4 million in grant money for the second round of the Equipment Upgrades Grant Program through the Illinois Grocery Initiative. <http://ilsenatedems.co/39s550UIM6f>

January 17, 2025

1,917 Impressions



4

“License plate flippers” are devices used by some drivers to conceal the identity of their vehicles, making it harder for law enforcement to hold drivers who break the law accountable. A bill from @SenStadelman would make them illegal in Illinois. <http://ilsenatedems.co/2zva50VkKn7>

March 19, 2025

1,708 Impressions



5

@LLCoolK_4 fights to remove expulsion for preschool through second graders. <http://ilsenatedems.co/hzKM50Wn8Q6>

May 31, 2025

1,708 Impressions





TOP 5 POSTS

@IllinoisSenateDemocraticCaucus

1

Senator Willie Preston bill to provide formerly incarcerated individuals with a pathway to society,
<http://ilsenatedems.co/fY5V50VTmKc>

May 15, 2025

3,968 Views



Senator Mike Simmons fights to ban tenant junk fees and require lease transparency.
<http://ilsenatedems.co/pXeX50W0xqp>

May 28, 2025

1,724 Views

2

3

State Senator Christopher Belt promotes online safety, cyberbullying prevention for students.
<http://ilsenatedems.co/IK3S50Wn8j0>

May 20, 2025

1,161 Views



State Senator Ram Villivalam: Illinoisans deserve a world-class public transit system.
<http://ilsenatedems.co/8s8s50W274b>

June 1, 2025

1,763 Views

4

5

This Pride Month, we celebrate with purpose. From local protections to federal progress, take a look at the bills that have helped move Illinois and the nation toward dignity and equality for the LGBTQIA community.

June 1, 2025

1,354 Views





INSTAGRAM

@ilsendems

1,192 POSTS

2,646 FOLLOWERS
+371 IN 2025

“Sister Chisholm was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. I learned about her in great detail during membership of TS, the notable higher “Unlabeled” and “Unlabeled” instantly inspired me. She was the first Black woman elected to Congress the year I was born and the first Black woman to run for President. Sister Chisholm was a trailblazer and an activist who made a significant impact on civil rights, justice and education. I stand on her shoulders.”

KIMBERLY A. LIGHTFORD
STATE SENATOR - DISTRICT 4

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2025 | AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

“My district's connection to the labor movement stems from being the birthplace of workers' rights. The Black and white shared both labor and civil rights, exemplified by MLK's 1963 speech in the Illinois AFL-CIO and A. Philip Randolph's leadership of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. I honor the legacy of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, I honor the legacy of the labor movement and I honor the legacy of the Black community. I stand on the shoulders of the labor movement and the Black community, and I stand on the shoulders of the labor movement and the Black community.”

ELGIE R. SIMS, JR.
STATE SENATOR - DISTRICT 17

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2025 | AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

“One significant moment in Illinois history highlighting Black leadership in labor rights is the 1918 Chicago Race Riot and the subsequent Chicago Race Riot. In the wake of the riot, which was sparked by racial tensions in the labor market, Black leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other Black leaders in the 1960s pushed for labor rights, racial justice and equal economic opportunities.”

LAKESIA COLLINS
STATE SENATOR - DISTRICT 5

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2025 | AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

“A. Philip Randolph's leadership in organizing the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925 was a defining moment for Black labor rights in Illinois and across the nation. By forming the first all-Black union, he paved the way for the rights, better working conditions, and greater economic opportunities for Black workers—leaving a legacy of strength and resilience that continues to inspire today.”

NAPOLEON HARRIS, III
STATE SENATOR - DISTRICT 13

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2025 | AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR



SHOW US YOUR GOOD SIDE



HAPPY EARTH DAY

SB 2157: DEFORESTATION FREE ILLINOIS ACT

WOULD ENSURE STATE-FUNDED PURCHASES OF KEY COMMODITIES — SUCH AS RUBBER, PAPER AND SPECIFIC WOOD PRODUCTS — COME EXCLUSIVELY FROM SUSTAINABLE SOURCES, CURBSING THE STATE'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL DEFORESTATION

RACHEL B. FLETCHER
STATE SENATOR
40th DISTRICT

SB 1872: BANNING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

WOULD PROHIBIT LARGER RETAILERS FROM OFFERING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS BEGINNING JAN. 1, 2029

CRISTINA CASTRO
STATE SENATOR
22nd DISTRICT

SB 1723: INCREASING PROTECTIONS TO THE MAHOMET AQUIFER

WOULD PROHIBIT CARBON SEQUESTRATION OVER, UNDER OR THROUGH THE MAHOMET AQUIFER, ENFORCING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND PREVENTING HARMFUL ACTIVITIES

PAUL J. FARRAR
STATE SENATOR
30th DISTRICT

SB 1397: COMPOST STUDY GRANT PROGRAM

CREATES A GRANT PROGRAM TO EXPAND AND STUDY COMPOST AND DIGESTATE USE AND CREATES A RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

ADRIANNE W. HANCOCK
STATE SENATOR
30th DISTRICT



BLUESKY

@ilsendems.bsky.social

10 ISDC MEMBER ACCOUNTS

FIRST CAUCUS POST
DECEMBER 13, 2024



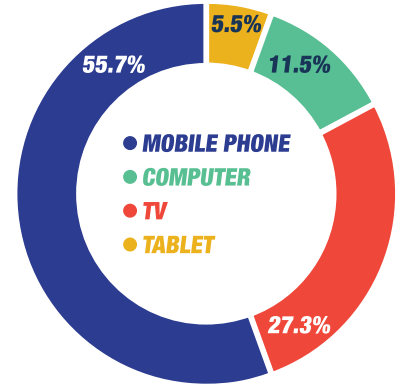
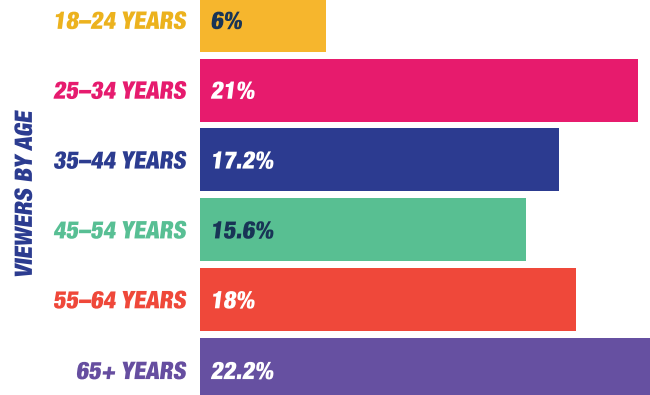
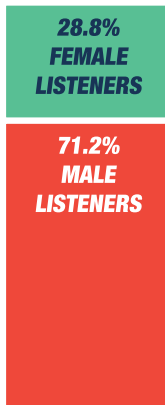
4,321 FOLLOWERS



43,782 VIEWS
1,100 HOURS WATCHED

**65 FULL VIDEOS +
14 SHORTS POSTED**

**+169
SUBSCRIBERS**



TOP 5 VIDEOS + SHORTS



5,174 VIEWS
Sen. Belt celebrates first EV chargers installed at Illinois state Parks

3,871 VIEWS
Sen. Castro's Dignity in Pay Act signed into law

2,115 VIEWS
Sens. Preston, Collins & Ventura promote SB93, a bipartisan food safety initiative

2,087 VIEWS
Illinois Legislative Black Caucus FY26 Budget reaction - full press conference

1,986 VIEWS
Senate President Don Harmon reacts to Governor Pritzker's State of the State and Budget Address

1,277 VIEWS
Sen. Villa Increasing access to alternatives to opioids

1,205 VIEWS
Sen. Castro Creating more pathways to homeownership

1,012 VIEWS
Sen. Belt Renting with animal companions

791 VIEWS
Sen. Villanueva Karina's Law will protect domestic violence survivors

452 VIEWS
Sens. Collins, Fine, and Turner Senate Dems outline measures for new mothers in Illinois



AUDIO AND PODCASTS

(((LISTEN NOW)))



20%
INCREASE IN AUDIO SENT
TO RADIO STATIONS THIS
SESSION

TOP EPISODES



MEMBERS WERE
MENTIONED
3,200
TIMES ON RADIO ACROSS
THE STATE, REACHING
ABOUT
193,790,000
LISTENERS

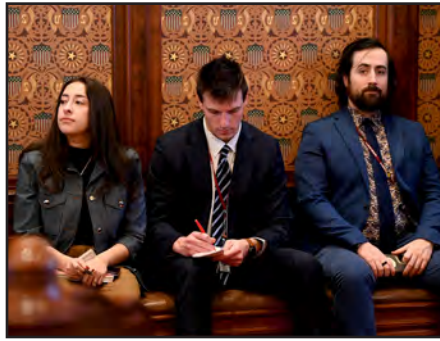
THE 104TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS THE FIRST TO BE COMPREHENSIVELY COVERED BY A SPANISH-LANGUAGE PODCAST. PRODUCED BY THE SENATE PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, "ESTADO DEL ESTADO" (STATE OF THE STATE) LAUNCHED IN AUGUST 2024. THE PODCAST PROVIDES IN-DEPTH COVERAGE OF THE STATE SENATE, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS, COMMUNITY EVENTS, AND CONVERSATIONS WITH ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS MEMBERS.

SINCE ITS LAUNCH,
LISTENERSHIP GREW BY
50%
BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY
2025, HIGHLIGHTING ITS
EXPANDING REACH



THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE
LATINO CAUCUS HAS BEEN
FEATURED IN 16 RADIO
SEGMENTS, REACHING AN
AUDIENCE OF OVER
63,000







ILBC delivers groundbreaking legislation to uplift Black communities across Illinois

The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus remained steadfast in its pursuit of justice, equity and opportunity for Black communities across the state during the 104th General Assembly. This year, caucus members spearheaded legislation aimed at educational access, public safety, maternal health and economic justice—reflecting their enduring commitment to dismantling systemic barriers and championing underrepresented voices.

In a year that brought renewed

urgency to address the educator shortage and economic challenges facing aspiring teachers, State Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove) led the passage of House Bill 3528, ensuring student teachers are no longer barred from receiving compensation. While the bill does not mandate payment, it lifts institutional restrictions, granting schools and districts the flexibility to financially support aspiring educators—particularly those from marginalized and low-income backgrounds.

Responding to concerns around police accountability, State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) advanced Senate Bill 1953, requiring law enforcement agencies to conduct comprehensive reviews of a prospective officer's employment history before hiring. The bill—introduced in the wake of the tragic murder of Sonya Massey—also expands the creation of sheriff's merit boards in counties with more than 75,000 residents, promoting greater transparency and accountability in law enforcement



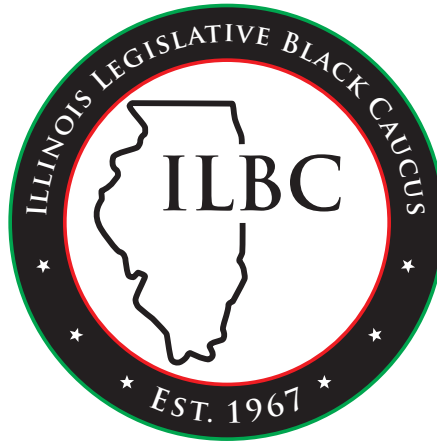
hiring practices.

Recognizing mistakes can turn into learning opportunities, State Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D-Chicago) worked across the aisle to pass a measure to allow low-level, first-time weapon offenders to apply for a Firearm Owner's Identification Card upon completing a diversion program. Under Senate Bill 1899, participants who complete the First Time Weapons Offense Diversion Program could apply for a FOID card after receiving a court order demonstrating successful program completion—so long as they meet all other existing eligibility requirements. The program will only be for individuals charged with a Class 4 felony—the lowest class felony charge for weapons.

Focusing on housing equity, State Senator Mike Simmons (D-Chicago) pushed forward Senate Bill 1173, which eliminates notary fees for unhoused individuals applying for a state ID. Recognizing how legal identification unlocks access to housing, employment, transit and public services, the bill seeks to remove yet another obstacle that prevents Illinois' unhoused residents from achieving stability.

To address the alarming disparities in maternal health outcomes, State Senator Willie Preston (D-Chicago) led the charge on House Bill 2517, expanding implicit bias training for Illinois health care professionals. The new training will include a focus on maternal mortality risk factors affecting marginalized communities, statistical data on pregnancy-related deaths, and

proven medical strategies to reduce complications—especially for Black women, who are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than their white counterparts.



Tackling pay disparities head-on, Senator Robert Peters (D-Chicago) championed House Bill 2488, a transformative measure aimed at closing wage gaps based on race and gender. The legislation strengthens reporting requirements under the Equal Pay Act and the Prevailing Wage Act, requiring all qualifying businesses to demonstrate equitable pay practices and preventing manipulation of job categories if federal rules shift—ensuring workers in Illinois are fairly compensated for their labor.

Realizing financial abuse is a common tactic used by abusers to maintain control over victims, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) led a measure to prohibit collection agencies from collecting debt incurred through coercion. Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking often face economic abuse in the form of a

non-consensual credit transaction. Down the road—even if survivors are no longer surrounded by their abuser—they can face further financial trauma when a collection agency gets involved. Under House Bill 3352, a victim of coerced debt will not be liable for the debt—but would rather submit a form to a collection agency outlining the debt came from coercion.

To further ensure patients seeking care have a chance to designate an emergency contact, State Senator Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) spearheaded a measure to require hospitals to provide an opportunity to gather contact information. House Bill 1332 will require hospitals to present a patient with the opportunity to designate an emergency contact, as well as to authorize the hospital to share protected health information with this contact. It also requires hospitals to disclose the death of a patient to the emergency contact as soon as possible.

On the health front, State Senator Napoleon Harris III (D-Harvey) led the passage of Senate Bill 1418, requiring insurance coverage for peripheral artery disease (PAD) screenings for at-risk individuals. With Black adults disproportionately affected by PAD, the bill aims to ensure early detection and reduce the likelihood of serious complications like amputations.

Supporting reproductive and maternal health care access, State Senator Lakesia Collins (D-Chicago) passed Senate Bill 2437, which allows Medicaid patients to



choose certified doulas to provide support throughout pregnancy. The bill also directs state agencies to recommend strategies for expanding access to maternal and reproductive health services through the Illinois Medicaid-Certified Doula Program.

State Senator Emil Jones III (D-Chicago) helped lead the passage of a life-saving measure that ensures part-time workers who choose to become organ donors are protected in the workplace. House Bill 1616 allows eligible part-time employees to take up to 10 days of leave in a 12-month period to donate an organ. The legislation also guarantees compensation for those receiving payment for their donation, calculated based

on their average daily wage over the previous two months. Jones' support was instrumental in ensuring equity in medical leave policies, extending critical job protections to part-time employees who want to make a difference.

In direct response to the deadly 2021 tornado that struck an Amazon warehouse in Edwardsville, State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea) passed the Warehouse Tornado Preparedness Act, or House Bill 2987, which mandates that warehouse operators develop and file tornado safety plans within 120 days of the law taking effect. The plans must include shelter locations, evacuation protocols, emergency supplies and post-disaster procedures. Newly

constructed warehouses will also be required to meet enhanced safety standards beginning in 2027.

These legislative victories represent only a portion of the impactful work done by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus during the first year of the 104th General Assembly. United in their mission to dismantle systemic injustice, ILBC members continue to elevate the voices of Black Illinoisans and pave the way for a more equitable and inclusive future for every resident of the state.





IAALC: Advocating, supporting and uplifting the Asian American community

The Illinois Asian American Caucus has worked tirelessly to advocate for, support and uplift Illinoisans, while being an active voice for them in Springfield. Co-chaired by State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago), members of the Illinois Asian American Caucus worked closely together to reach those goals.

Building upon the mission to provide an inclusive and supportive education environment, Villivalam spearheaded Senate Bill 1616 which will require the Illinois State Board of Education to include on its website a list of days during the school year that a portion of the student body may be absent due to cultural or religious reasons, further ensuring better planning between school administrators and athletic associations.

Celebrating the Faith by Plate Act becoming law, Villivalam joined members of the caucus, the Muslim Civic Coalition, Agudath Israel of Illinois, Jewish United Fund and other community members for a press conference highlighting the measure. The law requires schools, University of Illinois hospitals and state correctional facilities to provide halal and kosher food options upon request, further ensuring access to foods that meet community members' dietary restrictions.

Villivalam continues to work closely and diligently with organizations from across the state, such as Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the Pan Asian Voter Empowerment Coalition, to discuss legislative priorities such as immigrant services and funding

negotiations, stand in celebration for the start of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month or attend events to learn more about what issues are facing the community.

Continuing to support immigrant communities, Villivalam advocated and supported for funding to continue projects such as the Afghan Refugee Transition tuition program which provides assistance for Afghan students at Northeastern Illinois University to thrive, learn and adapt to living and learning in the United States.

Providing advocacy and their best efforts to represent over 800,000 Asian-Americans, the caucus looks forward to continuing to support their mission to advocate for access to essential resources, respect, and representation across Illinois.



Latino Caucus: A vision for equity and development in Latino communities

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus led efforts this spring to amplify Latino voices in Springfield and advance legislation centered on their core pillars of equity, justice and community development. Together, they're shaping a future where Latino communities are heard, represented and empowered.

Fulfilling their commitment to community development and equity begins with ensuring an even playing field during educational development as exemplified by Senate Bill 1519, championed by Latino Caucus Chair Karina Villa (D-West Chicago). The bill

aims to eliminate discriminatory disciplinary practices in schools by prohibiting them from giving students fines or fees as punishment for behavior. It also requires any school district with a school resource officer to have a formal agreement with the local law enforcement agency. This agreement must ensure that SROs are properly trained and do not issue fines or tickets for disciplinary issues.

Equity is preserved by ensuring that essential support systems remain accessible to the state's most vulnerable residents. This principle is embodied in House

Bill 1586, led by State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin), which safeguards state-administered federal programs from potential federal overreach. In response to ongoing efforts by the federal government to dismantle key agencies and eliminate the roles of qualified civil servants who manage critical services such as Medicaid and SNAP, this legislation stands as a proactive measure to protect the Illinois residents who rely on these lifelines every day.

Building on the theme of equity, State Senator Graciela Guzmán's (D-Chicago) Senate Bill 1298 addresses a critical need for college



students. The bill streamlines and expands SNAP eligibility, allowing all eligible students at public colleges and universities in Illinois to access benefits. This legislation is a game-changer, as under the current system, students are only eligible for SNAP if they meet specific requirements, such as working at least 20 hours per week while attending school. Senate Bill 1298 removes these barriers, broadening eligibility and making it easier for students to access the support they need.

Still on the topic of equity, State Senator Javier Cervantes (D-Chicago) passed Senate Bill 2339 to expand protections he championed for immigrant workers last year. It would ensure employees have access to legal representation and that they are protected from adverse workplace actions solely due to an issue with federal E-Verify

paperwork.

State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) made strides in advancing justice with Senate Bill 2040. The bill upholds the dignity of crime survivors from the moment they seek help. It reinforces the right of individuals who report being victims of crime to be treated with fairness and respect, extending these protections to all stages of the investigative process. It also prohibits law enforcement from using deceptive tactics and extends protections against deception to anyone a court or prosecutor determines has suffered harm from a violent crime, including victims' representatives and family members.

The Senate Latino Caucus recognizes the vital need to safeguard workers, enhance educational programs, and support the well-being and economic

growth of Latino communities. With pride in their service, they are unwavering in their commitment to advocate for continued representation, striving to open new doors of opportunity and create a better future for everyone in Illinois.





Senate Women's Caucus policies rooted in community, health

The Senate Women's Caucus continued their work of advancing community-centered initiatives this legislative session, with a focus on addressing food insecurity, protecting the environment and safeguarding reproductive rights.

This spring, members of the Women's Caucus participated in a day of service at Motherland Community Garden. The garden, located on the east side of Springfield within the district of State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield), serves

as a community hub, offering a place for neighbors to gather, work together and take part in educational programs focused on preparing nutritious meals using garden produce. Armed with vegetable seeds and plants, senators joined students from nearby Feitshans Elementary School to help fill the garden beds. The event provided students with a hands-on introduction to gardening while fostering connections between legislators and youth. Members also learned about the garden's

on-site food pantry and resident bees, both of which contribute to the neighborhood's sustainability and food access efforts in an area where many families are facing food insecurity.

In addition to hands-on service, members of the Women's Caucus championed legislation to ensure food is accessible for residents throughout the state. State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) and State Senator Graciela Guzmán (D-Chicago) spearheaded efforts to expand eligibility for food benefits



through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Morrison's proposal, Senate Bill 32, will help more military families qualify for food assistance by raising the income level at which households with a veteran or member of the Armed Forces are eligible for SNAP benefits. Senate Bill 1298, introduced by Guzmán, will enable students at Illinois public colleges and universities to receive SNAP benefits as long as they meet eligibility requirements. Both of these proposals aim to close critical gaps in assistance among groups who often face food insecurity.

To evaluate the state's current efforts to address systemic barriers to food access, State Senator Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) sponsored House Bill 1607, which will establish a Task Force on Eliminating Food Deserts within the Illinois Department of Public Health. The task force will evaluate the effectiveness of current programs and offer recommendations to the General Assembly to better serve communities lacking fresh, affordable food options.

State Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove) led two measures to tackle food waste and reduce methane emissions. Senate Bill 1398 will establish a food scrap diversion hierarchy prioritizing redistribution to people and animals before composting or energy recovery, helping reduce the volume of waste that ends up in landfills. To support this initiative,

Senate Bill 1397 will establish a grant program and research partnership with the University of Illinois to study and expand the use of compost and digestate, further promoting a circular economy for food and food waste management in Illinois.

Single-use items like plastic bags and foam food containers



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

pollute Illinois waterways, beaches and parks, and never break down naturally in the environment. To transition Illinois to more sustainable alternatives, Senate Bill 1872 from State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) will phase out single-use plastic checkout bags throughout the state by 2029. Building on her past work to deter foam food ware use, State Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview) sponsored Senate Bill 1531 to ban the sale and distribution of polystyrene food containers beginning in 2030.

In response to attempts to roll back reproductive rights at the federal level, Senate Women's Caucus members remained steadfast in their commitment to protecting access to care in Illinois. State Senator Karina Villa (D-West Chicago) championed

House Bill 3637, which builds on Illinois' shield laws by prohibiting disciplinary actions against providers who deliver legal reproductive health services. It also ensures continued access to abortion medications such as mifepristone, even if federal regulations change, as long as those medications remain supported by peer-reviewed research and the World Health Organization.

State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) carried House Bill 3709 that will require public colleges and universities to provide on-campus access to health professionals authorized to prescribe contraception and medication abortion. To expand reproductive health options further, State Senator Rachel Ventura (D-Joliet) advanced House Bill 3489 that will grant pharmacists the ability to dispense a wider range of contraceptives — including hormonal, non-hormonal and emergency options — giving individuals more control over their reproductive choices.

The work of the Senate Women's Caucus this session underscores their commitment to a healthier and more equitable Illinois. Members will continue advancing policies that expand opportunity, protect health and support families across the state.



Senate Chamber Revitalized

The beginning of the 104th General Assembly marked an end to the use of the temporary Senate Chamber built in the Howlett Building.

Following a nearly two-year renovation, the Senate Chamber reopened again to welcome the 104th General Assembly. Many necessary changes were made to the Senate Chamber, not only

to restore the historic fabric of the Chamber, but to bring it in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and install safety features.

A key theme of the North Wing renovation was restoring the historic features and accents of the State Capitol when it was first built. At the time, the Capitol was a much different building

with features that would surprise people today. For example, until 1885, the statehouse featured a grand flight of steps up to the second floor, which was the main floor of the building. They were demolished in 1885, because a number of legislators slipped and hurt themselves on the icy steps during winter legislative sessions.

Naturally, the architects won't



be restoring the unsafe features, but there are more that were worth bringing back.

The Illinois Senate has its skylight once again after 87 years.

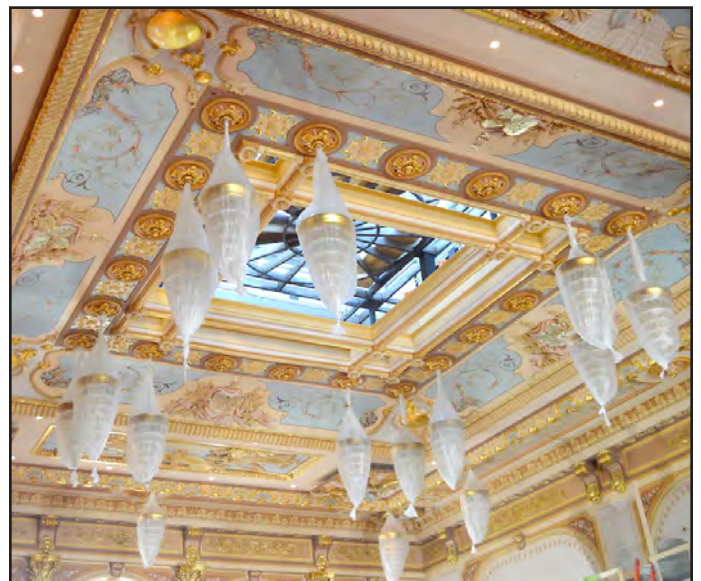
Local artisan Steve Brooks of Brooks Art Glass in Springfield did a remarkable job reproducing the 1880s-era design. It is made up of 6,566 individual pieces of glass in

84 panels. There are 360 pieces of round glass called rondels, which were produced by Monarch Glass Studio in Kansas City.

Light sources were a focus during the renovation of the Chamber. The existing chandeliers were sent to the St. Louis Antique Lighting Company for refurbishment. There are now double the number of chandeliers, which supplement the newly installed skylight.

A smaller feature, but no less important, is the update to the north gallery handrail. Historic photos were studied and used as reference to create a new handrail along the north gallery to recreate the original design. The gallery itself has also seen updates to accommodate wheelchair users.

It has been 100 years since the first woman was elected to serve in the Illinois Senate to serve in the 54th General Assembly. Florence Fifer Bohrer (R-Bloomington) was the first, but she was far from the last. With 25 female members in





the Senate and many more on staff, it was necessary to update the women's restroom in the Chamber. It has also been enlarged and spaces have been improved for accessibility.

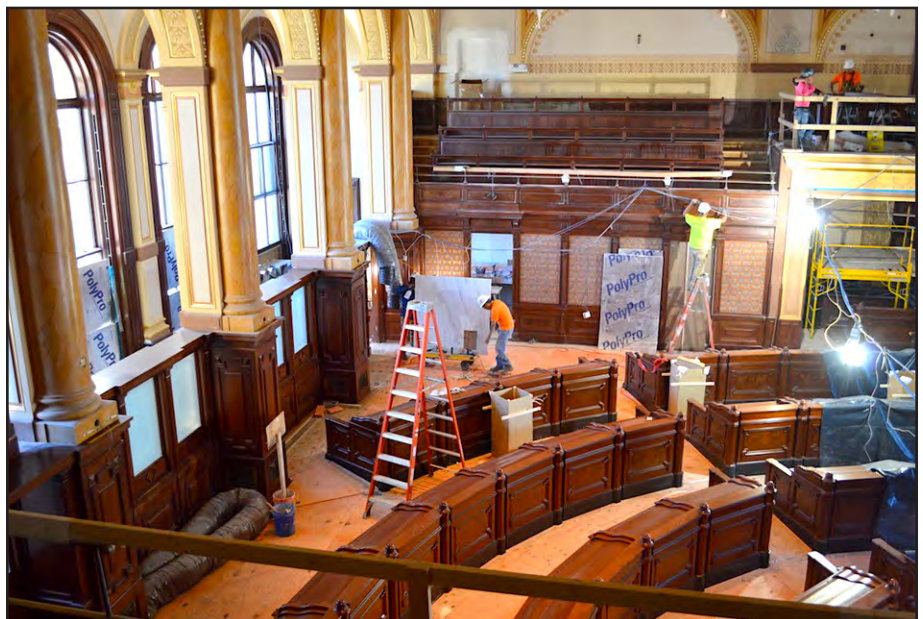
Many technical changes were made to the Chamber, which are not as flashy as a new skylight or new chandeliers, but they are still vital. Among these changes was entirely rewiring the Chamber. The Chamber floor was pulled up and spaces were added below the floor to install an underfloor sprinkler system.

ADA compliance is an overall focus for the North Wing renovation, and the Chamber received some of these as well. The anteroom previously featured steps

to access, making it inaccessible by wheelchair users. Because the Assignments Committee met in the room, the lack of ADA compliance limited access to members of the

committee.

With these many updates, the Senate Chamber will serve many more General Assemblies to come.



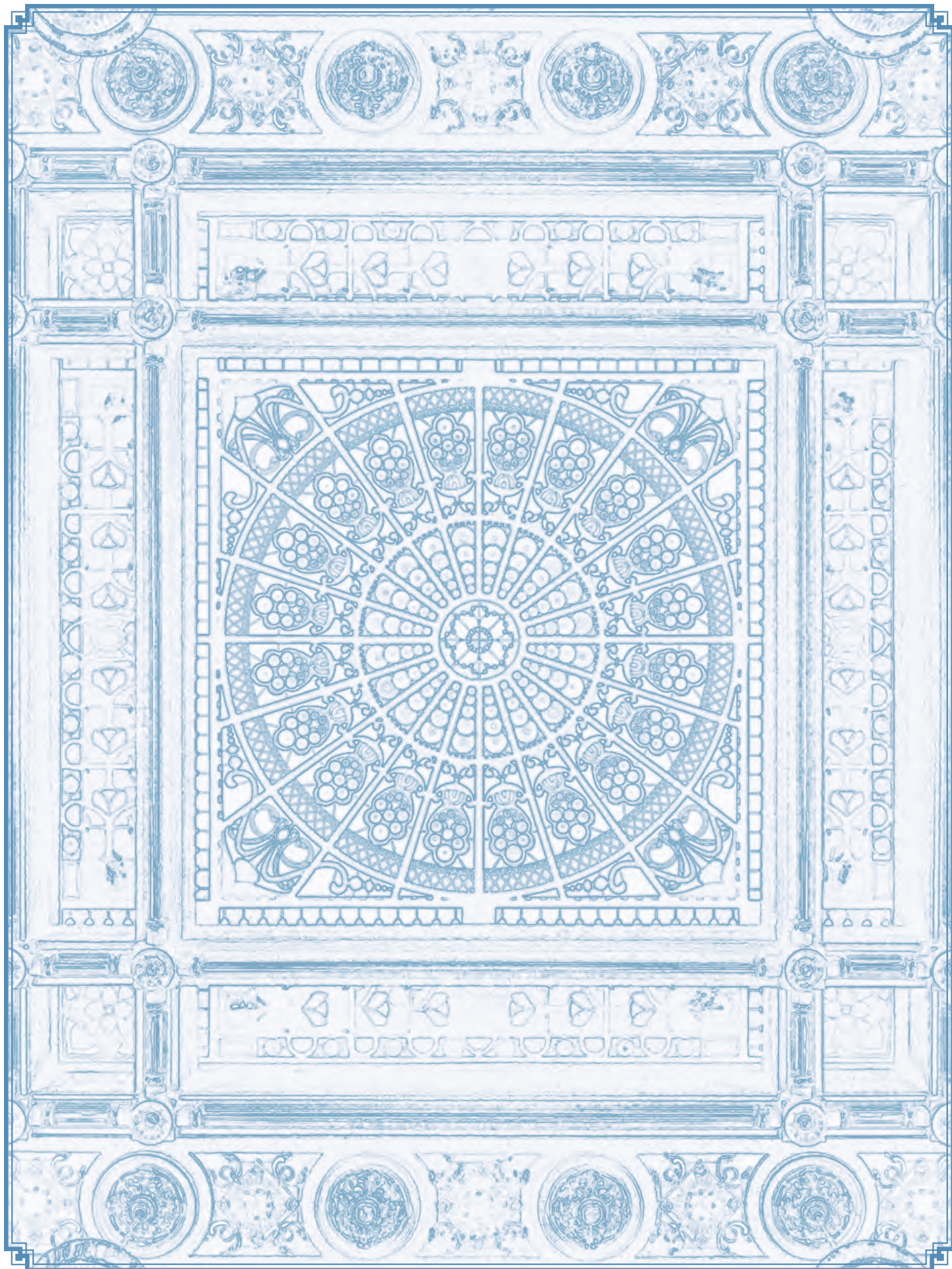
FEATURED STORIES



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Senate Democrats outline proposals to enhance mental health care accessibility



SPRINGFIELD – As the nation grapples with an ongoing mental health crisis, members of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus are working diligently to engage greater accessibility to care. During a press conference Wednesday, they outlined their measures to enhance the mental health workforce and strengthen services.

To encourage more people of color to enter the mental health care profession, State Senator Javier Cervantes is championing a measure to require the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to create a program to award scholarships to students pursuing a career as a mental health professional in Illinois. The scholarship – created under Senate

Bill 1322 – would be open to all students, but give preference to applicants from various minority groups.

“This initiative prioritizes applicants from underrepresented communities, addressing both our critical provider shortage and the pressing need for a workforce that reflects the diverse populations it serves,” said Cervantes (D-Chicago). “By working to remove financial barriers to education, we can create pathways for passionate individuals to pursue these essential careers while simultaneously building a more inclusive mental health system for all residents.”

To further attract and retain mental health care workers, State Senator Laura Ellman has outlined

a measure – Senate Bill 1225 – to add them to the list of professions eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program. The Child Care Assistance Program provides financial assistance to low-income families to help cover the cost of child care, enabling parents to work, attend training or go to school.

“It is hard to find mental health care when you need it, because there just aren’t enough professionals out there,” said Ellman (D-Naperville). “By expanding access to child care assistance for families in the mental health, health care, and educational workforce, we can ensure parents no longer have to choose between their professions and family responsibilities while also retaining workers in workforces that are



struggling to attract employees.”

Building trust and rapport with a mental health provider can often be daunting, leading State Senator Mike Simmons to spearhead Senate Bill 2287. The measure would prohibit private insurers, Medicaid, and state group health plans from charging an individual out-of-pocket costs greater than they would in network if they receive mental health services from a nonparticipating provider or health care facility. Expanding on that measure, Simmons’ Senate Bill 2353 would ensure there is no limit on the number of visits per week for outpatient mental health treatment.

“I’ve brought forth Senate Bill 2287 because effective and helpful mental health care requires consistency, and this bill makes sure

patients can see a mental health provider that is the right fit for them regardless of insurance network with no danger of incurring fees or out of pocket costs,” said Simmons (D-Chicago). “Senate Bill 2353 will empower patients and providers – not insurance companies – with the autonomy to decide the frequency and timing of their own mental health treatment plans.”

Additionally, State Senator Robert Peters is leading a measure ensuring a more thorough and thoughtful rollout of critical services by extending the implementation deadline of the Community Emergency Services and Support Act – also known as CESSA – to July 1, 2027. In addition, Senate Bill 2500 would require new training for mobile mental health relief teams and an updated data

collection structure, transforming how mental health emergencies are handled and offering a strong framework for individuals in crisis and the organizations that serve them.

“We must meet the growing mental health needs of our communities by providing the necessary resources, training and structure to ensure every individual in crisis gets the help they deserve,” said Peters (D-Chicago). “This is about keeping people safe and providing them with the right support when they need it most.”

Members of the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus will continue to work on legislation to enhance mental health care throughout the legislative session.





Villanueva passes Karina's Law to protect domestic violence survivors

Published: January 06, 2025



SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Celina Villanueva passed Karina's Law, a groundbreaking measure designed to enhance protections for survivors of domestic violence by allowing for the prompt confiscation of firearms from individuals subject to emergency restraining orders. The legislation, named in honor of Karina Gonzalez and her daughter Daniela, addresses critical gaps in current laws that left survivors vulnerable to harm.

"Today, we honor Karina and Daniela by taking decisive action

to protect domestic violence survivors," said Villanueva (D-Chicago). "Karina's Law ensures that firearms are removed from the hands of abusers when survivors need protection the most. This legislation is a life-saving step forward for Illinois families."

Under Karina's Law or House Bill 4144, law enforcement agencies would be required to remove firearms within 96 hours of a judge's order from individuals whose FOID cards are revoked due to emergency restraining

orders. This new policy provides clear guidelines for enforcement, ensuring consistent application across the state and addressing the risks associated with firearms and domestic violence situations.

"This law will save lives," said Villanueva. "We know that the presence of a firearm increases the risk of homicide in domestic violence cases. Karina's Law closes a dangerous loophole and send a clear message: Illinois prioritizes the safety and dignity of survivors."



Castro's Dignity in Pay Act signed into law



Published: January 21, 2025

SPRINGFIELD — State Senator Cristina Castro's historic legislation to begin phasing out the federal subminimum wage for people with disabilities in Illinois has been signed into law.

"Good jobs change lives, and all workers — including disabled workers — deserve these opportunities," said Castro (D-Elgin). "The Dignity in Pay Act will promote access, opportunity and financial stability for employees with disabilities across our state, and I'm proud to have played a part in getting this historic measure across the finish line."

The Dignity in Pay Act — formerly House Bill 793 — will begin phasing out the federal subminimum wage

for people with disabilities in Illinois by 2029, giving employers time to make changes. To provide assistance during the transition, the measure increases hourly rates for supported employment providers, increases the personal needs allowance for residents in group homes and congregate settings, and creates a transition grant program to make funds available to employers that need aid during the transition. These grants will facilitate the development of new opportunities for people with disabilities, including supported employment, customized employment, entrepreneurship and community-based day programs.

The measure also protects

means-tested benefits, ensuring higher wages do not contribute to a person's ineligibility for disability services and assistance programs.

"The Dignity in Pay Act is a call to action, reminding us all of the importance of people with disabilities to America's workplaces and economy," Castro said. "I've stood with marginalized workers throughout my career, and this is a significant step forward toward eliminating barriers to employment that have held Americans with disabilities back for far too long."

House Bill 793 takes effect immediately. The minimum wage provisions go into full effect Dec. 31, 2029.



Belt's measure helps students with reading difficulties get help earlier



Published: March 18, 2025

SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Christopher Belt advanced a measure to enhance early literacy education for students in kindergarten through third-grade.

“It’s so important that kids receive early intervention if they are having difficulties reading,” said Belt (D-Swansea). “The earlier a student is identified as potentially struggling with reading, the sooner intervention and support can start for the student.”

The Illinois State Board of Education created and adopted a Comprehensive Literacy Plan in 2024. The plan acts as a roadmap to enhance and unify core literacy instruction efforts statewide. It is designed to outline necessary

supports and resources for literacy reform, ensuring all students receive developmentally appropriate and evidence-based literacy instruction. The purpose of Belt’s measure is to ensure kindergarten through third-grade students receive regular screenings for potential reading difficulties so those needing additional support can be identified early on and receive intervention.

Senate Bill 1672 would require all school districts to report to the Illinois State Board of Education on the early literacy screenings being used in an effort to make sure there is a standardized approach to assessing the literacy development of young learners. This would allow educators and policymakers

to identify areas where students may need additional support and to make data-driven decisions that can improve literacy outcomes. The measure also asks that ISBE compile and report this data to the General Assembly and make it publicly available on its website.

“Not only will the measure help identify kids struggling with reading, it ensures that the process is transparent so parents aren’t left in the dark,” said Belt. “The reporting requirements will help us continue to improve early literacy for students so they go on to become lifelong learners and the next generation of leaders.”



Koehler advances legislation protecting local pharmacy access



Published: May 29, 2025

SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Dave Koehler is championing two significant pharmacy bills aimed at protecting patient access to pharmacies and health care services by hospitals engaged in the federal 340B program.

“Our local hospitals and federal qualified health centers need this program to be able to provide healthcare services for the poor and uninsured. The corrections we have made in how this program works will make a difference to struggling communities throughout the state,” said Koehler (D-Peoria). “This will cover the expenses that otherwise would be passed on to patients who have insurance.”

House Bill 2371 would establish the patient access to Pharmacy Protection Act, which would prohibit pharmaceutical manufacturers from imposing

restrictive conditions on hospitals and pharmacies under the federal 340B program. The measure would prohibit manufacturers from limiting the number of pharmacies a hospital can use. The bill would further require hospitals to report on an annual basis the use of those funds for charity care, thus providing transparency for the program.

House Bill 1697, the Prescription Drug Affordability Act, targets pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), entities that manage prescription drug benefits for insurers. This bill would end harmful practices, such as “spread pricing,” where pharmacy benefit managers profit by charging insurers significantly more than what pharmacies receive. It also would restrict PBMs from profiting from the sale of drugs to pharmacies,

and would require them to return 100% of pharmacy rebates back to the individuals or sponsoring organizations. It will also prevent pharmacy benefit managers from unfairly steering patients toward particular pharmacies and stops PBMs from limiting an individual’s access to a drug from a pharmacy by classifying it as a “specialty drug.”

“Our local pharmacies are vital to communities across Illinois, especially in smaller towns and underserved areas,” Koehler said. “Getting this bill approved means that pharmacy benefit managers who act as the middleman in the prescription drug industry will no longer have a strangle hold on consumers and neighborhood pharmacies.”



Peters measure to increase transparency in solitary confinement practices passes Senate



Published: January 06, 2025

SPRINGFIELD — A measure championed by State Senator Robert Peters aims to shed light on the use of restrictive housing, requiring the Illinois Department of Corrections to collect and publicly share data on how often and why people are placed in solitary confinement.

“Transparency is the foundation of accountability,” said Peters (D-Chicago). “By becoming more informed on how restrictive housing is used, we can ensure the system treats individuals fairly and humanely while holding our

institutions to the highest standard of oversight.”

“Restrictive housing” is another phrase for solitary confinement — a form of housing that separates an individual in custody from the general population. The bill responds to growing concerns about the lack of publicly available data on solitary confinement practices in state facilities. Recent surveys conducted by the John Howard Association found that 42% of incarcerated individuals reported spending excess time in their cells, often not meeting the

daily required minimum of two hours outside their sleeping area.

Under Peters’ measure, IDOC would be required to publish quarterly reports online detailing general trends, including demographic information, lengths of confinement, incidents of self-harm and access to health care in restrictive housing units.

“By passing this measure, we’re improving transparency and paving the way for reform that prioritizes rehabilitation over punishment,” said Peters.



Simmons bills would ease restrictions on cyclists in Illinois

Published: April 15, 2025



SPRINGFIELD – An avid cyclist himself and supporter of bike riders, State Senator Mike Simmons passed two bills through the Senate that would remove current prohibitions on bicyclists in Illinois.

“Current rules prevent cyclists from doing what is safe in favor of what is required by law,” said Simmons (D-Chicago). “We want to remove and clear up language surrounding bike riders to give all travelers better and safer options when cycling.”

Under the new legislation,

Senate Bill 2111, bicyclists would be able to treat stop signs as yield signs only when it is safe to proceed if they give a signal, slow to a reasonable speed and yield to the right of way. This would not apply to railroad crossings or youth under age 18.

With this legislation, bicyclists across Illinois would have more options to react safely at intersections. It would also promote efficiency during travel so cyclists can arrive at their destination safely.

Simmons also passed Senate Bill 2285, which expands the definition of bicycles to include low-speed electric bikes as well as any human-powered device.

“This is a simple fix to the rules that will allow for more people to bike together and bike safely around Chicago,” Simmons said. “As someone who bikes everywhere, I can say with certainty this will be beneficial to all bike riders in the state.”



Porfirio takes initiative to improve rooftop safety for first responders



SPRINGFIELD — A new initiative by State Senator Mike Porfirio could improve safety for thousands of first responders across Illinois, following the tragic passing of Andrew Price, a Chicago firefighter who fell through a light shaft while fearlessly suppressing a fire on the roof of a restaurant.

“First responders like Andrew risk their lives for us every day,” said Porfirio (D-Lyons Township). “We owe it to him and all those who serve us to take any steps we can to improve their safety.”

Porfirio’s proposed bill targets the risks firefighters face as they traverse roofs with light shafts, open courts and skylights. The bill would require roof openings to be covered or for a parapet to be built around them to increase their safety. The bill also would require local municipalities to complete a survey of buildings under their jurisdiction to share with local police and fire departments. Existing buildings with flat roof openings would be integrated over time and not require immediate

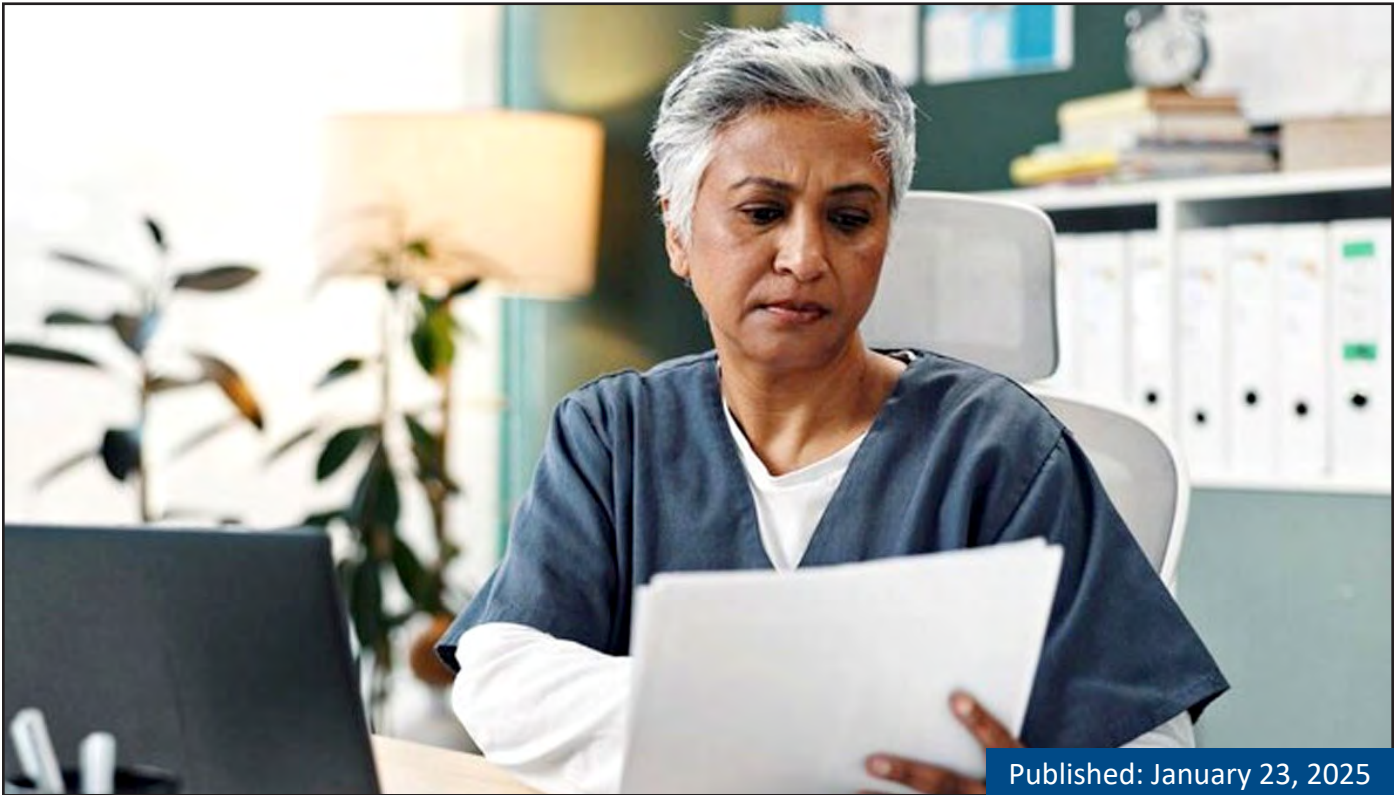
modifications.

Price’s widow, Lara, spoke in support of the bill during the Senate Local Government Committee on Wednesday.

“Light shafts aren’t rare,” said Price. “There are deadly openings on roofs across the country, especially in buildings where firefighters are called most often.”



Cervantes bill aims to improve health care access in Illinois



Published: January 23, 2025

SPRINGFIELD – To ensure more skilled health care professionals can practice in Illinois, State Senator Javier Loera Cervantes introduced legislation to better support the state’s physician assistant workforce and improve access to care.

“Before my work in the General Assembly, I worked with health care providers to resolve issues of inaccessibility, and I saw firsthand how it can take weeks or months to see doctors and other health care providers, leading to worse health outcomes for the patient seeking treatment,” said Cervantes (D-Chicago). “By streamlining the process of becoming a licensed physician assistant, patients will

be able to receive medical help sooner.”

According to a 2020 workforce report prepared by the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center, Illinois currently has a shortage of more than 15,000 nurses. With projections of a shortage of more than 6,000 doctors by 2030, patients could face significant delays in seeing a provider, which can negatively impact their health.

To expand patients’ access to care, particularly for residents in his district on Chicago’s south and southwest side, Cervantes’ legislation would allow physician assistants with more than 2,000 clinical hours to practice without a

supervising physician. With similar training as nurses and doctors, PAs can provide high-quality health care, but have run into difficulties getting their license approved due to a long, tedious paperwork approval process.

“Students are accepting jobs out of state because of Illinois’ overly bureaucratic requirements, and it’s time for this legislation to modernize our laws,” said Hazel Domingo, president of the Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants. “Studies have shown that PA laws in Illinois do not allow our physician assistants to practice to the level of their training and education, which hurts health care access.”



Fine advances measure to test baby food for toxic metals out of the Senate



Published: April 04, 2025

SPRINGFIELD — To ensure families and their children are protected from toxic heavy metals, State Senator Laura Fine advanced a measure to strengthen safety regulations for baby foods.

“Parents expect baby food to be manufactured safely,” said Fine (D-Glenview). “By informing families of the potential presence of toxic heavy metals in baby food, we can prevent exposure and give parents peace of mind about what their child is eating.”

To expand safety regulations for baby food, Fine’s bill would require

manufacturers to test samples of their baby food products for toxic elements — such as arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury — and disclose this information directly on the product’s website.

The measure also requires manufacturers to make certain information about their product publicly available on their website, including the name and level of each toxic heavy metal found in the food, the product name, UPC, and a link to the FDA’s website with information about the health risks of toxic heavy metal exposure for

children. Links to this information can also be found on the products themselves, through a QR code.

“Young children and babies, due to their small size and active development, are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of heavy metal exposure, such as behavioral issues and an increased risk of cancer,” said Fine. “It is critical that we minimize potential risks by keeping parents informed about the contents of the baby food and expand testing procedures.”

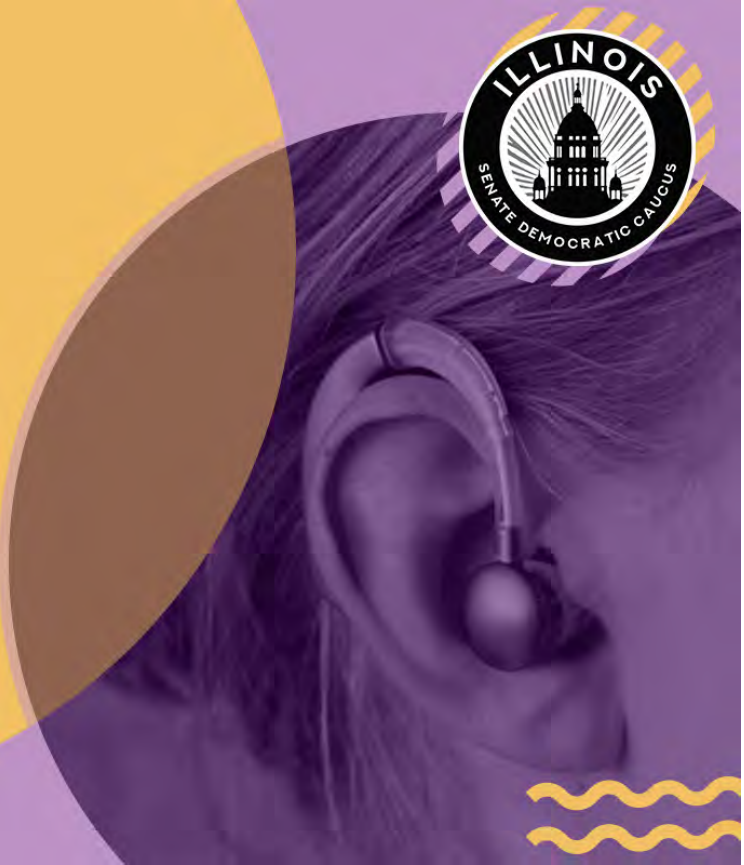


INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

HEARING THE CALL FOR COVERAGE

HB 2443

State-regulated insurers must now cover medically prescribed hearing aids and services for individuals of all ages, ensuring access to essential care.



INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

EPIPENS WON'T EMPTY YOUR POCKETS

HB 3639

Life-saving epinephrine injectors are now capped at \$60 per twin-pack, making allergy care more affordable.





INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

CRACKING DOWN ON CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

HB 4589

Recyclable metals dealers must track vehicle and part information for catalytic converters to prevent illegal sales.



INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

NO SWEAT CANCELING THAT GYM CONTRACT

HB 4911

Gym memberships can now be canceled online or via email if those options were used to join the contract.



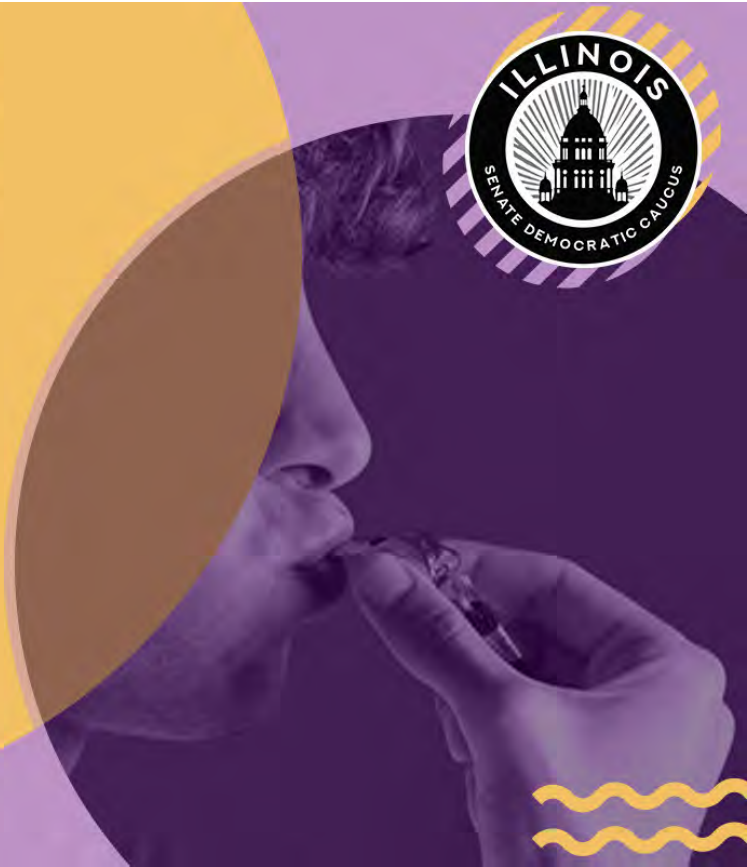


INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

SPEAK OUT, STAY PROTECTED

HB 5561

Employees are protected from retaliation for exposing workplace practices they believe violate the law.



INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

PLATES STOLEN? YOU'RE COVERED!

SB 3471

Illinois drivers can now request free replacement plates if their license plates are stolen.





INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

VETERAN SERVICES, NO FINE PRINT

SB 3479

Businesses offering veteran or military benefit services for a fee must disclose all terms upfront.



INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

TOW TRUCK TROUBLE? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

SB 2654

Vehicles that are stolen and later towed will not incur storage fees if recovered within seven days, and owners can retrieve essential items, like medical devices and textbooks.



INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

FREE TRIALS WITHOUT TRIBULATIONS

SB 2764

Businesses offering free trials longer than 15 days must email consumers three days before the cancellation deadline.

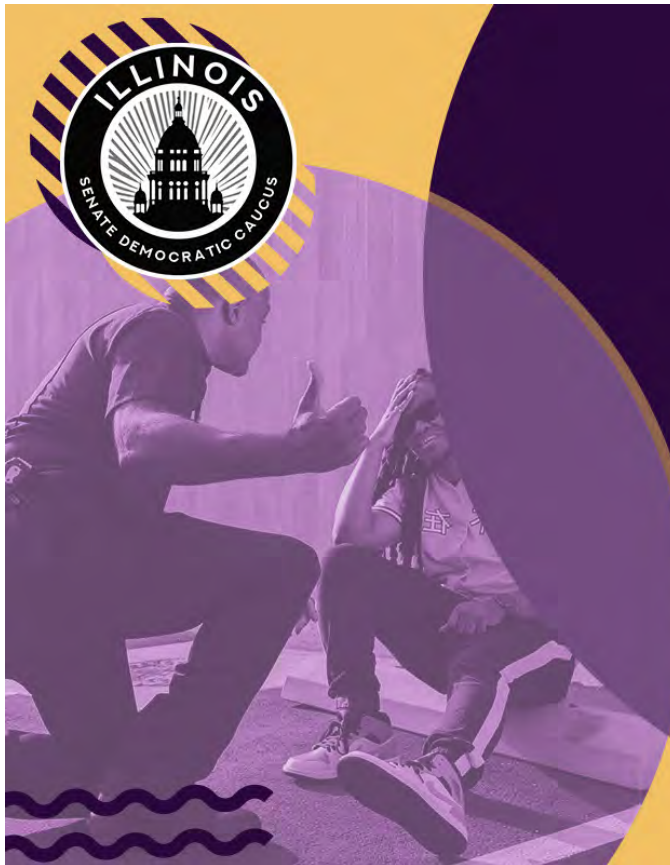


INTERESTING NEW LAWS **FOR 2025**

AUTISM TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

SB 3201

Law enforcement will now be trained to better recognize and respond to individuals with autism.



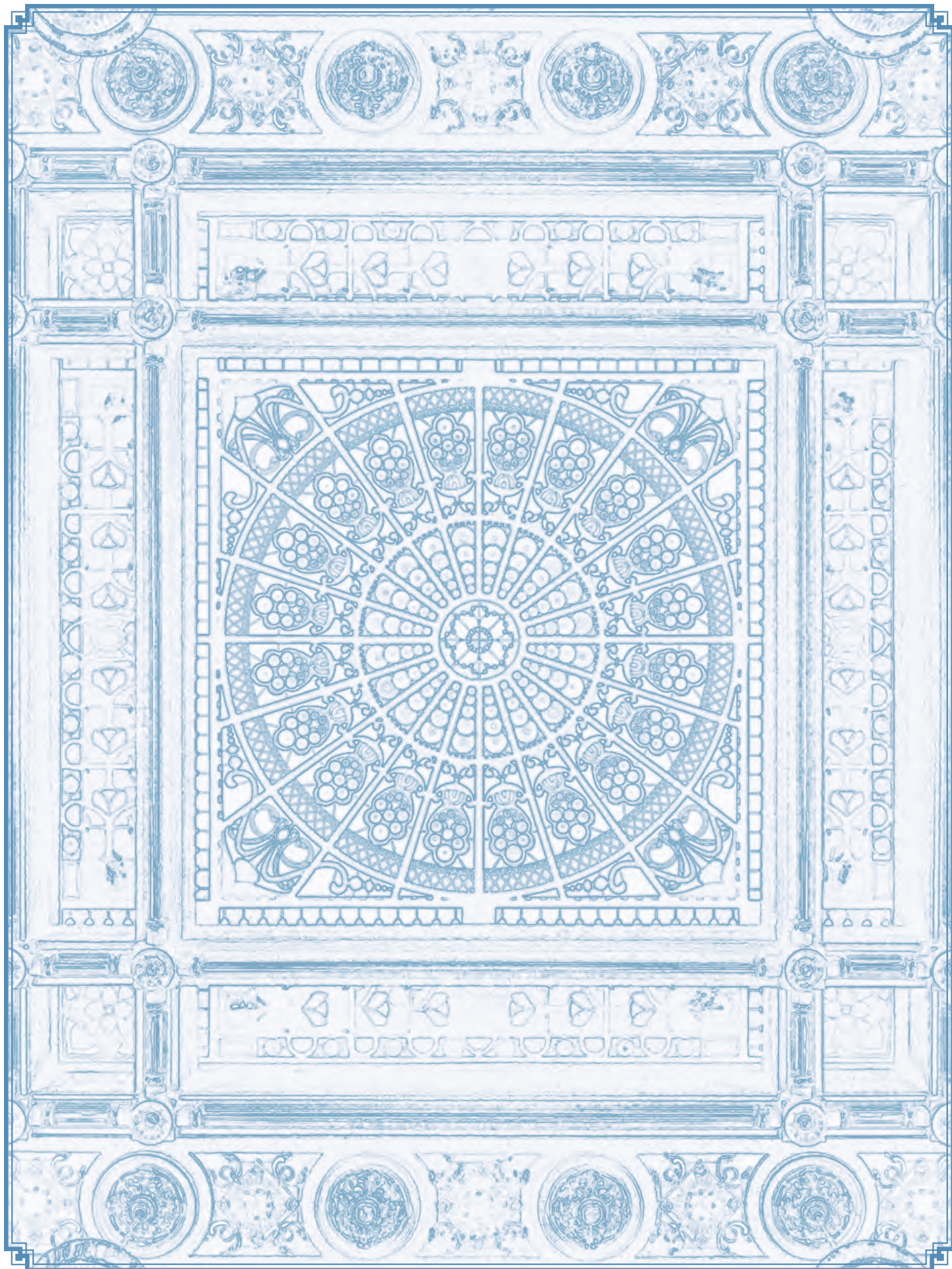
YOUR SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Don Harmon,
Senate President

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Don Harmon

Illinois Senate President | 39th Senate District

In an era often marked by political drama and partisanship, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon has carved a unique niche for himself: championing the brilliance of boring. This session, Harmon's steady, no-frills leadership delivered one of his signature goals — a responsible, balanced state budget — while advancing the Democratic priorities and shared goals.

From the first day of the session, Harmon set a tone of collaboration, humility and pragmatism. In his inauguration address, he urged his colleagues to treat each other with decency, work across the aisle, and serve every constituent — not just political supporters. He emphasized the Senate's role as a chamber where meaningful, respectful discourse can flourish. "We can disagree without being disagreeable," he reminded fellow lawmakers, reinforcing his belief in consensus-building over confrontation.

Throughout the session, Harmon worked closely with Governor JB Pritzker and House Speaker Chris Welch to craft a state budget that continues Illinois on its path of fiscal responsibility. Despite fiscal headwinds, the Illinois Senate passed a balanced budget that not only pays the state's bills but also invests in critical areas such as education, health care, and social services.

Harmon has consistently pushed to make Illinois an attractive

and stable place for business and innovation. In a speech to economic leaders, he highlighted the state's competitive advantages — including its central location, global transportation assets, leadership in agriculture and ag-tech, and emerging strengths in electric vehicle manufacturing and quantum computing. He argued that sustained economic growth is only possible when government operates predictably and responsibly — a stark contrast to the uncertainty he sees coming from the federal level. This leadership philosophy has helped Illinois pay down a multimillion-dollar bill backlog and earned the state nine credit rating upgrades in the past several years.

His quiet, competent leadership may not grab headlines, but Harmon views that as a strength, not a weakness. "When you do [lawmaking] effectively, you get

great schools, good roads, safe neighborhoods and new business opportunities," he said. That philosophy guided his efforts throughout the session, allowing legislators to focus on policy rather than politics.

In a volatile national climate, Harmon's ability to keep the Illinois Senate focused and productive is no small feat. Whether navigating complex fiscal negotiations or reminding colleagues of their higher purpose as public servants, Harmon brought clarity and calm to the statehouse.

With the passage of a responsible, balanced budget and a reaffirmed commitment to civility and governance, Senate President Don Harmon has shown that steady leadership — even the boring kind — can yield impressive results for the people of Illinois.





Kimberly A. Lightford

Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 4th Senate District

Entering her 27th year in the General Assembly, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) stayed true to her commitment to prioritize the needs of students, older adults and those who are often discriminated against.

To strengthen resident rights in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, Lightford led House Bill 1597 to enhance the involuntary discharge process within these communities. If a resident leaves the facility for a medical reason – and would not create imminent danger to themselves or others – the facility will be required to let them come back home under the measure.

Recognizing that financial abuse is a common tactic used by abusers to maintain control over victims, Lightford led a measure to prohibit collection agencies from collecting debt incurred through coercion. Down the road – even if survivors are no longer surrounded by their

abuser – they can face further financial trauma when a collection agency gets involved.

To prohibit collection agencies from collecting debt incurred through coercion, Lightford spearheaded House Bill 3352. Under the measure, a victim of coerced debt will not be liable for the debt – but will rather submit a form to a collection agency outlining the debt came from coercion.

Many women – particularly those in underrepresented communities – endure untreated symptoms of menopause that negatively impact their quality of life. In turn, Lightford fought for more critical access to care. She worked alongside Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton to ensure women have the knowledge and resources they need to receive appropriate menopause care. Senate Joint Resolution 25 declares Oct. 12-18 Menopause Awareness Week. The resolution raises awareness

about the expansive effects that menopause has on women's health and how women can advocate for themselves.

Building upon her steadfast work to end systemic racism Lightford led SR 35 to recognize Jan. 1, 2026 as Black Diaspora Freedom Day. The official designation will serve as time to educate, showcase, discuss and mend fences between Black and diaspora communities. Jan. 1 is an important day in Black history – confederate slave owners were mandated to free slaves at midnight on Jan. 1, 1893.

Additionally, Lightford continued to have conversations to transform how Illinois funds its higher education system. Lightford is leading a plan to implement a student-centered, adequacy-based funding formula for Illinois' public universities. Lightford's proposal is similar to Illinois' evidence-based K-12 funding model, taking a parallel approach for higher education by outlining a formula that accounts not only for the size of institutions and the types of academic programs they offer, but also demographic factors such as socioeconomic, racial and geographic diversity. She will continue to meet with industry experts and stakeholders over the coming months in an effort to get the measure over the finish line next year.

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





Bill Cunningham

President Pro Tempore | 18th Senate District

During this legislative session, Senate President Pro Tempore Bill Cunningham – a Democrat who represents portions of Chicago and the southwest suburbs – continued his efforts to improve protections for first responders and secure protections for Illinois workers and consumers.

Cunningham was instrumental in the passage of legislation that updates the aging fleet of Chicago firetrucks and ambulances. Through his House Bill 2977, the city of Chicago will set aside 10% of funds collected from ambulance rides and places them in a dedicated fund for upgrades to emergency service vehicles. The city collects around \$200 million every year from private insurance companies for ambulance transportation. Before the passage of the legislation, these collected funds were being placed into the city's general revenue fund where they have been used for purposes unrelated to emergencies. Cunningham has an uncanny knack of identifying and working on issues facing the emergency first responder community. This legislation will join his growing list of accomplishments in protecting those who protect his community.

In what some would consider a new legislative path for Cunningham, he spearheaded the passage of House Bill 2978. This legislation ensures that working people are eligible for expanded protected leave if their newborn requires intensive care after birth. Under Cunningham's

measure, employees of mid-sized companies with 16-50 employees will be eligible for up to 10 days of unpaid leave while their child is in a NICU, while those working for larger companies with 51 or more employees would be eligible for up to 20 days. This leave is in addition to protections under the Family and Medical Leave Act and ensures continued health insurance coverage and job protection throughout the leave period. After experiencing this situation firsthand when his nephew was born prematurely and placed in the NICU for months, Cunningham decided enough was enough and committed to pushing this measure through the General Assembly with bipartisan support.

Cunningham made neighborhoods safer this year with his sponsorship of House Bill 1373. The bill gives police the tools they need to track down illegal guns and the people that traffic them into neighborhoods. It

requires firearm tracing in all cases where a gun is recovered at the scene of a crime, used unlawfully or is believed to be associated with a crime. The bill also asks every law enforcement agency in Illinois to participate in the federal eTrace program, providing investigators with faster, more complete data on gun origins, trafficking patterns and crime links. This will ensure consistent reporting and firearm tracing across all counties, helping to close investigative loopholes and make communities safer statewide.

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





Napoleon B. Harris, III

Assistant Majority Leader | 15th Senate District

State Senator Napoleon Harris III (D-Harvey) closed out the spring legislative session with a strong focus on health equity, patient protections and reducing disparities that continue to impact marginalized communities across Illinois. His legislative efforts this year reaffirm his commitment to making the state's health care system more affordable, accessible and just for everyone, no matter their ZIP code or background.

One of Harris' major accomplishments this session was Senate Bill 2405, the Consumer Protection from Surprise Health Care Billing Act. This measure tackles an issue that hits Illinois families when they're at their most vulnerable: emergency ambulance transportation. When a person dials 9-1-1, they don't have time to choose which ambulance service responds — and unfortunately, only about 30% of ambulance

providers are considered "in-network." This means patients can receive staggering out-of-pocket bills simply because their insurance didn't cover the ride. Harris' bill would ensure that no one pays more for an out-of-network ambulance than they would for one that's in-network, closing a costly loophole and helping Illinoisans avoid unexpected medical debt.

Continuing his leadership on health equity, Harris also spearheaded Senate Bill 1418, which expands access to screenings for peripheral artery disease — a serious and often underdiagnosed condition in which arteries become narrowed, limiting blood flow to the limbs, especially the legs. PAD disproportionately affects African Americans, with nearly one in three Black adults developing the disease. By increasing early detection, this bill empowers patients and providers to take action sooner,

reducing complications and improving quality of life for those at risk.

Harris also joined efforts to improve maternal health outcomes through his co-sponsorship of House Bill 2517, a forward-thinking measure that expands implicit bias training for health care workers. The enhanced curriculum now includes education on maternal mortality risk factors in marginalized communities, as well as training on data trends and medical programs that have been shown to reduce pregnancy-related deaths. In Illinois and across the country, Black and brown women are far more likely to experience complications — or even death — during and after pregnancy. Harris' support of this measure reflects his ongoing fight for a fairer health system that respects and protects all patients, especially those most often overlooked.

From protecting families from surprise medical bills to pushing for earlier diagnosis and better health outcomes in underserved populations, Harris continues to be a leading voice for equity and reform. His work this session is a testament to his belief that every Illinoisan deserves not only access to care — but care that is affordable, informed and just.





Linda Holmes

Assistant Majority Leader | 42nd Senate District

After working to build a base of support in 2024 to pass Senate Bill 9 in Illinois, State Senator Linda Holmes (D-Aurora) continued in January 2025. In addition to testifying in committee hearings, Holmes and advocates took part in interviews with media outlets throughout Illinois explaining what the legislation does and does not do.

Holmes will continue her work on behalf of the majority of Illinoisans who support having the right to choose whether and how to end their suffering from terminal illness.

In her years in the Illinois Senate, Holmes has championed a variety of measures aimed at protecting animals, resulting in more than 20 laws safeguarding elephants, bears, primates, bobcats, dogs and cats and exotic species. Illinois' gray fox population has been declining for 30 years, primarily due to canine distemper and competition with coyotes, but current law hasn't let the state act on the hunting season to address the drop-off. Continuing her animal advocacy, she passed House Bill 3760 this spring. The legislation gives the Illinois Department of Natural Resources the authority to set the hunting and trapping seasons for the gray fox based on current research and population data.

Holmes' legislative record includes measures addressing the environment and conservation in Illinois. Illinois' current Consumer Electronics Recycling Act was passed

in 2017, replacing the original law passed in 2008. The changing size, quantity and materials of electronic devices, along with the need for greater access for consumers to recycle these devices and an impending sunset date of Dec. 31, 2026, made another CERA update necessary. House Bill 3098 provides the processes, collectors and expansion means to promote public health and environmental stewardship into the future.

Another of Holmes' signature issues is health care access, affordability, and equitable insurance coverage. Two years ago, a resident in Holmes' district contacted her regarding a health insurance claim that didn't make sense. The woman fell ill and required transport by ambulance to the nearest hospital. After the woman was home recovering and the bills started arriving, she was shocked when the ambulance bill

was more expensive than the final hospital bill.

The ambulance bill was only minimally reduced because the ambulance company was out-of-network. To stand up for patients, Holmes sponsored House Bill 2785 to add "ground ambulance" to the definition of emergency services so they are treated and covered like any other emergency service.

Holmes looks forward to being in the 42nd District this summer, talking with local leaders about the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Her top concerns: is the budget is balanced? Does it make the full pension obligation payment? And does it boost funding for education and local resources? The budget the Senate passed on May 31 ticks those boxes and more. Factoring in Illinois' nine credit upgrades, taxpayers' savings and rainy day investments, it puts the state in a better position to weather future federal chaos.





Mattie Hunter

Assistant Majority Leader | *3rd Senate District*

Assistant Majority Leader Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) worked this session to uplift working families, support equitable education and ensure the community has access to resources they need.

Building upon her commitment of addressing food deserts, including working to tackle disparities in 3rd District neighborhoods such as Englewood and Woodlawn, Hunter led House Bill 1607, which will create the Task Force on Eliminating Food Deserts within the Illinois Department of Public Health aimed at reviewing the effectiveness of current efforts to eliminate food deserts, advise the General Assembly on the best practices for eliminating food deserts and submit a report of their findings to the governor.

Advocating for residents' equitable, safe and reliable access to public transit, Hunter joined members of the Senate

Transportation Committee for hearings on the state of transit, visits to Metra stations to meet with transit workers and learn more about transit behind the scenes, and had discussions with residents about what can be done to provide transit that works for them.

To tackle this issue, Hunter co-sponsored House Bill 3438, a comprehensive piece of legislation aimed at addressing issues facing the system such as ghost buses, delays and lack of routes through both reform and funding — making changes to strengthen governance, coordination and safety and investments into the system.

Honoring citizens who made a lasting impact on the 3rd District, Hunter sponsored Senate Resolution 149, declaring March 12, 2025 as Jerry Butler Day in Illinois. Through the resolution, Jerry “Iceman” Butler is remembered for his lasting music

career and contributions during his time serving as Cook County commissioner, including one of his most notable achievements — the opening of John. H. Stroger Jr. Hospital in Cook County.

Continuing her advocacy and work to address issues within missing person investigations, Hunter co-sponsored Senate Bill 24, which works to streamline missing person investigations by removing administrative barriers and strengthening reporting requirements. The bill will accomplish this by eliminating law enforcement policies requiring the observance of a waiting period before accepting a missing person's report, requiring law enforcement to keep missing person cases under active investigation until the person is found or all leads are exhausted, and more.

Hunter is dedicated to continuing to implement initiatives outlined by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus through her work of serving on task forces and meeting with local, state and federal stakeholders to create a more equitable health care system.

Hunter will spend the summer in the 3rd District, connecting with constituents at events and helping them access state resources.





Dave Koehler

Assistant Majority Leader | 46th Senate District

Throughout the legislative session, State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) spent time cracking down on insurance middlemen, looking out for the mental health needs of students, and creating a commission to further understand Illinois' connection to the freedom seekers who traveled along the Underground Railroad.

Koehler first led House Bill 2371 to create the Patient Access to Pharmacy Protection Act, prohibiting pharmaceutical manufacturers from imposing restrictive conditions on hospitals and pharmacies participating in the federal 340B program. With the new additions to this program, manufacturers cannot limit the number of pharmacies a hospital utilizes, promoting broader access to essential healthcare services. Additionally, it will require hospitals to report annually on the use of funds, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability within the program.

Recognizing the essential function local pharmacies play in providing medications, Koehler spearheaded legislation addressing practices by Pharmacy Benefit Managers. House Bill 1697, the Prescription Drug Affordability Act, specifically targets PBMs, with the goal of taking out the middlemen who have harmful practices such as "spread pricing," where they profit by charging insurers significantly more than pharmacies receive. The bill also prevents unfair

patient steering toward specific pharmacies. Koehler's actions help prevent pharmacy deserts in more rural areas of the state.

Koehler continued to look out for the mental health needs of Illinois residents with House Bill 2994 to empower parents and guardians by giving them more access to their children's mental health records. It mandates that schools provide clear and timely notifications regarding students' mental health evaluations, treatments, and related concerns arising during school hours. This increased collaboration between parents, educators and students, enables early intervention and strengthens support networks for student mental wellness.

In addition to health care and mental wellness, Koehler demonstrated his dedication to historical and cultural preservation through Senate Bill 1607, creating

the Illinois Freedom Trails Commission. This commission will be tasked with preserving and promoting historically significant sites connected to the Underground Railroad and expanding our understanding of Illinois' fight against slavery. The commission looks to honor the legacy of freedom seekers and abolitionists whose courage and resilience shaped Illinois history through education, preservation, and public awareness. This effort not only enhances historical awareness but looks to show that Illinois is and has always been a safe haven of human rights.

This summer, Koehler plans to spend his time outside of Springfield attending town halls, hosting district wide events and talking with the people of the 46th District.





Laura M. Murphy

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

Safety was a key theme championed by State Senator Laura Murphy (D-Des Plaines) this year. Many of her legislative measures focused on protecting the people of Illinois, especially students, consumers and families.

Every parent worries about their child's safety, which is why Murphy made sure to pass several measures to try to ease those fears. She passed Senate Bill 71, which requires the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security to work with the Illinois State Board of Education to develop guidance detailing the potential impacts of an explosion or chemical spill near schools. Using the guidance, school districts must develop evacuation, communication and training programs to keep students and faculty safe at each school in their district.

Murphy not only focused on preparedness for disasters, she also

took the time to address educator misconduct. Senate Bill 1329 promotes more transparency during educator misconduct investigations by allowing ISBE to share pending charges with an educator's current or most recent employer. The information will only be disclosed if the educator is under investigation for an act that constitutes a threat to the safety of students, such as sexual misconduct. It also closes a loophole that permitted teachers under investigation to quit their job and get a new teaching position, gaining access to children again, during an investigation.

When it comes to protecting consumers, Murphy made sure to strengthen safeguards around car sales. House Bill 2751 cracks down on a deceptive sales tactic known as "curbstoning" – a scheme used by unlicensed car sellers to draw shoppers to places like parking lots or side streets to sell used cars at

marked up prices or with significant damage. The measure prohibits these unlicensed dealers from parking on public streets or other public property and allows law enforcement to have unauthorized sellers' vehicles towed.

After many years of diligent work with stakeholders, Murphy passed Senate Bill 69 to secure insurance coverage for equine therapies involving interactions with horses. This can include physical, occupational and speech therapies, which engage different sensory responses for patients.

Last year, Murphy ensured the State Employees Group Insurance Program covered all medically necessary FDA-approved treatments or medications to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease. This year, Senate Bill 126 extends that coverage to all group and individual health insurance plans. It also covers all diagnostic testing physicians need to determine the appropriate treatments or medications.

Following an alarming increase of threats faced by libraries in the state, Murphy passed Senate Bill 1550, which expands state grants to include planning, construction and security improvements for library systems and public libraries. As a passionate defender of libraries and children's right to read, this is a major win for Murphy.

Once again, Murphy has demonstrated her commitment to championing legislation which protects and uplifts the people of Illinois.





Omar Aquino

Majority Caucus Chair | Approp - Health and Human Services chair
2nd Senate District

Centered in supporting working families and vulnerable communities, State Senator Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) led key efforts this year to put money back into the pockets of Illinoisans as the cost of living continues to rise.

Today, student debt in Illinois totals over \$60 billion, affecting thousands of residents across the state. To support young adults with overwhelming student loan debt, Aquino championed House Bill 1430 to expand opportunities for borrowers to refinance their student loans at lower interest rates, freeing up spending money for borrowers and allowing them to put money toward something other than debt.

This year, Aquino continued to push for pay transparency, leading a measure to ban the use of “junk fees,” to keep money in the pockets of working families. Hidden charges cost Illinois families thousands every year and prevent individuals from making informed financial decisions. Senate Bill 1486 aims to tackle this issue by requiring businesses to disclose all mandatory fees up front, allowing people to know what they are expected to pay.

Focused on delivering economic relief for working families, Aquino prioritized efforts to secure adequate funding for the statewide Child Tax Credit he championed last year, which has provided critical financial relief for families with young children, including many immigrant families.

Prior to holding public office, Aquino was proud to serve his community and work with seniors under the Community Care Program. From firsthand experience, Aquino knows that meeting the needs of seniors across the state means securing a living wage for the home care workers that provide the services our seniors depend on. This year, as the chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee, Aquino was proud to oversee a wage increase for home care workers – bringing them one step closer to dignified pay. Additionally in his role, he was pleased to oversee a wage increase for direct support professionals who provide critical services for individuals living with developmental disabilities across the state.

As Illinois continues to deal with the turmoil trickling down from

the federal administration, Aquino reaffirmed his commitment to supporting immigrant families. Access to justice and due process is a fundamental right for all, regardless of immigration status. To ensure Cook County residents undergoing immigration proceedings continued to have access to counsel, Aquino led House Bill 2436, which will expand the jurisdiction of the Cook County Public Defender to secure representation for county residents amid changes to immigration policy.

This summer, Aquino is excited to meet with constituents across the 2nd Senate District, connect families to critical resources and host his annual back-to-school family health fair in August. Aquino is committed to continuing the work to meet the needs of Illinoisans across the state through legislation and community involvement.





Cristina Castro

Majority Caucus Whip | Executive chair | 22nd Senate District

Opportunity, fairness and equity were priorities for State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) this spring, who advanced proposals to bring opportunity and equity to Illinois students, seek answers for fallen firefighters' families, and ensure civil servants are protected and supported amid federal uncertainty.

A proud community college graduate, Castro knows what it takes to open the doors to a meaningful higher education experience. She pushed forward House Bill 2967 to foster better connections between high schools and community colleges through enhanced dual credit experiences. The legislation requires school districts to partner with local community colleges to offer high school students the opportunity to earn both college and high school credit through a single course.

Castro continued to be a champion for students and

educators through her strong advocacy leading the school cellphone ban through the Senate. Under Senate Bill 2427, school districts in Illinois must adopt a set of policies ensuring students do not inappropriately use cellphones during instructional time in a way that meets the needs of their school community. Limiting cellphone use during class time serves as one more tool to help ensure kids can focus and perform their best.

To help guide the state in protecting firefighters' health and safety, Castro spearheaded a measure to improve transparency in death records. Through Senate Bill 1446, the Illinois State Fire Marshal must track and record the cause of death for all firefighters in Illinois, including those who died by suicide or from fire service-related cancers. Over the past 20 years, nearly 2,000 firefighters have died in the line of duty, highlighting the

need for state-level data to guide interventions that protect their health and safety.

2025 has shown itself to be an unprecedented year in state and federal history. Amid uncertainty from the federal level, Castro pushed forward a plan to protect state-administered federal programs like SNAP and Medicaid from future interference. House Bill 1586 ensures hiring standards that prioritize qualified civil servants remain in place in Illinois regardless of federal changes to the standards. Through this initiative, Illinois programs can continue to be administered by qualified, competent public servants.

A leader with a strong reputation for boldly tackling challenges and standing up for Illinoisans, Castro proudly joined Governor JB Pritzker and fellow Latino Caucus members on a trade trip to Mexico this spring. The trip served as a visible commitment from both Illinois and Mexico to remain as key economic partners, despite federal hostility toward our trade ally.

With Castro's leadership, Illinois is rising to the challenges of today and forging its own path forward in the national and international marketplace. Over the summer and fall, Castro will continue advocating on behalf of 22nd District residents, launching her annual Summer Book Club for students, hosting community events, touring local businesses, and standing up for those in need.





Julie A. Morrison

Majority Caucus Whip | Insurance chair | 29th Senate District

Building on years of work to improve the health and safety of Illinois' residents and environment, State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) advanced several key measures this legislative session.

Working alongside the Illinois State Police, Morrison led Senate Bill 2323 to strengthen the state's response to human trafficking using a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach. Passed with bipartisan support in both chambers, the bill streamlines services and expands staff training across several state agencies to help better identify and assist victims. It also supports the creation of regional task forces to facilitate investigations and removes the 25-year time limit for survivors to file civil lawsuits.

To further safeguard children, Morrison sponsored House Bill 2586 to reinforce law enforcement's ability to investigate online child exploitation. As kids spend more time online for school and entertainment purposes, the legislation will remove barriers for state police to investigate online crimes against children and hold perpetrators accountable.

Morrison also tackled the growing threat of synthetic drugs through Senate Bill 1773, which will regulate xylazine, an animal tranquilizer increasingly found in fentanyl-related overdose deaths. The bill will categorize xylazine as a Schedule III controlled substance while ensuring veterinarians can continue using it for approved medical purposes.

Addressing concerns from her

district, Morrison introduced Senate Bill 1922 to expand Scott's Law after a tollway worker was struck while assisting at the scene of an emergency. The measure will clarify that drivers must yield to emergency workers, pedestrians and vehicles actively engaged in roadside work — whether they are stationary or moving. After a school bus crash in which parents in Morrison's district expressed concerns for their children's safety, she spearheaded Senate Bill 191 that will require school buses purchased or leased after July 1, 2031 to have seat belts on all seats. She also worked to expand food access for veterans after seeing local veterans rely on food banks. Senate Bill 32 will raise income eligibility for SNAP benefits among households with a veteran or service member, helping more military families receive food assistance at no added cost to the state.

With her district bordering Lake Michigan, environmental safety and water quality continue to be top priorities. In response to research showing the long-term health risks posed by PFAS, or "forever chemicals," Morrison led House Bill 2516 to phase out the use of these chemicals in common products like cosmetics, dental floss, cookware and food packaging by 2032. She also supported Senate Bill 1872 to phase out the use of plastic bags in the state, and carried Senate Bill 291 to create a One Health Commission to improve collaboration between health care professionals, veterinarians and environmental experts when it comes to addressing public health challenges in Illinois.

Morrison looks forward to returning to the 29th District this summer to connect with residents on legislation and state resources.





Robert Peters

Majority Caucus Whip | Labor chair | 13th Senate District

State Senator Robert Peters (D-Chicago) has been a passionate advocate for the working people and vulnerable communities of Illinois. During this legislative session, Peters championed a range of measures to protect workers, improve public safety and strengthen the justice system—proving his commitment to equity, accountability and dignity for all Illinoisans.

A highlight of Peters' work this year was Senate Bill 1976, a groundbreaking labor protection measure that will ensure Illinois workers retain key safety protections, even in the face of federal rollbacks. This bill prohibits the Illinois Department of Labor and the Department of Natural Resources from weakening safety rules below federal standards as of April 28, 2025. This legislation empowers workers to take legal action against employers who

violate these standards, providing a vital safeguard for employees in high-risk jobs like manufacturing, mining and warehousing.

Furthering his commitment to labor equality, Peters sponsored House Bill 2488, strengthening the Equal Pay Act and the Prevailing Wage Act. This bill will expand pay transparency requirements, requiring more employers to demonstrate they are not underpaying women or workers of color. It also locks in Illinois' job category definitions, preventing employers from manipulating them to sidestep pay standards. The bill also makes certain full benefits are included in wage calculations for workers in trades and construction—an important step toward holding employers accountable for fair labor practices.

Peters also prioritized criminal justice reform and public defense through House Bill 3363, which

establishes the Office of the State Defender. This measure brings structure, transparency and oversight to the public defense system, helping ensure individuals who cannot afford legal representation receive fair treatment. Local public defender offices would mirror this model, leading to a more consistent and equitable legal system across the state.

Addressing the intersection between transparency and public safety, Peters backed House Bill 1710 requiring the Illinois State Police to regularly report firearm-related crimes, including data on arrests, prosecutions and unresolved cases. This initiative will provide actionable insight for law enforcement while promoting greater public oversight and community trust.

With the legislative season closed, Peters returns home not to slow down, but to continue his work in the community. Peters remains focused on the issues mattering most to the constituents he serves, and he looks forward to meeting with residents over the summer months.





Ram Villivalam

Majority Caucus Whip | Transportation chair | 8th Senate District

State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) has worked this session to continue his advocacy for all residents in the 8th District through efforts such as increased educational resources for youth, support for first responders and caregivers, and addressing issues facing public transit in Illinois.

As chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Villivalam built upon eight subject matter hearings with over 35 hours of testimony from stakeholders, advocates, transit workers and everyday riders about the state of transit to sponsor a comprehensive piece of legislation, House Bill 3438, aimed at addressing issues currently facing the public transit system such as ghost buses, lack of coordination and delays.

The measure brought forth both reforms and funding, addressing governance, structure, safety, coordination and environmental concerns to ensure all Illinoisans have access to safe, reliable, affordable, accessible and economically conscious transit to get them to where they need to go.

The 8th District is home to many seniors, and Villivalam worked alongside the Secretary of State and AARP of Illinois to lead House Bill 1226, which reduces barriers for seniors looking to renew their driver's licenses. The measure raises the age for both mandatory, in-person renewals for driver's licenses and the driving test requirement, and expands the list of individuals

who may contact the Secretary of State regarding a relative's medical condition and their ability to safely operate a vehicle.

Addressing the potential adverse health effects caused by PFAS, Villivalam spearheaded House Bill 2409, which will phase out the sale of firefighting personal protective clothing and equipment containing these chemicals, building upon his commitment to protecting first responders.

To uplift and invest into families across Illinois, Villivalam led the charge on House Bill 3327, which will help empower both providers and families with the information they need to access Early Intervention Services. The bill will require hospitals to provide written information on the Early Intervention program to any parent or legal guardian whose child is admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit.

Spearheading Senate Bill 1616,

Villivalam worked to ensure no student has to worry about missing an important event due to a cultural or religious holiday. The measure will require the State Board of Education to include on its website and distribute to all schools a list of days during the school year that a portion of the student body may be absent due to cultural or religious reasons.

As co-chair of the Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus, Villivalam has worked to ensure Asian Americans in Illinois have their voices heard in Springfield by continuing to collaborate with his fellow caucus members, having discussions with critical advocacy groups and supporting measures that uplift and empower the community.

Villivalam looks forward to spending the summer in the 8th District alongside residents, his family and friends.





Elgie R. Sims, Jr.

Majority Caucus Appropriations Leader | Appropriations chair *17th Senate District*

For his fifth year as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee – and third as the Majority Caucus Appropriations Leader – State Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D-Chicago) worked diligently to bring forth a budget that builds upon the responsible spending decisions the state has made and balanced budgets we have passed in recent years. Sims was instrumental in passing a budget that is balanced and is reflective of our state’s priorities, while also taking into account the harsh reality and uncertainty we are facing from the federal administration.

To kick off the year legislatively, Sims passed a measure in January to close a loophole as it relates to child pornography by clarifying “who” cannot be charged with a selfie rather than exempting all selfies from the definition of child pornography.

The measure comes after a heinous case where a father, in the

course of looking through his high school son’s cell phone, discovered nude ‘selfies’ of his son’s underage classmate. The pictures were taken by and solely depicted the classmate and were intentionally sent to the son. Appallingly enough, the father sent the images to himself and disseminated them on the internet. Under previous law, that father would not be able to be criminally charged with the material’s dissemination because selfies were categorically removed from the definition of child pornography.

Under Senate Bill 2655, the father can be charged because the law now clearly states “who” cannot be charged with a selfie rather than exempting all selfies from the definition of child pornography.

Within that same measure, Sims expanded upon his work to make the criminal justice system more fair, transparent and equitable by

requiring police dashboard camera recordings to be retained for a longer period of time. Senate Bill 2655 will also require recordings from cameras in law enforcement patrol vehicles to be retained for 90 days – putting the retention period in line with the time body-camera footage must be kept.

Additionally, if an officer’s body-worn camera is turned off at the request of a victim or witness, the officer must continue in-car video recording and inform the person of that.

Recognizing mistakes can turn into learning opportunities, Sims worked across the aisle to pass a measure to allow low-level, first-time weapon offenders to apply for a Firearm Owner’s Identification Card upon completing a diversion program.

Under Senate bill 1899, participants who complete the First Time Weapons Offense Diversion Program could apply for a FOID card after receiving a court order demonstrating successful program completion – so long as they meet all other existing eligibility requirements. The program will only be for individuals charged with a Class 4 felony – the lowest class felony charge for weapons.

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





Christopher Belt

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

State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea) concluded a successful spring legislative session by advancing a series of impactful measures designed to strengthen communities, improve public safety and expand educational opportunities.

Among Belt's signature accomplishments was his leadership on House Bill 3522, a measure aimed at easing the path to higher education for Illinois students. The bill establishes a direct admissions system for qualified applicants to public universities and community colleges that choose to participate in the program. By eliminating repetitive application processes and unnecessary fees, the legislation simplifies the transition from high school to college. Students can opt into the program through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, helping to ensure higher education is within reach for more families across the state.

Belt also prioritized consumer protection with Senate Bill 314, which brings long-overdue transparency to "lifetime memberships" offered by physical fitness centers. Under this legislation, businesses must clearly and conspicuously disclose any contract terms that allow them to raise prices or reduce benefits. By ending confusing fine print and hidden clauses, the bill empowers consumers to make informed decisions and helps ensure they get the value they were promised.

Fighting for fair labor practices, Belt sponsored House Bill 1189,

which clarifies prevailing wage laws on public works projects. The bill ensures workers on locally controlled projects with federal funding receive the highest applicable prevailing wage, whether set by the state or the federal government. This clarification eliminates confusion for contractors and guarantees fair compensation for workers — especially on infrastructure and construction projects where wage disparities can occur.

In response to heightened concerns about severe weather events, Belt also passed House Bill 2987, a proactive measure focused on improving safety in warehouse facilities. The bill requires operators to develop and implement comprehensive tornado safety plans within 120 days of the law's effective date. These plans must include evacuation procedures, shelter locations, emergency supplies such as food and first aid kits, and detailed post-disaster protocols. With this legislation, Belt is taking critical

steps to protect warehouse workers — many of whom serve in essential roles across Illinois' supply chain.

In a move that will help save so many lives in Illinois, Belt passed a measure to ensure taking time off work to donate an organ doesn't put workers' livelihoods at risk. As someone who received a lifesaving kidney transplant, Belt knows firsthand how life-changing and life-saving these donations are. House Bill 1616 allows eligible part-time workers to take up to 10 days of leave in a 12-month period to serve as organ donors. Belt's expansion to organ donor will save lives in our state.

Through these initiatives, Belt has once again proven himself a determined advocate for the residents of the 57th District and beyond. His commitment to fairness, transparency and safety continues to build a more just and resilient Illinois.





Javier L. Cervantes

Criminal Law chair | 1st Senate District

In his third year in office, State Senator Javier Loera Cervantes (D-Chicago) emerged as a leader on issues related to justice and criminal law, and begun service as the Chair of the Criminal Law Committee. In addition to overseeing subject matter hearings and various pieces of legislation on this topic, Cervantes led an initiative to improve the parole eligibility process for youth offenders. House Bill 2546 establishes that youth offenders can file a petition for parole up to three years before becoming eligible. Additionally, it clarifies that the hearing can be scheduled a year in advance. With this clarity, young people may be able to have their parole hearing in a more timely manner, allowing them to re-enter society earlier.

Becoming chair of his first Senate committee was not the only milestone Cervantes experienced this year – his daughter Madison applied and got into several colleges as she

finished up her senior year of high school. Having recently experienced the ups and downs of the college application process, Cervantes sought to make the process easier for high school students. Under House Bills 3096 and 3097, high schools will be required to designate a member of their staff to serve as a point of contact for students on matters concerning the application, and ensure schools provide time during the day for students to fill out or ask questions about their financial applications. These measures give more students the chance to pursue higher education and access the funding they are entitled to, helping clear up difficulties they have with filling out the form and empowering them for a successful future.

This year was also marked by unprecedented attacks on the immigrant community from the federal administration. As the son of an immigrant and a staunch defender

of immigrant rights, Cervantes built on his work in past legislative sessions and passed a measure expanding his E-Verify legislation, which protected immigrant workers from unfair job loss due to issues with paperwork. The new initiative, Senate Bill 2339, establishes protections for employees whose E-Verify documentation is under investigation for discrepancies, including protection against adverse action because of a discrepancy notice being sent to an employer, timely notice from their employer that their documentation is being investigated, and more.

Additionally, Senate Bill 2339 will enable attorneys or others to act as an employee's authorized representative with written notice to the employer in discussions of their E-Verify status. It will also require employers to provide an explanation of the employee's right to have legal representation present during any meetings between the employee and the employer in notices sent between them. These additions intend to strengthen the legal protections for employees facing E-Verify no match notifications, which can be a confusing process for immigrant adults, many of whom speak English as a second language, and is inflamed by hostile actions from their employers.

Cervantes looks forward to spending the summer hosting events at his new district office in Berwyn, and spending time with his daughter before she heads to college.





Lakesia Collins

Child Welfare chair | 5th Senate District

As a mother and former youth in care, State Senator Lakesia Collins (D-Chicago) knows the struggles of working families, the hardships of finding stability after foster care, and the daily efforts put in by home health care workers across the state – and this spring, she took action to help those in need.

From the rising cost of medical care and daily necessities, Illinois families are struggling to afford basic goods and services. Finding ways to help support residents across the state, whether it is new mothers starting a family, foster children exiting care and joining adulthood, or just finding a way to pay bills and put food on the table, Collins made sure to prioritize Illinois residents feeling those impacts the most.

To help support new mothers across Illinois, Collins initiated a measure to give residents enrolled in Medicaid better access to maternal health services and ensure hospitals and birthing centers give patients the option to select a certified doula that is covered. Collins' measure, included in Senate Bill 2437, will also enable the state to ensure access to Medicaid-covered maternal and reproductive health support services for Illinois residents.

Collins continued these efforts by moving legislation to address health care deserts and ensure mothers get the care they need. Through her measure, House Bill 2688, Collins hopes to ensure all physicians who do not provide home birthing services have the

opportunity to partner with certified nurse midwives who do. This aims to enable more providers to care for patients in underserved and rural areas where there are limited birth care options for thousands of women, strengthening the network of physicians and certified nurse midwives so they can more seamlessly provide care.

With her experiences as a former youth in care, Collins pushed for measures that would ensure youth in Illinois aging out of care are provided opportunities and plans to succeed. Under Collins' measure, Senate Bill 1504, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services will be required to develop plans for youth age 15 and older to prepare them for transitioning out of care. Youth need access to development and educational opportunities to achieve their goals in life, and the transition plans will factor in opportunities to learn life skills and further their

education with a solid foundation in place.

Finding ways to help residents in Illinois who have bad experiences with squatters, Collins moved Senate Bill 1563 to assist community members and homeowners to simplify the process for removing criminal trespassers from a person's home. The legislation adds a provision to the state's eviction law affirming that nothing about the eviction process keeps law enforcement from enforcing criminal laws and, as a result, clarifies that squatters are trespassers and can be removed without going through eviction.

Many residents in Illinois are worried for their future and their economic prospects. That's why Collins continues to focus on Illinois' most vulnerable residents and hopes her legislation will help mothers, children and families across Illinois find more stability and opportunity.





Mary Edly-Allen

Higher Education chair | 31st Senate District

State Senator Mary Edly-Allen (D-Libertyville) continued her legacy of creating legislation aimed at helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Edly-Allen pushed for Senate Bill 1195, also known as Anna's Law, under which trauma-informed response training will be expanded for law enforcement officers by adding curriculum on identifying potential conflicts of interest in a case, particularly when an officer is familiar with any of the parties involved. The training will also cover the available options for addressing such conflicts appropriately.

In addition to Anna's Law, she advanced House Bill 1278, which will allow employees to use work devices to document or communicate about violence affecting them or their family, and be given access to related files if needed for legal action. The bill aims to strengthen workplace

rights and support survivors as they seek safety and accountability.

In 2023, only an estimated 4% of eligible recipients received the Family Violence Option protections under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Despite TANF applicants needing to be screened for FVO eligibility, very few survivors actually access FVO waivers or Crisis Assistance funding, leading Edly-Allen to advance House Bill 2682. This initiative will require the Illinois Department of Human Services to implement the federal Family Violence Option when making determinations to an individual's compliance with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

As an educator and the new Senate Higher Education Committee Chair, Edly-Allen proposed Senate Bill 1740, tackling unnecessary and burdensome Illinois School Code mandates. Senate Bill 1740 initiates

the reduction of unnecessary school code mandates agreed upon by statewide educational stakeholders. The bill will create the School Code Mandate Reduction Council to identify and recommend the removal of mandates that align with the state's goal of providing high-quality education tailored to each student.

Continuing her mental health advocacy, Edly-Allen spearheaded Senate Bill 1491 aimed at increasing the number of therapy dogs available to Illinoisans during times of crisis. Under Senate Bill 1491, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board will create a training course and certification program for certified therapy dog teams specializing in crisis and emergency response. Having passed legislation last year on necessary mobile integrated health care services, this bill builds on Edly-Allen's work of improving the resources available for individuals having a mental health crisis.

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





Laura Ellman

Environment and Conservation chair | 21st Senate District

State Senator Laura Ellman (D-Naperville) led a number of measures this year focused on strengthening environmental and community protections and preserving the welfare of the state. Ellman is working to advance firearm safety, protect the environment, safeguard patients, support Illinois students, and protect cryptocurrency consumers.

Committed to strengthening firearm safety in Illinois, Ellman set out to address gun-related deaths and injuries to children who gained access to an unsecured firearm. In recent years, Illinois has seen over 1,700 gun-related deaths, with firearms being the leading cause of death for minors. To prevent further harm, Ellman championed Senate Bill 8 to require firearm owners to be aware of all children – regardless of age – who may have access to their guns and securely store them in locked containers.

Ellman has also taken on consumer-related issues, including a plan to protect cryptocurrency kiosk users from fraudulent activity. Through Senate Bill 2319, cryptocurrency kiosk operators are required to be transparent about the material risks involved with their services and virtual currency by providing clear disclosures to customers.

Continuing her work on last year's "year of water" campaign, Ellman spearheaded a measure to protect the rights of Illinois residents whose faith requires them to scatter the ashes of their loved ones in flowing water.

Senate Bill 1793 will allow families to scatter one individual's cremated remains in a waterway. The rules lay out requirements to ensure rivers and remains are both handled properly to minimize environmental impact.

Ellman, a cancer survivor and advocate for accessible health care, has championed a host of measures increasing access to vital health care and treatment options. Building on her work, this year she led House Bill 2874 that ensures Illinois law is transparent about restrictions surrounding prescriptions containing ephedrine, specifying that restrictions do not apply to ephedrine medications that are prescribed by a licensed physician for a legitimate medical reason.

Further supporting the rights of Illinois residents, Ellman led the charge on House Bill 42 to provide expanded public library access to non-residents. The bill, which was inspired by conversations with the Helen Plum Library in Ellman's district, is essential

in ensuring more Illinoisans have access to educational resources.

In advancing the welfare of communities across the state, Ellman led a measure to ensure middle school students have the option to earn high school credit for high school level courses. Under House Bill 3039, seventh and eighth-grade students enrolled in high school level courses are able to receive high school credit based on their successful completion of the course.

Ellman is eager to continue assisting her constituents in the 21st District this summer, including hosting the Parks Passport Program for local youth and keeping residents informed through several town halls. With another productive session completed, Ellman is looking forward to advancing future policies that reflect the changing environmental and community needs within Illinois.





Paul Faraci

Commerce chair | 52nd Senate District

As a lifelong resident of Champaign County, State Senator Paul Faraci (D-Champaign) has been an advocate for the people of Central Illinois, championing legislation that prioritizes environmental protection, public safety and equity for individuals with disabilities. In his first session as chair of the Commerce Committee, Faraci helped advance legislation aimed at building a thriving economic future for all residents.

A top priority for Faraci this legislative season was protecting the Mahomet Aquifer, a sole-source aquifer that supplies clean drinking water to approximately 800,000 people across 15 counties in Illinois. Recognizing the importance of this resource, Faraci introduced Senate Bill 1723 to prohibit carbon sequestration over, under or through the aquifer. He said it is imperative lawmakers

place long-term water security over short-term projects.

The legislation continues the legacy of the late Senator Scott Bennett, a devoted environmental advocate whose groundwork made Faraci's progress possible. Faraci was glad to carry Bennett's vision forward to preserve the Mahomet Aquifer for generations to come.

Faraci also led efforts to improve public safety for individuals with developmental disabilities. Senate Bill 1548 will create the Golden Search Task Force to develop a statewide program for locating missing individuals with developmental disabilities. The task force will help train communities and law enforcement on how to respond in critical situations. For many families, this initiative represents peace of mind, providing a clearer and more coordinated response during emergencies.

Faraci helped advance financial

equity through House Bill 3500, a measure aimed at strengthening awareness of the Illinois Achieving a Better Life Experience program. Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, Illinois ABLE materials will be distributed to families of students with 504 plans. This ensures families are informed about opportunities to save for disability-related expenses without jeopardizing public benefits like SSI or Medicaid.

In addition, Faraci sponsored House Bill 3187 to modernize state operations and expand access to technology. The bill will eliminate outdated government responsibilities, such as the management of freight and data, and reallocate resources to programs benefiting Illinois residents directly. The measure seeks to enhance grant eligibility for initiatives aimed at closing the digital divide and repurpose unused energy assistance funds to support low-income families through active utility aid programs.

This year, Faraci delivered results that reflect the values of the 52nd District. He will return to Champaign County for the summer, where he will spend time with his family. Faraci will continue his advocacy in the district, hosting and attending local events.





Sara Feigenholtz

Senate Special Committee on Tourism chair | 6th Senate District

During the spring legislative session, State Senator Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) continued her strong advocacy on behalf of youth, teachers, firefighters and comprehensive transportation safety in the 6th Senate District.

Chicago schools and schools across the state have faced persistent staffing shortages in recent years. To address this issue and remove unnecessary hurdles that drive people away from becoming a teacher, Feigenholtz passed Senate Bill 1584 to allow teachers to take family and medical leave while they are licensed under short-term approval without jeopardizing their short-term licenses. The goal is to “stop the clock” when someone takes FMLA leave so they can pick up right where they left off without losing any of their short-term approval period.

In a win for children’s mental health, Feigenholtz led Senate Bill 1560 to implement universal mental health screenings for students in grades 3-12. By taking a proactive approach, the measure is key to helping families access the right behavioral health resources for them and ensuring no child falls through the cracks without the support they need.

When a building fire occurs, light shafts, light courts and skylights can present grave danger to first responders. These roof openings often lack guards to prevent firefighters from falling. In the wake of the Lincoln Park fire and roof collapse that tragically killed Chicago firefighter

Drew Price in 2023, Feigenholtz backed Senate Bill 1742, the Rooftop Safety for First Responders Act, to strengthen the building code and improve safety for thousands of firefighters across Illinois. She supported the legislation in an effort to protect future firefighters from the fatal injuries Drew sustained in the line of duty.

Feigenholtz is committed to keeping communities safe and finding solutions to break down silos between government agencies for better collaboration and outcomes. In 2025, she ushered through the Senate a key priority — commissioning a study to find modern safety solutions to the egregious fatal crash rate on DuSable Lake Shore Drive, which spans nearly five miles across the 6th District. Senate Bill 1507 will task the University of Illinois Chicago’s Urban Transportation Center with studying crash data, risky driving behavior and whether traffic enforcement

technologies could prevent hazardous driving on DLSD and encourage safer driving and behavior changes.

Amid a nationwide rise in pedestrian and cyclist fatalities, Feigenholtz continued her efforts to streamline and expedite key safety solutions through Senate Bill 1559. The measure will improve collaboration between Chicago and Illinois transportation agencies, prioritize pedestrian-centered infrastructure improvements and ultimately make Chicago streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

Feigenholtz is proud to serve as the voice of 6th District residents in Springfield. As lawmakers head back to their districts for the summer, she looks forward to celebrating Chicago Pride with constituents, joining families at the Midnight Circus in Welles Park, hosting community events and zipping around the district with her blue scooter, affectionately named Lola.





Laura Fine

Behavioral and Mental Health chair | 9th Senate District

As a longtime mental health, health care, and environmental advocate State Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview) continued her work on legislation to make quality health care services affordable and accessible, and the state's environment sustainable for future projects.

Last year, Fine led legislation to set environmental safety requirements at each stage of the carbon capture process, securing long-term protections to keep Illinois communities safe and benefit from the growing carbon capture and sequestration industry. To facilitate the ongoing transition to clean, renewable energy sources, Fine championed Senate Bill 1697 to enhance protections for property owners. The measure allows for recovery of attorney fees if a sequestration site landowner prevails in a lawsuit for damages to surface property and sets forth

compensation provisions for pore space owners.

Further enhancing access to quality, transparent health care services, Fine introduced Senate Bill 1346, ensuring consumers receive important information about changes to their insurance plans. This legislation expands the required information provided to enrollees to include any newly enacted state coverage mandates that will change their insurance plans and require the Illinois Department of Insurance to post annual reports on its website with this information.

To establish regulations that give patients necessary protections against abuse, Fine led initiatives to ensure the safety of adults who are unable to care for themselves and patients residing in state-run mental health and developmental disability facilities.

Fine also led House Bill 2464

to require private insurers to cover emergency neonatal care, regardless of whether the provider is in or out of the patient's network. This ensures families are not billed for greater-out-pocket costs than they will have incurred with a participating provider, and prioritizes the newborn who needs life-saving care.

Addressing the ongoing opioid crisis in Illinois, Fine led House Bill 3645, a preventative measure that requires all municipalities to report overdoses using the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program tool. This data will help EMTs identify areas of need and bolster harm reduction efforts with public health strategies.

Fine also seeks to preserve environmental sustainability in Illinois and prevent man-made pollutants from compromising our state's waterways and communities. This includes Senate Bill 73, which will test baby food for the presence of toxic heavy metals and Senate Bill 1531 to prohibit the sale or distribution of polystyrene foam – commonly known as Styrofoam – food containers.

With the spring legislative session over, Fine returns to the 9th District to meet with constituents and local communities, spend time with her family, and continue expanding mental health and health care accessibility and transitioning Illinois toward a more sustainable future.





Suzy Glowiak Hilton

Licensed Activities chair | 23rd Senate District

This legislative session, State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs) focused on policies that strengthen protections for assault survivors, children in state care and Illinois consumers.

After experiencing a sexual assault, survivors often face the added stress of figuring out how to get to a safe location once their medical exam is complete. To help ease this burden, Glowiak Hilton led Senate Bill 1274 to expand the state's sexual assault voucher program. Currently, the voucher covers medical costs incurred after a hospital visit, including ambulance rides, pharmacy expenses and follow-up care. The bill — which follows a recommendation of the Illinois Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Services Implementation Task Force — will allow the voucher to also be used for transportation services like taxis or rideshares, helping survivors safely return home or reach a shelter after treatment.

Glowiak Hilton also took action to safeguard the integrity of evidence in sexual assault cases through House Bill 2548, which will ban the sale and advertisement of at-home sexual assault evidence collection kits by anyone other than a licensed medical professional. These kits, often sold online and marketed as a private alternative to undergoing an exam, lack the proper handling, oversight and reliability required for legal proceedings.

Continuing her commitment

to protecting children, Glowiak Hilton sponsored House Bill 871 to strengthen placement standards for youth in state care. The measure will prohibit the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services from placing children in foster or adoptive homes with individuals who have a record of human or sex trafficking. While current law disqualifies certain violent offenders, gaps in enforcement have led to inconsistencies. Glowiak Hilton's bill will ensure these convictions result in automatic disqualification, regardless of the placement type.

To empower women in making informed reproductive health decisions, Glowiak Hilton introduced Senate Bill 2215 directing the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide fertility information to physicians for distribution to women over age 25. The legislation aims to raise

awareness about ovarian reserve testing and other fertility options as part of routine health care.

A longtime advocate for protecting consumers from unfair business practices, Glowiak Hilton spearheaded Senate Bill 1932 to prohibit price gouging in the aftermath of a disaster. While 39 states have regulations against price gouging following a disaster, Illinois limits its protections to excessive costs of petroleum products during market emergencies. This proposal will prohibit unfair price increases on essential goods and services, including food, building materials, medical supplies and repair services, for 45 days after a disaster declaration.

Glowiak Hilton will spend time this summer assisting residents with state resources and holding a series of shred events throughout the 23rd District.





Graciela Guzmán

20th Senate District

Freshman Senator Graciela Guzmán (D-Chicago) hit the ground running in her first term, introducing over 20 measures of her own and co-sponsoring many more initiatives addressing housing, health care accessibility, environmental issues, violence prevention, human rights, and other issues impacting Illinoisans. A former organizer, she is proud that many of her measures come from constituent ideas and collaborations, including Senate Bill 1298, which expands eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in Illinois. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, nearly two-thirds of students in the U.S. who are eligible for SNAP are not receiving benefits. Senate Bill 1298 streamlines and expands eligibility to all students at public colleges and universities in Illinois provided they meet income and other eligibility requirements.

Representing a district that is

facing skyrocketing costs of living and gentrification, Guzmán worked on a variety of measure aimed at addressing the housing crisis, and expanding affordable housing options. Senate Bill 1261 further incentivizes prospective homebuyers to invest in Community Land Trusts, community-based, nonprofit organizations that manage a parcel of land to preserve long-term affordability of homes created through subsidies, by making more mortgage programs available to people seeking property owned by a community land trust. The measure will also continue the Community Land Trust Task Force to continue to build a pathway for more CLTs across the state. She also championed House Bill 3616, which aims to illuminate the demand for affordable housing, and the lack of housing inventory that middle-income earners are facing. This measure requires IHDA to collect data on the available inventory of affordable housing in each local

government in Illinois available for sale or for rent affordable to extremely low income and middle income households. Together, Guzmán is proud of the foundation she has built in housing legislation, and hopes to continue this work in future sessions.

Additionally, Guzmán sought to encourage the preservation of cultural traditions throughout the state, as well as foster opportunities to share them with others and future generations through dual language education. She advanced House Bill 3026 to incentivize more schools to adopt dual language programs in grade schools at little to no cost to their respective districts. She also fought to protect Illinoisans from discrimination from AI, through Senate Bill 613. Her measure comes at a time when artificial intelligence is largely unregulated, and when early reports of its use have outlined instances where AI has perpetuated negative stereotypes about people of color or discriminated against Black and Brown people. Guzmán is proud to champion legislation protecting the human rights of Illinoisans, and celebrate the diversity of the state's residents, not deny or demonize it as other levels of government have this year.

This summer, Guzmán looks forward to continuing her community town halls and hosting other events in the district to get in-person feedback and expand collaboration on her policy work.





Michael W. Halpin

Appropriations - Education chair | 36th Senate District

Building on work to uplift and protect Western Illinois farmers, laborers, small businesses, consumers and students, State Senator Mike Halpin (D-Rock Island) pushed through legislation to protect consumers from predatory vehicle warranties, crack down on human trafficking, clean up plastic pollution, and integrate the Quad Cities mental health care system.

Skip the Plastic Day was the brainchild of a 36th District constituent, Nicolina Pappas, who bravely presented her idea to Halpin's office. Halpin, seeing the passion and urgency of Nicolina's message, brought Nicolina to testify before the Senate Environment and Conservation Committee. Nicolina bravely presented her idea for Skip the Plastic Day, garnering a round of applause, compliments and kind words. Halpin then carried Senate Resolution 22 to the full Senate where it was adopted, and now April 1 is Skip the Plastic Day in Illinois.

As it stands, predatory third-party vehicle warranties contain opaque language and fine print that can confuse consumers and lead to a lack in coverage. Halpin saw the potential for these warranties to harm consumers and chose to tackle them. House Bill 2338 will provide, at the customer's request, a copy of the vehicle warranty contract and a written disclosure prepared by the third-party provider summarizing all costs the consumer may incur under the warranty.

Halpin, understanding that solutions to big problems often take time to forge, was heavily involved with two task forces. In order to gain a deeper understanding of issues in the justice system, Halpin was assigned to the Community Based Corrections Task Force to assess detention, rehabilitation alternatives and specialty courts in Illinois' correctional system. Following these assessments, the task force will make recommendations and suggestions to the General Assembly based on their findings. In addition, to support university library staff, students and universities, Halpin created the University Library and Professional Librarian Access and Transparency Task Force to study the impacts of professional librarians on student and university outcomes.

With Western Illinois and the broader state facing a human

trafficking crisis, Halpin moved to bolster recognition training enforcement in localities to create a more targeted approach to addressing the crisis. While current law requires human trafficking recognition training at hotels, restaurants and truck stops, Halpin's measure will give municipalities the legal authority to act if a business is not complying the training laws. In addition, Senate Bill 1422 will allow local governments to issue fines of up to \$1,500 per offense.

With civic duty and engaged community members more important now than ever, Halpin is ready to get back his district to fight for everyday working residents, public institutions and securing Illinois' future. Halpin is going to make sure Western Illinoisans gets the proper representation and that Illinois remains a place where people have access to the rights, care and jobs they need.





Michael E. Hastings

Judiciary chair | 19th Senate District

Entering his 12th year in the Illinois Senate, State Senator Michael E. Hastings (D-Frankfort) spearheaded a number of initiatives to support and uplift our veterans and the hard-working residents of the fighting 19th District.

As a veteran and the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Hastings was proud to say one of the first bills passed this session was one that would directly support veterans. Senate Bill 39 is a bipartisan measure that will clear up red tape stopping construction on tiny homes for veterans. This allows more tiny homes to be built for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and in need of secure, long-term affordable housing.

Illinois homeowners and drivers are increasingly blindsided with unwelcome news from their insurance companies that their homeowner and auto premiums

are going up — in some cases, by double-digit percentages. Insurance companies regularly raise their rates, often with no prior insurance claim or other unforeseen event to warrant them. This leaves families scrambling to find extra money they need to cover the increase, posing difficult decisions for those already struggling with the rising costs of everyday living. To combat excessive and flat-out unfair insurance premiums, Hastings took on Senate Bill 268. The bill will create the Insurance Rate Fairness and Consumer Protection Act. The measure will require insurance companies to seek approval from IDOI for any rate increases of more than 5%. Hastings plans to spend the coming months working with the Department of Insurance and opponents of the bill to get SB 268 over the finish line when the time comes.

In 2024, a school shooting at

Apalachee High School occurred leaving four dead. This led to threats of a similar school shooting made on schools in several Illinois counties, including schools in Will and Cook counties — counties in Hastings' district. In response, Hastings passed Senate Bill 2057. The bill will require the State Board of Education to provide school districts with standards for a school district's threat assessment procedures. The bill will allow ISBE and the Office of the State Fire Marshal to create new rules that guide school districts, private schools, and first responders on how to develop threat assessment procedures, rapid entry response plans, and cardiac emergency response plans. The bill will also give guidance for school districts notifying parents and the community of threats against a school.

In missing person cases, every second and small piece of information is paramount. This is why Hastings partnered up with the Cook County Sheriff's Office to work up legislation to streamline Illinois' policy regarding missing person investigations. Senate Bill 24 will give law enforcement effective strategies and protocols to solve missing person cases and save lives.

Hastings plans to host and attend events around the Southland this summer, meeting with different constituencies to listen to their concerns and opinions to ensure the 19th District's voice is represented in Springfield.





Adriane Johnson

Local Government chair | 30th Senate District

Continuing her steadfast commitment to justice, compassion and equity, State Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove) led a slate of legislative initiatives this spring aimed at improving access to public services, strengthening health care reporting, eliminating discriminatory insurance practices, and advancing support for student teachers. As chair of the Senate Local Government Committee and vice-chair of the Senate Environment and Conservation Committee, Johnson remains steadfast in her work to uplift vulnerable populations, support aging and underserved communities, and build a more inclusive and responsive government.

In an effort to improve the state's ability to respond to residents in crisis, Johnson sponsored Senate Bill 2194, which strengthens the oversight and performance of Illinois' 2-1-1 service — a free, confidential helpline that connects people to essential health and human services. The bill will require the lead entity overseeing 2-1-1 to report to the Department of Human Services on service outcomes, caller demographics, gaps in referrals and more. The measure also updates Illinois' 2-1-1 standards to reflect national best practices and adds DHS to the list of state agencies formally partnering in oversight, helping ensure more effective, accountable care across communities.

Deepening her advocacy for

human dignity and compassionate care, Johnson carried House Bill 2397, also known as the Eddie Thomas Act, which will require the Illinois Department of Corrections to prepare and publish an annual report detailing hospice and palliative care programs available to incarcerated individuals. As the aging prison population continues to grow, the legislation aims to help policymakers address the complex medical and ethical considerations surrounding end-of-life care in correctional facilities.

Focusing on economic fairness, Johnson also sponsored House Bill 2425, which will prevent life insurance companies from denying or limiting final expense policies based solely on a person's felony record. The bill — crafted to address ongoing financial discrimination — includes exceptions for currently incarcerated individuals, while extending important protections

to returning citizens and their families.

As the state continues to address the teacher shortage and promote access to the education profession, Johnson advanced House Bill 3528, which will prohibit public universities from enforcing policies that bar student teachers from being paid. The bill doesn't require compensation but gives schools and districts the flexibility to offer financial support, particularly to aspiring educators from underrepresented and low-income backgrounds.

As she returns to Buffalo Grove, Johnson looks ahead with determination to continue building a safer, more compassionate and more inclusive Illinois.





Emil Jones, III

14th Senate District

As a lifelong resident of Chicago, State Senator Emil Jones III (D-Chicago) prioritized the residents of the 14th Senate District by working to better their lives during the 104th General Assembly.

Jones helped lead House Bill 1616 to allow eligible part-time workers to take up to 10 days of leave in a 12-month period to serve as organ donors. For part-time employees receiving compensation for their donation, employers must pay them based on their average daily pay over the previous two months of employment. The Jones-supported legislation ensures that all eligible workers, no matter how many hours a week they work, can take time to donate an organ without risking their job or financial stability.

To ensure equal justice for all, Jones worked to create the Office of the State Public Defender, an independent office under the state's Judicial Branch – marking one of the

most substantial reforms of Illinois' public defense system since 1949. House Bill 3363 sets the rules for the public defender's powers, pay and how they are appointed, and forms a commission to oversee the office and identify its operational costs and funding requirements. At the local level, county offices would mirror this structure to strengthen local defense across the state.

A distinct and outspoken voice for increased public safety standards, Jones has gone above and beyond in his efforts to make Illinois neighborhoods and their streets safer. Jones co-sponsored House Bill 1373 to give law enforcement stronger tools to track down the criminals bringing illegal guns into Illinois neighborhoods. The measure broadens that scope by requiring firearm tracing in all cases where a gun is recovered at the scene of a crime, used unlawfully or is believed to be associated with a crime. The

bill also asks every law enforcement agency in Illinois to participate in the federal eTrace program, providing investigators with faster, more complete data on gun origins, trafficking patterns and crime links.

To protect patient access to pharmacies and health care services, Jones helped lead House Bill 1697, the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. The legislation targets unfair practices by pharmacy benefit managers, which are entities that manage prescription drug benefits for insurers. Jones' bill will end harmful practices, such as "spread pricing," where pharmacy benefit managers profit by charging insurers significantly more than what pharmacies receive. It will also restrict PBMs from profiting from the sale of drugs to pharmacies, and require them to return 100% of pharmacy rebates back to the individuals or sponsoring organizations. The bill aims to prevent pharmacy benefit managers from unfairly steering patients toward particular pharmacies and stop PBMs from limiting an individual's access to a drug from a pharmacy by classifying it as a "specialty drug."

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

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





Patrick J. Joyce

State Government chair | 40th Senate District

Entering his seventh year in the Illinois Senate, State Senator Patrick Joyce (D-Essex) went straight to work advancing legislation to address issues of his constituents in the 40th District, as well as policies benefiting residents throughout the state.

As a farmer, Joyce understands the importance of agriculture to our state's economy and food security, and he has been a longtime advocate for legislation that uplifts the industry. Joyce championed multiple deer control measures after hearing reports and requests from farmers all across the state. For farmers experiencing substantial crop damage and lower yields due to deer overpopulation – Joyce worked as a mediator with the Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to strike a balance when drafting Senate Bill 710 – a bill that will address multiple issues with the nuisance deer program and deer hunting tags, giving farmers the tools they need to handle deer populations before they damage crops.

Additionally, to help landowners and farmers have more flexibility when it comes to hunting on their own property, Joyce passed House Bill 2340 to the Senate. House Bill 2340 will allow deer, turkey and hunting permits to be issued without charge to Illinois landowners who own at least 20 acres in a county where there is positively identified chronic wasting disease cases in

the deer herd, resident tenants of at least 20 acres of commercial agricultural land where they will hunt, or an owner, shareholder or partner of a business that owns at least 20 acres of land. Joyce took on the legislation in response to farmers and landowners having difficulties securing permits to hunt on their own land. Residents of hunting land in the 40th District and across Illinois have been calling for changes to landowner permits and the deer permit lottery.

Brought to attention by the Kankakee County Coroner, overdoses are on the rise in the 40th District, especially overdoses involving Xylazine. Xylazine is a non-opioid animal tranquilizer, often mixed with street drugs, making the already deadly supply more dangerous. Kankakee County has had eight overdoses in the last two and a half years, and since Xylazine is not an opioid, Narcan

or Naloxone cannot reverse its effect to the brain. This is why Joyce supported Senate Bill 1773, which will make Xylazine a class 3 controlled substance, allowing law enforcement to take action and gain new helpful statistics on the drug. Joyce has been working on this proposal for years, he previously filed similar legislation in 2024.

Joyce plans to host and attend events around the 40th District this summer, like his book club for young students. Alongside this, he remains dedicated to advocating for his constituents and looks forward to continuing his work for the next legislative session.





Meg Loughran Cappel

Education chair | 49th Senate District

State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood) came into the 104th General Assembly ready to hit the ground running and start working on legislation that positively impacts her district and all Illinoisans. Previously spending 15 years in the classroom as an educator, Loughran Cappel's legislative agenda was centered around education policy, though she also sponsored and co-sponsored legislation that focused on health care and public safety, among many other important topics.

Loughran Cappel dedicated a lot of her time to two bills she chief co-sponsored that received bipartisan support. Through Senate Bill 2427, school districts will be required to adopt a set of policies ensuring that students do not inappropriately use cellphones during instructional time. Being a former educator herself, Loughran Cappel understands the distractions cellphones bring to a

learning environment and agrees with studies that have proven to show they negatively impact students' academic performance. With students having limited access to their phones during the school day, Illinois is looking at improved learning, engagement and test scores among students.

Another measure Loughran Cappel worked on was Senate Bill 1740, which initiates the reduction of unnecessary school code mandates that will be agreed upon by statewide educational stakeholders. As time evolves, Loughran Cappel understands students' needs do too, prompting her to sign on as chief co-sponsor of the bill. Removing outdated mandates in schools will allow educators a chance to adapt to their students' needs, reduce administrative burdens and give school districts more control.

Since the rise of artificial

technology, cyberbullying among children has also increased by using this technology to post or distribute altered images. Knowing the effects of bullying, Loughran Cappel sponsored House Bill 3851 to further extend the definition of bullying and clarify that cyberbullying includes posting or distributing unauthorized digital replicas. She was proud to carry this legislation, acknowledging that state laws shouldn't be falling behind to technology and ensuring cyberbullying via AI was addressed in the school code.

Loughran Cappel also made it a priority to get House Bill 2602 passed out of the Senate, a measure that allows individuals trafficked or exploited as minors more time to bring forth charges. Before this bill, survivors of these crimes were limited to three years to come forward to law enforcement. Loughran Cappel's initiative removes the statute of limitations for filing criminal charges in cases of forced labor, trafficking or related offenses by allowing charges to be brought at any time if the victim was under 18 years old when the crime occurred.

In addition to her legislative wins, Loughran Cappel is well-known for her constituent services and strives to keep residents updated with helpful information and resources. Over the summer, she plans to continue working on legislative initiatives and hosting events for residents of the 49th District.





Robert F. Martwick

Pensions chair | 10th Senate District

As chair of the Senate Pensions Committee, State Senator Robert Martwick's (D-Chicago) schedule has been dedicated to finding a solution to the issues facing Tier 2 pensions. To do this, he introduced House Bill 3193, a comprehensive proposal that will address issues in current pension administration. Among the initiatives, the legislation includes changes to the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund to allow retired teachers who return to work to keep their pension benefits on a prorated basis rather than have them revoked entirely. This provision supports efforts to address the state's teacher shortage while retaining the hard-earned benefits of retirees who are willing to re-enter the workforce.

In recognition of the risks firefighters face, House Bill 3193 will add breast cancer to the list of occupational diseases covered by disability provisions. It will also update policies within the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to clarify the definition of salary for employees on disability benefits and require annual medical examinations for workers to continue to receive these benefits.

To provide financial stability for retiring state troopers, the measure will require the State Employees' Retirement System to issue an estimated annuity payment when they retire. This provision will address the delays experienced by state troopers whose pensions are calculated using an alternative formula, ensuring they have time to

financially plan as they move into the next stage of their lives.

The measure also opens up opportunities for service credit transfers between various systems, including between downstate fire and police funds, military service into the Cook County system, CTE teacher service into the Teachers' Retirement System, and downstate police to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. These changes will help resolve issues faced by public workers who move between roles or agencies. Martwick is proud of his work addressing key concerns around the state's current pensions systems to ensure working Illinoisans have a secure, fair retirement plan.

Beyond his work on pensions, Martwick passed many other initiatives addressing issues like public safety, banking, and unclaimed property. One such measure is Senate Bill 1738, which makes personal items under \$5,000

exempt from being reclaimed by debt collectors to allow people to remain connected to these personal items. It also allows them to keep one piece of jewelry up to \$5,000. Similarly, he passed House Bill 28, which addresses an unclear and unpredictable receivership statute in Illinois law by creating a process in which a person is appointed by the court to take possession of, manage, transfer, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of receivership property. Martwick hopes these measure, and others he has worked on, exemplify Illinois' value of putting people over profit, and being more understanding with each other through difficult times.

Martwick will continue to advocate for pension reform, and providing tax relief for the middle class. He looks forward to spending time with his family and hosting outreach events in his community this summer.





Mike Porfirio

Veterans Affairs chair | 11th Senate District

State Senator Mike Porfirio (D-Lyons Township) came into his third year in the Senate looking forward to continuing his advocacy for veterans and first responders in Illinois. As a Navy Captain, he has experience working closely with veterans to understand the unique issues they face in the community. This session, he focused his efforts on improving access to mental and physical support for heroes across Illinois.

Porfirio fought for legislation that would help first responders both on and off the job. Through Senate Bill 1742, also known as the Drew Price Act, Porfirio aims to solve a longtime safety risk for firefighters. The bill will require the installation of safety measures on low-sloped roofs around light shafts and openings, and will require municipalities to conduct surveys of hazards on buildings in their jurisdiction and share the results

with local fire departments. This will assist firefighters as they traverse dangerous roofs and execute saves on the job.

First responders are also at an increased risk of facing trauma and mental health issues due to the unpredictable tragedies they experience. In an effort to provide relief and support to first responders, Porfirio advanced House Bill 2551, which will reinstate the First Responders Task Force to study ways to reduce the risk of suicide among first responders. The task force will bring together the skills of representatives from police and fire departments, mental health specialists and members of the General Assembly to find solutions for first responders.

Continuing his commitment to support veterans throughout Illinois, Porfirio rallied support for stronger flexibility and opportunities for veterans seeking

medical care. Senate Bill 2175 will guarantee veteran employees receive four days a year for medical treatment. This will allow veterans the opportunity to receive additional support for any trauma or physical injuries they received through their service.

Porfirio recognizes veteran suicide as a national emergency. He was appointed as the chair of the Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention Council, where he will serve for the duration of the year. Through his chairmanship, he will lead efforts to advise the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services on strategies to provide veterans with affordable and accessible care.

Amid the rapid development of artificial intelligence, Porfirio took a stand to secure the job safety of Illinois teachers. He led House Bill 1859, which will prevent community colleges from using an AI instructor in lieu of a teacher. This will uphold Illinois' commitment to teachers and the integrity of students' education at community colleges across the state.

Porfirio is committed to providing support for those who risk their safety and mental health for the well-being of their community. He looks forward to supporting our state's defenders through new legislation. This summer, Porfirio is excited to meet with advocates and friends throughout the 11th District and spend time with his wife, two kids and their two dogs.





Willie Preston

Consumer Protection chair | 16th Senate District

From the sweet 16th District, State Senator Willie Preston (D-Chicago) takes pride in standing up for legislation that protects consumers, employment, Black maternal health, violence reduction, child internet safety, insurance coverage, and vocational training.

Preston proudly served as the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Chair this legislative session, supporting and fighting for the rights and needs of Black individuals from across the state. He continuously fights to ensure that every child, regardless of their ZIP code, has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for a bright future. He has confronted the inequities in our health care system, with legislation such as House Bill 2517, which will expand implicit bias training for health care workers in Illinois to include training in potential maternal health risk factors associated with marginalized communities with increased mortality rate.

Preston is also passionate about making sure Black Illinoisans can access affordable, comprehensive care, and making our neighborhoods safe and vibrant places to live and grow. Coming from a background in trades, expanding access to trade schools to fostering economic opportunities for minority-owned businesses is extremely important to Preston.

Preston proudly served as the Consumer Protection Committee Chair this legislative session.

He recognizes the importance of protecting consumers and their health. Under Preston's measure, Senate Bill 93 bans the manufacturing of food products containing potassium bromate and propylparaben. It also prohibits businesses from selling or distributing food products containing these additives.

As a father of six, Preston believes in protecting children in an online digital age. Senate Bill 2037 will create the Digital Age Assurance Act. It will require covered manufacturers to take commercially reasonable and technically feasible steps to age verify the device's primary user.

In order to protect insurance holders and individuals affected by stuttering, Preston spearheaded a measure to ensure that speech therapy services are covered by insurance. Senate Bill 40 will require health insurers to cover rehabilitative

and rehabilitative speech therapy as a treatment for any child under 19 years of age with an early-acquired disorder that is diagnosed as a speech-language disorder.

Preston will continue to advocate, push, and build upon the legislative measures he sponsored in this session including Senate Bill 74. It will permit state agencies to retain a percentage of payment due to a contractor or subcontractor if the contractor or subcontractor is not progressing on a project. Upon completion of the project, the agency must pay the contractor or subcontractor the money that was retained during the project.

With an extremely busy and successful 2025 legislative session, Preston will continue to stay busy in the sweet 16th District this summer with events such as a vibrant Juneteenth honoring African American culture, history and freedom.





Mike Simmons

Public Health chair | 7th Senate District

Continuing his journey in the Illinois Senate, State Senator Mike Simmons (D-Chicago) has moved new progressive ideas to Springfield inspired by his roots in the 7th District and his passion for the environment, housing, LGBTQ+ rights and increasing access to government resources.

As the son of a Black-American mother and an Ethiopian-American immigrant father who owned a small business, and, as Illinois' first openly gay state senator, Simmons knows first-hand the struggles of immigrant families and the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ residents across the 7th District and beyond. He is also a lifelong advocate for improving transportation safety and cyclist accessibility, passing legislation to create safer networks for residents.

As chair of the Senate Public Health Committee, Simmons has worked hard to pass measures to help residents with their everyday

needs. Senate Bill 1173 will remove the fee for unhoused individuals who are trying to apply for and obtain a state ID but may need a notary affirmation for their forms, making it easier for unhoused neighbors to get ID cards and help move them toward more stability in their lives.

In addition to fighting for housing rights for unhoused individuals, Simmons took action to tackle the rising cost of living, addressing the fact that half of renters are paying more than 30% of their income in rent in Illinois every year. Through House Bill 3564, around 12 different junk fees will be banned from being charged to a tenant, protecting them from double move-in fees, pest abatement fees, and more that nickel-and-dime tenants who are already struggling to find affordable housing, feed their families, and pay for basic necessities.

To help Illinois residents, Simmons pushed for greater access

to state services through language translation requirements on Illinois-operated websites. Through Senate Bill 1262, Simmons hopes to bring more accessible social services to every resident through readily available technology. The legislation will require the development and implementation of an automatic translation system on state websites.

Fighting for every community to have greater access to resources, Simmons, a staunch biker himself, moved legislation to increase cyclist safety through the Senate. Simmons' legislation, House Bill 2675, will work to create signage and alert cyclists to emergencies and hazards on roadways as soon as possible. The legislation also hopes to update sign requirements for bikes across Illinois, establishing simple and clear changes to pathway signage that will make routes safer for everyone.

Simmons is a senator who continues to fight hard for his community and the residents beyond, knowing that the rising issues from the federal government as well as ones at home are hitting folks especially hard this year. Throughout the summer, Simmons and his team will be helping out around the community and giving back as much as possible, hoping community members will join in and speak with the team to come together to find solutions that work for every resident across the 7th District.





Steve Stadelman

Energy and Public Utilities chair | 34th Senate District

Ready to head back down to Springfield for his 13th year in the Senate was State Senator Steve Stadelman (D-Rockford), a longtime advocate for Illinois' economic prosperity and working families. Stadelman came set to begin his work pushing legislation through the General Assembly that focused on key initiatives such as protecting the media, increasing transparency in health care, preventing senior financial exploitation, among many other important topics.

As a former broadcaster, Stadelman understands the role of free press in a democracy and continues to advocate for the media and its protections. After the result of an Illinois Supreme Court decision that weakened protections for journalists, Stadelman introduced Senate Bill 1181, a measure that builds on existing law to ensure the Citizens Participation Act protects individuals and the press from lawsuits intended to silence or intimidate them, regardless of the motive behind the lawsuit. The measure clarifies that news organizations should be shielded from retaliatory lawsuits, also known as Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. Under Stadelman's legislation, free speech in the media will be protected, ensuring news outlets can do their job without fear of breaking the law.

Stadelman has also been an advocate for more accountability in our health care systems. To

protect patients from unexpected fees on medical bills and to increase transparency in the industry, Stadelman sponsored House Bill 1431, a measure that will require hospitals to develop a policy to inform patients they may be charged facility fees outside of professional fees. Patients have voiced concerns about feeling as if they have been charged twice for their visits, prompting Stadelman to ensure health care providers are being honest with their patients about costs and fees prior to any services.

With more seniors falling victim to financial exploitation, Stadelman introduced legislation this year to strengthen protections to safeguard older adults and their financial savings. Senate Bill 1551 will allow financial advisors and other qualified individuals to delay transactions and disbursements from a person's account if they

suspect elder financial exploitation. Knowing that seniors are more susceptible to this abuse, the goal of this legislation is to protect our most vulnerable citizens and ensure suspicious financial transactions can be paused until investigated.

Always keeping his constituents in mind, Stadelman had a successful legislative session passing and voting for bills that matter most to his community. As summer begins, Stadelman plans to be active around the district, meeting with constituents, hosting events and preparing to come back for the fall.





Doris Turner

Agriculture chair | 48th Senate District

After the tragic murder of Sonya Massey, State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) got to work in an effort to bring law enforcement, community members and local officials together with the goal of bringing justice to Massey.

In response to Massey's murder, Turner spearheaded two measures that came from conversations with state and county officials, law enforcement and community members. Senate Bill 1953 will require law enforcement agencies to conduct a more comprehensive review of a prospective officer's past employment to ensure his or her physical and psychological fitness for duty as a police officer before making an offer of employment. Additionally, Senate Bill 1954 will allow the Sangamon County Board to put a recall process referendum on the ballot for the 2026 General Election. Both initiatives came from the Massey Commission, created

by Turner and Sangamon County Board Chair Andy Van Meter in an effort to bring community members together.

As a strong advocate for agriculture education, Turner worked to expand hands-on learning for FFA and 4-H students by allowing participation in supervised career development experiences and other approved work-based learning activities to count toward the daily calculation of school clock hours. Turner also passed Senate Bill 1605 to ensure school districts that receive state grant funding pay agriculture teachers 100% of their regular pay rate for the extra hours teaching agricultural education if the teacher works 400 hours or more beyond their regular teaching hours.

To improve training for emergency medical dispatchers, Turner led an initiative to mandate training for emergency medical

dispatchers on how to provide CPR instructions to someone experiencing cardiac arrest. T-CPR empowers bystanders to become lifesavers in the critical moments before EMS arrives. Turner's measure aims to improve outcomes of cardiac arrest.

After Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield proposed a policy change that would have placed a time limit on anesthesia in New York, Missouri and Connecticut, Turner spearheaded House Bill 1141 to ensure a policy like this would not impact Illinois residents. The bill will require private insurers and all state group health plans to cover medically necessary anesthesia services, regardless of duration, for any procedure covered by the policy.

After hearing from constituents who were being solicited by insurance companies, Turner worked to protect seniors from deceptive practices. House Bill 1865 makes it illegal to solicit a resident of a nursing home or long-term care facility, or someone over the age of 65, to purchase accident and health insurance unless the insurance company waits 48 hours before making any insurance-related changes and the individual is given the ability to opt out.

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





Rachel Ventura

Human Rights chair | 43rd Senate District

State Senator Rachel Ventura (D-Joliet) continued her eco-friendly advocacies by setting forth new initiatives addressing statewide rewilding strategies, expanding grant funding for environmental projects and introducing historic procurement policies with both human rights and the environment in mind.

After passing legislation last year to expand environmental infrastructure loans to local municipalities, Ventura worked on Senate Bill 2306 this session, which will expand funding for local climate resilience projects. With storms becoming increasingly frequent and more destructive due to the climate crisis, this initiative will focus on storm protection, nature-based solutions and water risk mitigation grant funding under the Climate Bank Loan Financing Act.

In collaboration with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, she also focused on House Bill 2726 aimed at strengthening rewilding efforts statewide with an emphasis on restoring natural landscapes and reintroducing native species.

This year, Ventura introduced a historic piece of legislation, Senate Bill 2157 to make Illinois the first state to ensure state purchases do not contribute to deforestation, forest degradation or human rights violations. Senate Bill 2157 will position Illinois as a national leader in responsible sourcing, aligning with global efforts to protect forests, climate and biodiversity. The proposed bill will ensure state-funded purchases of key commodities —

such as rubber, paper and specific wood products — come exclusively from sustainable sources, curbing the state's contribution to global deforestation. The Deforestation-Free Illinois Act bans state purchases of tropical hardwood or related products, positioning Illinois as a global climate leader with stronger procurement standards. Ventura's bill helps safeguard biodiversity by preserving ecosystems and protecting at-risk species.

In addition to these environmental policies, Ventura worked vigorously on passing several measures aimed at improving insurance and health care regulations. Of note, she advanced House Bill 3489, which will allow pharmacists to dispense non-hormonal contraceptives. Expanding access to these options empowers individuals to choose the contraceptive that best fits their needs.

As the new chair of the Senate

Human Rights Committee, a major priority of Ventura's was Senate Bill 2156, marking a major step toward restorative justice reform for minors. Under the bill, the Child First Reform Task Force will recommend community-based alternatives to juvenile detention consistent with child-first directives aligned with the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. Prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment, the bill aims to create a more compassionate system that protects children's rights and addresses the broader consequences of criminalization, ultimately seeking to reform the state's approach to child incarceration.

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





Karina Villa

Health and Human Services chair | 25th Senate District

State Senator Karina Villa (D-West Chicago), fueled by her upbringing as a daughter of immigrants who was raised in a working-class community, led efforts this year to fortify the rights of vulnerable populations across the state amid uncertainties at the federal level.

Focused on maintaining Illinois as the safest place to raise a family, Villa led initiatives aimed to protect access to reproductive care, secure safe drinking water, expand mental health services, ensure the safety of students in schools and much more.

Rooted in values of equity and community development, Villa advanced a measure shielding minors from having an eviction record prior to having the opportunity to build their own tenant history. House Bill 3566 bans landlords from listing minors in eviction actions to ensure that

when children come of age, they have access to safe and affordable housing and are not denied for actions that were not their own.

As neighboring states continue to restrict access to reproductive care, Villa led House Bill 3637 to maintain Illinois as a safe haven for individuals seeking reproductive care by securing access to abortion medication and protecting the authorization of medical professionals to provide reproductive care to Illinois residents and non-residents.

This year, Villa led two initiatives focused on securing access to mental health services for vulnerable groups, including college students and those impacted by the criminal justice system. House Bill 3385 ensures college students have access to mental health services through their college or university. This comes at a critical time when reports have highlighted alarming

rates of mental health conditions among college-aged individuals. Additionally, to meet the needs of defendants deemed unfit for trial who are in need of mental health services, Villa led House Bill 3572 to ensure individuals do not remain in the system without care by clarifying standards for inpatient and outpatient state mental health treatment programs.

Since January, immigrant communities across Illinois have been the target of rampant federal immigration enforcement. As children grapple with the fear of being separated from their families, Villa successfully passed the Safe Schools for All act, or House Bill 3247, to ensure children are safe in the classroom and are not denied the right to a public school education. As other states take steps to strip children of their education, Villa is leading the charge in Illinois to protect children's fundamental right to learn.

In her third term as state senator, Villa's top priority remains securing adequate investments and necessary services for families across the 25th Senate District. Villa will continue to focus on initiatives that strengthen mental health services, access to justice and housing security. This summer, Villa looks forward to mentoring college and high school student interns in her district offices and connecting constituents with available health care services through community events.





Celina Villanueva

Revenue chair | 12th Senate District

As the 2025 legislative session concluded, State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) highlighted key victories that reflect her unwavering commitment to equity, dignity and justice for all Illinoisans. Despite a challenging budget year as Revenue Committee Chair, Villanueva remained focused on protecting civil rights, expanding access to education and health care, and advancing systemic reform.

Villanueva led the charge on House Bill 3709, which will require public colleges and universities to provide students with access to health care professionals authorized to prescribe both contraception and medication abortion beginning in the 2025–2026 academic year. For campuses with on-site pharmacies, those services must be accessible on-site if students choose. The measure also mandates that student health service websites include clear, accessible information about reproductive care—ensuring students are empowered to make informed decisions about their health.

Through House Bill 460, Villanueva continued her advocacy for immigrant and first-generation students by ensuring all Illinois residents—regardless of immigration status—can be considered for state-funded financial aid. The legislation streamlines eligibility across agencies and institutions, helping

eliminate barriers and confusion that too often shut students out.

To further strengthen the Illinois Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights, Villanueva championed House Bill 3710, which prohibits law enforcement from using deception—such as lying about evidence—when interviewing victims of violent crimes. The bill adds protections at the investigatory stage, recognizing this as a particularly vulnerable point for victims and their families.

Villanueva spearheaded Senate Bill 2040 to address fraudulent towing operations that exploit working families. The legislation gives the Illinois Commerce Commission the power to impound unregistered tow trucks, allows the Secretary of State to suspend license plates tied to unpaid fines, and bans operators from obtaining new licenses for three years. It also prevents tow companies from

placing liens on essential personal property left in vehicles—closing dangerous loopholes that bad actors have long abused.

Throughout the session, Villanueva remained focused on the needs of her district and communities across Illinois. From protecting reproductive rights to holding predatory businesses accountable, her legislative agenda reflects a bold, values-driven approach to government—one rooted in fairness, inclusion and care.

Villanueva will continue working to ensure that the promise of equity and opportunity reaches every family in the 12th District and across the state.





Mark Walker

Financial Institutions chair | 27th Senate District

State Senator Mark Walker (D-Arlington Heights) has a history of serving and protecting vulnerable populations in his community and throughout Illinois. As a Vietnam War veteran, Walker is committed to recognizing and tackling the issues that veterans face.

As a legislator, Walker has kept his focus on fighting for the rights of marginalized communities like Native Americans, which have a long history in Illinois. In March, his legislation, Senate Bill 867, was signed into law to establish the Shabbona Lake State Park as Potawatomi land. The law authorized the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to return over 1,500 acres to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Walker has long held a focus on supporting small businesses and cementing Illinois' leadership in cutting edge technological and business development. This

has aligned with his legislation to promote a safer digital coin environment, which he introduced this session.

Walker focused much of his efforts this spring on protecting consumers from digital coin fraud. With FBI data showing Illinois consumers reported the sixth-highest losses to crypto fraud in the United States, Walker introduced legislation to create a safer and more trustworthy digital asset environment for consumers. Senate Bill 1797 will require digital asset businesses to register with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and create procedures to address cybersecurity and fraud risks. He is committed to a safer, more transparent digital asset environment and hopes to achieve this through requiring digital asset companies to provide investment disclosures.

Walker's efforts to protect consumers continued through the introduction of Senate Bill 1512, also known as the Consumer Financial Protection Law. Senate Bill 1512 will make it illegal for businesses offering a financial product to engage in deceptive financial practices and enhances the ability of IDFPR to enforce consumer protection laws. The bill aims to help Illinoisans receive assistance if they fall victim to scams or abusive practices.

Quantum information science is on the cutting edge of technological advances. Walker hopes to maintain Illinois' legacy as a leader of technological innovation by limiting the barriers that new quantum startups face. To do this, Walker introduced Senate Bill 2458, which will create incentives for quantum research by expanding credit opportunities for Illinois startups.

Walker is eager to continue his work in standing up for marginalized communities, protecting Illinoisans from fraud and keeping Illinois at the forefront of technological development. This summer, he looks forward to hearing from his community about how he can best continue to support them through his work in Springfield.



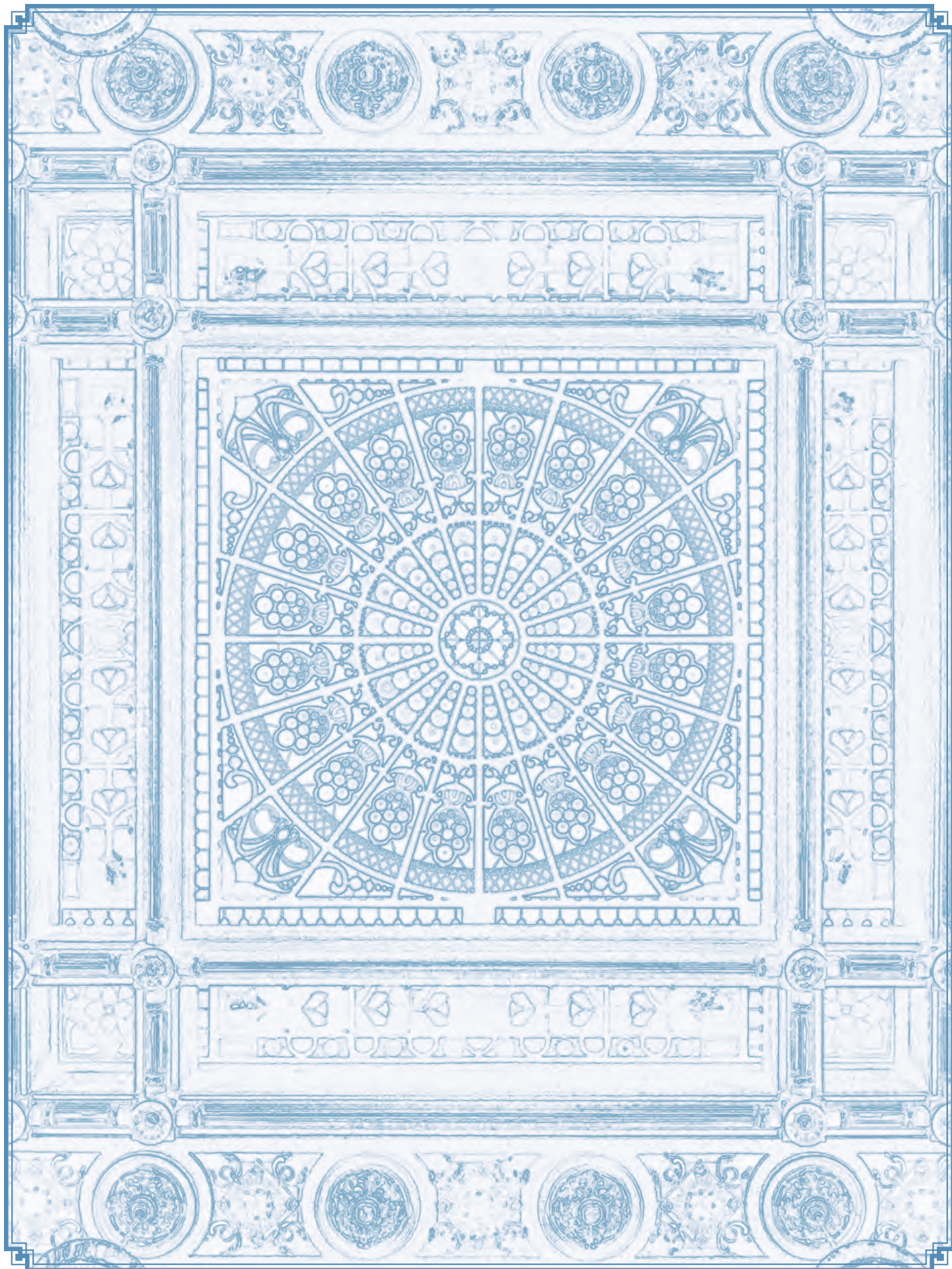
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



Don Harmon,
Senate President

Communications Department
www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com







2nd Amendment Rights

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| HB 0850 | Provides that if a FOID Card applicant is determined to pose a clear and present danger to themselves or others, the state must deny the application, or suspend or revoke their FOID Card. Requires the FOID Card Review Board to establish an expedited review process for appeals. |
| HB 1316 | Requires school staff to report any known gun threats or firearms on school grounds to the principal right away, and mandates that parents be alerted if their child is involved in a threat. |
| HB 1373 | Creates the Crime Firearm Database Task Force in the Office of the Attorney General to study the use of databases to track firearms used in crime. Also expands the circumstances under which a firearm must be traced by law enforcement. |
| SB 0008 | Increases gun storage safety requirements and reporting requirements for lost and stolen firearms. |

Agriculture and Natural Resources

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| HB 1461 | Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to convey a non-exclusive 20-foot easement for the use of a road to a private gun club in Fulton County for \$1. It is subject to all existing encumbrances on the property, and the club must enter into a shared-maintenance agreement with the department. |
| HB 2196 | Removes language that classified individuals as producers if they slaughtered, or allowed the slaughter of, farm animals or poultry not owned by them for more than 30 days. |
| HB 2339 | Allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to suspend the sharpshooting program, which is used to manage deer herds with Chronic Wasting Disease, in counties that do not have any cases for three calendar years. |
| HB 2340 | Allows for additional eligibility for the Landowner Deer permits without charge. |
| HB 3740 | Authorizes the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to engage in a land swap with a married couple in Peoria County. |
| HB 3760 | Makes it unlawful for any person to trap or to hunt gray foxes except during open season which the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may set between Nov. 1 and Feb. 15. |
| SB 0128 | Requires pet owners whose pets were exempt from receiving a rabies vaccine to check in with a licensed veterinarian once a year to keep the exemption. |
| SB 0710 | Allows the Department of Natural Resources to issue two free deer permits to individuals who qualify for the youth-only deer season, and allows IDNR to issue nuisance permits to landowners whose property is being damaged by deer. |
| SB 0783 | Updates pesticide licensing and registration rules by allowing multi-year renewals and adjusting related fees. |
| SB 2309 | Redirects revenue from the Department of Natural Resources' Permit Application Review Fees from the State Boating Act Fund to the Water Resources Fund. |
| SB 2372 | Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Farmland Transition Commission to examine barriers individuals ages 25 through 40 face when trying to access farmland and make recommendations on possible incentives or policies to assist these individuals. |
| SB 2455 | Expands access to grant funding to projects that align with the Illinois Forest Action Plan, local forestry plans and efforts to increase tree canopy. |
| SB 2459 | Provides that certain fish and fish products entering establishments for wholesale distribution be inspected, handled, stored, prepared, packaged, marked and labeled. |



Budget

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| HB 1075 | Contains the Fiscal Year 26 Budget Implementation Bill. |
| SB 2510 | Contains the Fiscal Year 26 Budget. |

Business

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| HB 0742 | Pushes back the effective date of the Illinois Interchange Fee Prohibition Act by one year. |
| HB 1505 | Allows the Illinois Racing Board to determine the appropriate schedule for distributing funds to eligible non-profit organizations that support backstretch workers. Permits the IRB's director of Mutuels to perform the duties of the director of Intertrack Wagering. |
| HB 2456 | Prohibits a third-party restaurant reservation service from listing, promoting or selling reservations for a restaurant without a written agreement with that food service establishment. |
| HB 2751 | Prohibits the selling of cars by car dealers in locations other than their dealership. Allows law enforcement to authorize a towing company to remove a vehicle if it is offered for sale with the VIN number altered or removed. |
| HB 2947 | Provides that the Illinois Gaming Board cannot require individuals hired exclusively to perform functions that are not related in any way to gaming operations to hold an occupational license. |
| HB 3352 | Prohibits collection agencies from collecting debt incurred through coercion, such as in cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. |
| HB 3439 | Allows day care centers to hire an employee on a probationary basis if they have received a qualifying result on a criminal background investigation and, pending full clearance of background check requirements, if the probationary employee is supervised. |
| SB 0213 | Requires state agencies and departments to annually report the amount and distribution of its advertising spending on their website and to the General Assembly. |
| SB 0314 | Requires a physical fitness center to clearly and conspicuously disclose any change in the cost of or reduction in benefits to a customer's gym membership at least 60 days before the automatic renewal of a contract for that membership. |
| SB 1777 | Updates the state's banking laws to better guide financial institutions when handling the financial information of a deceased customer. |
| SB 1797 | Requires digital asset businesses to register with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, create procedures to address cybersecurity and fraud risks and establishes consumer protections for digital assets investing, like investment disclosures. |
| SB 1994 | Allows credit unions to contact a trusted advisor or known family member if they suspect financial exploitation of an elderly or disabled member, and increases the credit union asset threshold for internal audits from \$5 million to \$10 million. |
| SB 2001 | Requires sellers to disclose, in any auction agreement, that all property offered for sale or auction is owned by the seller, the seller has full legal authority to sell the property and, to the best of the seller's knowledge, the property has been lawfully obtained. |
| SB 2318 | Increases the fine for companies that mislead consumers by advertising themselves as a bank but do not have deposit insurance through the FDIC. |
| SB 2319 | Requires any business that owns or operates a virtual currency kiosk in this state to obtain a money transmitter license and to report the location of each its kiosks to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. |



Civil Law

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| HB 0024 | Provides that if a home repair and remodeling contract between the parties allows attorney's fees then the contract shall be deemed to permit the award of reasonable attorneys fees to all parties to the contract. |
| HB 0028 | Establishes a process in which a person is appointed by the court to take possession of, manage, transfer, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of receivership property. |
| HB 1083 | Provides gender-neutral descriptions showing a person's marital status on a variety of deeds and real estate documents, and provides gender-neutral descriptions for forest preserve district commissioners' titles. |
| HB 1628 | Expands the reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies after the seizure of property. |
| HB 2562 | Requires the guardianship training program to consist of two components, including one for guardians of the person and one for guardians of the estate. |
| HB 2568 | Provides that legal parentage can be established by giving birth, voluntary acknowledgement, adjudication, adoption, consent to assisted reproduction, or through surrogacy, regardless of the parent's gender. |
| HB 2849 | Prohibits a park owner from requiring a tenant to pay for utility services used in a common area. If the utility usage is not separately measured, the park owner may not charge the tenants for more than 80% of the utility services for which the park owner is billed. |
| HB 3359 | Provides judges with the discretion to impanel up to four alternate jurors in civil cases. Currently, judges may impanel up to two alternate jurors in civil cases. |
| SB 0083 | Raises the threshold for passing personal property through a small estate affidavit from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Excludes motor vehicles from this calculation. |
| SB 0103 | Allows a person to move forward with an adoption proceeding for a youth in state care only if the youth is placed with the petitioning person by the Department of Children and Family Services at the time the petition is filed and DCFS approves of the adoption. |
| SB 0104 | Allows an adoptive parent or legal guardian of an adopted person under age 21 to petition the court for the appointment of a confidential intermediary to obtain identifying information or arrange contact with the adoptive parent or legal guardian of a birth sibling, if both parties consent. |
| SB 0328 | Clarifies that by registering to do business in the state, a corporation consents to Illinois court jurisdiction for certain toxic exposure cases. |
| SB 1181 | Amends the Citizens Participation Act to explicitly include freedom of the press, clarifies that this applies regardless of a party's motives and requires a pause on related legal proceedings while a motion under the act is reviewed. |
| SB 1383 | Extends the sunset date for the Condominium and Common Interest Community Ombudsperson Act to Jan. 1, 2029. |
| SB 1411 | Provides that a physician, health care provider, employee or facility may rely on and must comply with a terminally ill patient's living will declaration if the patient is unable to communicate their wishes about death-delaying procedures. |
| SB 1443 | Codifies the common law rule that full payment of a mortgage extinguishes the debt. |
| SB 1466 | Allows any corporation, regardless of when it was formed, to limit or eliminate shareholders' cumulative voting rights, or restrict, deny or create special voting rights for different classes of stock. |
| SB 1563 | Clarifies that the state's eviction law does not prohibit law enforcement from enforcing the offense of criminal trespass or from removing persons or property from a premises when criminal trespassing has occurred. |



Civil Law (cont.)

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| SB 1667 | Establishes a licensing process through the state treasurer's office for unclaimed property finders and streamlines the process for unclaimed property owned by state agencies. |
| SB 1738 | Increases the current exemption amounts from a creditor's judgement for a debtor's homestead estate, motor vehicle and tools of the trade, and expands what is covered under a debtor's personal property exemption. |
| SB 1909 | Provides that the Kane County Division of Transportation may use quick-take proceedings for a period of up to one year after the bill's effective date to acquire certain property for the purpose of intersection realignment and separation improvement. |
| SB 2220 | Requires the owner of a self-storage facility who is enforcing a lien must provide the unit owner with a link to the website where the online bidding is taking place in the lien notice. |
| SB 2457 | Removes the sunset of the Collection Agency Act, eliminates the Collection Agency Licensing and Disciplinary Board and shortens the deadline for paying the civil penalty. |
| SB 2487 | Allows the Department of Human Rights to be more efficient in their investigation procedures and consistent in their penalty structure. |

Consumers

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| HB 3345 | Extends the repeal of the Hearing Instrument Consumer Protection Act from Jan. 1, 2026, to Jan. 1, 2028. |
| SB 1288 | Adds sesame to the list of major food allergens under the state's food handling law; adds required training on symptoms of gluten intolerance and celiac disease, and preparing and handling gluten-free food. |
| SB 2247 | Creates the Micromobility Fire Safety Act to set fire safety requirements for micromobility devices and their batteries. Mandates safety standards for manufacturers and guidelines for individuals on use, maintenance, and charging, and that violations of the act will be treated as illegal practices. |

Criminal Law

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| HB 1302 | Aims to provide parity of notice of court proceedings to all crime victims and ensure that reports of abuse to law enforcement are taken seriously. |
| HB 1710 | Requires the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to study and compile a public report on homicides and specific firearm crimes by law enforcement agency. |
| HB 2546 | Clarifies the timing of youth parole hearings. Allows petitioners who were convicted under the age of 21 to petition for parole three years before they are eligible for parole review, but their hearing cannot be scheduled sooner than one year after their petition is appropriately filed. |
| HB 2586 | Clarifies that indemnification provisions only apply for law enforcement based intergovernmental entities that include the Illinois State Police as a party. Creates Alicia's Law regarding investigation of internet crimes against children. |
| HB 2602 | Extends the standard limitations period for criminal offenses by providing that when the victim is under 18 years of age at the time of the offense, a prosecution for involuntary servitude, involuntary sexual servitude of a minor, or trafficking in persons and related offenses may be commenced at any time. |
| HB 2690 | Changes references of "child pornography" to "child sexual abuse material" throughout Illinois law. Extends the statute of limitations for the offense of grooming for a victim under the age 17 from 3 years to 10 years after the victim attains the age of 17. |



Criminal Law (cont.)

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| HB 2873 | Expands the definition of emotional distress by designating certain conduct as conduct presumed to cause emotional distress. Expands the definition of stalking to include harassment which is conduct that is not necessary to accomplish a purpose that is reasonable under the circumstances, would cause a reasonable person emotional distress, and causes emotional distress to the petitioner. |
| HB 3281 | Allows police to choose not to arrest a juvenile in domestic violence cases and instead divert them or help find alternative placement, using a risk assessment tool approved by the Illinois Supreme Court. |
| HB 3572 | Clarifies standards to determine whether someone unfit to stand trial should be ordered to outpatient fitness restoration programs. For an individual placed in in-patient treatment, the maximum time in custody would be reduced by credit earned for good behavior under the Unified Code of Corrections. |
| HB 3671 | Allows individuals charged with non-consensual sharing of sexual images to be tried in court in either the county where the offense occurred or where the victim lives. |
| HB 3678 | Removes the penalty for violating fraudulent hunting license regulations and makes hunter license renewable. |
| HB 3710 | Provides that when a person reports being a crime victim, the right to be treated with fairness and respect during the investigatory process, including the right to be free from deception. |
| SB 0019 | Makes changes to the structure and procedures of the Prisoner Review Board, including allowing crime victims to submit impact statements to the PRB, requiring the Department of Corrections to notify a person released from custody of orders of protection against them, and requiring the PRB to complete a report on every person discharged from parole or mandatory supervised release. |
| SB 0108 | Makes Cook County's traffic fee waiver program permanent by eliminating the sunset date. |
| SB 2201 | Requires the Department of Corrections facilities to share data, such as contraband found by facility, substance use disorder treatment or educational programming by facility, emergency medical response and hospitalizations and overdoses by facility, with the public. |
| SB 2323 | Makes various changes to provide consistency in the state's response to human trafficking by creating uniform services, agency infrastructure, policies, screening tools and training. |
| SB 2426 | Clarifies that transporting timber applies specifically to timber. Sets proof of ownership requirements. Allows law enforcement to inspect vehicles transporting timber. Mandates compliance with inspection orders. Reduces penalties for violators. |

Education

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| HB 1366 | Ensures that all parental notification for Individualized Education Program meetings inform parents that they may invite other individuals to assist who have special expertise regarding the child. |
| HB 1368 | Requires all providers of educator professional development to align professional development related to literacy instruction with evidence based strategies as defined in the Comprehensive Literacy Plan developed by the State Board of Education. |
| HB 1787 | Requires school districts to provide training to all substitutes for school evacuation drills and law enforcement lock down drills. |
| HB 1861 | Requires that if a parent or guardian of a child placed in a long-term acute care residential facility within West Harvey-Dixmoor SD147 or Thornton Township High SD 205 moves out of Illinois, they must enroll the child in the school district they now reside, for enabling Illinois to seek tuition reimbursement. |



Education (cont.)

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| HB 2337 | Ensures that a negotiated agreement resolving a student disability dispute cannot include a waiver that prevents the student, parent, or guardian from bringing future claims or lawsuits unless the waiver applies only to the student named in the agreement, is limited to issues related to the specific dispute being resolved, and does not extend beyond the duration of the agreement. |
| HB 2390 | Establishes a process by which a school board can withdraw their school district from a special education cooperative that the district has with other school districts. |
| HB 2537 | Requires that students with IEPs and the parents/guardians of students are informed that IEP and education services under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act end upon high school graduation or thier 22nd birhtday, whichever comes first. |
| HB 2574 | Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to publicly post on its website information on any assessment contract that ISBE enters into, including the dates the contract is in effect, contract renewal options and contact costs. |
| HB 2801 | Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to post each year on its website a list of opportunities for high school students to participate in externships, internships, or volunteer work related to career and technical education career pathways. |
| HB 2802 | Allows participation in supervised career development experiences and other approved work-based learning activities to count toward the daily calculation of school clock hours. |
| HB 2962 | Creates a new type of school bus permit that is strictly for the operation of a first division vehicle being operated as a school bus or a multi-function school activity bus designed to carry up to 15 passengers, including the driver, when being used for curriculum-related activities. |
| HB 2966 | Codifies in state law the current process in which a school district requests grants from the State Board of Education for studies used to explore options for school district consolidation. |
| HB 2986 | Includes a continuation of the State Board of Education's efforts to streamline the school code provisions and amend or repeal outdated, contradictory, and problematic provisions of the school code. |
| HB 2994 | Allows a parent or guardian of a minor who receives special education services, regardless of the minor's age, to have access upon request to the mental health records of the minor for services that the parent or guardian consented to on the minor's behalf. |
| HB 3000 | Requires all school districts serving students in grades 6 through 12 to have the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988), the Crisis Text Line and the Safe2Help Illinois helpline on all employee IDs. |
| HB 3026 | Adopts several of the recommendations outlined in the Dual Language Report issued by the Illinois Advisory Council for Bilingual Education report, including adopting comprehensive guidance for school districts on dual language programs, expanding dual language programs and more. |
| HB 3039 | Allows 7th or 8th grade students enrolled in a high school course to receive high school credits if the student passes the course and the end-of-course examination that is administered by the high school. |
| HB 3096 | Requires high schools to designate a member of their staff to serve as a point of contact for students, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Student Assistance Commission on matters concerning the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by the 2025-2026 school year. |
| HB 3097 | Requires school districts to provide support to high school students completing the FAFSA beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. |
| HB 3247 | Codifies a child's right to receive a public education and to participate in public school events and activities regardless of the child's immigration status or the immigration status of their parents or guardians. |
| HB 3377 | Requires all school districts to make annual reports to the State Board of Education on the spending of federal Title 1 funds for homeless students. |



Education (cont.)

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| HB 3500 | Specifies that all references to the ABLE program refer to the Illinois ABLE program, in compliance with the Statute on Statutes and the State Treasurer Act. |
| HB 3851 | Adds definitions for artificial intelligence, generative artificial intelligence and digital replica to the bullying prevention section of the School Code, and updates the definition of cyber bullying to include the posting or distribution of an unauthorized digital replica by electronic means. |
| SB 0028 | Removes the requirement that student growth components be included in teacher evaluations and instead gives each school district the choice to use student growth components in annual teacher evaluations. |
| SB 0071 | Requires the Illinois Emergency Management Agency-Office of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Illinois State Board of Education, to provide statewide guidance by Jan. 1, 2027 for schools on responding to hazardous substance incidents from storage or rail transport. |
| SB 0405 | Requires school counseling services to address the needs of all students, regardless of citizenship status. |
| SB 0406 | Requires the Department of Early Childhood to establish an Early Childhood Integrated Data System and develop public analytic portals to allow access to certain data. |
| SB 0407 | Creates the Chronic Absence Task Force within the Illinois State Board of Education to study chronic absenteeism and support the development of a state strategy to address ongoing challenges related to absenteeism among early childhood education and care programs and K-12 students. |
| SB 0408 | Allows a student's summary of performance, including IEP and special education information, to be added to their permanent record, with the option for the student or their parent or guardian to opt out. |
| SB 0409 | Allows private universities that are party to an agreement with the Department of Children and Family Services to participate in the Pat McGuire Child Welfare Education Fellowship Pilot Program. |
| SB 1231 | Gives school districts 14 days, rather than five days, to initiate an impartial due process hearing in response to a parent or guardian's request for an independent educational evaluation of their child. |
| SB 1329 | Allows the State Board of Education to share information regarding educator misconduct investigations with the current or most recent employer of the educator under investigation for an alleged act that constitutes a threat to the safety of students or sexual misconduct. |
| SB 1519 | Prohibits any person from issuing a fine or fee to a student as a disciplinary consequence for behavior during school, and requires school districts with a school resource officer to have a memorandum of understanding with their local law enforcement agency. |
| SB 1537 | Creates a regulatory framework for educational income share agreements and caps payments toward an educational income share agreement at 8% of a person's income. |
| SB 1555 | Adds the Secretary of Early Childhood as a member of the Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities. |
| SB 1583 | Allows the state superintendent of education to automatically designate a regional office of education or intermediate service center as a learning partner to assist under-performing schools with a "targeted," "comprehensive," or "intensive" designation. |
| SB 1584 | Permits the Illinois State Board of Education to make rules allowing for extensions to short-term approval teacher licenses if a teacher took family and medical leave during their short-term approval period. |
| SB 1605 | Requires school districts to pay agriculture teachers 100% of their regular pay rate for extra hours teaching agricultural education if the teacher works 400 hours or more beyond their regular teaching hours. |
| SB 1616 | Requires the State Board of Education to display on its website and distribute to schools a list of days during the school year that a portion of the student body may be absent for major school events due to cultural or religious observances. |



Education (cont.)

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| SB 1672 | Requires all school districts serving students in grades K-3 to report to the State Board of Education any early literacy screeners used by the district, the grade level of students being screened and the frequency at which early literacy screeners are administered to students. |
| SB 1740 | Establishes the School Code Mandate Reduction Council to streamline educational requirements by eliminating unnecessary or duplicative mandates, increasing administrative efficiency, giving local school districts more flexibility and removing outdated or irrelevant requirements. |
| SB 1799 | Clarifies what constitutes an “emergency situation” in which a school board may hire third-party non-instructional staff and outlines public hearing requirements for school boards entering into an emergency contract. |
| SB 1920 | Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to encourage school districts to compile educational materials about the benefits of American Sign Language and ways to incorporate instruction in K-8 curriculum, and requires ISBE to develop guidance on the use of AI in schools. |
| SB 1947 | Creates an expedited paraprofessional educator preparation program and updates out-of-state licensing reciprocity to ensure parity in teacher license testing, among other items. |
| SB 1983 | Modernizes policies for gifted students and advanced academic programs. |
| SB 2057 | Requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Illinois State Police, to provide school districts with guidelines outlining specific steps to be included in a school district's threat assessment procedures. |
| SB 2149 | Excludes the depreciation of assets funded by federal or donated funds from the school district's Capital Projects Fund, as well as assets paid for with private funds and donated to the school, when calculating the Per Capita Tuition Calculation. |

Energy

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| HB 1062 | Prioritizes anchor institutions in order to optimize existing broadband infrastructure and lay a foundation for expanding last mile infrastructure at a minimal cost. |
| HB 1866 | Makes various changes to the emergency telephone system. |
| HB 3374 | Extends the repeal of the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Coal Resources Development Law of 1997, which includes the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund and Energy Efficiency Trust Fund, until Dec. 31, 2030 |
| HB 3510 | Extends the deadline by which the Illinois Capital Development Board must adopt increasingly stringent stretch codes by one year each. |
| HB 3725 | Bans all local government utilities from sending back bills more than 12 months old for homes and 24 months for businesses, even if the city has home rule. |
| HB 3744 | Extends the time that a party must notify Illinois Emergency Management Agency that it is transporting irradiated reactor fuel from 24 hours prior to transport to 7 days. Gives IEMA the authority to take possession of, secure, and dispose of abandoned radioactive materials. |
| SB 2425 | Exempts generators of radionuclides materials with short half-lives that are not required to be disposed of as low-level radioactive waste from registering with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. |



Environment

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| HB 1538 | Allows the Bloomington and Normal Water Reclamation District to enter into agreements with private entities within 50 miles to sell or accept treated wastewater and acquire property needed to support these activities. |
| HB 1605 | Expands a conservation right to include preserving cultural heritage sites and provides that an owner of real property or holder of a conservation right may give a conservation right to a federally recognized Indian tribe and that such rights may be enforced in an action seeking injunctive relief. |
| HB 1699 | Establishes operator-in-training programs run by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for wastewater and community water-supply systems, allowing individuals without a high school diploma to work under certified operators if they meet certain competency, safety, character and examination requirements. |
| HB 2366 | Requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to adopt rules requiring electronic submission of any information submitted to the agency, with the rules taking effect no later than Jan. 1, 2030. |
| HB 2391 | Allows the use of treated municipal wastewater for industrial purposes. |
| HB 2419 | Expands the review of local siting of a pollution control facility. Provides that during a local siting appeal process, the governing body must conduct the hearing in a manner that is accessible to the public, including individuals with disabilities and individuals who are non-native English speakers. |
| HB 2516 | Bans the sale or distribution of certain consumer products containing intentionally added PFAS starting Jan. 1, 2032. |
| HB 2726 | Allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to take measures so that they may exercise all rights, powers and duties conferred by law to take measures that are necessary for the implementation of rewilding as a conservation strategy in Illinois. |
| HB 3098 | Adds home audio components and peripherals to the list of devices covered by Consumer Electronic Recycling Act. |
| HB 3290 | Requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to decide on UST Fund reimbursements within 120 days of receiving both a complete application and a completion report, as opposed to simply a receipt of application. |
| SB 1697 | Prohibits carbon dioxide pipelines from being constructed before the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration adopts final revisions to its pipeline safety rules and expands compensation for non-consenting pore space owners. |
| SB 1723 | Bans carbon sequestration projects in or near the Mahomet Aquifer. |
| SB 1859 | Creates the Climate Displacement Task Force to make recommendations regarding climate displacement within the state and submit an initial report to the General Assembly no later than June 30, 2026. |
| SB 2266 | Clarifies that the Illinois Environmental Protection Act applies to non-community water supplies, allowing the Illinois Department of Public Health to impose civil penalties against non-community water supplies that are violating drinking water standards. |
| SB 2314 | Allows the Department of Natural Resources to provide grants through the Healthy Forests, Wetlands, and Prairies Grant Program for the purpose of financing shoreline restoration and protection projects on behalf of counties and park districts. |
| SB 2466 | Defines the metrics used to determine a distressed community and distressed location for OSLAD grants. Sets funding floors and ceilings for grants directed at said communities and locations. |



Family

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| HB 2907 | Defines rights that parents involved with the Illinois child welfare system have. |
| SB 0027 | Changes the definition of “child” in a section of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act to match the rest of the law, clarifying the age by which child support must end. |

Health

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| HB 1287 | Requires nursing homes to have an automatic external defibrillator by Jan. 1, 2030. Requires all persons certified to use an AED to have completed course in CPR and AED usage. |
| HB 1332 | Requires hospitals to present a patient with the opportunity to designate an emergency contact, to authorize the hospital to share protected health information with that contact and to disclose death of a patient to emergency contact as soon as practicable. |
| HB 1431 | Requires hospitals to develop a policy to inform patients they may be charged a facility fee if they charge this fee for outpatient services separate and distinct from a professional fee. |
| HB 1697 | Requires a registered pharmacy benefit manager to submit \$15 per covered individual enrolled by the PBM in the state during the preceding calendar year. Creates a grant program under the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for disbursement by a statewide retail association for pharmacies. |
| HB 1712 | Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide training materials to staff on how to accurately complete a Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment form and support individuals in making informed end-of-life treatment decisions. |
| HB 1754 | Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide educational materials regarding alpha-gal syndrome data on its website, as well as undertake an education campaign for community members, local health departments and medical providers. |
| HB 1910 | Requires public libraries to have an accessible source of an opioid antagonist and take the necessary steps to have at least one employee who is trained on administering opioid antagonists during operating hours. |
| HB 2179 | Requires an assisted living establishment to report any incident or accident that results in significant physical harm or injury, including if it requires outside medical treatment to the Illinois Department of Public Health. |
| HB 2346 | Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to maintain and publish information on the names and locations of pharmacies participating in the Illinois Drug Reuse Opportunity Program, while creating educational awareness on the program for pharmacies and the general public. |
| HB 2387 | Gives the circuit court jurisdiction over individuals subject to involuntary admission on an outpatient basis until Jan. 1, 2030. Allows the court to grant the custodian the authority to consent to the admission of a respondent to a hospital if the respondent fails to comply with the conditions of the order, unless the respondent is charged with a felony |
| HB 2462 | Expands who can acquire an epipen. |
| HB 2548 | Prohibits the sale, promotion and distribution of sexual assault evidence collection kits by any person other than a medical professional. |
| HB 2551 | Reinstates the First Responders Task Force to study recommendations to reduce the risk and rate of suicide among first responders, while adding new members appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. |



Health (cont.)

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| HB 2589 | Requires pharmacists, based on their professional and clinical judgement, to sell sterile hypodermic syringes or needles, if they are in stock, to any qualifying individual who needs them for the proper utilization or administration of medications. |
| HB 2771 | Contains the 2025 Hospital Assessment update. Includes an increase to the hospital assessment tax to allow for increased payments to hospitals. |
| HB 2874 | Provides an exception to the prohibition of marketing, advertising, or labeling of any product containing ephedrine for stimulation, mental alertness, weight loss, appetite control, or energy. |
| HB 2877 | Requires the existing Hospice and Palliative Care Advisory Board to submit a report by Dec. 31, 2026 that includes data and recommendations regarding non-hospice palliative care. |
| HB 3214 | Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to study and report on entering a Medicare Part A Agreement. |
| HB 3327 | Requires hospitals to provide written information on the Early Intervention program to any parent or legal guardian whose child is admitted to the neonatal intensive care department, and for a staff member to initiate a referral to the EI program prior to discharging from the NICU. |
| HB 3328 | Requires establishments with Alzheimer and dementia programs to assess residents prior to admission using assessment tools that are approved and recommended by Alzheimer's and dementia care experts. |
| HB 3428 | Requires the Department of Public Health to provide nursing home providers and assisted living providers joint semiannual trainings with surveyors. |
| HB 3637 | Prohibits the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and health care institutions from taking disciplinary or non-disciplinary action against a person's medical license for providing health care to non-Illinois residents as long as the care provided is not unlawful under Illinois law. |
| HB 3645 | Requires all EMS in all municipalities to report overdoses to the Illinois Department of Public Health. |
| SB 0073 | Requires baby food manufacturers to test samples of final products for lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic on a monthly basis, disclose the results on their website and add a QR code to the results on the product labels. |
| SB 0119 | Requires a second syphilis test for pregnant individuals to be conducted between 27 and 32 weeks of pregnancy to ensure treatment can begin at least 30 days before delivery and expands which health care providers are authorized to administer the test. |
| SB 0188 | Allows mental health facilities in Rock Island to accept court-ordered involuntary inpatient admissions from the East Iowa Mental Health Region and vice versa. |
| SB 0189 | Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to permit design criteria in swimming facilities that include aquatic features, such as overhead systems or similar interactive equipment. |
| SB 0291 | Creates the One Health Commission to foster collaboration between physicians, veterinarians and other professionals in the handling of diseases and health risks. |
| SB 0593 | Creates the Health Care Workforce Commission to identify workforce shortages and make recommendations on how to address barriers to allow more people to join the health care workforce. |
| SB 0798 | Clarifies the definition of "non-clinical service areas" under the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act to include certain educational and support spaces in patient care units. |
| SB 1274 | Allows a sexual assault services voucher provided by hospital to be used for a taxi or rideshare service to transport a survivor home, to a shelter or to the transfer hospital, beginning Jan. 1, 2026. |
| SB 1602 | Updates definitions and provisions related to sexual assault treatment and evidence collection, and revises hospital requirements and penalties. |



Health (cont.)

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| SB 1814 | Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to educate the public and health professionals about amniotic fluid embolisms and publish information online, and requires IDPH to adopt rules that require local health departments to notify the public of any positive cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. |
| SB 2421 | Creates the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Program to provide inpatient psychiatric treatment services in a non-hospital setting for individuals under 21 who receive Medicaid benefits. |
| SB 2437 | Requires hospitals or birthing centers to adopt policies and procedures authorizing a patient enrolled in Medicaid to select an Illinois Medicaid-certified and enrolled doula. |

Higher Education

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| HB 0460 | Allows a student who is an Illinois resident to apply or receive consideration for any student aid or benefit funded or administered by the state, any agency, a unit of local government, or administered by any public institution of higher learning. |
| HB 1073 | Aims to help older students seeking to register full time at university, who may have difficulty locating their vaccination records from years prior. |
| HB 1149 | Requires any higher education institution offering at least one firefighter training course for credit to adopt a policy on granting academic credit for firefighter training. The credit must count toward a student's certificate or degree program. |
| HB 1859 | Prohibits a course, in lieu of a faculty member, from using artificial intelligence as the sole source of instruction for students. |
| HB 2967 | Requires school districts to seek agreements with local community colleges to facilitate the offering of dual credit courses to students. Sets forth provisions concerning the dual credit courses that may be offered, including instructor qualifications, class sizes, and course length. |
| HB 3011 | Provides each member of the board of trustees of a community college must take an oath of office before beginning their duties of office. The oath must be administered by someone authorized under state law to administer oaths and it must be made part of the community college official records. |
| HB 3300 | Establishes reporting requirements for the Illinois Board of Higher Education and public universities regarding low-performance higher education programs, and clarifies IBHE's ability to accept gifts, grants and legacies. |
| HB 3385 | Adds member requirements for mental health expert panels at public universities and colleges, and requires institutions to make available at least three mental health service providers. |
| HB 3522 | Establishes a direct admissions program into Illinois universities for high school and community college students. |
| HB 3528 | Provides that higher education institutions cannot establish or maintain any policy requiring student teachers for preservice teachers to be unpaid. |
| SB 1310 | Allows Western Illinois University's Board of Trustees to borrow money from the WIU Foundation or any financial institution, so long as the money is repaid within five years. |
| SB 1376 | Requires both public and private higher education institutions to post their cost of attendance on their website each year. |
| SB 1475 | Establishes a \$500 per semester scholarship for student members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and Illinois Community College Board. |



Higher Education (cont.)

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| SB 1928 | Requires each higher education institution to conduct a sexual misconduct climate survey of all students every two years and requires the Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys to meet and recommend updates to the base survey. |
| SB 1958 | Requires state universities and community colleges to enter into articulation agreements to facilitate course credit transfers and establishes parameters for what the agreements must include. |
| SB 2039 | Requires the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Community College Board and Student Assistance Commission to annually publish a Statewide Data Dashboard for each public and private institution of higher education in the state. |

Housing

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| HB 3566 | Prohibits minors from being named as a defendants on an eviction action. |
| HB 3616 | Requires the Illinois Housing Development Authority to collect data on the available inventory of affordable housing in local governments to better analyze the need for affordable housing development. |

Human Services

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| HB 0057 | Updates the Essential Support Person Act to include community-integrated living arrangements so residents there have the same visitation rights, and makes the Department of Human Services the lead agency for those settings. |
| HB 0871 | Prohibits placement of a child in a foster or adoptive home with an individual with a record of human trafficking or sex trafficking. |
| HB 1168 | Exempts certain children's programs offered by arboretums from being considered day care centers. |
| HB 1597 | Prohibits involuntary termination of residency for medical reasons at an assisted living facility or nursing home if a hospitalized resident's return to a facility would not create imminent danger to the resident or others, or if the danger can be mitigated by changes in a care plan. |
| HB 2418 | Creates the Commission on Youth Sports in the Illinois Department of Human Services. Requires the commission to submit a report regarding its findings, research and recommendations to the governor, General Assembly, and DHS on or before Dec. 31, 2025, and each year thereafter. |
| HB 2682 | Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to implement the federal Family Violence Option when making determinations to an individual's compliance with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. |
| HB 2774 | Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to be responsible for a 24-hour state-wide domestic violence hotline to provide access to information and referrals for domestic violence services. Requires DHS to work with a non-profit agency or organization to design, implement, support and coordinate the domestic violence Hotline system. |
| HB 3160 | Requires the Department of Human Services to annually provide each provider of home and community-based services a rate sheet for each client. |
| HB 3444 | Makes technical changes clarifying that day care homes and group day care homes serving children of military personnel must meet all requirements to be exempt from licensure by Department of Children and Family Services. |



Human Services (cont.)

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| HB 3446 | Requires the Department of Early Childhood publish to regularly update a comprehensive list of college courses that fulfill the qualifications required for becoming an early childhood teacher or director. |
| HB 3718 | Allows for consideration of the severity of an accused offense in determining care staff and administrative leave penalties. |
| HB 3761 | Requires the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness within Illinois Department of Human Services to make available resources to assist health care providers with connecting a patient experiencing homelessness on its website. |
| SB 0031 | Makes technical changes to the state's Juvenile Court Act to ensure youth placed in Department of Children and Family Services care under delinquency cases are referenced in the appropriate sections related to permanency hearings. |
| SB 0032 | Allows for a household with a veteran or member of the Armed Forces to qualify for SNAP benefits if the household's gross income meets income eligibility. |
| SB 0324 | Removes language from state law referring to Family Support Program services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services when a minor is left at a psychiatric hospital beyond medical necessity. |
| SB 1261 | Requires the Illinois Housing Development Authority to make various home ownership programs available to homeowners and buyers who are seeking to purchase property owned by a community land trust. Recreates the Community Land Trust Task Force. |
| SB 1560 | Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to establish and offer a voluntary training to hospital social workers, clinicians and administrators regarding the new BEACON behavioral health portal, and requires school districts to offer mental health screenings to students in grades 3-12 beginning with the 2027-28 school year. |
| SB 1774 | Repeals two duplicative subsections of the Public Aid code regarding the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. |

Insurance

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| HB 1141 | Requires private insurers and all state group health plans to cover medically necessary anesthesia services, regardless of duration, for any procedure covered by the policy. |
| HB 1331 | Allows the Department of Insurance to consider establishing network adequacy ratios for providers of genetic medicine and genetic counseling. |
| HB 1577 | Adds student health insurance coverage to the list of exempted health plans that are not required to offer coverage to a parent or step parent of the insured if the plan also provides coverage for dependents. |
| HB 1864 | Creates exemptions for dental care providers having to submit claims electronically. Requires every dental plan carrier to establish an eligibility and benefit verification portal that must include current and accurate real-time benefit eligibility and benefit information. |
| HB 1865 | Makes it an unfair or deceptive act to solicit an individual who is a resident of a nursing home or long-term care facility or an individual who is over the age of 65 to purchase accident and health insurance. |



Insurance (cont.)

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| HB 2425 | Prohibits a company when issuing life insurance final expense policies from refusing to insure, limiting the amount, extent, or kind of coverage available, or charging an individual a different rate for the same coverage solely on the basis that an insured or applicant has been convicted of a felony. |
| HB 2464 | Provides that as long as a nonparticipating provider bills neonatal intensive care as an emergency service, the insured cannot incur greater out-of-pocket costs than they would have incurred with a participating provider or facility. |
| HB 2785 | Requires health insurance issuers to approve charges for nonparticipating ground ambulance services providers at a recognized amount with cost-sharing limitations. |
| HB 3019 | Prohibits prior authorization for medically necessary outpatient and partial hospitalization mental health treatment services. Requires private insurers to reimburse individuals for travel costs. |
| HB 3248 | Requires all state employee health plans, Medicaid, and private insurance plans to cover medically necessary laser hair removal if the procedure is a prescribed medical treatment in accordance with generally accepted standards of medical care. |
| HB 3677 | Provides that a person who sells complex rehabilitation technology should be accredited and employ a qualified technology professional capable of servicing and repairing all complex rehabilitation technology it sells. |
| HB 3756 | Allows an uninsured individual to enroll in health insurance through the state's health insurance exchange outside of the open enrollment period if the individual requested information through the easy enrollment program. |
| HB 3796 | Provides that coverage of an ongoing course of treatment must continue for 90 days after a provider has been terminated from in-network coverage as long as an appointment has been scheduled prior to the notification of provider termination. |
| HB 3800 | Makes various technical changes in laws pertaining to the Illinois Department of Insurance. |
| HB 3849 | Allows an authorized employee of a hospice organization to pick up and deliver a patient's prescription, including controlled substances. |
| SB 0069 | Requires group and individual health insurance plans to cover medically necessary services that incorporate equine movement as part of a therapeutic intervention. |
| SB 0126 | Requires all state and private health insurance plans to cover all medically necessary FDA-approved treatments and medications prescribed to slow the progression of Alzheimer's. |
| SB 0175 | Requires all state health plans, Medicaid and private insurers to cover a karyotype test or related hormone testing to diagnose Klinefelter syndrome, beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2027. |
| SB 1238 | Requires health insurance providers to develop a plan for providing adequate coverage and access to non-opioid, non-narcotic and non-medication pain management services, as an alternative to opioid and narcotic prescription drugs. |
| SB 1289 | Removes current provisions that would require, for purposes of group insurance, each individual group member be treated as a separate surplus insurance line if the group members pay 100% of the premium from their own funds. |
| SB 1346 | Adds to the information a health care plan is required to provide enrollees or prospective enrollees, upon request, any newly enacted state law or administrative rule. |
| SB 1392 | Allows insured individuals to assign dental insurance benefits to providers and requires insurers to pay assigned claims directly to those providers. |
| SB 1418 | Requires every insurance plan to cover a peripheral artery disease screening test for any at-risk individual at least once every 12 months. |



Labor

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| HB 0079 | Provides that annuitants participating in the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Plan can work as a school security guard up to 999 hours annually without entering participating employee status. |
| HB 1189 | Expands coverage of the state prevailing wage provisions to include all federal construction projects administered or controlled by a public body where the state prevailing wages is equal to or greater than the prevailing wage by the federal government. |
| HB 1278 | Prohibits an employer from retaliating in any way against an employee if the employee used employer-issued equipment to record a crime of violence committed against the employee. |
| HB 1362 | Changes "work day" for compensation purposes regarding service members, allows public employees to receive compensation for paid active duty and changes how public employee service members receive differential pay. |
| HB 1586 | Codifies existing merit-based personnel standards that were in effect on Jan. 1, 2025 in the event those standards are eliminated at the federal level. |
| HB 1616 | Allows part-time employees of local governments, board of election commissioners, or private employers with 51 or more employees to use up to 10 days of leave in any 12-month period to serve as an organ donor. |
| HB 2327 | Creates an exemption for minors 14 and up as it relates to them working as a scorer at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex on the dates of the US Open and the Grand American World Trapshooting Championships. |
| HB 2409 | Phases out the sale of firefighting personal protective clothing and equipment containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals in the state, beginning with mandatory disclosure for clothing in 2026, progressing to a ban on clothing in 2027, and culminating a ban on both the clothing and equipment in 2030. |
| HB 2488 | Requires businesses to submit mandated compliance statements to the director of the Illinois Department of Labor whether or not they are required to file an annual Employer Information Report EEO 1 with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. |
| HB 2978 | Creates the Neonatal Intensive Care Leave Act to provide unpaid leave for an employee if that employee's child is a patient in a neonatal intensive care unit. |
| HB 2987 | Requires warehouse operators to prepare a tornado safety plan for each warehouse they operate, specific to each warehouse, and update it at least once per year or upon any significant change to the operations of the warehouse. |
| HB 3046 | Provides that nothing prevents parties to a collective bargaining agreement subject to the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act from agreeing to a provision that enhances employee rights. |
| HB 3094 | Makes changes to the Transportation Benefits Program to exempt employers in the construction industry with respect to their collective bargaining agreements with construction employees, and to expand the scope of the Act to benefit part-time and full-time employees. |
| HB 3200 | Expands the pool of medical workers that can determine someone's physical eligibility to work from just licensed physicians to also include licensed and practicing nurse practitioners and licensed and practicing physician assistants. |
| HB 3309 | Requires employers to provide state labor organizations with a copy of the information provided to exclusive representatives. |
| HB 3638 | Updates the definition of "unlawful employment practice" to mean any practice made unlawful under state and federal employment discrimination and harassment. |



Labor (cont.)

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| SB 0067 | Changes penalties for violations of the Nurse Agency Licensing Act, allowing fines of up to \$10,000 per occurrence and applying penalties to any violator, not just licensees or applicants. |
| SB 0212 | Requires employers to provide paid break time to nursing mothers so they may express or "pump" breast milk for their child. |
| SB 0220 | Requires employers to provide an employee who is a veteran of the United States military up to eight hours of paid leave per calendar month to participate in military funeral honors. |
| SB 0453 | Allows potential collective bargaining units of any size, rather than just those with fewer than 35 employees, to access issue arbitration following an impasse for the purposes of establishing an initial collective bargaining after a bargaining unit's certification. |
| SB 1344 | Adds sewer inspections using closed-circuit television to the types of public works covered under the state's Prevailing Wage Act. Authorizes the Department of Labor to impose penalties on contractors, subcontractors or their agents for failing to file certified payroll. |
| SB 1701 | Changes the definition of who can be considered a "supervisor" for county and city police officers for collective bargaining purposes. |
| SB 1976 | Establishes the Workers' Rights and Worker Safety Act, preventing state agencies from weakening worker protections below federal standards. |
| SB 2164 | Provides that a decision issued by the Department of Labor requiring an employer to pay wages, penalties, or other amounts in connection with a wage claim must be a debt due and owed to the state. |
| SB 2175 | Includes an employee's probationary separation, appointment, and leave for veterans medical appointments for the purposes of determining seniority in the CMS and guarantees veteran employees four days per year of leave to receive medical care at any type of medical facility. |

Licensed Activities

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| HB 1270 | Allows licensed health care professionals to place their existing license on "volunteer status," rather than receiving a separate volunteer license, allowing them to provide care at free clinics without added costs for the state. |
| HB 1365 | Allows individuals to practice with a pending license application in the fields of clinical psychology, clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, music therapy and clinical professional counseling. |
| HB 2459 | Changes licensing requirements for Certified Public Accountants by offering alternative education and experience pathways. Eliminates an undefined requirement of 30 credit hour. Allows out-of-state licensed CPAs to practice in Illinois. |
| HB 2517 | Expands implicit bias training for health care workers in Illinois to include training in potential maternal health risk factors associated with marginalized with increased mortality rate. |
| HB 2688 | States that written collaborative agreements cannot prohibit a certified nurse midwife from providing home birthing services. Allows physicians to collaborate with certified nurse midwives in maternity care deserts. |
| HB 3360 | Clarifies that anyone referring to themselves as a veterinary technician or any variation of that title must be licensed with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. |
| HB 3373 | Allows persons licensed under the Clinical Psychologist Act may sit for their first qualification exam before completing two years of post doctorate experience upon graduating from university. |



Licensed Activities (cont.)

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| HB 3435 | Allows a state-licensed health or mental health professional with a valid license from another state who is operating under the American Red Cross to practice in Illinois under the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act. |
| HB 3487 | Requires for the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to request demographic information, that one may voluntarily provide, for applications and renewals. |
| HB 3850 | Allows simulation training provided by an approved sponsor to count toward a licensed health care professional's continuing education requirement. |
| SB 1325 | Adds two members to the state's Board of Dentistry to include one licensed in moderate sedation and one licensed in deep sedation and general anesthesia. |
| SB 1463 | Allows license-pending dentists or dental hygienists to practice under the supervision of a licensed dentist as long as the individual has submitted an application, passed the licensure exam and paid the required fee. |
| SB 2153 | Allows a licensed physical therapist to perform an initial physical exam via telehealth only if a patient has a referral or diagnosis, is an established patient, or the physical therapist has the capacity to provide in-person care at any time during the course of treatment. |
| SB 2154 | Provides that the practice of cosmetology and esthetics includes the use of superficial exfoliants, microdermabrasion, hydrodermabrasion and dermaplaning for cosmetic or beautifying purposes so long as the technique or practice is not intended to affect living layers of the skin. |
| SB 2431 | Sets higher degrees of safety regarding explosives usage – including blasting agents, black powder, detonators and display fireworks – and sets up ways to intervene when issues arise. |
| SB 2469 | Extends the deadline for veterinarians to comply with the electronic prescribing requirement for controlled substances. |
| SB 2492 | Extends the end date of the Illinois Dental Practice Act, which sets rules pertaining to dentists and quality of care, to Jan. 1, 2031. |
| SB 2493 | Extends the end date of the Professional Geologist Licensing Act, which regulates the practice of geology in the state, to Jan. 1, 2031. |
| SB 2494 | Extends the end date of the Respiratory Care Practice Act, which sets requirements for individuals seeking to become a licensed respiratory care practitioner, to Jan. 1, 2031. Includes technical changes to the Illinois Athletic Trainers Practice Act. |
| SB 2495 | Extends the end date of the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act, which sets practice and licensing requirements for professionals in these fields, to Jan. 1, 2031. |
| SB 2496 | Extends the end date of the Illinois Physical Therapy Act, which regulates the practice and licensing of physical therapists, to Jan. 1, 2031. |
| SB 2503 | Extends the Illinois Roofing Industry Licensing Act to Jan. 1, 2031. Adds a definition for email address of record. Makes various changes to gender specific language. |

Local Government

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| HB 0032 | Clarifies the duties of a deputy who is temporarily appointed to fill an office vacancy at the township level. |
| HB 0042 | Allows library boards to offer nonresident library access fees on a quarterly or biannual basis, instead of annually. |



Local Government (cont.)

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| HB 0663 | Allows the Southeast Joliet Sanitary District to be dissolved and its assets, debts and responsibilities transferred to the City of Joliet, with any unneeded assets going to Will County. |
| HB 1082 | States that municipalities under 1,000 residents without debt or utility ownership will only need to file an annual financial report, while those with debt or utilities must also complete an audit every four years. |
| HB 1158 | Provides that bonds, notes or other forms of indebtedness for specific purposes can be issued periodically in an amount not to exceed \$250,000,000 in any single budget year. |
| HB 1367 | Makes various changes in the rules surrounding township holdings and conveyances of open spaces. |
| HB 1575 | Prohibits a county recorder from assessing a fee for modification of an unlawful restrictive covenant or for copies of any records necessary to file the modification. |
| HB 1615 | Permits the United States national flag to be displayed on the grounds of a courthouse, rather than only on top of the courthouse. |
| HB 1842 | Expands the powers and duties of hearing officers to include entering orders prohibiting further code violations or compelling the remediation of existing code violations within a specified time and authorizing the municipality to take all necessary steps to remediate code violations. |
| HB 1908 | Empowers the executive director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, with board approval, to appoint a deputy executive director under their supervision. Requires the deputy to be selected solely on administrative and technical qualifications, irrespective of political affiliation. |
| HB 2139 | Modernizes how America's Central Port District operates by expanding borrowing options, updating board voting rules, simplifying financial procedures and requiring independent audits. |
| HB 2142 | Allows the creation of an emergency services district for ambulance services within a fire protection district that already provides ambulance service, and provides the fire district ceases its tax levy for such services. |
| HB 2155 | Requires the Bethalto Community School District of Madison County to prepare and deliver a quitclaim deed that releases all covenants, conditions and restrictions recorded as a lien against certain real property. |
| HB 2336 | Allows municipalities and fire protection districts to charge fees for lift-assist services provided to assisted living or nursing home facilities after the sixth lift-assist of the year. |
| HB 2977 | Requires municipalities with populations over 500,000 to set aside 10% of the funds received from insurers for ambulance or fire services into a dedicated account, used to purchase and maintain emergency service vehicles. |
| HB 3141 | Requires all water mains, fire hydrants, and related appurtenances owned by a public water supply and located in public rights-of-way or utility easements be included in the agency's written approval for installation projects. |
| HB 3238 | States that in a district comprised of a single township, a portion (not exceeding 50%) of the highway commissioner's salary may be paid from both the corporate road and bridge fund and the permanent road fund if approved by the township board and the highway commissioner. |
| HB 3842 | Provides that the Cook County township may use the special police district funds levied to pay for contracted police services. |
| SB 0637 | Allows Brookfield Zoo to sublease or license up to 15 acres of land within its boundaries for recreational use to gain revenue in support of the zoo's mission. |
| SB 1241 | Allows a township supervisor to appoint cemetery board members and approve their bond if the township lacks a collector. |



Local Government (cont.)

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| SB 1348 | Creates a two-tier fee structure allowing the Cook County Sheriff to charge different rates for in-person and electronic filings for service and return of process. |
| SB 1380 | Allows a state agency or local government to establish, by rule or ordinance, a permitting process for counties or municipalities to use utility poles and rights-of-way for public safety purposes at cost-based rates. |
| SB 1422 | Allows the Department of Human Services, a local government or a law enforcement agency to oversee and enforce compliance with employer-mandated training on recognizing and reporting human trafficking. |
| SB 1523 | Requires county recorders to establish a fraud referral and review process to review deeds and other instruments and a fraud alert system to notify property owners when a deed or instrument has been filed on their property. |
| SB 1550 | Expands the scope of state library grants to include planning, construction and security improvements for library systems and public libraries. |
| SB 1612 | Raises the minimum bid threshold triggering a competitive bidding process from \$30,000 to \$60,000 for all park districts, forest preserve districts and conservation districts in the state. |
| SB 1742 | Requires the installation of safety measures including parapets and weight-load requirements on low-sloped roofs and mandates municipalities to conduct surveys of low-sloped roofs and share the results with local police and fire departments. |
| SB 1827 | Clarifies that simply having performed work for a unit of government in the past does not disqualify a design-build firm from seeking another contract opportunity for a different project. Allows a unit of government to move forward with a design-build contract even if there was only one respondent. |
| SB 1953 | States that no law enforcement agency can make an offer of employment to any officer without requiring a signed release from the applicant, directing all previous employers to provide all of his or her employment records. |
| SB 2044 | Allows a county, town or municipality to permit a person to sign any document using a web-based signature, provided that the respective county, town or municipality uses a secure web-based platform. |
| SB 2253 | Improves project delivery, improve efficiency, and lower costs for the Illinois Department of Transportation through land acquisition. |
| SB 2303 | Increases the maximum penalty for anyone offering unlicensed fire sprinkler contractor or inspector services from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Also creates new fines for second and subsequent offenses. |
| SB 2500 | Extends the implementation deadline for the Community Emergency Services and Support Act to July 1, 2027 and sets three deadline dates to achieve full implementation. |

Pensions

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| HB 1648 | Allows retired downstate firefighters to direct in writing that a monthly benefit payment be made to an association/organization they are affiliated with by virtue of their fire service, or, for hospitalization insurance purposes. |
| HB 3193 | Makes changes to the Illinois Pension Code, opens service credit transfers between various systems/funds, and includes technical cleanup language requested by different systems. |



Pensions (cont.)

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| HB 3657 | Increases the benefits of Tier 2 Chicago Police and Fire by providing an alternate final average salary calculation, increasing the pensionable salary cap to \$141,407.74 and then henceforth increasing it annually by the lesser of 3% or CPI. |
| SB 1752 | Allows the Chicago Municipal Pension Fund Board to reproduce its records through photography, microfilming or digital means and recognizes these reproductions as original records for all legal and administrative purposes. |

Public Safety

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| HB 3050 | Extends the length of a permit for construction or alteration of a swimming facility from one year to two years. |
| HB 3087 | Requires manufacturers of products containing methamphetamine precursors to pay a monthly fee for the maintenance of the Central Repository tracking system and allows the Central Repository to set said fees. |
| SB 0024 | Requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies for investigating, reporting and following up on missing person cases, and to enter reports into the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System; prohibits agencies from requiring a waiting period before accepting a missing person report. |
| SB 0224 | Requires water main installation projects to include fire hydrants and valves as part of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's approval process for public water supply plans. |
| SB 0784 | Allows public safety agencies in Illinois to assist agencies in neighboring states during disasters like fires, floods or earthquakes. |
| SB 1594 | Changes the name of the Emergency Medical Disaster Plan to the Public Health and Emergency Medical Plan to clarify that public health entities can utilize this plan without needing an official disaster declaration. |
| SB 1793 | Expands the definition of "scattering areas" to allow for cremated remains to be scattered in Illinois rivers in limited scenarios. |
| SB 1899 | Provides that First Time Weapon Offense diversion program participants can apply for a FOID card after receiving a court order demonstrating completion of the diversion program. |

Revenue and Taxes

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| HB 2755 | Contains the 2025 Revenue Omnibus. |
| HB 3662 | Extends the TIF for 10 TIF Districts. |

State Government

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| HB 1224 | Permits state agencies to retain a percentage of payment due to a contractor or subcontractor if the contractor or subcontractor is not progressing on a project. Upon completion of the project, the agency must pay the contractor or subcontractor the money that was retained during the project. |
| HB 1364 | Extends the expiration date of the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority by five years. |
| HB 1430 | Allows the state treasurer to cover the refinancing of student loans and prohibits the treasurer from entering into income-share agreements with students. |



State Government (cont.)

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| HB 1447 | Clarifies that direct deposit payments or electronic fund transfers from the State Treasury may be made without a warrant allowing payments to be made electronically. |
| HB 1576 | Modernizes the Court of Claims by providing consistency in electronic filing and remote participation. |
| HB 1631 | Clarifies the scope of the Illinois Department of Innovative Technology's authority by updating definitions. Allows DoIT and the Secretary of State to give guidance on the use of electronic records and electronic signatures. |
| HB 1715 | Removes the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services' authority to establish its own law enforcement division. |
| HB 1806 | Provides guidelines for professionals who use artificial intelligence in wellness psychological practice. Requires services provided to only be delivered by qualified, licensed, or certified professionals and prohibits the use of AI to make therapeutic decisions, detect a patient's mental state, or make recommendations for treatment plans. |
| HB 2397 | Requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to prepare and publish an annual report regarding the department's hospice and palliative care programs. |
| HB 2436 | Expands the jurisdiction of the Cook County Public Defender to represent non-citizen, Cook County residents in immigration cases outside of the county. Allows a county board to authorize representation by the public defender beyond those limits. |
| HB 2667 | Changes the process used to adopt "required" or "internal" administrative rules for the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. Requires these rules to go through a 14-day public notice and comment period. |
| HB 2772 | Expands the definition of "facility" to include stadiums and arenas for other professional sports, not just football and basketball. Prohibits unlawful discrimination with respect to activities and programs offered at facilities. |
| HB 2983 | Allows the Secretary of State to administer driver's license written exams online, among other items. |
| HB 3078 | Allows the Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General to share unredacted investigative reports, raw data, or death reports with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Removes witness requirement for a signature to access one's records to attest the identity of a person giving consent to release one's mental health records. |
| HB 3095 | Requires regional authorities under the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission to consist of seven to nine members and establishes that a majority of appointed members constitutes a quorum. |
| HB 3140 | Establishes the Police K-9 Care Program and Police K-9 Care Fund to ensure that retired police dogs receive veterinary care. |
| HB 3144 | Prohibits people from posting personal information about administrative law judges if they have requested the information be removed from the public displays. |
| HB 3176 | Requires restrictions on gaming operations to be included in any land management agreement between the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for purposes of operating the Shabbona Lake and State Park. |
| HB 3178 | Makes various changes and clarifications to the Digital Voice and Likeness Protection Act to bring Illinois into parity with California's law including what is deemed an unenforceable agreement involving digital replicas. |
| HB 3187 | Streamlines operations at the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity by eliminating outdated duties, expanding digital equity grant eligibility, reallocating idle funds for energy assistance and repealing obsolete programs to enhance fiscal responsibility across state government. |



State Government (cont.)

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| HB 3339 | Clarifies that images from automated license plate readers used and collected by the Illinois State Police are exempt from FOIA. |
| HB 3363 | Creates the State Public Defender Act, which establishes the Office of the State Public Defender as an independent agency within the state's judicial branch. |
| HB 3467 | Updates state bank and thrift chartering laws by eliminating inconsistencies between the laws, federal law, and interpretive letters from the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation. |
| HB 3493 | Strengthens regulations regarding local management or ordinances regarding state facilities and wastewater management systems. |
| SB 0058 | Allows the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to enter into grants, contracts or other agreements to provide technical support to regional manufacturing partnerships with employer association representation, secondary and post-secondary institutions and workforce stakeholders. |
| SB 0100 | Requires the Illinois Gaming Board to allow sworn law enforcement personnel employed by the board who retire in good standing to keep their previously issued board identification cards so long as it indicates the retirement. |
| SB 0106 | Allows the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to partner with outside entities for up to two years to score and evaluate grant applications; allows the issuance of grants to local government agencies, nonprofits and community-based organizations for criminal justice and public safety programs. |
| SB 0246 | Allows the State Treasurer's Office to establish a nonprofit investment pool and an electronic payment processing program for 501(c) organizations. |
| SB 0711 | Establishes updated training, licensure and instructional requirements for EMS personnel and programs, and requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to explore bridge programs between EMS and nursing careers. |
| SB 1173 | Prohibits notaries from charging a fee to notarize the Driver Services Homeless Status Certification Form for homeless individuals. |
| SB 1195 | Requires trauma-informed programs, procedures and practices to be included in police training, as well as training on identifying and addressing conflicts of interest between an officer and the victim or accused during an investigation. |
| SB 1230 | Requires the Capital Development Board to submit an annual report to the General Assembly and governor on all upcoming and proposed projects under their supervision. |
| SB 1265 | Changes the date by which the Office of the Attorney General must submit its annual report on investigations and complaints under the Illinois Environmental Barriers Act from July 31 to Jan. 31 starting in 2026. |
| SB 1295 | Requires all 911 telecommunicators and emergency medical dispatchers to be trained in telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation beginning Jan. 1, 2026. |
| SB 1301 | Requires financial institutions to have a current satisfactory or outstanding rating under the Illinois Community Reinvestment Act to be eligible to receive deposits of state or public funds. |
| SB 1339 | Renames the visitor center at Giant City State Park as the Bob Kristoff Visitor Center Park and the arena at Giant City Stables as the Richard A. Kelley Arena. |
| SB 1343 | Authorizes the Department of Central Management Services to grant and accept easements on properties it owns, operates or maintains. Removes the James. R. Thompson Center from the list of properties owned by CMS and adds 115 S. LaSalle St., Chicago to the list. |
| SB 1441 | Creates a 120-day enrollment period for new employees to enroll in the Secure Choice Savings Program, clarifies that enrollees are permitted have a traditional and a Roth IRA and authorizes the Secure Choice Savings Board to enter agreements with other states to achieve cost savings. |



State Government (cont.)

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| SB 1446 | Requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal to track and record the cause of death for all firefighters in Illinois. |
| SB 1491 | Requires the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to create a training course and certification program for certified therapy dog teams specializing in crisis and emergency response. |
| SB 1504 | Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to make reasonable efforts to develop youth-driven transition plans for each youth in care age 15 and over. |
| SB 1548 | Requires the Illinois State Police to create a Golden Search Awareness Program to raise awareness of missing persons with developmental disabilities and establishes the Golden Search Task Force to develop the program and create a toolkit to raise awareness. |
| SB 1607 | Creates the Illinois Freedom Trails Commission within the Department of Natural Resources to explore, research and commemorate the journeys of freedom seekers in Illinois. |
| SB 1614 | Allows the Secretary of State to maintain a cash fund of \$1,000 solely for the purpose of making change at any state motor facility. |
| SB 1675 | Makes technical clean-up changes to the Illinois Code of Military Justice. |
| SB 1764 | Updates state law to reflect current trainings required by Illinois State Police officers. |
| SB 1884 | Allows the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to consider relevant work experience when evaluating candidates for state positions if the Department determines that the experience is equivalent to a college degree and is appropriate. |
| SB 2002 | Consolidates various Illinois State Police funds. |
| SB 2108 | Transfers enforcement responsibilities of transporting hazardous materials from the Department of Transportation to the Illinois State Police effective Oct. 1, 2025 and administrative responsibilities to the Illinois State Police effective Jan. 1, 2026. |
| SB 2194 | Requires the "lead entity" of the 2-1-1 service to provide the DHS a report that includes information but is not limited to, caller data, referrals made and service outcomes, service referral gaps, service providers, coverage rates, and trends. |
| SB 2215 | Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide information for physicians on ovarian reserve testing to distribute to women over 25 concerning fertility options and adds a definition for "health care professional." |
| SB 2280 | Requires report from The Office of Firearm Violence Prevention to be submitted annually, rather than by Jan. 1 of each year. |
| SB 2351 | Clarifies the definition of an auction and creates new definitions for different types of auctions. Adds that auctions would require the involvement of a licensed auctioneer. |
| SB 2394 | Corrects issues the Legislative Reference Bureau faces that have arisen due to multiple amendments and enactments, and it makes technical corrections and revisions. |
| SB 2408 | Assists the Illinois Emergency Management Agency by clarifying the requirements for mutual aid and Mobile Support Teams. |
| SB 2456 | Sunset omnibus legislation that extends the repeal date of various Acts. |
| SB 2463 | Bans cash bonds for drilling, sets tiered bond rates by well count, and defines conditions for bond release by the Department of Natural Resources. |
| SB 2506 | Changes the composition of the Task Force on Interjurisdictional Industrial Zoning Impacts by removing two members and adding two members who are zoning and land use attorneys. |



Transportation

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| HB 1120 | Eliminates the unused blood type section on Illinois driver's licenses, since it's not relied on by emergency responders. |
| HB 1226 | Raises the age for mandatory in-person driver's license renewal from 75 to 78. Requires individuals aged 87 and older, as well as those aged 75 and older with a commercial driver's license, to complete an in-person driving test to demonstrate their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. |
| HB 1502 | Allows the Illinois State Police to issue the violation of stopping within one-half mile of O'Hare to the lessee of a vehicle and gives the State Police authority and oversight of automated traffic systems within one-half mile of O'Hare. |
| HB 1821 | Requires the Illinois Department of Transportation to adopt rules setting standards for registering signs and allows individuals to appeal decisions they are aggrieved by. |
| HB 2359 | Allows the Secretary of State to issue special registration plates to an emergency medical services chief. |
| HB 2362 | Allows the Secretary of State to issue special registration plates to residents of the state who have been awarded the Air Medal by the United States Armed Forces. |
| HB 2386 | Allows the Secretary of State to issue special registration plates registered as Armed Forces Expeditionary license plates to residents of Illinois who have been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in the US Armed Forces. |
| HB 2442 | Allows vehicles used by a local or county emergency management services agency, when responding to a bona fide emergency and when in used in combination with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights, to install and operate a traffic control signal preemption device. |
| HB 2675 | States that if a crossing is controlled by an official traffic control device or sign, there is no need for crossing signage, and that if there is a known emergency or hazard, the authority having maintenance jurisdiction over publicly owned bicycle trails must erect signage or other warning markers. |
| HB 3125 | Allows the time that an individual holds a temporary visitor's driver's license to count toward the requirements to obtain a driving instructor's license. |
| HB 3177 | Increases the budget cap for design-build projects to \$500 million on annually programmed projects. Allows IDOT to increase threshold annually based on inflation and removes provisions that limit project delivered by the construction manager/general contractor method to two transportation facilities. |
| HB 3388 | Changes the definition of a fire department vehicle to include any recreational off-highway vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, watercraft, aircraft that is designed or authorized by proper local authorities for fire department use. |
| SB 0191 | Requires school buses purchased or leased after Jan. 1, 2027 to provide three-point harness safety seat belts on all seats. |
| SB 0849 | Changes the period of time that a restricted farm-related service industry commercial driver's license is available from 180 days to 210 days in any 12-month period. |
| SB 0851 | Expands permitted school district uses of multifunction school activity buses to include transporting students to colleges and universities, student job development programs and experiences that contribute to college or career readiness. |
| SB 0852 | Clarifies that after July 1, 2025, failure to appear suspensions will no longer be issued for minor traffic offenses and ones issued between Jan. 1, 2020 and June 30, 2025 will be rescinded if the offense is punishable by fine only. |



Transportation (cont.)

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| SB 1158 | Allows the Illinois Secretary of State to issue special fire chief license plates. |
| SB 1160 | Allows United Nations Protection Force license plates to be issued to residents who served in the United Nations Protection Force in Somalia, Panama or Grenada. |
| SB 1249 | Permits non-Illinois resident public safety workers to operate emergency vehicles in the state if they hold a license equivalent to an Illinois CDL. |
| SB 1256 | Requires individuals with permanent disabilities to recertify their status with the Secretary of State's office every five years with a certified statement from a licensed medical professional or physical therapist to maintain their license plate or parking placard. |
| SB 1467 | Expands protections for driver information and vehicle records, among other items. |
| SB 1507 | Requires the University of Illinois Chicago's Urban Transportation Center to review and study crash data and risky driving patterns on North and South DuSable Lake Shore Drive, including the potential effectiveness of artificial intelligence cameras in reducing crashes and fatalities. |
| SB 1559 | Outlines new information the Illinois Department of Transportation must include in pedestrian fatality studies, including trends associated with fatal or serious injury traffic crash outcomes and potential actions that could increase traffic safety. |
| SB 1883 | Provides that no person shall affix tape to any registration plate, temporary registration plate, digital registration plate, registration sticker or other evidence of registration issued by the Secretary of State. |
| SB 1922 | Requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to emergency workers that are working on the highways as well as the pedestrians involved in the scene instead of just those emergency vehicles that are stationary. |
| SB 1941 | Defines "park zones," enforces a 20 mph speed limit when children are present and requires drivers in park zones to make complete stops at signs or lights, with fines up to \$500 for violations. |
| SB 1999 | Adds clarifying language to the Illinois Department of Transportation's civil code and changes the crash report submission requirement from paper to electronic submissions. |
| SB 2019 | Requires a Boating Safety Certificate for individuals born on or after Jan. 1, 1998 who are operating a boat over 10 horsepower that is propelled by an electric motor. |
| SB 2040 | Establishes registration requirements for commercial vehicle safety tow trucks and tasks the Illinois Commerce Commission with oversight duties. |
| SB 2075 | Requires the Illinois Department of Transportation to provide Cycle Rider Safety Training Courses that must be open to all residents of the state and establishes guidelines for grant funds to be made available for these courses. |
| SB 2179 | Makes various technical changes to align state boating regulations with current federal law. |
| SB 2285 | Redefines bicycle as every human-powered device and every low-speed electric bicycle with two or more wheels not less than 12 inches in diameter, operable pedals, and designated seats for transporting one or more persons. |



Veterans Affairs

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| HB 2506 | Clarifies that any additional fee collected for the issuance and renewal of the military series registration plate, must not be included in the fee waiver for regular registration fees incurred by veterans with service connected disabilities. |
| HB 2547 | Makes technical changes removing the apostrophe from references to the Department of Veterans Affairs in statute. |
| HB 2572 | Specifies that the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs determines eligibility for the Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans' Dependent Scholarship and the Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans Dependent Education Opportunity Grant by rule. |
| SB 0039 | Exempts tiny homes constructed by a nonprofit for veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless from electric vehicle-capable parking space requirements. |

Women's Issues

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| HB 3489 | Expands the current hormonal contraception standing order to include emergency and non-hormonal contraception. |
| HB 3709 | Requires every public institution of higher education to provide their students with access to health care professionals authorized by the state to prescribe contraception and medication abortion. |



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Director

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104th General Assembly - Spring 2025



Adrianna Pitrelli
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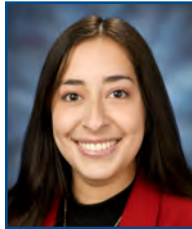
Eli Artemakis



Natalie Bak



Shawn Berry



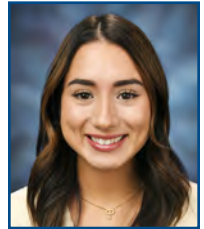
Nancy Bravo Garcia



Julie Butler



Erin Carney



Olivia Guerrero



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Celeste Holmes



Colby Huff



Krista Koke



Armiyah Leatherwood



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Matt Marshall



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