

SENATE IN REVIEW



A LOOK AT THE 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
THE ILLINOIS SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



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SENATE IN REVIEW



LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS





Legislative Accomplishments

Black Caucus declares victory in campaign against systemic racism

In a combined effort from members of the Illinois Senate and House, the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus joined in a yearlong effort to rid Illinois' government systems of racism by introducing a package of priority measures they called the

"Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Four Pillars."

Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford – who was chair of the Black Caucus – called together her colleagues after the gruesome and publicly televised murder of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer sparked worldwide protests.

The caucus gathered and decided

that rather than focusing solely on police reform, they would push forward an ambitious agenda that would include reforms to criminal justice, police accountability and violence reduction; education and workforce development; economic access, opportunity and equity; and health and human services.

The goal was to confront problems they had been trying to

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM,
VIOLENCE REDUCTION AND POLICE
ACCOUNTABILITY



HB3653



THIS MEASURE WILL:

- Modernize sentencing laws
- Require the use of body cameras
- Reform crowd control response
- Connect substance abuse treatment programs with first responder duties
- Require police to develop a plan to protect children during search warrant raids
- Address officer wellness and mental health awareness and screenings
- Ban the use of chokeholds and other extreme measures



solve for the entirety of their careers – problems that had held them, their children, and so many others in the Black community back.

They decided to return to the very beginning and examine Illinois’ laws for inherent racist policies born out of the eras when they were written. They also looked at societal problems confronting Black Illinoisans (and often by extension

Brown or lower-income Illinoisans) to try to figure out if different government policies could be used to improve people’s lives.

The caucus held dozens of formal online hearings on their four key agenda items, along with extensive one-on-one negotiations with various stakeholders, including community groups, government agencies and unions.

Over the months, clear themes and ideas took form for each pillar, which later merged into concrete legislation at the end of 2020.

The first pillar, introduced by State Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr., addressed criminal justice, police accountability and violence reduction.

The law takes many steps to both increase police accountability and provide police with additional resources. The caucus’ ultimate goals were to cultivate and support good police officers to ensure that reducing violence and de-escalating conflicts are at the forefront of every encounter between the police and the public, and to address some of the core problems that police often respond to – like substance abuse and mental health crises.

However, the reforms go beyond law enforcement to address broader issues within Illinois’ criminal justice system. Perhaps the boldest change – championed by State Senator Robert Peters – is to the state’s cash bail system, replacing it with a new system that detains all dangerous defendants, regardless of their ability to pay.

The second pillar, spearheaded

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HB2170

THIS MEASURE WILL:

- Align high school graduation requirements with college admissions requirements
- Address how Illinois teaches the history of marginalized groups by creating an Inclusive American History Commission
- Improve early childhood education by strengthening Early Intervention services and standardizing the state’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- Create English and math placement requirements at community colleges



by Senator Kimberly A. Lightford, focuses on restructuring the education system. The education and workforce development component of the caucus' agenda addresses problems that stretch from birth to adulthood.

To make it easier for Black students – and any students from a lower-income community – to succeed in higher education, the law increases high school graduation requirements, aligning them with the basic application requirements at the state's flagship public university – the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. It requires all students to have at least two years of laboratory science and a foreign language or sign language. It also requires all high school graduates to have at least one year of an intensive computer literacy course and all high schools to offer at least one computer science course.

Third on the agenda was economic access, opportunity and equity. This package of bills, sponsored by Senator Christopher Belt, sought to eliminate the Black community's barriers to good-paying jobs and successful business



ownership.

It addresses redlining in the housing market by making it easier for people with criminal records to access public housing. It also helps people with criminal histories by reforming the hiring process, prohibiting employers from using conviction records in their decision making process unless the nature of the crime relates specifically to the job the applicant is applying for.

The law also supports families by cracking down on predatory lending targeted at lower-income families,

setting a cap on interest rates for installment loans, like payday and title loans – a measure championed by State Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins.

The governor signed the fourth and final pillar of the caucus' agenda in late April. Advanced by State Senator Mattie Hunter, the pillar aims to reform many health care and human services laws. To help improve health outcomes in minority communities, the new law requires an analysis of the state's Medicaid managed care program, creates

**ECONOMIC ACCESS,
EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY**

SB1980, SB1480,
SB1608, SB1792

THIS MEASURE WILL:

- Create a commission to oversee procurement, with a focus on minority inclusion and diversity
- Prohibit the state from contracting with a private business with more than 100 employees that does not have an equal pay certificate
- Protect the new Predatory Loan Prevention Act and Illinois Community Reinvestment Act



new programs to address diseases that disproportionately affect Black Illinoisans – like sickle cell – takes action to reduce Black maternal mortality (which far exceeds the rates for white Illinoisans), and makes it more difficult to close hospitals – which most frequently happens in minority communities.

Though the work of fully implementing the laws will take years, maybe even decades, they were structured to break racist cultures and norms that were holding Black and Brown communities back.

The caucus remains committed to making sure these laws have

their intended effect, and they have vowed to take more action if needed.

HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES



HB158



THIS MEASURE WILL:

- Expand Medicaid to cover community health worker services as well as perinatal doula and home-visiting services
- Require the State to facilitate partnership between FQHCs and hospitals, especially safety-net hospitals
- Create a new fund and commission to support minority businesses
- Create a pool of \$50 million to expand women’s reproductive health services
- Establish a Medicaid MCO Commission to evaluate Illinois’ managed care program
- Create implicit bias training requirements that will improve health in Black and Brown communities



Senate Democrats lead the way on a responsible budget that helps communities recover

As the spring 2021 session of the General Assembly drew to a close, Senate Democrats unveiled a budget that prioritizes education, small businesses and workforce development, social services, and fiscal responsibility.

Thanks in large part to an unexpectedly robust economic recovery, as well as investments from the federal government, the Senate Democrats were able to reaffirm their commitment to public schools by making the full scheduled \$350 million increase to K-12 funding. Building on the evidence-based school funding reform law the General Assembly passed several years ago, this additional funding will be directed to school districts throughout the state experiencing the highest need.

The budget also maintains investments in higher education, keeping public universities and community colleges whole while increasing funding to the state's premier need-based financial aid program – MAP grants. With universities set to receive more than \$1 billion in direct federal aid, they should be well-placed to resume full in-person learning and address the lingering financial challenges caused by the pandemic.

These investments in education, combined with making the full annual payment to local governments, should help hold



the line on property tax increases – a major priority for all Senate Democrats.

Recognizing that the economy has not recovered for every business and family, the budget ends a federal corporate tax giveaway that primarily benefited millionaire CEOs and redirects the money to small business assistance and workforce development programs. This approximately \$450 million investment should help communities and businesses hardest hit by the pandemic rebuild. It will also help workers who have not yet succeeded in finding new jobs retrain and hopefully move to even better careers than they held before COVID-19 rocked the world.

Similarly, the budget invests in programs that faced additional demand during the pandemic, including mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, as well as programs to help older adults stay in their

homes. It also invests more than \$100 million in the state's struggling Department of Family and Children Services, millions into the state's Medicaid program, and approximately \$100 million into services to help reduce racial disparities in health care.

To help bring the pandemic to a close, the budget sets aside more than \$250 million for vaccination and other public health efforts. It also authorizes a vaccination lottery to help incentivize people to get inoculated, building on a previously passed measure allowing bars and restaurants to offer a “beer and a shot” promotion.

Finally, this budget plan sets Illinois on the path to a brighter future by paying down existing debts. At the height of the pandemic, the state borrowed billions from the federal government to pay for important services, like testing and personal protective equipment for frontline workers. The budget



repays that debt early, saving Illinois tens of millions of dollars in interest payments. These responsible actions helped the state win a credit upgrade, saving Illinois government millions in future interest payments.

General Assembly passes sweeping ethics reform

Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and both chambers came together to negotiate a comprehensive ethics package. Introduced by State Senator Ann Gillespie, this sweeping plan would take the first steps in addressing some of the recent scandals under the dome.

Senate Bill 539 would prohibit elected officials from lobbying other units of government,

establish a revolving door ban, prohibit fundraising statewide on a legislative session day or the day before, prohibit salaried appointees from serving on political committees and pro-rate the salaries of elected officials who leave office prior to the end of their term.

The measure would also strengthen the statement of economic interest, a document that declares the assets that a candidate holds and how they may be a conflict of interest; create a statewide lobbyist database; and close the consultant loophole that allows lobbyists to avoid disclosure.

Senators Gillespie, Morrison and Glowiak Hilton joined Republican colleagues on the Senate Ethics Committee to announce the bipartisan agreement in the final days of the legislative session and

committed to continuing the work of reestablishing public trust in our institutions.

Senate Democrats pass affordable housing package

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic left thousands of households at risk for eviction, State Senators Mattie Hunter, Ann Gillespie and Sara Feigenholtz spearheaded an effort to create more affordable housing for Illinois residents.

The measure, House Bill 2621, creates several monetary incentives for residential developers to create affordable housing in the state.

In response to the pandemic, the measure creates the COVID-19 Affordable Housing Grant Program, which would supplement affordable



housing developments that qualify for federal tax credits throughout the state.

Even before the pandemic, Illinois had a severe shortage of affordable housing, and the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated the number of people facing housing insecurity, which is why the legislation provides a reduction in assessed value for developers of newly constructed multi-family developments.

This provision applies to developers who agree to set aside at least 20% of their units for low-income renters in areas with low affordability for a period of 30 years. The state will leverage the incentive to diversify high-opportunity areas.

There would be another reduction in assessed value for developers of newly-constructed or rehabilitated rental property if the owner commits to setting aside at least 15% of a multifamily building's units for low-income renters for 10 years.

Further, the measure improves existing programs related to affordable housing and strengthens current laws, including expanding the eligibility for the Affordable Housing Tax Credit from homes whose gross income is at or below 60% of the area median income (AMI) to those that are at or below 120% AMI.

By offering tax incentives, the sponsors hope to keep families together, in their homes and in their communities.

The measure gained unanimous bipartisan support in both chambers, proving the General

Assembly recognizes the need for affordable housing.

Senate Democrats take action to address gun violence, FOID backlog affecting law-abiding gun owners

Gun violence has stricken the lives of far too many families in Illinois and across the nation, while upstanding, law-abiding gun owners have fallen victim to a bureaucratic backlog to renew their Firearm Owner's Identification cards.

To simultaneously increase public safety while modernizing the way in which people can obtain a FOID card, State Senators Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) and Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) worked alongside their colleagues and the Illinois State Police to pass a comprehensive gun reform measure.

House Bill 562 addresses gaps in

the state's gun laws, strengthens the FOID system to address the backlog, and helps ensure that people with violent criminal histories who are prohibited from gun possession are not able to easily evade the law and arm themselves.

In 2019, a gunman opened fire at Aurora-based Henry Pratt Co., killing five employees and injuring a number of their co-workers and police officers. The man died in a shootout.

However, it was later discovered a 2014 background check on the gun that would become the murder weapon failed to flag a previous felony conviction in another state. That conviction should have disqualified him from purchasing the handgun.

To help prevent a tragedy like the Henry Pratt mass shooting from happening again, the measure does a number of things to prioritize public safety.

It enhances existing background checks as a means to more





effectively ensure firearms are kept out of the wrong hands and requires the Illinois State Police to establish the Violent Crime Intelligence Task Force to aid in enforcement of FOID card revocation or suspension enforcement.

Furthermore, it mandates ISP monitor state and federal databases for residents being charged with firearm-related crimes and enhances gun trafficking data requirements.

The measure also encourages voluntary fingerprint submission to streamline the cross referencing of state and federal firearms-prohibition records – yet it is not required. FOID card holders who voluntarily submit fingerprints would be offered incentives, such as a streamlined renewal and transfer process.

It also eliminates bureaucratic hurdles for law-abiding gun owners, such as combining FOID and CCL renewal cards into a single

ID and allowing for virtual cards, so a person doesn't have to carry a physical copy. Furthermore, it would allow for automatic renewals for verified card holders.

Koehler and Villivalam both stand firm that the legislation passed by the Senate will keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people while empowering the Illinois State Police to act on illegal gun ownership and reduce the current backlog of applicants for FOID cards.

Protecting labor rights

To protect Illinois' working class, State Senator Ram Villivalam introduced a constitutional amendment that would ban "right-to-work" legislation in Illinois.

SJRCA 11 would prohibit state and local governments in Illinois from passing laws or ordinances prohibiting workers from collectively bargaining over wages, hours, terms and conditions of work. The measure would

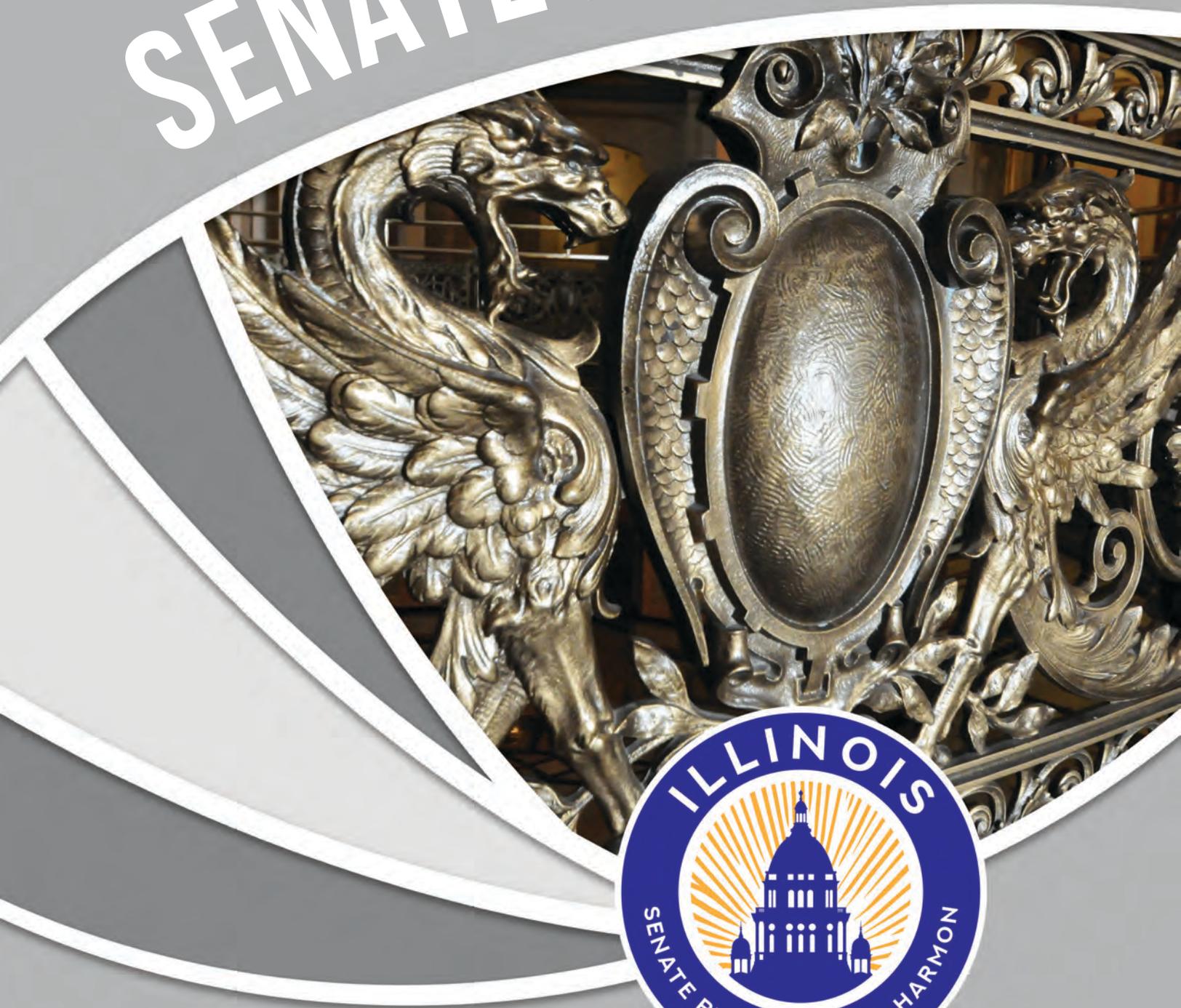
effectively ban "right-to-work" in Illinois, which prevent union security agreements in which an employer and a labor union agree on the extent to which employees are compelled to join the union and pay union dues.

Non-members in a collective bargaining unit still receive the benefits of collective bargaining agreements, including the higher wages and benefits that unions earn through the bargaining process. "Right-to-work" laws effectively serve to increase the non-member portion of the labor force, reducing the bargaining power of the collective.

Villivalam worked alongside his Senate colleagues to pass this legislation, which received widespread bipartisan support.



SENATE IN REVIEW



SPREADING THE NEWS

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By the numbers...

iConstituent, a constituent relationship management database, gives the caucus one centralized location to house constituent data and communicate with people in the districts.

The COVID-19 pandemic proved just how vital constituent communication is. With fewer in-person events, the Senate Democrats relied heavily on newsletter and email updates to keep constituents up to date on the latest news surrounding the public health crisis.

By tracking these constituent relationships and making records quickly and easily accessible, district and Capitol staff were able to use this tool to deliver support to area residents.

This year, staff used iConstituent to send out e-newsletters and targeted e-blasts to 3,045,093 constituents and an additional 21,950 emails.

- Total Outgoing Emails: **21,950**
- Total Number of E-Newsletters Sent: **262**
- Total Number of Individuals Who Received E-Newsletters: **3,045,093**

Tele-Town Hall meetings

This year, Senate Democrats participated in telephone town halls reaching a total of **25,348** people. The senators were given the ability to reach thousands of people with a single phone call, engaging them in a lively talk show format. The average number of participants was **2,816**. Senator Doris Turner had the most successful call this year with a total of **3,984** people. We look forward to continuing to offer this service next year.

Top 10 Issues - 2021 Session	
1.	Human Rights
2.	Health Care
3.	Environment
4.	Consumer Issues
5.	Taxes
6.	Local Government
7.	Economic Development
8.	Public Safety
9.	Budget
10.	2nd Amendment Issues

Tele-Town Halls	
Total called	315,943
Active participants	25,348
Live questions	101

If you were buying ads, your media coverage from this year's session would have cost...

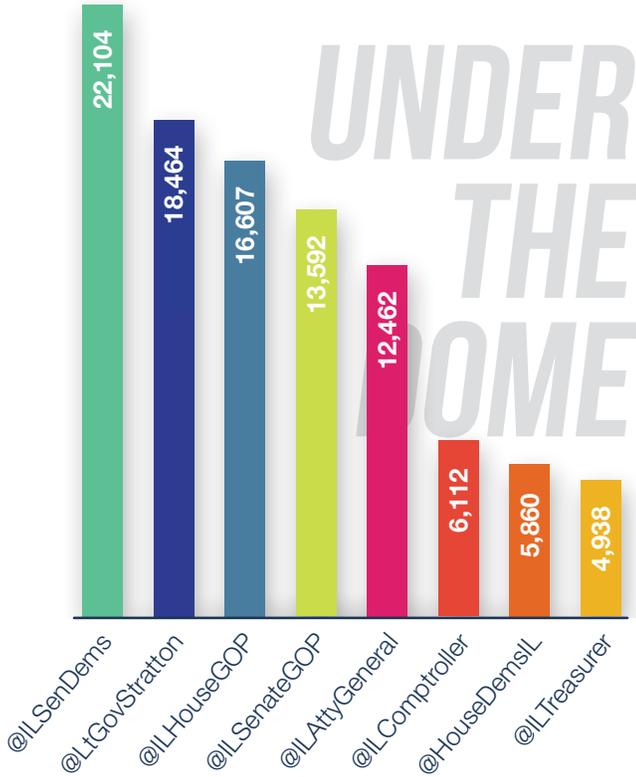




TWITTER

twitter.com/ilsendems

TOP 5 TWEETS



Sen Peters Cash Bail

1.13.2021

@SenPetersIL celebrates ending cash bail as criminal justice package moves to House <http://ow.ly/qzwy50D7gOa>

34,634 Impressions **978** Engagements



House Bill 2275 Passes

1.11.2021

Changes the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act and collective bargaining.

21,428 Impressions **875** Engagements

Sen. Villanueva HB 2275

1.11.2021

@SenatorCelina advocates for HB 2275: "This is about equity. Chicago teachers must be able to negotiate class sizes like every other school district."

12,692 Impressions **210** Engagements

Sen. Turner Welcome Intro

2.6.2021

Introducing the newest member of the Illinois State Senate, Senator Doris Turner. She will represent the 48th Senate District and replaces former Senator Andy Manar. Welcome to the Senate, Senator Turner!

12,529 Impressions **506** Engagements

Sen. Cunningham Presents HB 2275

2.6.2021

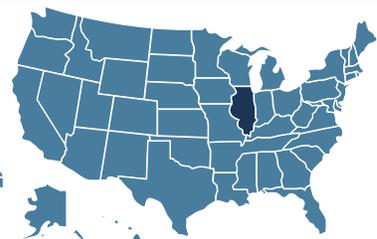
This bill would expand collective bargaining rights for Chicago teachers.

12,529 Impressions **506** Engagements



#1

TOP VERIFIED STATE LEGISLATIVE TWITTER FOLLOWING OUT OF 150 STATE CAUCUS ACCOUNTS





f FACEBOOK

facebook.com/IllinoisSenateDemocraticCaucus



ILSenateDems

👍 11,054

👤 11,564

ILSenateGOP

👍 5,112

👤 5,381

ILHouseGOP

👍 11,507

👤 14,117

ILHouseDems

👍 3,319

👤 3,761

TOP 5 POSTS

Latino Caucus budget address 2.17.2021

Members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus react to governor's budget proposal.
3,566 Hits



Sen. Turner welcome 2.06.2021

Introducing the newest member of the Illinois State Senate, Senator Doris Turner. She will represent the 48th Senate District and replaces former Senator Andy Manar. Welcome to the Senate, Senator Turner! #twill
2,528 Hits

Sen. Johnson small business tours 2.16.2021

Senator Adriane Johnson completes first round of small business tours <http://ow.ly/bGal50DBZVX>
1,641 Hits



#WomensHistoryMonth 3.25.2021

#WomensHistoryMonth means remembering those who came before and laid the groundwork for today's women and girls. We stand on their shoulders—let's do the same for the next generation.
1,275 Hits

HB 3653 true/false 2.16.2021

House Bill 3653 is the most forward thinking, comprehensive, transformative Criminal Justice Reform plan EVER passed in Illinois or across the country.

Illinois continues to be the nation's leader on criminal justice reform.

The fact that HB 3653 passed during the week of Dr. King's birthday is NOTHING short of AMAZING!!! Dr. King and all of our freedom fighting ancestors are smiling down on us.

#MLKDay2021 #ReimaginePublicSafety #EquityandJustice #ProgressforAll #HB3653

1,249 Hits

- HOUSE BILL 3653 -

WHAT THE BILL DOES	WHAT IT DOES NOT DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates sentencing bias Repeals the death penalty Repeals the use of plea bargains Repeals the use of parole Repeals the use of life in prison Repeals the use of life without parole Repeals the use of life without parole for non-violent offenses Repeals the use of life without parole for non-violent offenses Repeals the use of life without parole for non-violent offenses Repeals the use of life without parole for non-violent offenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not alter the current sentencing structure Does not alter the current parole structure Does not alter the current probation structure Does not alter the current juvenile justice structure Does not alter the current criminal justice structure



INSTAGRAM

@ilsenatedems

SHOW US YOUR GOOD SIDE—OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE IS TAKING OFF. SINCE THE START OF THE 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY...

IEWS ARE UP **+517%**

LIKES, COMMENTS AND SHARES ARE UP **+780%**

POST AND STORY COUNTS ARE UP **+1100%**

864 POSTS

1,710 FOLLOWERS

1196 FOLLOWING

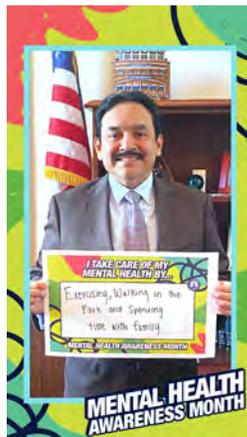


OUR #MEMBERMONDAY CAROUSELS GET THE MOST ENGAGEMENT OF ANY OF OUR POSTS. THEY OFFER FOLLOWERS A MORE PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ON THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS.

3
BROKE HER LEG THREE WEEKS BEFORE HER WEDDING AND HAD TO BE CARRIED DOWN THE AISLE



MEMBERS' MOST MEMORABLE QUOTES ARE HIGHLIGHTED ON THE FEED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. FOLLOWERS CAN SIMPLY CLICK THE LINK IN OUR BIO TO GET THE FULL STORY.



INSTAGRAM STORIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR 24 HOURS ONLY. THIS FLASHY-BUT-FLEETING FEATURE ALLOWS US TO SHARE MEMBERS' POSTS AND ENGAGE WITH FOLLOWERS INSTANTLY.



VIDEO



124 VIDEOS PRODUCED FOR FB, TWITTER AND IG



ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

THIS YEAR, THE CAUCUS EXPANDED ITS VIDEO OFFERINGS FOR SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE DATES, REBRANDED IMAGERY, AND TRIED OUT NEW FORMATS LIKE "SIXTY SECONDS WITH SIMS."



SEN. MORRISON FRIDAY LUNCH AND LEARN: TOUR OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN MUSEUM IN SPRINGFIELD



NEW VIDEO BRANDING



SIXTY SECONDS WITH SIMS

AUDIO AND PODCASTS



Over the last year, we have focused more resources to build and brand our podcasts. As more people choose podcasts over radio or visual media, this is a way to reach a new segment to boost our news to a broader audience. So far, we've recorded:

- Members in our studio to discuss important legislation
- Features on our newest members of the caucus
- Daily news updates from the day's session





Black Caucus: Advancing equity and justice

Building on the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' success in passing a reform package to dismantle systemic racism in Illinois, throughout 2021 members of the caucus worked on key legislation to increase equity and justice for the Black community.

After the second edition of the Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report revealed Black women die at disparately high rates due to medical causes, State Senators Mattie Hunter and Patricia Van Pelt called for better outcomes for Black mothers.

State Senator Van Pelt released a statement saying these patterns of disparity and negligence must be identified so that lawmakers know how to eradicate them. She added that reports like the Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report are necessary in order to craft legislation to combat the issues.

In addition to health care reform, several lawmakers championed legislation to address discrimination against natural Black hairstyles. State Senator Mike Simmons passed legislation to end the practice of

discriminating against students' hairstyles in schools in May.

Senate Bill 817, known as the Jett Hawkins Act, prohibits schools from issuing policies or including any language in handbooks about hairstyles traditionally associated with race and ethnicity, including braids, dreadlocks and protective hairstyles. This change makes Illinois schools safe spaces for Black youth to show up, learn authentically and be who they are. State Senator Mattie Hunter also sponsored the Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair Act, or



CROWN Act, Senate Bill 1847, to combat hair discrimination in the workplace.

Members of the Black Caucus have also worked to advance economic opportunities for minority families and entrepreneurs. State Senator Christopher Belt sponsored House Bill 3914 to remove barriers for minorities seeking to get hired by the State of Illinois. The legislation would require the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to identify the policies that make it harder for minorities and marginalized people to get hired by the state of Illinois by addressing systemic racism in the State's hiring practices. Each state agency would be required to increase diversity on interview panels in order to create better employment opportunities for women and minorities.

House Bill 665, a plan sponsored by State Senator Elgie Sims, seeks to provide instruction, training and support services to new and

aspiring entrepreneurs. Under the legislation, the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity would establish and support entrepreneurship assistance centers around the state, requiring that grants be awarded to train minority group members, including people of color, women,



people with disabilities and veterans.

Also related to expanding workforce opportunities, Senate Black Caucus Chair Robert Peters sponsored legislation to commemorate Martin Luther King

Jr.'s speech at the Illinois State Armory located in Springfield. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a speech to the Illinois AFL-CIO Labor Union on Oct. 7, 1965.

Peters believes Dr. King is one of history's greatest Americans, who worked untold wonders for Black Americans in this country. The goal of his legislation is to highlight the historic occasion while honoring one of the most important figures in the fight for civil and labor rights.

Senate Joint Resolution 3 would create a construction plan to place a bronze plaque at the site of the speech. The plaque will also include quote excerpts from the speech.

These are just a few examples of the hard work the Black Caucus has undertaken on behalf of their communities during the 102nd General Assembly. The caucus will not stop fighting until the government not only supports minority communities, but provides an environment for every Illinoisan to thrive.



Senate Latino Caucus: Solutions to systemic issues that impact Latinos

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to ravage Illinois in 2021, with a particularly severe impact on the Latino community. The health crisis made evident the historical disinvestment, inequities and injustice this group has endured for decades.

The need for an effective response motivated the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus to work together to offer resources and services to community residents. They focused on programs and policies that would help stop the spread of the virus and provide a financial lifeline to thousands of small businesses that were forced

to close their doors. Latino senators responded to the immediate emergency and crafted legislation to provide long-term solutions that could end the historical inequalities that affect Latinos.

Latino senators also worked with the Pritzker Administration and their fellow state lawmakers to expand COVID-19 testing capabilities in the communities significantly impacted by COVID-19. The priority was to stop the spread of the deadly virus and build contact-tracing capabilities to lower the infection rates. At several points, the Latino community experienced the highest infection

rates in Illinois, and the response from Latino senators matched the urgency of the situation.

State Senators Karina Villa, Celina Villanueva and Cristina Castro worked tirelessly to bring COVID-19 testing facilities to Latino communities to get the pandemic under control in places like Little Village, Elgin and West Chicago.

Working from another angle, House Bill 1653 from the 101st General Assembly, sponsored by Senator Omar Aquino, was signed into law in March. It provides \$150 million for safety-net hospitals to improve and upgrade services. These health care providers



are the primary destination for communities of color seeking care, given their location and affordability. The lack of access to health care was one reason COVID-19 hurt so many Illinoisans, particularly in the Latino community.

As the pandemic began to slow, members of the Latino Caucus turned their attention to important legislative priorities they had been forced to set aside to confront the crisis. For example, State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas made a push to promote funding for early childhood education through Senate Bill 1832 and to allocate more resources to train more educators, a subject she had worked on extensively before she joined the Senate this year. Pacione-Zayas also passed legislation to create Cultural Districts in Illinois. Her plan aims to reaffirm the Latino identity.

Senators Castro and Munoz, on the other hand, focused on health care. Castro passed Senate Bill 967 to support pregnant and new mothers for pregnancy-related conditions, such as mental health and substance use disorders, by requiring insurance plans and Medicaid to cover postpartum complications. The legislation addresses disparities in maternal mortality and support for new mothers.

Senator Tony Munoz passed House Bill 1779 to require individual and group health insurance to include coverage of genetic biomarker tests to determine

medical risk factors for illnesses like cancer.

In 2021, The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus also saw new leadership. In a strong demonstration of the progress female lawmakers have achieved in the Democratic Caucus, Senators Karina Villa and Cristina Castro were elected co-chairs of the ILLC. Knowing the challenges Latinos



face, they worked to establish priorities that will steer the group's focus. The major topics for the caucus' legislative agenda are:

- Health and education equity
- Latino representation
- Economic justice for Latino families
- Protection of immigrant and language access rights

The calls for action to address systemic issues of racism prompted unity between the Latino Caucus and the Black Caucus. The groups worked together to issue a joint statement to demand police reform and fight social inequalities after the release of a video of the death of 13-year-old Adam Toledo in a police shooting in the Little Village

neighborhood. Black and Brown leaders took a stand and worked together to solve the problems affecting the communities they represent.

The Latino Caucus also contributed ideas to the Black Caucus' legislative package that aimed to end systemic racism and social inequalities in communities of color. A major emphasis of the package was to create an adequate level of accountability for law enforcement officers to prevent tragedies like Adam Toledo's death. Brown and Black senators delivered on their commitment to improve the lives of the people of Illinois.

In this unprecedented year, where information could mean the difference between life and death, the Latino Caucus deployed an unparalleled effort to provide accessible, relevant resources in the Spanish language. They made sure their communities knew about COVID-19 testing and vaccination opportunities, grants for small businesses and non-profits, and other vitally important opportunities for support. The caucus distributed its message broadly through the Senate and members' digital platforms, in addition to engaging with the media. The Illinois Senate and the ILLC believe no one should be left behind, and the caucus will continue to work to honor this commitment.



Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus: Fighting hate and advancing equity

As the state began to see a decline in COVID-19 positivity and to enter the highly anticipated bridge phase, the Illinois Asian American Legislative Caucus worked alongside communities to address lingering social, economic and political concerns.

This year, the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities faced a significant rise in acts of

discrimination. Following the Atlanta-area shooting in March, in which six Asian American women were killed, the IAALC spoke out in solidarity with their community and in condemnation of the increasing level of dangerous anti-Asian rhetoric. The IAALC, in partnership with the Chicago City Council's Asian American Caucus, held an anti-Asian hate

press conference with Governor JB Pritzker shortly following the shooting. In an effort to honor the lives that were lost and the families of the victims, the IAALC, AAC and more than 20 other partner organizations held a virtual vigil.

To help address issues of hate, the Asian American crime hotline, which was created last year by Illinois Attorney General



Kwame Raoul in partnership with the IAALC, continued to serve as a resource that encouraged the reporting of anti-Asian crimes.

In addition to addressing social concerns within the community, the IAALC also worked to tackle growing unemployment rates. Since Asian American sole proprietors were among those who received the least amount in small business loans, the caucus held a virtual meeting with the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition to translate services available to the small business and immigrant communities. A vital initiative, supported by the IAALC, was the navigator program launched by the coalition during the COVID-19 pandemic to help small business owners and overcome language barriers preventing them from applying for SBA loans.

The caucus also held a virtual meeting with Asian Americans Advancing for Justice focused on addressing small business concerns, lack of accessibility to COVID-19 vaccinations and eviction and rental assistance.

With the sharp rise in anti-Asian violence in 2020, the IAALC took action by introducing the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History Act – or TEAACH Act, House Bill 376. The TEAACH Act makes Illinois the

first state in the country to require the inclusion of an Asian American history curriculum in the school code.



The legislation garnered intergenerational support across many parts of the AAPI community as a symbol of their desire for a deeper level of acceptance into American society that the community has not experienced, despite their major contributions to the country over the centuries. The measure, which received bipartisan support, could go into effect as early as the 2022-2023 school year and would incorporate a PBS documentary

series in addition to a Common Core compliant K-12 curriculum that would teach students about topics like the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The IAALC plans to continue working on legislative initiatives focused on education and economic recovery. The caucus also intends to generate ongoing conversation in support of the AAPI community and all communities of color amid rising trends in hateful rhetoric.





Senate Women's Caucus: Standing up for women's rights

This year, members of the Senate Women's Caucus got to work on behalf of women across Illinois. Whether passing legislation to increase essential services and tear down barriers, or rolling up their sleeves to build accessibility ramps for needy families, the Women's Caucus had a productive session.

Partnering with Habitat for Humanity, several members of the Women's Caucus built wheelchair access ramps onsite at residents' homes and for future use at Habitat's Springfield location. The caucus also raised nearly \$1,000 for Habitat for Humanity to use on future projects.

The members of the caucus also fought for legislation to protect women. State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel passed Senate Bill 1566 to create a weighing factor for courts to consider when determining the imprisonment time of pregnant women or women with young children in their care.



This legislation was the joint effort of the Women’s Caucus and First Lady MK Pritzker.

So that no woman goes without essential hygiene products and health services, the Democratic members of the Women’s Caucus passed a slate of legislation that would reduce barriers and increase access to these necessary products. State Senator Karina Villa passed House Bill 641 to make menstrual hygiene products available at no cost in bathrooms at institutions of higher learning. Senator Villa also passed House Bill 155 to allow SNAP and WIC recipients to use benefits on these products.

To address health inequities in maternal mortality rates among women of color, State Senator

Cristina Castro passed Senate Bill 967 to expand Medicaid coverage, increase proactive services offered by the Department of Human Services, and mandate private insurance companies to cover pregnancy and newborn care and cover postpartum services for high-risk pregnancies.



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE WOMEN’S CAUCUS

To help working mothers, members of the Women’s Caucus passed legislation that would

greatly improve access to child care. State Senator Melinda Bush spearheaded a proposal to allow campaign funds to be used for child care. Found within Senate Bill 825 – the elections omnibus law – the plan will allow more working mothers to participate in Illinois’ democracy and get involved in their local and state governments.

As the Women’s Caucus looks forward to the next year, they have already begun discussing new policies and initiatives that would support women, families and communities throughout the state.



New members bring diverse experience and viewpoints to Illinois Senate

A number of retirements led the Illinois Senate Majority Caucus to welcome seven new members since the close of the 2020 session: John Connor, Adriane Johnson, Meg Loughran Cappel, Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Mike Simmons, Doris Turner and Karina Villa. They bring a broad diversity of experience and perspective to the Senate and represent some historic firsts for the chamber and the General Assembly.

John Connor came to the Senate

representing the 43rd District after serving the Joliet area in the Illinois House and brings a 20-year career as a prosecutor at the Will County state's attorney's office to his role as chair of the Senate Criminal Law Committee. He previously specialized in digital forensics and served in a variety of roles that involved investigating major crimes. He's also committed to strictly regulating how employers screen applicants for jobs, including when they use artificial intelligence

to do so.

Adriane Johnson came to the Senate after serving on the Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners for more than nine years and after serving as chairperson of the Illinois Association of Park Districts. In her time in the Senate she's worked on environmental issues, advocated for mental health treatment that keeps people closer to home, and pushed to require more screenings for diseases like colitis and Crohn's



Disease be covered by insurance.

Meg Loughran Cappel came to the Senate as a lifelong educator and small business owner, with experience as a chamber of commerce member, teacher's union representative and school board member, among other roles in education, which gave her lots of experience to bring to the role of vice chair of the Senate Education Committee. She used her position as senator of the 49th District to advocate for improved financial literacy for Illinois students and to speak out against isolation and restraints as punishment in schools.

Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Ph.D., a lifelong resident of the 20th District and a longtime partner with community organizations, like the Puerto Rican Agenda, sought to honor the cultural heritage of communities throughout the state by sponsoring legislation to create cultural heritage districts. She brings a lifetime of education policy experience to her role as sub-vice chair of the Senate's Appropriation Education Subcommittee, including a career with Chicago Public Schools, the Erikson Institute and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Mike Simmons made history when he stepped into his role as state senator representing the 7th District, left vacant by State Senator Heather Steans' retirement. Simmons is the first openly gay member of the Illinois Senate, the first Ethiopian-American member of the General Assembly, and the first Black person to represent

the deeply diverse 7th District. Simmons got to work early by pushing for a child tax credit at the state level, moving to gather more comprehensive data about how COVID-19 affects the LGBTQ+ community, and putting forth a plan to ban discrimination against culturally and ethnically traditional hairstyles in Illinois schools.

Doris Turner joined the Senate after a long career in local politics in the Springfield area. She comes to the Senate as a proud grandmother and mother. As a lifelong Springfieldian, she succeeds State Senator Andy Manar in the 48th District and brings a well-known presence to the Senate after decades of being a highly accessible fixture in the Springfield community. As one of her first initiatives as state senator, Turner pushed to expand agricultural education for students in Illinois in an effort to support one of the state's most important industries.

Karina Villa stepped up to represent the 25th Illinois Senate District following a term in the Illinois House. The daughter of immigrants and small business owners, Villa brings a wealth of experience as a social worker in the West Chicago and Villa Park school systems to her role as vice-chair of the Senate Behavioral Mental Health Committee and as a member of the Senate Education Committee. She also served as vice president of the West Chicago District 33 Board of Education. That viewpoint illuminated her push to require public universities and community colleges to make menstrual hygiene products available to students at no cost in campus bathrooms.

The new members join the Illinois Democratic Caucus at a time when it has grown to its largest membership in the last 50 years, and they have helped make the Illinois Senate a historically diverse legislative body.





Senate Democrats launch district outreach program

Starting February 8, the Senate Democratic Caucus launched a new in-district outreach program. A branch of the communications department, the outreach team includes six professionals tasked with fostering an environment of increased collaboration and communication between the district offices and Springfield. Their experience, knowledge and presence on the ground in senators' districts supports the caucus in its messaging and outreach initiatives.

The team's responsibilities range from assisting with written responses, video production and event planning to other duties. The program is currently operating in the suburban collar counties outside Chicago, central Illinois and the Metro East region of St. Louis, with plans to expand the program to members representing the city of Chicago in the near future.

Despite the pandemic and with the legislative session in full swing, the district outreach

team was able to plan and host many successful virtual and in-person events and programs to better serve constituents. Despite the limitations placed on in-district outreach by the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the in-district program worked to make sure residents had access to their senators. These events included office openings, informational tours, job fairs and issue-based virtual events. The district outreach team was also able to alleviate the



stressed schedules of both the members and their district staff by attending in-district meetings on their behalf.

Coffee & Connect

A good example of the team’s efforts took place in State Senator Adriane Johnson’s district: Coffee & Connect with Senator Johnson.

The event was held via Zoom in April. Participants expressed their concerns and held a conversation with Senator Johnson, local elected officials and nonprofit organizations. The event series will continue once every month. Future events will take place in person, with an additional option for residents to join via Zoom.

Business tours

A successful event organized by district outreach staff allowed newly appointed State Senator Doris Turner to tour a group of local pharmacies and a sheriff’s office on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The event helped shine a light on three issues in the district: opioid abuse, the environmental impact of incorrectly discarded prescription drugs, and the important role of independent pharmacies in rural communities.

Job information sessions

The district outreach team organized an event with State Senators Patrick Joyce and Michael E. Hastings where they hosted a virtual “careers in the trades” informational session. Five labor unions, three contractors and three career centers focusing on high





school to trade paths participated. The widely attended event had over 500 people sign up.

Charitable fundraisers

The district outreach team arranged for State Senator Linda Holmes to participate in the Mutual Ground annual Walk for Hope, a mile-long fundraising walk in support of Mutual Ground, a shelter in Aurora. This event showcases the team’s commitment to meeting and involving senators in local community events.

Meetings with local officials

District outreach staff and State Senator Rachelle Crowe have begun monthly meetings with the area’s mayors to share legislative updates from Springfield and to allow Crowe to hear from each mayor about what is going on in

their communities and how she can best serve them. While the meetings started remotely, they transitioned to in-person meetings with COVID-19 safety measures in place.

Upcoming events

With legislative session wrapped up and in-person programming beginning to start up again, the district outreach team has been hard at work planning summer events. Some upcoming events include a mental health fair, public vaccination events, a secretary of state mobile DMV unit event and much more. The program’s future looks bright, with many more events planned and hopes of expanding it to include Chicago-based members.

CAREERS IN THE TRADES
EMPLOYMENT REALITIES
MONDAY MAY 3RD 10:30 AM

SENATOR MICHAEL E. HASTINGS + SENATOR PATRICK JOYCE PRESENT

CAREERS IN THE BUILDING TRADES ARE BOOMING! WITH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, APPRENTICES ACTUALLY MAKE MONEY WHILE LEARNING A SKILLED TRADE, EARN GREAT WAGES AND BENEFITS, AND CAN DEVELOP CAREERS AT ALL LEVELS OF THE GROWING CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

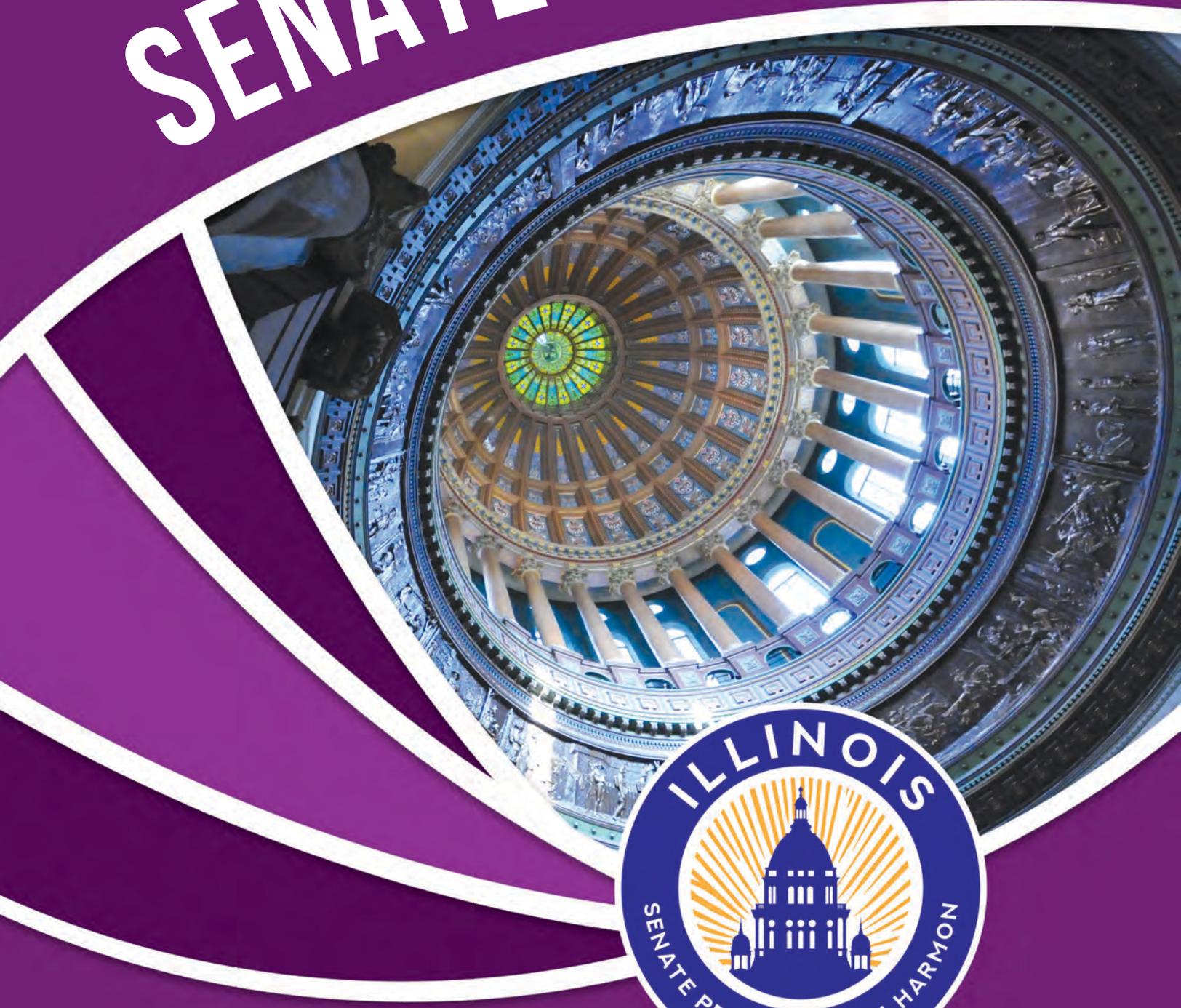
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THESE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS ARE **COMPETITIVE.**

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SENATE IN REVIEW



FEATURED STORIES

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Morrison searches for answers on vaccine distribution frustrations



Published: February 16, 2021

HIGHWOOD – Stories of clinics not receiving their promised number of COVID-19 vaccines, appointment websites crashing, and people spending the night in their cars hoping to be first in line to get their dose aren't unheard of. The frequency of these stories – and others – led State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) to schedule a Senate hearing on the statewide vaccine distribution plan.

"As the demand for the vaccine has grown, so has anticipation for each of us waiting for the vaccine," Morrison said. "We've been fielding calls from frustrated and frightened constituents who are eligible but can't find their place in line or get the vaccine."

At Thursday's Senate Health Committee – chaired by Morrison

– senators brought forth concerns from people who live in districts they represent about issues ranging from how people who are homebound can receive the vaccine to how local communities can plan clinics without more precise numbers on how many doses they will receive.

Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike helped answer those questions, and said to date, the state has administered more than 1.5 million vaccines – 1.2 million of which were initial doses and more than 300,000 were second doses. She acknowledged there have been challenges, and IDPH will provide more than \$25 million in grants to local health departments throughout the state to assist with

challenges administering the vaccination.

While Morrison is pleased more people will be able to receive their dose under Phase 1b, she raised concerns about the amount of available vaccine, asking how to make sure people 65 and older won't be lost in the competitive crowd. Ezike said 25% of that population has been vaccinated and IDPH continues to reach out to ensure no one is left behind.

"I know patience has run thin as people are worried about their safety and the safety of their loved ones, so obviously the limitation of this vaccine is causing some anxiety," Ezike said. "We will be giving out the vaccine as quickly as we can get it."

Morrison will continue to work with IDPH, local health departments and other stakeholders to ensure every person eligible for the vaccine can get it in an efficient way. She plans to call another meeting in the weeks to come to see if progress has been made.

"It is my wish we can bring light and clarity to the process," Morrison said. "I hope we can continue to work collaboratively to create a more coordinated and efficient distribution plan."



Published: April 22, 2021



Castro champions measure to help online sellers in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – In order to clarify how taxes are collected from online sellers based in Illinois, State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) introduced a measure that corrects the double-taxation of Illinois sellers who sell their products through larger marketplace facilitators.

“This legislation provides a simple fix to something that has cost businesses in the state unnecessary taxes,” Castro said. “Big websites that act as a marketplace for smaller sellers provide an important service, but the way the Illinois Use Tax was interpreted by Department of Revenue in 2020 hurt some of

these Illinois sellers.”

Legislation that went into effect in January of 2020 required marketplace facilitators, like Amazon and Etsy, to collect and turn over a sales tax of 6.25%, known as the Illinois Use Tax, to the Department of Revenue. However, the Department of Revenue also required that Illinois-based retailers selling through these marketplaces turn over their local sales tax to the state, which includes the same 6.25%.

Senate Bill 2066 retroactively clarifies the law to allow these Illinois businesses to file for a

refund to recover the sales tax they should never have had to pay because it was already collected and turned over to the state by the marketplace facilitators.

Additionally, SB 2066 ensured auctioneers licensed by the state are not treated as marketplace facilitators, meaning auction sales, like those on websites like eBay, will continue to be taxed as they were up to Dec. 31, 2020.

The measure passed the Senate on Wednesday and now goes to the House for further consideration.



Stadelman joined by governor to celebrate government investments in Rockford



Published: April 7, 2021

ROCKFORD – State Senator Steve Stadelman (D-Rockford) was joined by Governor JB Pritzker on Wednesday to celebrate hundreds of millions of dollars in state and federal investments in the Rockford area.

As part of a \$23 million multi-year Rebuild Illinois project, The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is granting \$13 million for infrastructure improvements to the BMO Harris Center in Downtown Rockford, home of the Ice Hogs, an American Hockey League affiliate of the Chicago Blackhawks. The Stanley Cup-winning franchise recently announced its acquisition of the Rockford hockey team.

“This is great news for Rockford-

area hockey fans and downtown businesses,” Stadelman said. “The improvements to BMO Harris Bank Center will ensure the entertainment venue remains a tourist attraction. The state continues to show its commitment to Rockford by supporting the revitalization of downtown.”

The investment will help improve visitors’ experiences through audio-visual and digital technology upgrades, concession area improvements and other modernized amenities.

In addition to the millions of dollars in state economic development funding, the area is set to receive over \$230 million for education from the federal government’s most recent

COVID-19 relief packages, with Rockford School District 205 set to receive nearly \$209 million. The majority of the funding comes from the American Rescue Plan, which gives local schools flexibility in how they can spend the money over the next 3 ½ years.

“For more than a year now, our teachers and administrators have put in countless hours to adapt their classrooms to remote learning,” Stadelman said.

“This funding not only gives schools the relief they need to move forward and eventually beyond this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, but the ability to invest in Rockford’s future.”

At least 20% of the funding must be used to address learning loss, but beyond that, school districts can use the money to address many different issues and costs, like ensuring students have reliable internet access moving forward.



Published: February 3, 2021



Harris advocates for ex-NFL Black players benefits

DOLTON - State Senator Napoleon Harris, III (D-Harvey) released the following statement on the NFL using race as a category to judge whether ex-players should be paid for head injury claims Wednesday:

“It’s sickening that the National Football League uses race to determine concussion settlements. Black players who sustained injuries while playing deserve the same support as white players. This is further proof the NFL does not care about players’ livelihoods after

their football career is finished – but rather only when they can help the league.

“Nearly 70% of the league’s players are Black, yet a system has been created that holds Black players and white players to different standards. In other professions, distinctions based on race rise to the level of constitutional violations, so why is it okay for the NFL to put players in different groups based on race?”

“The NFL needs to be advised on equality, and these players

continue to advocate for long-term benefits after retirement. If current players do not get on top of this now, it will be a continuous cycle abused by the NFL.”



Cunningham introduces legislation to help older adults and people with disabilities stay in their own homes

Published: February 24, 2021



SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Bill Cunningham has introduced a measure to make home services more available and affordable, helping older adults and people with disabilities continue to live in their own homes.

“Older adults should have every opportunity to live in their own homes as long as possible,” said Cunningham, a Democrat who represents portions of Chicago and the southwest suburbs. “And, people with disabilities deserve to live independently whenever possible.”

Cunningham’s legislation would allow home care aides, rather than nurses, to perform certain basic tasks that don’t require medical expertise. For example, they would be allowed to bathe their clients, apply topical prescription ointments, assist with eating and apply prescription hair treatments.

“These home care aides are in their clients’ homes weekly, sometimes daily,” Cunningham said. “They build strong relationships and truly get to know their clients’ needs. If their clients are comfortable with them helping

with these tasks, they should be able to.”

Though Cunningham respects the role that nurses and other medical professionals play in caring for older adults and people with disabilities, he believes this measure is necessary to ensure people aren’t being unnecessarily forced to transition to nursing homes because they can’t afford nurse visits or find nursing providers who will come to their homes.

Senate Bill 221 is currently in the Senate Committee on Assignments.

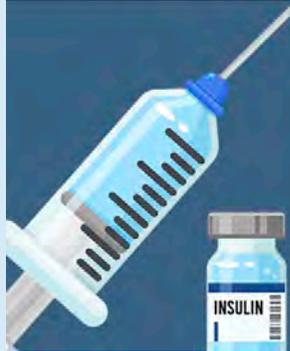


INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2020-2021



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2020-2021

1



Lower Bills for Diabetes Patients:

Illinois becomes the second state in the nation to help reduce patients' out-of-pocket costs for prescription insulin by capping copayments at \$100 for a 30-day supply. (SB 667)



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2020-2021

Keeping Survivors Safe:

Your abuser shouldn't know where you live. Survivors of sexual assault or stalking can apply to keep their addresses confidential. (HB 2818)



2



3

INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2020-2021



On the Road Again:

You can't pay a parking ticket or toll if you can't drive to work. Failure to pay a fine for a non-moving violation will no longer result in the loss of a driver's license. **(SB 1786)**



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2020-2021

Small Business, BIG Impact:

To provide relief to struggling small businesses, Illinois launched the Business Interruption Grant program, the largest state-run economic support program created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **(HB 357)**



4

INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2020-2021

5



Thumbs on the Wheel:

Drivers who are involved in an accident that hurts someone while using a phone will be subject to a minimum fine of \$1,000 and could have their license revoked. **(HB 2386)**



INTERESTING NEW LAWS 2020-2021

Study Up!:

Classes may look a little different this year. Public school students will learn about the roles and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community, and middle schoolers will receive a semester of civics education. **(HB 246/ HB 2265)**



6



Communications Staff

102nd General Assembly - Spring 2021



SENATE IN REVIEW



YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Don Harmon

Illinois Senate President | 39th Senate District

Faced with the mounting effects of an ongoing global pandemic, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) turned to science and technology to help the Illinois Senate Democrats pull off what seemed impossible at the start of the 102nd General Assembly: have a “normal” session.

Armed with Zoom accounts and the state’s first-ever established rules for remote legislative hearings, the Illinois Senate began to work remotely to keep the process moving and stay in touch with the needs of constituents across Illinois.

Not only did the remote process get the legislative session back on track, but by embracing technology, the Senate created an unprecedented level of transparency and public access, as people throughout the state could participate in government hearings on key issues from the safety of their homes.

When the time came to begin the return to the Capitol, Harmon turned to cutting-edge science developed by the University of Illinois to set up a system to ensure the health and safety of everyone who works at the Statehouse.

The Senate partnered with the university to implement its breakthrough SHIELD saliva test. An on-site testing facility allowed lawmakers, staff, lobbyists, constituents and the media to access the Senate session and return to normal work with confidence, safely knowing that everyone around them had tested negative for the virus.

The success and cooperation of

that effort helped propel the Senate Democrats to another successful session producing results both big and small.

Senate Democrats led the charge to increase education funding and balance the budget as the pandemic cash crunch gave way to a surging economic recovery buoyed by federal relief dollars from the Biden administration’s American Rescue Plan.

Harmon joined other key leaders in calling for responsible use of those dollars to pay off debts, stabilize our finances and shore up industries such as tourism that had been decimated by the pandemic.

Republicans and Democrats worked together in the Senate, recognizing overwhelming support for dozens of lawmakers’ proposals and, in a sign of business getting back to normal, approving them on one vote to speed up the process and signify the growing bipartisanship in the chamber.

Throughout the 2021 session, Harmon worked to empower colleagues to work on longstanding policy conflicts, whether it was bringing an elected school board to Chicago, ethical reforms, or taking the next steps into the future of renewable energy.

Harmon also carried that commitment to transparency through the once-a-decade requirement to draw new legislative maps.

The Senate Democrats held nearly two dozen public hearings around the state, giving all Illinoisans an opportunity to give input on the redistricting process. He also created a new way for people to share their ideas: a web portal allowing them to draw and submit their own maps.

As the world emerges from the pandemic into a “new normal,” the steps Senate Democrats took under Harmon’s leadership in 2021 set the stage for an era of economic growth and social equity in Illinois.





Kimberly A. Lightford

Majority Leader | Assignments chair | 4th Senate District

Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford started her year with one of the most rousing successes of her career, passing a multi-pronged agenda to rid Illinois' government and public policies of systemic racism. As chair of the Black Caucus, she initiated the effort in 2020, spurred by the anger and will-to-change that ignited the world following several high-profile deaths of innocent Black people at the hands of police. Though she shepherded the entire package through the General Assembly, Lightford personally negotiated House Bill 2170, the successful effort to rework Illinois' education and workforce development system. The law breaks down barriers that prevent Black, Brown and low-income children from fulfilling their full potential by making systemic reforms that support Black families from birth to adulthood.

However, Lightford did not rest after the final pillar of the Black

Caucus' agenda was signed into law. She continued to push legislation that increases equity and opportunity throughout the 2021 session. To follow up on the groundbreaking education reform law and increase the number of Black educators in Illinois, Lightford championed creating a New Teacher Induction and Mentoring Program and a New Principal Mentoring Program.

Senate Bill 814 will use these programs to increase retention, accelerate novice teachers' and leaders' professional learning, and improve student achievement.

Lightford also sponsored legislation that would bring to fruition the long-promised equity-based recreational cannabis licenses for people and communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. House Bill 1443 will create 110 additional licenses, enact a lottery system to ensure the promised licenses would go to

qualified minority applicants, and allow the winners of these licenses to establish their businesses closer to other dispensaries than the original law would allow. This last provision is particularly important, as existing dispensaries have already staked out many of Illinois' prime business corridors.

Because Black history is American history, Leader Lightford also pushed to create the state holiday of Juneteenth National Freedom Day on June 19. Juneteenth honors the true end of slavery in the United States, when the last southern slaves were freed in Galveston, Texas, in 1865. Today, Juneteenth has grown from the celebration of the abolition of slavery into a celebration of African American arts, culture, and the impacts of the civil rights movement throughout the country. Juneteenth will become a paid-day-off holiday for all state employees as well as a school holiday.

As the 2021 legislative session drew to a close, Lightford renewed her lifelong commitment to uplifting Black residents of the state, creating more opportunities for low-income families of every stripe, and improving Illinois' education for every student. Though she celebrated the Black Caucus' success in their campaign to rid Illinois of systemic racism, she knows the battle is not over, and she vowed to continue to fight for true equity and justice for all Illinois residents.





Bill Cunningham

President Pro Tempore | Assistant Majority Leader | 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 the university experience for Illinois students, to support people with disabilities, and to provide first responders with additional resources.

In addition to sponsoring legislation that could help improve people’s daily lives, Cunningham was deeply involved in negotiations on some of the highest profile issues facing state government, including the annual budget – doubly complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, how to best move Illinois to a clean energy future, and plans to help support Illinois businesses.

Cunningham sponsored two measures to help improve the higher education experience for Illinois students. One would address the long-running issue of disproportionate incidents of sexual assault and harassment on college campuses. An initiative of the national Every VOICE Coalition, Senate Bill 1610 will require each institution of higher education in Illinois to conduct an annual sexual misconduct climate survey. This survey will help colleges and universities get a better grasp on the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment, as many survivors are uncomfortable coming forward publicly, but might be more comfortable taking an anonymous survey. The Illinois Board of Higher Education will create a base survey that institutions of higher education

can build upon, as long as no additional questions would allow them to identify individual students or create trauma for survivors.

To address college affordability and the problem of young people leaving the state and never returning, Cunningham spearheaded a measure to allow Illinois community college students who pass with a B average in transferable courses to automatically qualify for admission to the University of Illinois system, including the state’s flagship public school in Urbana-Champaign. Under House Bill 796, in order to qualify, students will have had to graduate from an Illinois high school, and the program will need to prioritize current Illinois residents if capacity becomes an issue.

Cunningham also introduced House Bill 40 to help students in special education programs at the request of a local resident. Currently, special education students are required to leave school the day they turn 22.

Under Cunningham’s proposal, these students will be allowed to remain in class until graduation. Cunningham believes this will create a more natural end to their high school careers and allow them to say a proper goodbye to their friends.

To help support first responders, Cunningham negotiated a measure, House Bill 3911, to help promote mental health treatment for police and firefighters by providing better focus for the First Responder Suicide Prevention Task Force. The legislation emphasizes access to mental health and wellness services, peer support groups, and ongoing education relating to mental health.

As session ends and Illinois continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Cunningham intends to renew his focus on supporting local businesses and residents in hope of a full economic recovery. He also will continue his advocacy efforts for first responders and students.





Emil Jones, III

Deputy Majority Leader | Licensed Activities chair | 14th Senate District

In the 102nd General Assembly, Senator Emil Jones III (D-Chicago) continued his pursuit of improving the health and well-being of Illinoisans and making the state more inclusive.

Continuing his commitment to make Illinois a state that welcomes everyone, including LGBTQ+ individuals, Jones passed legislation that shines a light on the diversity in Illinois' business sector. Senate Bill 1730 would require corporate boards to report the self-identified sexual orientation of their members – building on a similar measure that requires them to report racial and ethnic diversity.

In an effort to curb smoking addiction and keep harmful tobacco products out of the hands of children, Jones sponsored three key pieces of legislation. Senate Bill 1724 would ban the production and sale of cigarettes that have plastic butts made of toxic chemicals and

other non-biodegradable materials. This policy change would help keep Illinois' environment clean and healthy by reducing the impact of cigarette butt litter. Senate Bill 2282 and Senate Bill 2379 would ban the sale and distribution of flavored e-cigarettes in nearly all cases, require businesses that want to sell e-cigarettes to get a vapor products retail license and prohibit the sale of vaping products to people under 21 years old.

Aside from his legislative accomplishments, Jones worked to secure money for local communities to provide economic growth and jobs. Jones was pleased to bring more than \$3 million to Alsip and Calumet Park through the Rebuild Illinois statewide construction program, with funding for the Chicago Southland Logistics Cluster and a transit-oriented development park. The projects will spur economic investment and

business growth, and create good-paying jobs in the area.

Recognizing the importance of providing opportunities for more individuals and families to maintain or improve their health, Jones was able to secure \$2.5 million to expand existing recreational activities for Alsip area residents. The expansion project includes adding an indoor walking track, an additional multi-purpose gymnasium, an expanded fitness center, an indoor playground, additional program spaces that include senior/teen areas, and seating in the existing gymnasium.

In addition to his continued work to promote area residents' health and the diversity of corporate leaderships, this year, Jones was named deputy majority leader of the Senate. As deputy majority leader, Jones is able to serve in an even greater capacity and continue to advocate for making Illinois' neighborhoods and streets safer. Jones was also named the treasurer of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and plans to help advance the caucus' agenda to the best of his ability, especially its continuing efforts to erase the legacy of racism from Illinois' laws and government policies.

Jones looks forward to working with his colleagues and the community to provide more opportunities for growth and inclusion.





Laura M. Murphy

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

As the mother of a college freshman, State Senator Laura Murphy (D-Des Plaines) knows students in Illinois face a long list of obstacles on the way to college—and the COVID-19 pandemic hasn't made the journey any smoother.

From mounting tuition costs to the challenges of remote learning, students pursuing higher education in 2021 are navigating a unique combination of new and longstanding trials. With many colleges anticipating a full campus reopening this fall, Murphy made it a priority to give students the support they need to start the semester on steady footing.

To keep a lid on overhead costs at Illinois colleges and universities, Murphy initiated a crackdown on retiring administrators who exploit loopholes in the law by receiving massive payouts, or “golden parachutes,” after leaving their positions, even in cases of declining university performance under their leadership.

Lawmakers passed the Government Severance Pay Act in 2018 to limit the amount paid in university severance packages, but some administrators found ways around the law—and students and families were still footing the bill. Murphy's Senate Bill 2240 strengthens the act by expanding the definition of severance pay and defining limits on compensation to ensure schools spend with student interests in mind.

But Murphy knows some students need more immediate relief. House Bill 332 addresses an often-overlooked expense that can make higher education unattainable for working families: textbooks.

To help schools make sure they are offering convenient, accessible and affordable ways for students to get the supplies they need to learn, Murphy's legislation will create the Course Materials Equitable Access and Affordability Study Task Force to research ways to save students money on course materials.

For students dealing with more than just financial stressors, Murphy also introduced two initiatives to make mental health resources more easily accessible to the entire campus community.

To offer targeted support to college students and staff dealing with mental health challenges during the school year, Senate

Bill 1786 requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to maintain a page on its website with mental health resources specifically tailored to post-secondary education institutions and their staff, students and families.

Murphy also wants to make sure niche groups on campus can access specialized assistance. Veterans and active service members would be able to connect with their colleges' support networks more easily under Senate Bill 641, which requires schools to post resource information for military students on their social media pages.

As schools look back on more than a year of learning through the pandemic, Murphy—a strong believer in the idea that education is the path to recovery for Illinois families and the state at large—hopes her legislation will help students move forward with confidence.





Jacqueline Y. Collins

Assistant Majority Leader | 16th Senate District

State Senator Jacqueline Collins (D-Chicago) continued her push to represent the 16th District during the 2021 spring session, and to ensure that all Illinoisans have a seat at the table, whether in the classroom, at the doctor, in the housing market, or in access to financial institutions.

As part of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' economic pillar, Collins successfully pushed for the inclusion of the Predatory Loan Prevention Act and a new Illinois Community Reinvestment Act within Senate Bill 1792. The PLPA, containing language Collins developed, caps the allowable interest rates on certain types of loans and ensures Illinois joins more than a dozen other states that have more tightly restricted such financial products.

Senator Collins has spearheaded efforts to rein in the excesses of payday loans and has called for the

rate cap for years.

"Just as it is with redlining, with bias in insurance rates, and with the ongoing disparity in home lending, this is not just about financial ethics. It's about racial justice," Collins said as the governor signed Senate Bill 1792 into law in March. "There is a growing understanding among Illinoisans that these financial systems target people of color and entrench racial poverty. When we have honest, hard conversations, we can topple barriers."

Senator Collins also stood up on behalf of women and people of color in her push to expunge felony prostitution convictions through Senate Bill 2136. Felony prostitution charges can be a significant barrier to finding housing or gainful employment, which only adds further injury to sex workers.

Felony prostitution charges were ended in Illinois in 2013, but those with such convictions are

still subject to all the penalties that come with a felony record. The legislation will also remove a drug testing requirement for those seeking to seal records of their felony drug convictions.

Collins' anti-human trafficking legislation – found within Senate Bill 1599 – focused on reinstating the Human Trafficking Task Force to study the means of fighting such crimes in Illinois, and she also advanced Senate Bill 1600 to require more employees in industries adjacent to trafficking be trained in how to spot it. Another measure, House Bill 588, also requires more prominent placement of human trafficking information in establishments where trafficking occurs, such as truck stops and transportation hubs.

Collins also continued her record of fighting for schoolchildren with Senate Bill 605, mandating clear and consistent annual truancy policies, and for the elderly, with Senate Bill 2137, directing nursing homes and long-term care facilities to explore the ways communications technology can potentially fight the social isolation so many seniors struggle with. As the legislative session came to a close, Collins turned her attention to the Metra station in Auburn Gresham, for which she passionately advocated for years, and which will soon begin the bidding process.





Linda Holmes

Assistant Majority Leader | Labor chair | 42nd Senate District

With the COVID-19 pandemic beginning to come under control earlier this year, 2021 saw the Illinois Senate enter the 102nd General Assembly in a hybrid fashion. Assistant Majority Leader Linda Holmes (D-Aurora) was anxious to get back to a more normal routine, even if it meant wearing masks and social distancing. Holmes resumed her legislative plans that were put on hold in 2020 as the Senate had focused on the most serious effects of the pandemic.

She restarted negotiations on Senate Bill 2664 to allow notary publics to provide electronic services with no contact to meet businesses' and individuals' needs, made more urgent during the public health crisis. She also resumed work with House Majority Leader Greg Harris on their Prior Authorization Reform Act. It will take down obstacles, get patients the care they need more quickly, and save them money by removing the "prior approval" process used by insurers to deny and delay treatment. This is a bipartisan effort supported by the Illinois State Medical Society.

In order to continue boosting the recovering economy and jobs in Aurora, Holmes passed Senate Bill 157 to extend the River Edge Redevelopment tax credit until 2027. This program encourages developers in Aurora, Elgin, Rockford, Peoria and East St. Louis to help energize communities by renovating historic structures. Past projects include the old Copley Hospital campus, the

Keystone Building, Terminal Building, former West Aurora Administration Building, Waubensee Community College, River Street Plaza, the Green Mile Bike Lane and the Hobbs Building, along with several residential, office and mixed-use sites.

She also passed animal welfare legislation: allowing pets in state-subsidized low-income housing, Senate Bill 154; preventing custody of an animal if an occupant in the home is convicted of animal cruelty, Senate Bill 153; and expanding the ban on the sale of exotic animal parts that are brutally poached and trafficked, House Bill 395. Holmes took on the Sales Finance Agency Act to end predatory lending for puppy mill animals in pet stores in House Bill 572. This will remove the burden on consumers of outrageous debt for overpriced animals who are often ill because of unscrupulous breeders' lack of care. Crippling debt and grief at the death of an unhealthy pet

shouldn't be a respected business model.

Wrapping up her animal measures passed this session, Holmes' Senate Bill 153 will allow trial courts to appoint a supervised law student to assist the court as a special advocate in prosecutions for cruelty to companion animals. Animal abuse cases sometimes end in dismissed charges or reduced sentences for animal owners accused of cruelty, often because prosecutors have good intentions but not enough resources for research and information to make a strong case. These advocates can aid the courts in working for consistent reinforcement of Illinois' mandate to properly protect companion animals. During the summer months and into next session, Holmes will continue to fight to ensure fewer animals are abused, more cases of animal cruelty are brought to justice, and more law students become well versed in animal cruelty laws.





Dave Koehler

Assistant Majority Leader | *46th Senate District*

As the legislature worked toward a post-pandemic new normal, State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) used the opportunity to serve the people he represents and help local communities get back on their feet. As an appointed member of the Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission, Koehler worked alongside legislators from across the state from July to December of 2020 to monitor and bolster efforts to help the economy recover and aid communities struggling as a result of COVID-19.

During the 2021 legislative session, Koehler was also proud to introduce House Bill 562, a plan he worked on with the Illinois State Police to modernize the Firearm Owner's Identification card in Illinois and help address a large backlog of applicants in the state. During the pandemic, Koehler heard from dozens of constituents

struggling to renew their FOID cards. As a lifelong gun owner himself, Koehler championed the cause of ensuring firearms remain accessible to safe and responsible owners, but are kept out of the hands of people who may be a danger to themselves or others. The legislation passed both chambers.

Koehler also got right to work this spring on measures to cut red tape for people who want to grow their own food, as well as those who wish to sell homemade foods for a profit. Senate Bill 2007 protects the rights of residents who grow vegetable gardens by preventing local governments from targeting them with bans. House Bill 633 expands opportunities for the production and sales of cottage foods. Both measures will help families bounce back from financial struggle stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a way to show gratitude to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, Koehler spearheaded Senate Bill 1533, which provides trapping license exemptions for disabled veterans, returning military service members and people who are terminally ill.

In order to spur continued economic development, Senate Bill 1822, sponsored by Koehler, extends the timeline on two Tax Increment Financing districts in Peoria. This legislation – which passed both chambers – will extend the expiration of all TIF districts from 23 to 35 years, meaning Peoria would see its expirations in 2042 and 2043, respectively. Extending the TIFs will result in new investment in the city's most urban areas for years to come.

Koehler also oversaw many efforts to strengthen the economy, improve infrastructure and increase job opportunities in the 46th District. During the 2021 legislative session, the state funded several grants that will be used for local infrastructure projects and will bring jobs to the area for years into the future.

Koehler looks forward to the opportunity to continue to be a voice for downstate and central Illinois in Springfield.





Antonio Munoz

Assistant Majority Leader | 1st Senate District

During the 102nd General Assembly, Assistant Majority Leader Antonio “Tony” Munoz (D-Chicago) continued his advocacy for children, veterans and police officers – among others.

Munoz met with area residents to discuss the inequalities that exist in health care services, especially for communities of color and people with lower incomes. To ensure everyone has access to biomarker testing, Munoz championed House Bill 1779. A “biomarker” is a sign of disease or abnormal function that can be measured in blood, tissue or bodily fluid. Biomarker testing is the medical technology used to determine medical risk factors like cancer, which can lead to better health outcomes and improve the quality of life for patients. The measure requires group and individual accident and health insurance policies and managed care plans to include coverage for biomarker testing for the purposes of diagnosis and treatment.

Munoz also continued his support for equality with legislation that removes the economic barriers minorities face. House Bill 132 requires the Business Enterprise Program to recognize and accept the credentials of businesses certified as minority-owned businesses or women-owned businesses by the City of Chicago, Cook County, or other entities approved by the Business Enterprise Program Council for purposes of participating in the program. The program was developed to ensure business owned by minorities, women and people with disabilities are awarded at least 20% of the total dollar

amount of state contracts. Minority-owned businesses are forced to fill out multiple applications and must compete for state contracts.

With many diverse communities in his district, Munoz supported a measure that incorporates a unit of Asian American history in public elementary and high schools. House Bill 376, also known as the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History Act – or TEAACH Act – creates the first state requirement of its kind in the country, ensuring Illinois public school students learn about key topics in Asian American history, such as the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

As a former Chicago police officer, Senator Munoz understands that police officers risk their lives every day for our communities. On May 6, Munoz attended the Illinois State Police Officers Memorial Ceremony on the West Lawn of the State Capitol.

The monument in Springfield bears

the names of the officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities. The names of every officer who died in the line of duty while serving during the previous year are engraved in the monument before the ceremony. Six Illinois police officers died in the line of duty in 2019, and 10 died in 2020.

One of Senator Munoz’s top priorities is making sure children have somewhere to go after school and activities to keep them busy. During a day off in Springfield, Munoz attended the opening day for the Omega Delta Youth Baseball and Softball League in early May – one of his favorite events to attend in the community.

Senator Munoz has dedicated his life to the residents of the 1st District. He will continue to advocate for small businesses, especially those affected by the pandemic, work to ensure minority communities’ voices are heard and protect the people who put their lives on the line to keep our state safe.





Mattie Hunter

Majority Caucus Chair | Revenue chair | 3rd Senate District

After nearly two decades of working to improve health outcomes across the state, Majority Caucus Chair Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) was honored to champion House Bill 158, one of her proudest accomplishments to date.

The law, which was signed by the governor in April, was part of the Legislative Black Caucus Agenda to eradicate systemic racism in Illinois. It addresses a wide range of issues in the state health care and human services sectors, including health care accessibility, hospital reform, maternal and infant mortality, mental health and substance abuse, medical implicit bias, and more.

One of the most significant provisions of the law will put a halt to hospital closures for up to 60 days to ensure underserved communities do not lose access to emergency care during and

immediately after the pandemic.

Hunter believes the systems that bind and neglect people of color must be addressed and pulled out by the root, creating equity through investment. The measures in this package reshape the state's health care, leading with diversity, inclusion and justice at the center.

However, health care wasn't the only industry that needed to be rid of implicit bias, which is why Hunter took on Senate Bill 1847. It will ensure the provisions in the Equal Pay Act are fully implemented. Though the Equal Pay Act was signed into law in March, this bill makes minor changes to the Equal Pay Act's application submission dates and to the equal pay compliance statement requirements.

With these changes, the Equal Pay Act will be more enforceable and more straightforward for all parties, clarifying the responsibilities of businesses,

detailing how applications should be processed by the department, and clarifying what information will be available to certain parties.

In Illinois, many struggled from food insecurity and lack of access to adequate nutrition during and even before the pandemic. Hunter believes that lack of nourishment is linked to a range of health problems and must end. In response to major food insecurity, she hosted many food giveaways throughout the pandemic.

In March, she revealed a new plan for ending food insecurity across the state as a part of her role on the Illinois Commission to End Hunger. The new plan, titled "From Food Insecurity to Food Equity: A Roadmap to End Hunger," advances a three-part strategy for connecting residents in need to nutrition assistance programs while simultaneously promoting equitable access to food.

The plan was compiled with input from various state agencies and stakeholders located across Illinois and will guide the administration's work to achieve meaningful progress towards ending hunger in the coming years.

Hunter remains committed to promoting equality and justice across all sectors. As Illinois navigates its reopening plan, Hunter will work to ensure businesses, schools and community groups have the necessary resources to safely reopen and recover.





Omar Aquino

Majority Caucus Whip | Redistricting chair | 2nd Senate District

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc in Illinois, causing a disproportionate number of infections and deaths, higher unemployment rates, and increased business closures in communities of color. State Senator Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) stepped up as a leader in the community throughout the pandemic.

Aquino was instrumental in advocating for grants for small businesses, unemployment benefits extensions and funding for health care resources. Throughout the public health crisis, he also worked with his colleagues and the Pritzker administration to provide COVID-19 testing opportunities in communities heavily impacted by the pandemic, and deployed contact-tracing resources to stop the spread of the virus.

Understanding that the health crisis made evident the historical disparities and disinvestment in minority communities, Aquino was devoted to changing the status quo by sponsoring legislation like House Bill 1653. It would invest \$150 million in health care services for underserved communities. The measure would also allow local stakeholders, like faith leaders, community organizations, residents, and safety-net hospitals, to have a voice in finding the best health care solutions in their communities.

To restore stability in communities impacted by the pandemic and overcome its effects on employment and the economy, one essential element working families needed

was housing stability. Although the statewide eviction moratorium helped struggling families across the state avoid homelessness and housing insecurity, Aquino knew the measure would be temporary—renters needed direct, effective relief, and soon.

Aquino passed House Bill 2877, which established The Illinois Rental Payment Program and was signed into law before the end of session. It creates the necessary framework to distribute over \$1 billion in assistance from the federal American Rescue Plan to residents who experience housing distress. This program will provide up to \$25,000 per family for rent payments, an injection of capital that will stop many evictions and mortgage defaults.

Aquino served as chair of the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee. As part of his duties, he led an open process to draw the new legislative district maps in Illinois. For the first time in history, Illinois

residents could participate in this process from the safety of their own homes, thanks to an online portal that allowed anyone to draw and submit maps that accurately represented their communities. Aquino also led multiple meetings of the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee, welcoming public participation both in person and virtually to give residents the chance to make their voices heard safely. Aquino is committed to working for a fair redistricting process for the people of Illinois, a process that occurs regularly every ten years.

As part of the recovery efforts from the pandemic, Aquino's focus is on offering resources that protect the lives and the well-being of the people of the 2nd District. He continues to work with local leading health care stakeholders, community organizations and fellow lawmakers to offer vaccination clinics and funding opportunities to energize a robust economic comeback.





Napoleon Harris, III

Majority Caucus Whip | Insurance chair | 15th Senate District

State Senator Napoleon Harris, III (D-Harvey) knows firsthand the struggles and stresses that come from competing at the collegiate or professional level.

The ex-NFL player started the year advocating for former players who sustained head injuries but do not receive compensation for those injuries from the National Football League. Nearly 70% of the leagues' players are Black, and recent reports revealed the organization appears to use race to determine concussion settlements, meaning Black players do not receive the same support as their white peers.

Harris went on to work on Senate Bill 2338, a law that will allow student-athletes at Illinois colleges and universities to receive compensation for the use of their names, images and likenesses. It allows them to receive payment for products like apparel and video games that use their name or image.

Harris also worked to better support the fight against COVID-19 in the communities he represents. He helped open the Family Christian Center vaccination site for Harvey and surrounding South Suburban communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted disadvantaged communities, and Harris knew it was vital that communities like Harvey have access to the vaccine.

Harris is a champion in providing quality health care for working families. To help patients better manage their prescription costs, he passed House Bill 1745, which will require all Illinois-regulated health insurance companies to offer flat-dollar copay plans for drug benefits. Harris wants to help working families better plan for their health care costs and stop health care companies from requiring patients to pay a percentage of the drug's cost, rather than a copay.

Because Black and Brown families

are being treated unfairly at the Department of Children and Family Services, Harris passed Senate Bill 2406 that will require DCFS to submit an annual report regarding racial disparities for children and families. The report must include education success, health and behavioral health, housing, jobs and economic justice, criminal justice, and other key indicators of children and families' well-being. The report must also address children and families with cases of abuse and neglect and all aspects of the foster care system.

In order to increase diversity and inclusion in the railroad industry, Harris sponsored Senate Bill 2424 to encourage Amtrak to submit procurement goals for female-owned minority-owned, veteran-owned, and small business enterprises. Harris wants to ensure all small and minority businesses get a fair opportunity to participate in transportation contracts.

In order to increase the progress of Black businesses, Harris also introduced House Bill 1960 in hopes of creating the Black Wall Street Program. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity would develop and administer this program to stimulate Black businesses' growth and development in underserved communities throughout the state of Illinois.

Harris is proud of the measures he championed to help serve the community he represents, and hopes to continue advocacy for low-income families in the summer months.





Michael E. Hastings

Majority Caucus Whip | Energy and Public Utilities chair | 19th Senate District

Despite navigating a legislative session marred by the lingering COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus persevered for another productive spring. Majority Caucus Whip Michael E. Hastings (D-Frankfort) led the way on several initiatives that could have major implications for veterans' services, airline employees and amateur athletic development.

Hastings continued his career-long advocacy for improved veterans' services through two key measures. The first, Senate Bill 505, will ensure a state flag presentation for next of kin for all who sacrificed their lives for their country in the National Guard.

Under current law, members of the Illinois National Guard serving on federal duty or training status are to have a state flag presented to their next of kin upon their death, should they fall in the line of duty.

The measure adds State Active Duty to this provision, ensuring that all who lose their lives in service of their state and country are properly memorialized. In addition, Hastings saw to it that fewer veterans are victims of scams with a piece of legislation penalizing deceptive veterans' service providers. The legislation, House Bill 3865, will make it unlawful not to include a disclaimer on advertisements for veterans' services that informs the viewer of available, free services for veterans provided by the State of Illinois.

Throughout his career, Hastings has been a champion for working people across the state. His latest initiative on this front was brought to him by two area residents, both flight attendants for Southwest Airlines. Corliss King's husband was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease in 2017 and received various surgeries that left him in need of care at home. Corliss was able to use her own accrued sick time to help care for her husband and children until 2017, when a law was passed that removed coverage for airline employees. Susan Lyons has a similar story. When her brother, a single father, suffered a heart attack that put him in a coma, Susan was forced to take unpaid FMLA leave, rather than use any of her 300+ sick hours. She lost over a month of income during the time she was caring for her brother and his child. In an effort to right these wrongs, Hastings championed Senate Bill

645, which would allow these airline employees to use earned sick time to care for sick family members.

Over the course of the past year, Illinois students were forced to make unfair sacrifices. Many of them lost out on a precious year of school-related activities that can never be replaced. In an attempt to help the next generation of Illinois athletes prosper, Hastings carried House Bill 3870, which will create an Amateur Sports Commission to make recommendations to lawmakers about effectively promoting, developing and expanding amateur sports programs. These recommendations would be based on physical fitness through participation in sports.

This summer, Hastings will remain active in the 19th District by hosting a wide variety of events and continue working diligently to provide a stable clean energy future in Illinois.





Julie A. Morrison

Majority Caucus Whip | Health chair | 29th Senate District

As COVID-19 cases continued to surge at the start of the year, State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) knew she had to continue to advocate for safe and accessible elections. The local municipal elections were right around the corner, and people were expressing worries about the safety and timeliness of voting by mail.

Those concerns led Morrison to start the 102nd General Assembly championing House Bill 1871, which allows election authorities to establish permanent ballot drop boxes to accept vote-by-mail ballots and to accept mailed ballots even if they have insufficient postage.

The new law also allows election authorities to establish curbside voting for people to cast their ballots during early voting or on Election Day. Curbside voting helps people with disabilities vote at polling locations that are not as accessible as they should be.

The measure passed both chambers and was signed by the governor before the April election.

Following the success of that elections law, Morrison helped champion House Bill 825. Signed in June, the law expands upon Morrison's previous voting rights progress by allowing voters to request to be added to a list to permanently receive vote-by-mail ballots for all future elections. Voters who are added to the permanent vote-by-mail list will remain on the list unless requested to be removed or the election authority receives confirmation the voter has registered in another county.

Additionally under the newly signed law, people with disabilities would be able to independently and privately fill out ballots using assistive technology – a provision originally led by Morrison.

Knowing how organ donors can transform lives but often face barriers and challenges to give the gift of life, Morrison also championed Senate Bill 1918 to create an optional organ donation tax credit for private employers. The credit would be applicable if the employer allows its employees the option to take a paid leave of absence for a minimum of

30 days for serving as an organ or bone marrow donor. In 2018, 3,402 people in Illinois were candidates for a kidney transplant, but by the end of the year, only 798 people received a transplant. Encouraging living donors is key to ensure more people who need the lifesaving surgery receive it.

Morrison's legislative successes continued when she spearheaded the Preventing Youth Vaping Act, which will place a number of restrictions on electronic cigarettes, including prohibiting marketing tactics that use images of cartoons or video games that appeal to children. Senate Bill 512 comes after she passed a 2019 law to increase the age to legally purchase tobacco to 21, but continued to face concerns about the number of children who are being targeted with marketing for these harmful products.

Furthermore, to better connect with the people she represents – both during the pandemic and beyond – Morrison started a monthly Lunch and Learn Series. Each month, she works with groups around the state to host a one-hour informational webinar on Zoom. She has hosted events with the office of the Illinois attorney general, the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, among other state and local organizations.

Morrison hopes to continue her Lunch and Learn series throughout the summer months and advocate for bettering the health and well-being of adults and children.





Christopher Belt

Education chair | 57th Senate District

During his third year in the General Assembly, State Senator Christopher Belt (D-Swansea) was a strong voice for equal and equitable education, employment and economic opportunity for the residents of the 57th District and beyond. He sponsored legislation that would promote diversity in state agencies, update the admissions criteria at Illinois' public universities, help schools use uneaten food for low-income students and encourage homeless shelters to provide feminine hygiene products to their occupants at no cost.

One of his first initiatives of the 102nd General Assembly was Senate Bill 1765, which will change the job interview process at state agencies to increase employment opportunities for women, minorities and people with disabilities.

"It's essential for agencies to have diversity in mind when they interview job applicants," Belt said.

Belt was also the Senate sponsor of House Bill 226, which creates the Higher Education Fair Admissions Act. It prohibits Illinois' public universities from relying solely on a student's ACT or SAT score to make an admissions decision.

"It's simple: Students are more than a test score. We know standardized tests are not always the most reliable scope of a student's academic capabilities," Belt said.

The measure ensures Illinois public universities take more than one score into account when considering

applicants. Belt understood that multiple public universities across the state had already implemented a test-optional admissions system prior to the pandemic. This would codify a system that has already been put in place by institutions nationwide.

In addition to ensuring more equitable access to state universities, Belt sponsored a measure that would require the Illinois State Board of Education to create an unused food program for K-12 students already receiving free and reduced school breakfast and lunches. Senate Bill 805 ensures students who receive food assistance during the day have food when they go home after school. The program would allow public schools to provide their leftover food to students who qualify.

Belt also championed House Bill 310, which encourages homeless shelters to prioritize the purchase of feminine hygiene products for all

who need them.

"There is no excuse for depriving any individual the right to basic hygiene," Belt said.

The legislation prioritizes women and youth by providing feminine hygiene products at all homeless shelters to people who need them at no cost. Purchasing feminine hygiene products creates a significant financial burden, especially for women with children, who make up 60% of the female homeless population in the U.S.

To provide additional support to families in need, Belt sponsored legislation to help low-income families pay for water and sewer services by creating a fund that makes payments directly to the utility providers on behalf of customers in need.

Senator Belt will continue to advocate for the residents of the 57th District to ensure their voices are heard.





Scott M. Bennett

Higher Education chair | 52nd Senate District

During this legislative session, State Senator Scott Bennett (D-Champaign) continued his work fighting the student loan epidemic in Illinois.

Bennett – who serves as chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee – championed legislation to help students make more informed choices about the loans they take out to pay for college and establish new accountability standards for private loan companies.

“The reward for higher education should not be a lifetime of debt,” Bennett said. “Students and families should be informed if they qualify for federal loans before they turn to private loans and the higher interest rates and fewer repayment options that go with them.”

Bennett worked closely with the Illinois attorney general’s office to craft the Know Before You Owe Private Education Loan Act – House Bill 2746 – which requires private

lenders to confirm with a potential borrower’s school that the student’s tuition, housing and other costs are not covered by other sources of financial aid. Additionally, the legislation requires colleges and universities to notify students about their federal loan eligibility before certifying private loans.

Bennett also teamed up with the Illinois treasurer’s office to pass legislation to improve the Illinois Higher Education Savings Program.

He spearheaded House Bill 573, which requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide the treasurer with information on recent births and adoptions in Illinois for the purpose of enrolling children in the program beginning in 2021. Additionally, the measure requires the Illinois Department of Revenue to provide the treasurer with information on tax filers claiming dependents or the adoption tax credit for the purpose

of enrolling children in the program.

“This program gives families the opportunity to start planning for higher education from day one,” Bennett said. “In addition to giving these families a head start on college savings, this legislation gives the Illinois treasurer the necessary tools to implement the program.”

The health and safety of students was also a concern for Bennett this year. He was the Senate sponsor of House Bill 597, which will require school districts to provide contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line on student identification cards.

“We have great services available to help students who may be struggling,” Bennett said. “Printing this information on student ID cards means the hotline number is always close at hand, and more importantly, can be used as a lifeline for children and their families.”

Bennett remains active in his district, holding town halls and informative events on services and programs available to residents. Bennett hosted a healthy food drive that benefited a local shelter in Vermilion County. He also collected handwritten cards for seniors and sent them to local long-term care facilities to uplift residents in the midst of the pandemic.

Following a difficult year, Bennett hopes to put the COVID-19 pandemic in the rearview mirror and will continue to help families and individuals get back on track.





Melinda Bush

Environment and Conservation chair | 31st Senate District

State Senator Melinda Bush (D-Grayslake) has been a steadfast advocate for women’s reproductive rights since first joining the General Assembly – and her fight for medical equity for women continued again during the 2021 legislative session. Bush led House Bill 135 to give women easier, more affordable access to birth control by allowing pharmacists to issue hormonal contraceptives, including oral tablets, vaginal rings and topical patches.

Many women struggle to access hormonal contraceptives, which historically have only been prescribed through a physician. They may not know where to go or are unable to afford doctors’ appointments. Bush, however, acknowledged pharmacists are much more accessible than a physician and could break down that barrier.

Bush is a strong believer that birth control is a basic health care service and should be treated as such. Providing greater access to contraceptives is providing a more equitable health care system.

Throughout her time in office, she has also worked tirelessly to tackle the ongoing opioid crisis. This year, she sponsored Senate Bill 2535, which is another step toward saving lives from the deadly effects of opioids. It would require a prescriber to offer a co-prescription for naloxone hydrochloride – or a similar drug – to patients given an opioid drug. Naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose.

As chair of the Senate Environment and Conservation Committee, Senator Bush spends much of her time striving for a cleaner and safer environment for all Illinoisans. More than 20 years ago, a nuclear plant in the district she represents shut its doors. People lost jobs and the community was eviscerated. To help provide jobs in areas where coal plants, coal mines or nuclear plants have closed and to foster the development of green energy across the state, she spearheaded the Energy Transition Zone Act found within Senate Bill 1747. Under the act, areas that contain coal energy plants, coal mines or nuclear energy plants could apply to become “energy transition zones.”

Once designated an energy transition zone, green energy enterprises would be able to apply for a number of tax benefits, be exempt from state or local taxes on gas and electricity, and have the ability to purchase certain building materials exempt from use

and occupation taxes for green energy projects.

She also fought to provide clean drinking water throughout the state through the Lead Service Line Replacement Notification Act. House Bill 3739 requires water utilities statewide to replace all lead service lines and create a low-income water assistance program to help fund financial assistance and water projects that include lead pipe replacement.

As more cities across the country have seen increased amounts of lead in their drinking water – including Chicago, Aurora, Joliet, Cicero and Rockford – the health risk has also increased. Aside from keeping the harmful chemicals out of people’s water, Bush’s measure creates 11,000 jobs and \$115 billion in economic activity each year.

Bush is proud of the work done during the first year of the 102nd General Assembly and hopes to expand on it throughout the summer months and into next year.





Cristina Castro

Executive chair | 22nd Senate District

Despite the unique circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic this past year, State Senator Cristina Castro (D-Elgin) has been unwavering in her work to represent the residents of the 22nd District and the state of Illinois. This year, Castro continued efforts on issues important to her and her community and took up new priorities to address the ever-changing needs of area residents.

As the spring session began, Castro continued her work to improve the lives of new mothers, especially Black and Brown mothers who, according to studies, have higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity. She advocated tirelessly to expand Medicaid for new mothers, culminating in Illinois becoming the first state to extend coverage from 60 days postpartum to 12 months. She championed Senate Bill 967, which laid out various requirements for Medicaid, private insurance companies and hospitals to provide support for new mothers. The measure passed the Senate and the House unanimously.

Castro also successfully passed House Bill 449, creating the Housing is Recovery Pilot Program. This program will give support to people with mental health and substance use disorders through the use of a bridge rental subsidy and access to support services and treatment to reduce instances of unnecessary institutionalization and incarceration.

This year, Castro also led House Bill 2553, the Protecting Household Privacy Act. The measure will require law enforcement to secure a valid warrant to collect data from household smart devices like Amazon Alexa or Ring doorbells.

She worked on a variety of other measures this year, as well. Senate Bill 294 will require manufacturers of nonwoven wipes to be clearly labeled as “do not flush,” as these kinds of wipes can disrupt sewage systems and septic tanks.

To encourage victims of crime to make reports, assist law enforcements with criminal investigations and promote transparency in the criminal justice system, she also introduced Senate Bill

2079, which will enhance the VOICES Act, which was initially passed to ensure immigrant survivors of trafficking and certain qualifying violent crimes will have uniform access to the U or T visa throughout the state.

Castro also continued working with various stakeholders on comprehensive energy legislation with the goal of bringing Illinois to the top of the clean energy economy while putting environmental justice communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and pollution at the forefront of the transition. As the work on energy legislation continues, she commits to standing with Black, indigenous, and other communities of color, as well as the small businesses and ratepayers to bring an equity-centered measure to a vote in those communities.

Aside from her legislative accomplishments, Castro worked with the governor’s office to bring a mass vaccination site to Elgin, as well as various vaccine clinics throughout the community. She focused her efforts on getting vaccines to the Latino community, which was disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, by promoting information on vaccinations in both English and Spanish and going into the community to urge people to get vaccinated.

As the state recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, Castro stands committed to representing her district to help residents and small businesses bounce back from the struggles of the last year.





John Connor

Criminal Law chair | 43rd Senate District

During his first term in the Senate, State Senator John Connor (D-Lockport) wasted no time getting to work for the people he represents. As a new voice for the district, some of Connor's first legislative priorities in the Senate dealt with addressing racial bias in hiring processes, providing necessary resources to educators across the state, and one of the 43rd District's largest concerns: continued access to clean drinking water.

Senate Bill 2368, an initiative of the City of Joliet introduced by Connor, would authorize municipalities to enter into regional water commissions. This legislation is especially important to Joliet and much of the 43rd District because it would allow the City to enter into a contract with Chicago to construct a 31-mile pipeline to obtain water from Lake Michigan to avoid a regional water crisis by 2030.

Connor also introduced House Bill 653, which would provide funding to hire additional inspectors and carry out increased testing of clean construction and demolition debris facilities. This testing and monitoring will help ensure contaminants are kept out of fill sites where clean construction demolition debris is dumped, and in turn, kept out of groundwater. This legislation goes hand in hand with Senate Bill 546, Connor's initiative to require

groundwater monitoring at all clean construction or demolition debris fill operations throughout the state.

Ensuring that educators across the state have access to the resources they need led Connor to introduce Senate Bill 2371. The legislation would implement a construction program to support public schools, early childhood programs and vocational education programs in the state. The inclusion of vocational programs in the legislation is a priority of the 43rd District, as many residents work in manufacturing and the trades.

As the state begins to adjust to a post-COVID-19 new normal, Connor has worked hard to make sure Illinoisans seeking employment have a fair shot at being hired, which is why he sponsored House Bill 53. This legislation takes a closer look at large companies and corporations that rely on artificial

intelligence when making hiring decisions. The legislation would require these companies to collect and report race and ethnicity data of applicants, both those hired and those not hired, in order to ensure no racial bias exists within the technology and to address it if needed.

In the district, Connor has worked to help spread information about COVID-19 and vaccine opportunities. He has also partnered with local groups like the Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project to support vaccine distribution clinics that help establish vaccine equity for the diverse communities he represents.

Connor looks forward to the opportunity to continue to represent the residents of the 43rd District and to bring their best interests to the table in Springfield.





Rachelle Crowe

Judiciary chair | 56th Senate District

Continuing her efforts to improve the quality of life for Illinois residents, State Senator Rachelle Crowe (D-Glen Carbon) worked throughout the 102nd General Assembly to enhance public safety, ensure protections for vulnerable populations and create education opportunities for families.

With already existing issues amplified by the pandemic, Crowe advanced a proposal, Senate Bill 701, to combat abuse targeted at older residents, including abandonment, financial exploitation and isolation. Based on recommendations made by the Elder Abuse Task Force, the measure included several initiatives aimed at protecting older residents from financial, physical and emotional abuse.

Crowe created the Elder Abuse Task Force in 2019 and has served as its chair, leading collaboration between state agency officials, Metro East law enforcement officers

and elder abuse experts. One of the most significant updates in the proposal includes making it possible to charge friends and acquaintances in a position of trust with financial exploitation. Another provision of the proposal works to prevent additional abuse by expanding the state's Adult Protective Services Act to include reports of abandonment.

Influenced by Metro East residents who were startled by an unexpected power plant demolition in 2021, Crowe advanced an initiative through the General Assembly requiring property owners planning to demolish a power plant to notify surrounding communities. Under Senate Bill 1920, the notice must include details on the scheduled date and time of the demolition, potential contaminants emitted by the project, and any preventative measures implemented to control, mitigate or prevent pollution at least 60 days before demolition

begins.

Many of Illinois' bordering states, like Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin, consider K-12 tuition and apprenticeship supply costs eligible expenses under qualified tuition plans, and Crowe advanced an initiative through the Senate to bring Illinois up to par. To expand financial options for students seeking affordable education, Crowe introduced Senate Bill 558 to allow families to use funds from qualified tuition plans to cover the costs. Under her plan, families could use these funds to pay for enrollment at an elementary or secondary public, private or religious school, as well as fees, books, supplies and equipment required for apprenticeship programs.

To continue her work as a strong voice for violent crime survivors, Crowe created a new state task force with Senate Resolution 58 to review and address discrepancies in state laws regarding child physical and sexual abuse to improve Illinois' response. The Child Sexual Assault and Physical Abuse Task Force will investigate, assess and make recommendations on the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act.

Crowe has worked tirelessly for the residents she represents over the last unprecedented year to provide pandemic-related relief, ensure protections for working families and support the 56th District's communities.





Tom Cullerton

Veterans Affairs chair | 23rd Senate District

This year, State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) remained a passionate advocate for the 23rd District and Illinois as a whole. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Cullerton ensured the district he represents received the resources it needed to keep its communities safe and healthy.

Cullerton has a long history of promoting mental health wellness. This year, he sponsored numerous measures that would require school districts and universities to distribute phone and text numbers to crisis lines, including Senate Bill 2014, Senate Bill 810 and House Bill 1778. Young people are more susceptible to mental health crises, and the pandemic did not make things easier. Having easy access to resources like suicide hotlines could help prevent tragedies on campus.

In the early months of the pandemic, many felt the effects of social isolation, especially those in long-term care facilities. To help combat the loneliness many felt in those times, Cullerton championed House Bill 3147. It will require long-term care facilities to help with at least one phone or video call between a resident and a family member each day during a declared disaster.

As a veteran, Cullerton has long been an advocate for military members and veterans in the state. In the fall of 2020, the LaSalle Veterans' Home tragically lost 36 veterans to a COVID-19 outbreak.

As chair of the Veterans Affairs committee, Cullerton vowed to get to the bottom of what caused the outbreak, calling multiple hearings for the Department of Veterans Affairs leadership, the governor's office and representatives from the Department of Public Health to explain what happened. He remains hopeful that with new IDVA leadership and continued fact-finding about the events at the LaSalle Veterans' Home, further tragedies can be prevented.

Cullerton also sponsored legislation that would restore well-deserved state benefits to LGBTQ+ veterans who were "other than Honorably" discharged due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Despite the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy a decade ago, people who were discharged solely for their sexual orientation or gender identity have not been eligible to receive

state benefits. House Bill 1290 will change these individuals' statuses to "honorably discharged," thus allowing them to begin receiving state veteran benefits.

He also continued his work on promoting transparency and efficiency in Illinois. He successfully passed Senate Bill 1800 through the Senate, which would encourage small local units of government to consolidate. With approximately 7,000 units, Illinois leads the nation in the most units of local government, which can take more taxes out of residents' pockets. This initiative would prohibit the creation of any new local unit of government through the dividing of existing local governments while allowing local units to consolidate.

Cullerton commits to helping the residents of the 23rd District recover from the last year as the state bounces back from the COVID-19 pandemic.





Laura Ellman

Financial Institutions chair | 21st Senate District

In her third year in the General Assembly, State Senator Laura Ellman (D-Naperville) hit the ground running, introducing legislation to address opioid overdose deaths, help firefighters, protect the environment and expand access to testing for people with or at risk of developing diabetes.

One of Ellman's major priorities was passing Alex's Law, which was brought to her by local resident Bill Green. It aims to reduce deaths from opioid overdoses. The legislation would protect people from being arrested for drug possession if the drugs were found due to that person calling emergency assistance for someone suffering an overdose. The law is named after Green's son, Alex, who died from an overdose after the person with him did not inform authorities that Alex was overdosing. Through House Bill

3445, Ellman wants to ensure the good deed of trying to save a life does not result in punishment.

Another potentially life-saving measure brought to Ellman by a local resident would require insurers to cover important tests for people with or at risk of developing diabetes. Senate Bill 1854 will require insurers to cover A1C and vitamin D tests that are recommended by health care providers for people who may have or have prediabetes, type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Ellman believes people have the right to know if they're at risk of developing diabetes, and insurance providers should cover the tests.

One of Senator Ellman's top priorities – Senate Bill 561 – will protect the environment and health of firefighters and the public from harmful PFAS chemicals. PFAS chemicals are too small to filter, and their internal bonds are

so strong that they don't break down. Exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse health effects, like cancer, reproductive issues, and liver and kidney problems, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The measure will put Illinois on a path to phase out the production, distribution, sale and use of PFAS, helping to keep Illinois' environment healthy.

Ellman also passed legislation to help Illinois' firefighters get the pension they deserve. Senate Bill 167 will make the retirement process fairer for many firefighters. The current law doesn't address an oversight that could cause hundreds of firefighters to lose out on time they've served when they retire. Currently, firefighters outside of Chicago who began work after 2011 are not allowed to purchase service credit after changing employers. This measure will ensure all firefighters are able to purchase service credit if they move to a new employer who is covered by a different fire pension fund.

Senator Ellman greatly appreciates the people in her district who trust her to promote legislation that reflects their priorities and is looking forward to continuing her work in the Senate addressing and resolving other issues affecting people's lives and the environment.





Sara Feigenholtz

Tourism and Hospitality chair | 6th Senate District

State Senator Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) joined the Senate in January of 2020, appointed to fill the seat of longtime President of the Senate John J. Cullerton, who retired earlier that month. Fully intent on continuing the decades of hard work she had done as a member of the House of Representatives, Feigenholtz's plans were put on hold as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the pandemic ebbing and many aspects of traditional life returning, 2021—the first legislative year of the 102nd General Assembly—emerged as the first opportunity for Feigenholtz to get to work to prioritize issues that impact the 6th Senate District.

One of Feigenholtz's primary concerns for the 2021 session was reopening the state and ensuring a full economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the tourism and hospitality industry. During the 2020 special session, she was the primary sponsor of a measure dubbed "Cocktails to Go," which allowed bars and restaurants to include alcoholic beverages as part of their delivery services. This year, she sponsored Senate Bill 104, which extended the service – originally set to expire in June of 2021 – by three additional years. The measure was signed into law in June.

As part of her dedication to providing relief to a struggling industry, Feigenholtz was named chair of the newly formed Senate Tourism and Hospitality Committee, which was tasked with overseeing and approving legislation meant to increase tourism to Illinois and boost the state's hospitality

industry, which had been one of the hardest-hit sectors of the state. This was Feigenholtz's first chair position in the Senate.

One of the most prominent Feigenholtz-sponsored initiatives of the 102nd General Assembly was Senate Bill 139, which will allow married couples to petition county clerks for new marriage certificates free of gendered language. Known as the "Marriage Certificate Modernization Act," Feigenholtz cited the fact that modern science is clear on the subject of gender: it is not strictly binary, and many people do not fit into either assigned gender. An updated, gendered-language-free version of a marriage certificate allows a couple to have an accurate reflection of who they are.

In tandem with this measure, Feigenholtz also sponsored House Bill 2590, which allows a married individual who legally changed their name in Illinois to request a new marriage certificate that is updated with the individual's

new name. Feigenholtz believes this is important to reflect the reality of marriage as it exists today in Illinois by removing archaic practices that excluded transgender individuals.

As an adoptee herself, Feigenholtz has sponsored many laws throughout her career meant to help children in the system. In 2021, this trend continued, with the most impactful measure being Senate Bill 2323. This proposal will prevent the Department of Children and Family Services from being able to use hard physical restraints when transporting children under its care.

Feigenholtz also has a passion for fighting for legislation that addresses women's rights and gender equity, and as such, she was a co-sponsor of and helped support many pieces of legislation related to these issues.

Over the summer, she plans to continue her traditional open community outreach, providing assistance and services to residents of the district she represents who need it most.





Laura Fine

Behavioral and Mental Health chair | 9th Senate District

During the spring legislative session, State Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview) was a strong voice for access to quality, affordable health care and insurance coverage, mental health treatment and environmental legislation for working families.

As chair of the newly formed Senate Committee on Behavioral and Mental Health, Senator Fine worked to strengthen existing mental health resources in Illinois and foster the formation of new support systems. The committee evaluated legislation regarding insurance coverage of mental health care, existing support programs and new resources for people experiencing mental health and substance use disorders.

Senator Fine, a longtime mental health advocate, sponsored several pieces of legislation during her time in the Illinois General Assembly to give Illinoisans faster, easier access to care. She renewed her commitment to fighting for easier access to mental

health care with the passage of Senate Bill 471, which will ensure Illinois families no longer have to travel unreasonable distances or wait weeks for mental health and substance use disorder treatment. Under her legislation, insurers will be required to provide timely, nearby access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous or substance use disorders and conditions.

To give family members of people in mental health facilities more information on how to help their loved one, Senator Fine passed Senate Bill 1970. The Access to Basic Mental Health Information Act will give certain family members access to information about their loved one's care, including whether the individual is located at the mental health facility, their current physical and mental condition, diagnosis, treatment needs, services provided, services and medication needed, discharge planning or continuity of care, and a physician's

report if clinically appropriate.

In an effort to protect children from toxic chemical exposure on coal-tar-treated playgrounds and paved areas, Senator Fine championed Senate Bill 692. The measure will require public schools and state agencies to disclose the use of toxic coal tar-based pavement sealant. The Coal Tar Sealant Act would require public schools, public school districts, day cares and state agencies to disclose the use of coal tar-based sealant on playgrounds, parking lots and other paved areas. This legislation would also require groups planning to use coal tar-based sealant for a pavement project to look into cleaner alternatives.

Additionally, insurance coverage for infertility treatment for all women, regardless of marital status, will be accessible under House Bill 3709, led by Senator Fine. Current coverage requirements only protect infertility treatments for women under 35 who are unable to become pregnant after one year of trying, women over 35 who are unable to become pregnant after six months, and women who are not medically able to conceive. Senator Fine's measure would expand coverage to include single women and women unable to conceive with a partner.

Senator Fine looks forward to coming back to Springfield to continue her work to help ensure access to quality, affordable health care, expand mental health treatment options and fight for our environment.





Ann Gillespie

Ethics chair | 27th Senate District

State Senator Ann Gillespie (D-Arlington Heights) continued her mission to find practical solutions to the problems facing working families in 2021. This year, she led efforts to address the school social worker shortage, end the abuse of school seclusion rooms, provide affordable housing incentives and increase transparency in our government.

With Illinois schools facing a shortage of professional, culturally competent social workers, Senator Gillespie passed two pieces of legislation that would assist school social workers with earning and paying off their degrees. Senate Bill 661 creates up to 250 Post-Master of Social Work Professional Educator License scholarships each year. Senate Bill 662 would empower the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to offer up to \$6,500 in loan repayment assistance to borrowers with loans related to a degree in social work. Both measures prioritize underrepresented groups in social work and are only available to social workers who work at public or not-for-profit institutions of learning.

After a ProPublica and Chicago Tribune investigation revealed that seclusion rooms were being used for punishment for non-threatening behavior, Senator Gillespie introduced House Bill 219 to end the abuse of restraints and seclusion rooms in our schools. Her measure passed this year and will uphold the dignity of all students while keeping them safe.

To be proactive on housing

insecurity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Gillespie helped pass House Bill 2621, which encourages the development of quality, affordable housing units. Gillespie's contributions would create incentives for developers by using a property tax abatement and is included in a larger housing package.

As chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, Gillespie led efforts to increase transparency and accountability in Illinois' institutions. This year, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers came together to negotiate a sweeping ethics package that will help create a culture of accountability in Springfield. The legislation will prohibit elected officials from lobbying other units of government, establishes a revolving door ban, prohibits salaried appointees from serving on a political committee, bans fundraising statewide during legislative session and on days before or after, and pro-

rates the salaries of General Assembly members who leave office prior to the end of their term.

In addition to the ethics package, Senator Gillespie also passed House Bill 571, which will make TIF developments more transparent. Partnering with the Illinois Comptroller, Senator Gillespie passed the measure, which would require enhanced reporting of projected and actual job creation, and for reports to be verified by a neutral third party. The legislation would make it easier for residents to understand just how TIF districts impact their property taxes and benefit the community, while cracking down on bad faith developers.

In her third legislative session, Senator Gillespie once again proved that she is willing to take on the tough issues and deliver results for her community. Next year she plans to continue her work on TIF transparency, ethics and expanding access to health care.





Suzy Glowiak Hilton

Commerce chair | 24th Senate District

As communities adjusted to new ways of life during the pandemic, State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs) quickly got to work representing the interests of the 24th District. With a rational approach and bipartisan support on many measures, Glowiak Hilton successfully passed legislation to support students, local businesses and vulnerable communities.

Glowiak Hilton is a strong supporter of public education institutions and advocated for several improvements to assist students throughout the year.

To improve access to mental health education and resources for students, she passed House Bill 212 to allow the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership to work together to more fully and effectively foster students' well-being. By permitting collaboration between agencies, Glowiak Hilton hopes to strengthen the state's mental health care system and help connect

students with the best prevention and treatment services.

Another Glowiak Hilton initiative, Senate Bill 190, aims to help students by requiring higher education institutions to designate one employee to serve as a housing insecurity liaison. She believes stable housing to be foundational for academic and social success and hopes that by creating this position our state would move one step closer to combating homelessness for students and ensuring they have access to better opportunities.

Continuing her efforts to protect violent crime survivors from repetitive abuse, Glowiak Hilton partnered with the Illinois Attorney General's Office to expand the Address Confidentiality Program. Originally, the ACP was established to keep the locations of domestic violence survivors private. In 2020, Glowiak Hilton expanded protections to survivors of sexual assault and stalking, and in 2021 passed Senate Bill 593, allowing

human trafficking survivors to also opt in. Her intent with these expansions is to offer survivors peace of mind that their personal information is safe from perpetrators.

As technology advances, scammers use deceitful tactics to persuade residents to give them personal information. In an effort to protect vulnerable community members from being misled by scam callers, Glowiak Hilton sponsored Senate Bill 2225 which aims to outlaw operators from disguising their identity by falsifying caller ID. To enhance protections for consumers, her initiative requires the operator of any soliciting telephone call to immediately state the affiliated business and the purpose of the call, as well as to confirm consent from the receiver.

To offer support for small businesses and allow units of local government to decide what is best for their community's financial future, Glowiak Hilton passed House Bill 2454, which will create the option for counties and municipalities to waive license, permit or registration fees. By offering relief to the hardest-hit industries, her proposal would potentially ease burdens businesses face and help them recover from pandemic-related financial hardship.

Glowiak Hilton delivered on her promise to serve the people of the 24th District by passing a successful agenda to protect students, local businesses and other vulnerable communities.





Adriane Johnson

30th Senate District

When State Senator Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove) was sworn in as a state senator in October—standing in her backyard and taking the oath of office via Zoom—she hit the ground running.

As a lifelong public servant and volunteer, outreach came easily to her. Before she had even set foot on the Senate floor, Johnson and her team were already working to meet the needs of a community ravaged by the pandemic.

To help families in need stay warm, Johnson ran a winter clothing drive, collecting over 40 coats and 200 hats to donate to local community organizations.

Seeing local shops and restaurants struggling to stay afloat during the economic slump, Johnson also launched a small business tour series to connect with entrepreneurs in her district. In just a few short weeks, Johnson visited art studios, entertainment centers, live music venues, distilleries and more to learn about the challenges facing business owners and to offer her support.

When the legislature returned to Springfield, Johnson set her sights on improving health and wellness for every resident of Illinois, regardless of their income, race or ZIP code.

To encourage early detection and improve outcomes for patients diagnosed with cancer, Johnson worked tirelessly alongside advocates and health organizations

to introduce Senate Bill 968, which requires Illinois insurers to cover the cost of pancreatic cancer screenings, in memory of friends and loved ones who have succumbed to the disease. Johnson also sponsored House Bill 2653 to ensure coverage for colonoscopies—which can detect and even prevent colorectal cancer—without a copay or other cost-sharing requirement.

But Johnson’s dedication to improving health outcomes is more than skin deep. She’s also a staunch advocate for increased access to mental and behavioral health resources, a cause that inspired her to sponsor Senate Bill 1966 to allow residents living near the border of Illinois and Wisconsin to seek court-ordered inpatient treatment for a mental health disorder at the private facility that’s closest to their homes and families, even if it’s located over state lines.

Johnson isn’t satisfied, though,

with public health policy that addresses today’s concerns—she wants to make sure it continues to develop with communities’ futures in mind. She championed House Bill 3504, requiring the Illinois Department of Public Health to administer a comprehensive Healthy Illinois Survey every year to gather input from residents across the state. Their feedback would be made available to local governments, health departments, hospitals and the public, helping shape public health policy for years to come.

After such a busy first session, one might think Johnson would use this summer to take a break from the chaos. Instead, she’s looking ahead with excitement to weekends at community events, evenings at town hall meetings and Saturday morning coffee chats with constituents—and already making plans for next spring.





Patrick J. Joyce

Agriculture chair | 40th Senate District

State Senator Patrick Joyce (D-Essex) spent the 2021 spring session continuing to work to improve the lives of the residents of the 40th Senate District.

For years, the Pembroke Township community suffered from a lack of resources and investments. With 2,100 residents relying on propane, wood-burning stoves and electric space heaters, Joyce worked with the people and leaders of Pembroke to bring a natural gas pipeline to the township.

House Bill 3404 creates the Pembroke Township Natural Gas Investment Pilot Program, which will allow Nicor Gas to extend its gas service territory to serve Pembroke Township. While residents would be able to opt in or out of service, Joyce secured \$1 million in state funding in 2020 to enable Pembroke residents to take advantage of these new service lines. Through the Pembroke Township Natural Gas Investment

Fund, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity would distribute grants to residents to help cover the cost of converting stoves, heaters and other appliances to be compatible with natural gas.

“The Pembroke community has waited long enough for this basic need,” Joyce said after passing the proposal out of the Senate. “With the advancement of this transformative legislation, Pembroke residents will soon have adequate living conditions and the necessary resources to keep warm.”

Last summer, the Chicago Heights driver services facility was damaged by a fire and since then has been closed to the public. The closing of the facility forced drivers to go out of their way to other secretary of state facilities in Midlothian, Joliet, Naperville and Bradley to seek out services.

Joyce heard residents’ frustrations and advocated for a temporary facility

by going straight to the secretary of state’s office and Prairie State College, requesting immediate action for a temporary driver services facility.

“No one should have to take a day off work or wait hours to access these vital services,” Joyce said. “The Prairie State facility is conveniently located less than three miles from the former facility, and I’m confident it will serve the community and surrounding areas well until construction is finished at the permanent site.”

Additionally, Joyce worked hard to keep the community safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic by working alongside the governor and the Illinois Department of Public Health on ways to streamline vaccine distribution across the state, so fewer vaccines went to waste and more went into people’s arms.

As the pandemic progressed, Joyce put together a virtual mental health event for people in the community who needed additional support. The event gave individuals the opportunity to hear from experts and learn more about the resources and programs available to them right now.

“As the pandemic wears on, people are continuing to face mental health challenges. Now more than ever, mental health must be a priority,” Joyce said.

Looking beyond the pandemic, Joyce will continue to have an active presence in the district by hosting regular events throughout the community this summer.





Steven M. Landek

State Government chair | 12th Senate District

In 2021, State Senator Steve Landek (D-Bridgeview) continued his commitment to good government that works for everyone all across the state.

As mayor of a local municipality himself, Landek brings a unique understanding of the needs of local governments to the Senate. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a difficult year for everyone, and local units of government were no exception. With local revenues severely decreased, municipalities across the state struggled to continue providing the services their residents depend on.

In his role as chair of the Senate State Government Committee, Landek ensured legislation passed by the 102nd General Assembly did not place additional financial pressure on local units of government. The committee consistently provided common-sense, bipartisan solutions to some of the state's most pressing issues, with input and cooperation from both sides of the aisle.

Senator Landek realizes the immense pressure that pension obligations place on Illinois cities, and as such, he worked tirelessly to find solutions that would allow local governments the opportunity to have some autonomy over how funds are distributed and spent while ensuring those who are owed pensions, including police officers and firefighters, are given

what they rightfully deserve.

Landek has a reputation for being a level-headed centrist in tune with the needs of the people he represents. The 102nd General Assembly is Landek's fifth as chair of State Government, and that experience has given him a knack for guarding against wasteful legislation, carefully fine-tuning bills through bipartisan cooperation in an effort to prevent an overreach of government intrusion and avoid unintended consequences.

In his unique role as mayor of Bridgeview and senator of the 12th District, Landek is able to provide nuanced support to the areas he represents. When not in Springfield, he spends his time meeting with several local advocacy groups in order to get the best sense of what his communities need. Due to COVID-19, the frequency of these

meetings was drastically reduced, but with the worst days of the pandemic in the rearview mirror, he hopes to pick up where he left off as an accessible, engaging public servant to the people who elected him.

Landek also takes pride in helping his colleagues move their most important pieces of legislation, and as such, he co-sponsored several measures championed by colleagues from all areas of Illinois on a wide variety of issues.

In Landek's opinion, the future of Illinois looks bright. He intends to keep pushing and advocating for good government and fighting against waste, and he is confident the state can continue along the upward trajectory it has been following for the past several years.





Meg Loughran Cappel

49th Senate District

Freshman legislators were given a trial by fire in the 102nd General Assembly. State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Shorewood) made the best of the difficult circumstances surrounding her first legislative session by passing key pieces of legislation that would tighten public safety laws, increase consumer protections, prepare students for life after school, and prioritize the needs of children when sentencing mothers to prison time.

Illinois is home to well-rounded students who participate in activities that take place before and after the bell rings. Because students are often around their school's campus well before school zones take effect, Loughran Cappel saw a need to expand the times designated for lower speed limits. This bipartisan measure, House Bill 343, will ensure additional protections for Illinois youth.

As a former teacher, Loughran Cappel understands what is and isn't being done in Illinois classrooms to prepare students for life after school. One of the top concerns among recent high school and college graduates is financial preparedness. To address this concern, Loughran Cappel passed Senate Bill 1830, which will allow for one year or semester of financial literacy courses to count toward the social studies requirement to graduate from high school, incentivizing students to take classes that can pay real-life dividends.

In addition to being a former teacher, Loughran Cappel is a dedicated mother of three and understands how important a mother's presence is to her child's development. To discourage the disruption of families caused by a parent going to jail, Loughran Cappel introduced Senate Bill

1566 to create a weighing factor for courts to consider when determining prison time for pregnant women or women with young children.

In another bipartisan victory, Loughran Cappel moved to reduce a financial burden and heavy emotional toll on grieving families by ending early termination fees for Illinois utility customers who passed before the end of their contracts. Unfortunately, it is not a rarity for utility companies in Illinois to charge customers whether or not that customer is receiving services. This common-sense consumer protection initiative, House Bill 122, received bipartisan support and passed both chambers easily.

As a small business owner, Loughran Cappel has a unique point of view of the economic hardship the COVID-19 pandemic wrought in our communities. For that reason, Loughran Cappel kicked off a Small Business Spotlight series with a visit to Station One Smokehouse in Plainfield. Exposure and promotion will be a significant part of making sure the small business community rebounds from a difficult year. To do her part, Loughran Cappel will continue this series into the summer and looks forward to patronizing the many wonderful local establishments the 49th District has to offer.





Robert F. Martwick

Pensions chair | 10th Senate District

As soon as the 102nd General Assembly began, Senator Martwick (D-Chicago) started to push ahead for Illinois. He was instrumental in introducing legislation to secure an elected school board for Chicago Public Schools, increase awareness and care for mental health, improve the health and balance of the pension system, and secure funding to help those who need it most during the pandemic.

Martwick successfully championed House Bill 2908 to replace the Chicago School Board of Education's seven-member, mayor-appointed board with a 21-member elected board. Martwick advocated for the change he called a democratic step allowing parents to take more control over the leaders making decisions about their children.

Martwick also fought to provide additional protections and safety awareness in schools for children experiencing the added stress of the pandemic on their mental health. With his introduction of Senate Bill 1577 and sponsorship of House Bills 577 and 576, many students who are at risk of mental illness would be able to take accountability and control of their own mental health by using excused absences to maintain positive mental health. Currently, state law requires that any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school must be granted absence

through a physician or principal in order to receive excused time off. Martwick's plan will provide students with up to five days of excused absences for the reasons of mental or behavioral health.

"Many students struggle with mental health, and I believe we need to emphasize the importance of maintaining positive mental health practices," Martwick said. "This pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, and I think it's proven to many people how important it is to take mental health seriously."

The legislation is an initiative to help support schoolchildren through their difficulties with mental health and reduce stigma around mental illness.

As the legislative session continued, Martwick redoubled his efforts to ensure funds go to people who need them most. Under Martwick's Senate Bill 1572, first responders who have suffered

from duty-related disabilities would be eligible for property tax exemptions of up to \$5,000.

This measure specifies the injuries first responders must have survived in order to qualify, addresses how surviving spouses may continue to receive the exemption, and outlines the qualifications to receive this exemption.

Martwick continues to commit his time to supporting the people of Illinois through these difficult months by supporting legislation to help those who have been affected by the difficulties of the past year. He plans to attend events in his community and listen to the concerns of the citizens to help him lead in Springfield next session.





Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas

20th Senate District

State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago) stepped into her role representing the 20th District while adapting quickly to the realities and challenges created by a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. She began by immediately scheduling monthly town halls via Zoom to invite constituents to stay informed on important legislative topics and developments on how the state is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including economically.

As a longtime champion for studying and improving education, Pacione-Zayas brought years of advocacy, research and community partnership to her role as a member of the Senate Education and Senate Higher Education Committees. Based on her expertise, she moved to address a critical shortage in early childhood educators by sponsoring legislation, House Bill 2878, to provide college degrees and an easier path to training for those already working in the field.

“This is not just about providing a brighter future for our kids, but also the people who are already working so hard to help them learn and grow,” Pacione-Zayas said. “We know that high-quality early care and education is key to helping our children realize their full potential. We need to remove barriers by expanding access and affordability in this field to show support for the workforce that cares and educates our youngest while families work and pursue educational goals.”

She also used her platform as a lawmaker and an education expert to argue to waive spring testing requirements for Illinois students in acknowledgment of the historically difficult year young people in particular have had during the pandemic, which has upended day-to-day life in schools.

“So many students have been learning remotely or in a hybrid system over the past year. Expecting them to

run to school for federally required tests just isn’t realistic,” Pacione-Zayas said. “More importantly, without every student in school to take the tests, we won’t be able to get reliable data that allows us to assess and compare progress between schools and districts.”

In addition to sponsoring Senate Resolution 166 calling on the U.S. Dept. of Education to waive testing requirements she also argued in favor of it in the pages of multiple publications.

Pacione-Zayas has also been an advocate for the identity of local communities, passing Senate Bill 1833 to allow for the designation of cultural districts in Illinois, something she said would help to affirm the identity of Illinois communities and preserve their distinct legacies.

“We want our communities to proudly reflect the identity, contributions and history of the people who have helped build them,” Pacione-Zayas said.

As part of her engagement efforts going forward, Pacione-Zayas is organizing five Community Roundtables, focusing on education, health, housing, small businesses and the workforce, and violence reduction to ensure all her legislation is responsive to the needs of people in 20th District.

With the spring session over, Pacione-Zayas will get back into the community to host town halls, vaccination clinics and other events to bring resources to her community.





Robert Peters

Public Safety chair | 13th Senate District

When the 102nd General Assembly was inaugurated in January 2021, State Senator Robert Peters (D-Chicago) began his first full term in the Illinois Senate after being appointed to fill the seat of former senator, now Attorney General Kwame Raoul in January 2019.

Fresh off the heels of a very productive two years—which saw the passage of over a dozen pieces of his legislation that eventually became law—Peters entered 2021 eager to continue and extend the success he was able to achieve in the 101st General Assembly.

Peters was one of the top advocates for the monumental criminal justice reform package known as the SAFE-T Act, which passed the Senate in January and became law this spring. One of the major tenets of House Bill 3553 was the Pretrial Fairness Act, which was based on a standalone piece of legislation Peters sponsored that would eliminate cash bail statewide, making Illinois the first state in the nation to do so. Peters was closely affiliated with the Coalition to End Money Bond, one of the foremost advocacy groups for cash bail abolition, and had been fighting for this issue for several years, even before he joined the Senate.

Peters spent the first few months of 2021 on a mission to dispel myths about the SAFE-T Act, participating in several virtual town halls hosted by colleagues representing areas

all across the state. At these town halls, Peters answered questions regarding what was included in the SAFE-T Act and what was not.

A consistent theme of Peters-sponsored legislation is a focus on winning safety and justice for Illinois communities. Peters' philosophy is that public safety belongs to the people, and that safety and justice should be guaranteed to everyone, regardless of ZIP code. He gravitates toward measures and causes that he believes will make families across the state whole.

As a reflection of that goal, Peters was named chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee. The committee was first established in the previous General Assembly as a special committee, with Peters as chair. Its status was upgraded to a permanent standing committee during the 102nd General Assembly.

In 2021, Peters championed several key pieces of legislation

that reflect his focus on public safety and justice. These measures include Senate Bill 64, which seeks to enhance restorative justice practices; Senate Bill 2116, which expands civics education for reemerging citizens to the Department of Juvenile Justice; Senate Bill 2129, which allows state's attorneys to petition to reduce sentences of incarcerated people in certain circumstances; and House Bill 1063, which decriminalizes the transmission of HIV.

Over the summer, Peters intends to open a new, more easily accessible office in his district—which includes Hyde Park, Kenilworth, South Shore and many other communities on the south side of Chicago. He hopes the new office will make it easier to provide support and assistance.





Mike Simmons

7th Senate District

State Senator Mike Simmons (D-Chicago) made history in February when he became the first openly gay member of the Illinois Senate and the first Black senator to represent the 7th District, one of the most diverse constituencies in Illinois. The son of an immigrant refugee, Simmons is also the first member of the General Assembly of Ethiopian ancestry.

Simmons hit the ground running, sponsoring or cosponsoring 100 bills and introducing important legislation, like Senate Bill 817. Known as the Jett Hawkins Act, this measure would prevent schools in Illinois from including hair-based restrictions in their dress codes. Simmons, who himself wears his hair in freeform locs, was inspired by Jett Hawkins, a 4-year-old student in his district and the namesake of the act, who made headlines when his school sent him home for wearing his hair in a traditional style. Simmons believes his legislation will prevent discrimination

against hairstyles that are traditionally Black and worn to express respect for a person's race, culture or ancestry.

Simmons also put forth a measure to require hospitals and state agencies to gather additional data in order to better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has harmed LGBTQ+ communities in Illinois, arguing that requiring state agencies and hospitals to gather more specific data on age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation and gender identity when dealing with COVID-19 patients is the first step to ensuring visibility and justice for historically marginalized communities as Illinois recovers from the pandemic.

Simmons also sponsored Senate Bill 2132, which would create a \$600-per-child state income tax credit. Simmons believes the tax credit, which would benefit parents making up to the median salary in Illinois, would supplement the robust COVID-19 recovery efforts approved through the

federal American Rescue Plan. Despite his best efforts, the measure failed to gain enough support to pass during this session, but Simmons intends to keep it high on his list of priorities and will not give up until it is sitting on the governor's desk.

Simmons, who was appointed to serve after former State Senator Heather Steans' retirement, also took a major step toward ensuring a more transparent appointment process as one of his first acts, sponsoring legislation to require that meetings to fill a vacancy in the General Assembly be recorded and broadcast by electronic means for public consumption. The measure, Senate Bill 828, also requires election authorities to notify the public of all proceedings related to appointments in the future. When an office in the Illinois House or Illinois Senate becomes vacant and a process begins to fill it with an appointee, the legislation would require the legislative or representative committee of the district to notify the public about the replacement process. The measure was approved by the Senate with no opposition, but did not advance in the House.

Simmons has pledged to continue supporting the residents of the 7th District who need it the most: working families, young people, seniors, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants and refugees, and the many other diverse communities that make up the 7th Illinois Senate District.





Elgie R. Sims, Jr.

Appropriations chair | 17th Senate District

During the 2021 spring legislative session, State Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D-Chicago) continued to champion several important measures focused on improving the quality of schools, strengthening the middle class by creating good paying jobs and passing commonsense public safety initiatives with the aim of making our streets safer.

This year in particular, the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus worked together to pass an ambitious agenda comprised of four pillars to rid Illinois of systemic racism. Sims, the lead sponsor of the criminal justice, police accountability and violence reduction pillar, led more than 30 hours of committee hearings, soliciting input from law enforcement professionals, trial lawyers, prosecutors, community members and many other groups.

Some would argue the most contentious part of the package was criminal justice reform. The law takes many steps to both increase police accountability and provide police with additional resources. The goals are to cultivate and support good police officers, ensure that reducing violence and de-escalating conflicts are at the forefront of every encounter between the police and the public, and address some of the core problems police often respond to – like substance abuse and mental health crises.

One of the largest changes enacted by House Bill 3653 (The SAFE-T Act) – which passed in

January and was signed on Feb. 22 – replaces the state’s cash bail system with a new system that detains all dangerous defendants, regardless of their ability to pay. Sims and other legislators believe the cash bail practice stood at the intersections of racism, classism and sexism.

Working to protect children in custody of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Sims moved Senate Bill 2177 to require that no child in the department’s care is forced to store their belongings in plastic bags or inappropriate luggage while moving around within the system.

Sims found some children were forced to leave behind toys and other keepsakes because they simply did not have enough storage space for their belongings. He worked with the National Association of Social Workers Illinois Chapter to ensure that barrier was removed for children within the system. The

measure bans giving children in custody plastic bags, trash bags, pillow cases and similar containers to store their personal items.

Sims, the Senate Appropriations Committee chair, has shown continued commitment to supporting and redeveloping the education and workforce development systems. He sponsored House Bill 665 to provide instruction, training and support services to new and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Also, as the lead budget negotiator, he crafted spending plans that provide greater investments in schools from preschool through college. He also worked this year to create a balanced budget that puts Illinois on a fiscally responsible path. In April, Illinois’ backlog of unpaid bills decreased from \$16.7 billion in 2017 to \$3.5 billion.

Sims remains focused on providing justice and opportunities for all.





Steve Stadelman

Local Government chair | 34th Senate District

As soon as the 102nd General Assembly began, State Senator Steve Stadelman (D-Rockford) got to work, introducing legislation to jumpstart state construction spending, protect survivors of sexual assault, fight urban blight and preserve local journalism.

To begin the 2021 legislative session, Stadelman fought to provide additional protections for survivors of sexual assault. He spearheaded House Bill 734 to ensure survivors of sexual assault would no longer be forced to see their assailants. The measure makes a civil no-contact order permanent when the assailant is criminally convicted of sexual assault. Stadelman worked alongside the City of Rockford and Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, which both suggested lifetime orders of protections.

With session in full swing, Stadelman continued to fight for

the residents of Rockford and its local economy, introducing a measure to fight urban blight.

“Blighted properties don’t just affect one or two neighbors. They can have a ripple effect on an entire block,” Stadelman said. “Giving our cities and counties the tools they need to fight this problem is the first step to revitalizing our neighborhoods.”

Senate Bill 1721 will reduce abandoned and neglected homes by helping municipalities intervene earlier through the court system to save these properties, allowing municipalities and counties to partner with land banks to maintain and manage vacant buildings so they can be saved, and helping people stay in their homes by reducing the cap on interest rates on unpaid property taxes.

Stadelman’s background as a local reporter and news anchor in Rockford prior to becoming a

state senator allowed him to see the needs of communities like Rockford. It wasn’t until he became an elected official, however, that he noticed the declining number of local news outlets across the state. Knowing the problem was only growing, the former reporter filed legislation in an effort to address it. Senate Bill 134 ensures local journalism survives in Illinois’ small towns and mid-sized cities by creating a task force made up of people representing print and broadcast media, journalism schools, and state and local government.

“I’ve dedicated years of my life to journalism, so I understand the importance of having access to local news,” Stadelman said. “Illinoisans deserve to know what’s happening in their communities, regardless of where they live.”

The task force will be charged with conducting a study on communities underserved by local journalism, and making recommendations on how to preserve and restore coverage in these areas.

As people continue to work to recover from the pandemic, Stadelman is vowing to stay committed to helping people of the Rockford area bounce back – both in and out of the legislative session.





Doris Turner

48th Senate District

Since joining the Illinois Senate, State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) has led the charge to pass several key pieces of legislation despite being new to the body.

Turner was sworn into the Illinois General Assembly on Feb. 6 as the first Black woman to represent Sangamon County in the 48th Legislative District. Prior to joining the Senate, Turner worked for the Department of Public Health and was later elected to the Springfield City Council, representing Ward 3, in April 2011.

This year, Turner opened two new district offices and championed important pieces of legislation, two of which address agricultural education and community revitalization.

Senate Bill 1624 makes agricultural science courses count toward Illinois' university admissions requirements. Under existing law, the minimum requirements to gain admission to state universities included the completion of at least 15 units of high school coursework in English, social studies, mathematics, sciences, electives in foreign language, music, vocational education, or art, but not agricultural studies.

By including agricultural science among universities' course requirements, Turner hopes to encourage students to feel confident and passionate about their career choices, especially when choosing a field with such a substantial and diverse impact.

Turner also proposed Senate

Bill 826 to give Capital Township residents the right to vote for their own officials. Of the 1,432 townships in the state of Illinois, Capital Township in Sangamon County is the only one that didn't allow voters to elect local leaders.

In March, Senator Turner joined State Senator Robert Peters to introduce Senate Resolution 64 to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1965 speech in which he spoke about justice, democracy and organizational progress at the AFL-CIO convention in Springfield by placing a bronze plaque at the State Armory Building.

The administration has already released \$12.2 million to begin the design and stabilization of the building, which has sat empty since 2008.

Turner worked to regulate pharmacy benefit managers to protect patient access to pharmaceutical drugs and patient

data. In recent years, PBMs have leveraged their market power to implement abusive policies and practices that pad PBMs' profits at the direct expense of health plans, pharmacies and patients, driving many pharmacies out of business and jeopardizing patient access to essential care.

Turner sponsored Senate Bill 2008 not only to correct the imbalance of power, but also to improve the overall experience for patients around the state.

To better connect with the people she represents, Turner opened three district offices in the 48th Senate District, located in Springfield, Decatur and Carlinville. This year, Turner held two ribbon cutting events at the Carlinville and Decatur offices to welcome residents. She is eager to work for the 48th District and looks forward to improving the lives of those she serves.





Patricia Van Pelt

Healthcare Access and Availability chair | 5th Senate District

This legislative session, State Senator Patricia Van Pelt (D-Chicago) continued her efforts to bring justice and accountability to the state's DNA processing system, holding hearings to follow up with Illinois State Police regarding DNA backlogs. Following recommendations from the governor's appointed task force, she championed Senate Bill 920, a measure to establish a permanent Forensic Science Commission in Illinois.

The DNA backlog has decreased 48% since 2019, which is due to a multi-pronged strategy that included increased accountability, scientific advancements—such as Rapid DNA and Lean Six Sigma—additional hired and trained forensic scientists, and most importantly the full implementation of TECAN robotics.

Van Pelt also remained unrelenting in her advocacy for

increased equity in health care as she began her role as chair of the newly established Healthcare Access and Availability Committee.

After a report from the Chicago Sun-Times revealed that more Black Cook County residents died by suicide in 2020 than any year in the last decade, Van Pelt led a hearing to get to the bottom of it. She also championed House Bill 1805, permanently establishing the Call4Calm mental health textline, which was originally created in response to the pandemic.

Van Pelt held another hearing in light of rising opioid overdose deaths in Cook County over the past year.

"I think it's necessary to reanalyze substance addiction in a way that is not criminalizing the addict," Van Pelt said. "Substance abuse is a disorder, and people need treatment, not punishment. The drug companies, dealers,

doctors and pharmacists should be held accountable for the role they play in these overdoses."

Van Pelt is committed to ending these stigmas and helping end criminalization of substance abuse treatment. She supported her commitment to these issues and more as chief co-sponsor of the Black Caucus' health care pillar—known as House Bill 158—which was signed into law in April.

Further, she is dedicated to decreasing the state maternal mortality rates, which disproportionately affect Black women. On this issue, she has championed a number of measures, most notably House Bill 738, which aimed to increase the number of available birthing licenses in Illinois.

Acknowledging the devastating unemployment rates brought about by the pandemic, Van Pelt hosted a virtual job fair in April to connect job seekers with employers. During this time of economic distress, she was thankful for the partners who helped bring job opportunities to the people of the 5th District.

Senator Van Pelt understands there is a lot of work that needs to be done to repair the damage caused by COVID-19, and she is hopeful that the legislative work done this year has moved the state toward a new normal.





Karina Villa

25th Senate District

State Senator Karina Villa (D-West Chicago) joined the Senate in January after serving in the Illinois House of Representatives for two years. During her first Senate term, Villa prioritized health care, education and workplace safety.

As vice-chair of the Behavioral and Mental Health Committee, Villa pushed for legislation to help Illinoisans struggling with mental health challenges, which have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Villa met with advisory committees for months to hear from community members and professionals in an effort to collaborate on and sponsor legislation on mental health, the environment, education and issues affecting older Illinoisans.

Villa passed House Bill 155, which allows Illinoisans receiving aid through federal and state food assistance programs to use their benefits to purchase menstrual hygiene products or diapers. The measure ensures benefits programs cover necessary menstrual hygiene products, which are as essential to a woman's well-being as food and water. Villa went on to continue her fight to end period poverty on Illinois college campuses with the passage of House Bill 641. Public universities and community college districts will be required to make menstrual hygiene products available to students at no cost in campus bathrooms under Villa's legislation. This measure would ensure students are not forced to

miss class or arrive late due to lack of access to proper menstrual hygiene products.

In an effort to reduce drug waste and help families struggling to afford prescription drugs, Villa passed House Bill 119, which will create the Illinois Prescription Drug Repository Program – or I-DROP – to redistribute unused prescription drugs to Illinoisans who need them. Families are forced to choose between putting food on the table and affording their prescriptions, as the cost of prescription medication continues to skyrocket. Under Villa's I-DROP program, unused prescription drugs that may have otherwise been thrown out could be redistributed to families who are struggling to afford critical prescription medications.

Undocumented college students will soon find tailored support on campus under Villa's House Bill 3438. The legislation would require public universities and community colleges in Illinois to designate an employee as

an Undocumented Student Resource Liaison, as well as encourage schools to establish an Undocumented Student Resource Center on campus to assist undocumented students. These new programs will give marginalized communities the resources they need to graduate successfully.

Villa has been hard at work with community partners in the 25th District to secure COVID-19 vaccines for more than 8,000 Illinoisans at community vaccination events and mobile clinics at factories. The event partners worked to vaccinate essential workers, community members without internet access and older adults who would not usually be able to register for vaccination clinics.

As Villa continues her work in the General Assembly, she looks forward to doing more to help women, immigrants and families struggling with mental health issues.





Celina Villanueva

Human Rights chair | 11th Senate District

During the 2021 legislative session, State Senator Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) continued her fight for justice alongside her community members, with the goal of bringing about change in Springfield. This year, Villanueva worked diligently to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine in her community and passed several measures that will protect immigrant communities, families and teachers.

With the 11th Senate District facing the highest rates of infection in the state during the COVID-19 pandemic, Villanueva made sure vaccines were readily available in the community. By partnering with community-based organizations, the governor's office and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Villanueva brought several vaccination clinics and testing events to the Southwest Side and suburbs. This legislative session,

Villanueva hosted five separate vaccination and testing events, serving approximately 1,500 residents.

Undocumented and immigrant families were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, so Villanueva passed Senate Bill 2665 to reinstate the Illinois Immigrant Impact Task Force. The task force would gather various state agencies and community groups to determine where pandemic relief fell short for undocumented and immigrant residents. Villanueva also passed Senate Bill 225 to expressly prohibit the secretary of state from sharing photographs taken for driver's licenses and state IDs with immigration authorities.

To keep families safe, Villanueva championed Senate Bill 685 to establish the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission. The commission would review domestic violence-related fatalities

and near-fatalities and recommend policies to the General Assembly on violence prevention.

After learning the heartbreaking story of Rosa Segura, a mother who was trapped in a contract with a disingenuous college preparation program, Villanueva took action to hold these bad actors accountable. Rosa had been looking for college preparation programs for her daughter and was locked into an expensive long-term contract even though similar services are offered free of charge elsewhere. Villanueva's Senate Bill 1085 to allow consumers to cancel these contracts is named the Segura Act in Rosa's honor.

Because all workers should have the right to unionize, Villanueva introduced Senate Bill 577 to remove significant barriers to unionization for charter school teachers. Her legislation would require that all charter schools have a union neutrality clause in order to establish or renew their charters. While the legislation did not pass this legislative session, Villanueva is committed to reintroducing it next year so teachers at charter schools can have an open discussion on whether organizing is right for them.

When Villanueva goes to the Capitol, she brings the voices of her community with her. After several legislative victories, she is ready to continue her advocacy for the most vulnerable among us.





Ram Villivalam

Transportation chair | 8th Senate District

Passing nearly 30 bills and a proposed Constitutional amendment during the first year of the 102nd General Assembly, State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) championed legislation to make our schools more inclusive, keep Asian American and Pacific Islander communities safe, and build a framework for 21st century labor rights.

This year, Villivalam passed the Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act to establish inclusive, comprehensive health and safety education for students of all ages. Senate Bill 818 provides for an age-appropriate curriculum and is inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations, all while maintaining local and parental autonomy.

Villivalam also passed legislation to provide up to five excused absences for students to celebrate religious holidays. House Bill 169 was a collaborative effort between several faith-based organizations and would allow Muslim and Jewish students to join their families in important celebrations, like Ramadan and Hanukkah.

To build on the inclusive school curriculum passed last year, Villivalam passed the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History Act – also known as the TEAACH Act. House Bill 376 ensures Asian American stories and experiences are accurately reflected in our classrooms.

In addition to the TEAACH Act, Villivalam got to work on behalf of

Asian American and Pacific Islander communities that have experienced an increase in hate-based attacks since the start of the pandemic.

Partnering with the Asian American Caucus, Villivalam launched a GoFundMe campaign to benefit the NRI Vasavi Association – a cultural and social association that aims to help underprivileged people in the areas of education and health. The GoFundMe raised money to help the association send medical supplies and other essential items to fight the latest outbreak of COVID-19 in India.

To ensure the rights of working people are upheld, Villivalam passed a slate of legislation, including a constitutional amendment to ban any form of “right-to-work” laws in Illinois. Senate Joint Constitutional Amendment 11 would nullify any new law that attempts to prohibit the ability of workers to collectively bargain over wages, hours, terms and conditions of work.

Villivalam also passed legislation that would establish a minimum standard of working conditions with the Future of Work Act. House Bill 645 will create a task force to assess new and emerging technologies that have the potential to impact employment and wages, develop a baseline of work conditions and facilitate workforce development initiatives.

When all else fails, workers must go on strike to win fair wages – which is why Villivalam passed House Bill 2521 to protect striking workers. The measure will consider it an unfair labor practice for an employer to discriminate or retaliate against an employee who participated in a legal strike.

In his third legislative session, Villivalam worked to deliver results for the people of Illinois. Building an equitable recovery from the pandemic remains his top priority in the Senate.





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102nd General Assembly - Spring 2021



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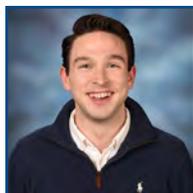
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Taeveon Johnson



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Craig Miller



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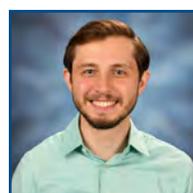
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Hannah Miracle



Max Umansky

SENATE IN REVIEW



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



2nd Amendment

- HB 0562 - Establishes gun safety and FOID modernizations.
- SB 1533 - Provides the trapping license exemption for disabled veterans, returning military service members, and those who are terminally ill.

HB 0562	Establishes gun safety and FOID modernizations.
SB 1245	Requires the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to announce, via a statewide news release, the dates, shooting hours, sites and counties that are open for deer hunting between September 1 and February 15.
SB 1533	Provides the trapping license exemption for disabled veterans, returning military service members, and those who are terminally ill.
SB 1879	Makes it unlawful for any person to take aquatic life by means of a pitchfork, spear gun, bow and arrow, including a sling shot bow, spear, or gig on any public right of way or highway in the state.
SB 2249	Allows Illinois Department of Corrections employees to continue their employment after having their FOID card revoked due to receiving mental health treatment.

Agriculture

- HB 3178 - Provides the committee of agriculturists established to represent the Illinois agriculture industry should advise the State Board of Education on the administration of the agricultural education line item appropriation.
- SB 1624 - Allows agricultural sciences and agricultural education to count as requirements for university admission.

HB 0279	Provides that an oral drug is misbranded if gluten is included as an inactive ingredient and is not listed on its label.
HB 1760	Amends the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Act by allowing a unit of local government to opt out of advanced payments and sets requirements for the Department to consider requests by the grant recipient for extensions on the timeline of the grant.
HB 3178	Provides the committee of agriculturists established to represent the Illinois agriculture industry should advise the State Board of Education on the administration of the agricultural education line item appropriation.
HB 3218	Adds agricultural sciences as a type of course that may be counted toward the requirement for three years of sciences in order to gain admission to a public university in the state.
HB 3650	Provides that counties can not require special permits for agricultural experiences on property where agricultural production is the primary use.
SB 0915	Updates the State Parks Designation Act with 15-20 years worth of additions to the portfolio of properties overseen by the Department.
SB 1245	Requires the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to announce, via statewide news release, the dates, shooting hours, sites and counties that are open for deer hunting between September 1 and February 15.
SB 1624	Allows agricultural sciences and agricultural education to count as requirements for university admission.
SB 1656	Allows the director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture to declare a mass animal mortality event and requires the department to create a plan which would be implemented following the declaration.



SB 1657	Provides continuing education requirements for persons registered to install, service, recondition, or repair a weighing or measuring device used in trade or commerce.
SB 1658	Provides that all weighing or measuring devices must be placed into service and sealed before they are first used in trade by a serviceperson, service agency, or special sealer registered by the director of the Department of Agriculture or by an inspector.
SB 2164	Allows school activity buses to be used to transport students to and from any agrarian-related school activity.
SB 2395	Repeals the Aquaculture Development Act and makes conforming changes to multiple other statutes dealing with aquaculture.

Animals & Pets

- HB 0168 - Prohibits an individual from adopting or otherwise possessing animals if he or she has been convicted of two or more specified animal-related offenses.
- HB 0395 - Bans the sale, import, and purchase of any animal parts or products made from an expanded list of endangered or threatened species.
- HB 1711 - Requires pet shops to source dogs and cats from animal shelters to help prevent sourcing from puppy mills.

HB 0168	Prohibits an individual from adopting or otherwise possessing animals if he or she has been convicted of two or more specified animal-related offenses.
HB 0395	Bans the sale, import, and purchase of any animal parts or products made from an expanded list of endangered or threatened species.
HB 0572	Prohibits the use of installment contract loans for the purchase of a dog or cat.
HB 1711	Requires pet shops to source dogs and cats from animal shelters to help prevent sourcing from puppy mills.
SB 0154	Allows tenants of Illinois Housing Development Authority-funded housing units to maintain at least two cats or one dog that weighs under 50 pounds, regardless of breed or height, and establishes that housing providers will not be held liable for injuries caused by a pet on the property except in cases of misconduct.
SB 1247	Regulates the protection, control, possession and propagation of herptiles.
SB 1672	Requires homeowners' and renters' insurance companies to collect data on claims involving dog-related incidents and report the data to Department of Insurance to be made publicly available.
SB 1673	Changes the Animal Control Act to remove the terms "spayed" and "neutered" and replace them with the word "sterilized."



Budget

- SB 2800 - The Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget, Fiscal Year 2021 Supplemental and Capital Re-authorization Bill.

HB 3811	Provides for the transfer of the remaining balance from various Illinois State Police funds into other specified funds.
SB 2017	Creates the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Implementation Act.
SB 2800	The Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget, Fiscal Year 2021 Supplemental and Capital Re-authorization Bill.

Business

- HB 0665 - Requires the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish and support Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers.
- HB 2454 - Allows counties and municipalities to waive or provide a credit for licensing, registration, permitting and application fees for businesses with financial needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- SB 0104 - Permits delivery of cocktails packaged by manufacturers, in addition to cocktails packaged by bars and stores; permits the delivery of wine; permits cocktails-to-go through Jan. 3, 2024; permits “shot and a beer” promotions; and permits retailers to use a credit card to make payments to distributors for the purchase of alcohol.

HB 0060	Exempts a slide at a playground that does not normally require supervision or any slide that is not open to the general public with monitored admission from the definition of “amusement ride,” and defines “trampoline court.”
HB 0115	Provides that the Illinois Secretary of State should provide required public data in a machine-readable form that is freely available to the public.
HB 0357	Extends the period by which long-term care facilities must submit resident admission documents to the Department of Human Services.
HB 0665	Requires the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish and support Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers.
HB 0713	Establishes that only radon detection devices sold to radon contractors for use in licensed activities are subject to calibration for accuracy requirement.
HB 2411	Gives data centers seeking tax credits two years (instead of 90 days) to certify to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that the center meets certain carbon neutral or environmental standards.
HB 2454	Allows counties and municipalities to waive or provide a credit for licensing, registration, permitting and application fees for businesses with financial needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
HB 2620	Makes it easier for small breweries, wineries, and meaderies to self-distribute their products to local stores; makes other changes relating to liquor sales and distribution.
HB 3577	Creates a business entity suitable for worker cooperatives.
HB 3940	Provides that the time allowances for the diagnosis and performance of warranty work by a car dealership be no less than those charged to retail customers for the same work.



SB 0104	Permits delivery of cocktails packaged by manufacturers, in addition to cocktails packaged by bars and stores; permits the delivery of wine; permits cocktails-to-go through January 3, 2024; permits “shot and a beer” promotions; and permits retailers to use a credit card to make payments to distributors for the purchase of alcohol.
SB 0110	Requires the regional wage adjuster portion of Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes to be no lower than 1.0.
SB 0116	Permits the board of directors of a corporation to hold a shareholder meeting solely by means of remote communication.
SB 0119	Provides that Illinois Department of Public Health, local health departments and public health districts may not regulate the sale of lemonade or non-alcoholic drinks or mixed beverages by a person under the age of 16 years.
SB 0548	Allows required basic training of private detectives, private alarm contractors, and private security contractors to be conducted online and adds additional firearm training and coursework.
SB 0687	Requires the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to certify a business as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business or a veteran-owned small business in Illinois if the business is certified through the United States VA’s Vets First Verification Program.
SB 1690	Revises the Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit Act to reflect the actual administration of the program; creates the Illinois Small Business Fund.
SB 1730	Requires public corporations to report the self-identified sexual orientation and self-identified gender identity of their directors.
SB 1770	Changes the Interagency Wetland Policy Act by exempting construction activities covered by the Cairo-Alexander Port District Act provided that such activities are located within six miles of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and comply with applicable federal mitigation requirements.
SB 1795	Provides that operating agreements for a limited liability company should not restrict or eliminate the fiduciary duty to act fairly and that it may establish metrics to determine if members are acting fairly.
SB 1833	Requires the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish criteria for creating state-designated cultural districts and allows for the creation of five such districts per year, up to a total of 15 at any one time.
SB 1974	Provides that an insurer, health maintenance organization, independent practice association or physician-hospital organization may not attempt recoupment or offset until all appeal rights of a health care professional or health care provider are exhausted.
SB 2007	Expands the places a cottage food operation may sell their products to include farmers markets, fairs, festivals, or public events and allows online sales.
SB 2066	Amends the Retailers Occupation Tax Act to specify that a “marketplace facilitator” does not include a person licenses under the Auction License Act except for Internet auction listing services.
SB 2325	Requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to allot \$2 million to reimburse non-emergency ground ambulance claims properly denied on and after December 15, 2012 and prior to January 1, 2021 if the provider proves medical necessity for the service by other means.
SB 2360	Removes the difficulties banks have in declaring a holiday in the event of an emergency (inclement weather or natural disaster, absent staff due to childcare, a pandemic, etc.) that affects the operations of the bank.
SB 2494	Changes the Mechanics Lien Act and enables the changes made by Public Act 97-966 to be operative from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2026.



SB 2496	Gives the Illinois Commerce Commission the power to regulate repossession agencies and their employees, managers or agents, and among other things, establishes reasonable requirements with respect to their business practices.
SB 2664	Allows traditional notaries to perform remote electronic notarizations.

Civil Law

- SB 0139 - Allows a person currently married to request a copy of their marriage certificate with the term “spouse” rather than any gender identifying language, and provides an affidavit for individuals to fill out in order request the certificate.
- SB 0215 - Creates a new section in the Code of Civil Procedure to allow the Illinois Attorney General to take steps to effectuate a full settlement for the State in opioid litigation.
- SB 0667 - Prohibits law enforcement from inquiring about or investigating the citizenship, immigration status, or place of birth of any person in the agency’s custody or who has been detained by the agency.

HB 0266	Requires a guardian to consider the preferences of a ward when making decisions on behalf of the ward.
HB 0574	Permits an increase in the fees which fund the Illinois Not-For-Profit Dispute Resolution Centers and increases the maximum annual funding that may be awarded to each center.
HB 0679	Allows a person to enter into a power of attorney advance directive that may not be revoked without waiting for a 30-day delay.
HB 0842	Provides that the allocation of attorney and guardian ad litem fees and costs under the Adult Guardianship Article of the Probate Act is entirely within the discretion of the court, with the exception of certain state agencies.
HB 0862	Places a cap of seven years after the date of adjudication for an action to collect a debt arising from a violation of a municipal ordinance.
HB 1742	Provides that any family or household member of a victim of non-consensual conduct or non-consensual sexual penetration may file a petition for a civil no-contact order.
HB 1795	Moves the definitions of “appointive property” and “permissible appointee” from the Trust Decanting Article and the Uniform Powers of Appointment Law to the definitions section for the entire code.
HB 1831	Allows people who successfully obtain injunctive relief for the unlicensed practice under the Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act of 2004 to recover reasonable attorney’s fees and costs.
HB 2412	Requires that if the Notice By Publication Act requires notice to be published in a newspaper where the community consists of more than 45% of a single minority group, then notice must also be published in a local newspaper of that group and in the language of that group’s country of origin.
HB 2590	Provides that for a person married in Illinois, the county clerk shall issue a new marriage certificate when it receives legal documentation indicating that one of the parties listed on the certificate has legally changed names.
HB 2741	Seeks to make confidential communications in counseling that have been ordered by the court more accessible in litigation.
HB 3277	Requires the court to appoint a special advocate if an advocate is available for court actions involving an abused, neglected, or dependent minor.
HB 3484	Allows a petitioner in divorce proceedings to request the opposing party to pay a retainer fee to hire an attorney as a form of interim fees.



HB 3485	Requires the Illinois Supreme Court to implement a program to issue a Hope Card to the petitioner of a plenary order of protection for the petitioner to distribute to any individual who may need to be aware of the order.
HB 3764	Amends the Uniform Recognition of Acknowledgments Act by expanding the definition of “acknowledged before me” to include acknowledgments taking in differing manners prescribed by applicable laws and regulations in the place the acknowledgment was taken.
HB 3849	Creates the Supported Decision-Making Agreement Act to provide a less restrictive alternative to guardianship to assist adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with decisions regarding daily living.
HB 3956	Provides that court clerks may only draft and prepare documents that clerks are required to prepare by statute or Supreme Court order or are otherwise authorized to prepare.
SB 0047	Changes current law so that it applies the transfer on death instrument to all properties, not just residential properties as it does now.
SB 0064	Provides that anything said or done during, in preparation for, or as a follow-up to a restorative justice practice, or the fact that one has been planned or convened, is privileged, and cannot be used in any civil, criminal, juvenile, or administrative proceeding unless the privilege is waived.
SB 0071	Clarifies that an eviction action may proceed if the contract was entered after July 1, 1987, and the amount paid under the terms of the agreement is less than 80% of the original purchase price; removes limits on this exemption if the installments are to be paid over five or more years.
SB 0072	Allows successful petitioners of personal injury actions to recover an additional 6% percent of the judgment amount in prejudgment interest.
SB 0080	Amends the Probate Act and provides safeguards for a ward with a disability and allows a court to appoint co-guardians and separate individuals.
SB 0084	Conveys a portion of the Rock Island Trail by the Department of Natural Resources to the Village of Dunlap, and eliminates restrictions on a piece of property that the Department of Corrections previously transferred to Kane County.
SB 0139	Allows a person currently married to request a copy of their marriage certificate with the term “spouse” rather than any gender identifying language, and provides an affidavit for individuals to fill out in order request the certificate.
SB 0215	Creates a new section in the Code of Civil Procedure to allow the Illinois Attorney General to take steps to effectuate a full settlement for the State in opioid litigation.
SB 0255	Gives a lender the chance to recover fees and costs arising between the entry of the judgment and confirmation of sale hearing.
SB 0259	Allows clients to seek permission to relocate during a pending case if it is in the child’s best interest.
SB 0277	Raises the jurisdictional limit for cases to enter the Mandatory Arbitration System from \$50,000 to \$75,000.
SB 0595	Allows the plaintiff or his or her attorney to perform certain non delegable duties instead of the clerk of the court.
SB 0636	Allows condominium boards to require that the majority of the condominium board be made up of unit owners who occupy their units as a primary residence.
SB 0651	Require that when child protection court cases are transferred between counties, the clerk of the court transferring must send the receiving clerk all related documentation within 15 days, and the receiving court must then set a status hearing within 10 days.
SB 0667	Prohibits law enforcement from inquiring about or investigating the citizenship, immigration status, or place of birth of any person in the agency’s custody or who has been detained by the agency.



SB 0730	Creates new requirements for witnessing and the technology use in audio-video communication in electronic will hearings.
SB 1779	Requires a lender or its agent to disclose certain affiliations and details about the loan when offering terms for a mortgage note for the purchase of a manufactured home.
SB 1780	Provides that if exigent circumstances arise, a mobile home park owner is responsible for providing a water supply to each household following a five-day period of no water.
SB 2110	Resolves a number of issues relating to custody and child support when parents separate or divorce.
SB 2176	Allows electronic records and electronic signatures to satisfy legal requirements for written records, signatures and documents, except for the secretary of state's office.
SB 2179	Provides a six-year statute of repose for all legal malpractice claims.
SB 2312	States when it is not a violation of the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act for programs or facilities to enter into agreements with third parties, provide discounts for treatment services, and pay compensation to their employees and independent contractors.

Consumer Protection

- HB 0122 - Ends early termination fees for utility customers who are deceased before the end of a contract.
- HB 2553 - Creates the Protecting Household Privacy Act to protect information stored in or shared by electronic devices by prohibiting law enforcement from seizing private information collected by these devices without a valid warrant, court order, or exigent circumstance.
- HB 3955 - Provides that any automatic renewal offer or continuous service offer online, should provide a toll-free number, electronic mail address, or a postal address if the seller directly bills the consumer or provide another cost effective way to cancel in the notice currently required under the act.

HB 0122	Ends early termination fees for utility customers who are deceased before the end of a contract.
HB 0279	Provides that an oral drug is misbranded if gluten is included as an inactive ingredient and is not listed on its label.
HB 0572	Prohibits the use of installment contract loans for the purchase of a dog or cat.
HB 2435	Provides that automobile manufacturers, distributors, or wholesalers may not require a motor vehicle dealer to offer or prohibit a secondary product such as a service contract, maintenance agreement, extended warranty and other secondary products from a third party.
HB 2553	Creates the Protecting Household Privacy Act to protect information stored in or shared by electronic devices by prohibiting law enforcement from seizing private information collected by these devices without a valid warrant, court order, or exigent circumstance.
HB 2746	Requires private educational lenders to obtain from the relevant institution of higher education at which the borrower will use the loan proceeds certifications regarding cost, enrollment status of the borrower, and financial assistance available to the borrower.
HB 3113	Extends the period for which the Illinois Commerce Commission may issue an interim order regulating a public utility's provision of service to a customer from 15 days to 45 days.
HB 3865	Prohibits and penalizes deceptive service practices targeting veterans and military members.
HB 3955	Provides that any automatic renewal offer or continuous service offer online, should provide a toll-free number, electronic mail address, or a postal address if the seller directly bills the consumer or provide another cost effective way to cancel in the notice currently required under the act.



SB 0294	Creates the Wipes Labeling Act, which requires manufactures to clearly label products covered under the act as “do not flush.”
SB 0338	Provides a more efficient and effective means of collecting and returning unclaimed property to owners.
SB 0669	Requires Student Loan Debt Relief companies to disclose that they are not affiliated with the Department of Education and limits the fees companies can charge borrowers.
SB 1085	Creates the Educational Planning Services Consumer Protection Act, also known as the Segura Act, to protect consumers who enter into agreements with educational planning service providers and to regulate educational planning service providers.
SB 1536	Allows a car rental company to void a damage waiver if the vehicle is stolen and the renter does not return the car’s ignition key and the identifying key tag, file a police report within 24 hours of discovering the theft and fully cooperate with the rental company or law enforcement.
SB 1682	Requires pharmacies to post a notice informing consumers that a consumer may request current pharmacy retail prices at the point of sale.

Criminal Law

- HB 3235 - Requires the Department of Corrections to give an incarcerated person information about obtaining an ID card, voter registration, job listings, available housing and other information the department deems necessary to avoid recidivism.
- HB 3443 - Addresses and clarifies the topics of use of force, law enforcement misconduct, resisting and obstructing justice, duty to render aid and duty to intervene, body cameras and more in the SAFE-T Act.
- HB 3587 - Creates the Resentencing Task Force to study innovative ways to reduce the prison population in Illinois.

HB 0014	Provides that if the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation denies applications for licenses, certifications and grant registration because of a past criminal conviction, Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation must explain how the conviction directly relates to and would prevent the applicant from effectively engaging in the position sought.
HB 0088	Provides that people shall not be determined ineligible for cash assistance provided under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program based upon a conviction for any drug-related felony under state or federal law.
HB 0734	Provides that the duration of a civil no contact order is permanent if a judgment of conviction for criminal sexual assault is entered upon the survivor’s request.
HB 1063	Repeals the offense of criminal transmission of HIV.
HB 1739	Requires hospitals across Illinois to participate in the Illinois State Police sexual assault evidence tracking system and explain the tracking process to survivors and makes various changes to the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act to provide more rights to survivors.
HB 1765	Prohibits police from knowingly and intentionally running a background check on a person because they’re speaking at a public meeting, including police disciplinary boards, except to provide security to the meeting and for the protection of public officials and others at the meeting.
HB 2553	Creates the Protecting Household Privacy Act to protect information stored in or shared by electronic devices by prohibiting law enforcement from seizing private information collected by these devices without a valid warrant, court order, or exigent circumstance.
HB 2790	Allows public defenders in a county with more than 3,000,000 inhabitants to provide legal representation for noncitizens in immigration cases.



HB 3235	Requires the Department of Corrections to give an incarcerated person information about obtaining an ID card, voter registration, job listings, available housing and other information the department deems necessary to avoid recidivism.
HB 3262	Adds three forms of disorderly conduct to the types of conduct for which a person experiencing such conduct as the result of a hate crime may bring forth civil action independent of any criminal prosecution.
HB 3295	Grants applicants more time to submit a request, increases the maximum available award, and allows emergency awards to be issued for funeral or burial expenses under the amended Crime Victims Compensation Act.
HB 3317	Creates a Domestic Violence Task Force, which would establish a statewide system to protect survivors of domestic violence while holding offenders accountable.
HB 3443	Addresses and clarifies the topics of use of force, law enforcement misconduct, resisting and obstructing justice, duty to render aid and duty to intervene, body cameras and more in the SAFE-T Act.
HB 3445	Provides if a person seeks medical assistance for an opioid overdose they will have immunity from prosecution for possession.
HB 3462	Provides child victims of sexual assault or sexual abuse have a right to have a child's forensic interview from an accredited advocacy center serving their area when such service is available.
HB 3463	Requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to make information about the availability of referral services to state or local agencies known to a parolee or release prior to release from the correctional facility.
HB 3513	Makes various procedural changes to the Department of Juvenile Justice, including removing the inability for Habitual Juvenile Offenders and Violent Juvenile Offenders to receive aftercare release, furlough, or non-emergency authorized absence
HB 3575	Provides that the chief judge of the circuit may permit the personal appearance of the defendant by means of two-way audio-visual communication for hearings concerning the defendant's fitness to stand trial.
HB 3587	Creates the Resentencing Task Force to study innovative ways to reduce the prison population in Illinois.
HB 3665	Permits prisoners who are terminally ill or medically incapacitated to apply for early release, and permits the Prisoner Review Board to grant early release to prisoners who are medically incapacitated or terminally ill.
HB 3678	Amends the oath taken by grand jurors and deletes a duplicative provision concerning the oath taken by the foreman of a Grand Jury.
HB 3762	Eliminates the requirement in Drug Asset Forfeiture Protection Act that law enforcement has to notify the Secretary of State of all vehicle forfeitures.
SB 0506	Removes the June 30, 2022 sunset date for Victims of Trafficking, Torture, and Other Serious Crimes program.
SB 0626	Provides when paying off a fine through community service, the court shall set the hourly rate no lower than minimum wage, and fees may be waived according to income level.
SB 0765	Amends the First Time Weapon Offender Program under the Code of Corrections to provide that the program administrator may be appointed by the Chief Judge of each Judicial Circuit.
SB 0920	Creates the Illinois Forensic Science Commission to provide guidance to ensure efficient delivery of forensic services and the sound practice of forensic science.
SB 1566	Requires the courts to factor pregnancy into consideration when deciding in favor of withholding or minimizing a sentence of imprisonment.
SB 1596	Provides committing a specified criminal act against a person because of their actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status is a hate crime.



SB 1861	Permits the Illinois Department of Corrections to deny a convicted person admission to an impact incarceration program.
SB 1892	Provides that probation, term of periodic imprisonment or conditional discharge should not be imposed for child pornography if the victim is a household or family member of the defendant.
SB 1976	Requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to appoint a point-of-contact person to receive suggestions, complaints or other requests to the department from visitors to department institutions or facilities and from other members of the public.
SB 2116	Requires Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice to provide civics education to juveniles who are scheduled to be released from custody.
SB 2122	Provides that statements provided by minors are inadmissible as evidence if obtained using deceptive practices.
SB 2129	Allows state's attorneys to petition the court to reduce an offender's sentence if the state's attorney believes the original sentence no longer advances the interests of justice.
SB 2136	Creates a process for vacating and expunging a conviction for a Class 4 felony violation of prostitution, establishes a process for the expungement of felony prostitution convictions, and allows relief from judgment if his or her final order has potential consequences under federal immigration law.
SB 2193	Provides that a person commits burglary when he or she knowingly enters or remains within a freight container without authority.
SB 2204	Establishes that a person commits stalking when he or she knowingly makes threats that are a part of a course of conduct and is aware of the threatening nature of his or her speech.
SB 2339	Requires law enforcement agency records and all circuit court records relating to any investigation or proceeding pertaining to a criminal sexual offense to exclude the identity of a child victim.
SB 2340	Provides that law enforcement agency or circuit court records relating to any investigation on criminal sexual offense must restrict and exclude the adult victim's identity without a court order.
SB 2370	Requires that if a juvenile in care of the Department of Children and Family Services is prescribed detention, a hearing must be held every 14 days to determine that it is necessary to detain the minor. If the minor is likely to flee, a hearing shall be held every seven days.
SB 2520	Allows a county court to appoint an outside attorney in any matter under the state's attorney's duties where the state's attorney has a conflict of interest.
SB 2567	Defines "unable to give knowing consent" as it relates to sexual assault offenses.

Cybersecurity

- HB 3523 - Allows the governor to declare "cyber incidents" as disasters.

HB 2553	Creates the Protecting Household Privacy Act to protect information stored in or shared by electronic devices by prohibiting law enforcement from seizing private information collected by these devices without a valid warrant, court order, or exigent circumstance.
HB 3523	Allows the governor to declare "cyber incidents" as disasters.
SB 2530	Requires a wireless service provider to provide call location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user upon request of a law enforcement agency or a public safety answering point on behalf of a law enforcement agency.



Economic Development

- HB 0645 - Creates the Illinois Future of Work Task Force to identify the potential jobs of the future and opportunities to shape those jobs for the improvement of life for all of Illinois.
- SB 2290 - Authorizes the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish the Illinois Innovation Voucher Program for the purpose of fostering research and development in key industry clusters leading to the creation of new products and services that can be marketed by Illinois businesses.

HB 0034	Makes various changes to modernize the Enterprise Zone Program, including how the local poverty rate is measured.
HB 0571	Gathers more consistent, measurable data on the success of a TIF project by expanding what local governments must report annually to the comptroller's office.
HB 0645	Creates the Illinois Future of Work Task Force to identify the potential jobs of the future and opportunities to shape those jobs for the improvement of life for all of Illinois.
HB 0665	Requires the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish and support entrepreneurship Assistance Centers.
HB 1755	Allows the Kaskaskia Port District to apply for and enter into grants, loans, and appropriation agreements with the state.
HB 1855	Authorizes the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish the Illinois Innovation and Voucher Program for the purpose of fostering research and development to the creation of new products and services.
SB 0117	Authorizes the state treasurer to transfer up to 5% of the Treasurer's State Investment Portfolio into the Infrastructure Development Account.
SB 0166	Clarifies the establishment of the Business Enterprise Program under the Commission on Equality and Inclusion; trailer bill to the Black Caucus Economic Pillar.
SB 0317	Amends the Illinois Promotion Act by making park, forest preserve and conservation districts eligible to receive certain tourism grants from DCEO.
SB 0460	Amends the Chicago Municipal Article of the Illinois Pension Code by adding language for the process for awarding contracts for investment services with emerging investment managers who are minority-owned, woman-owned and owned by persons with disabilities.
SB 1690	Revises the Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit Act to reflect the actual administration of the program; creates the Illinois Small Business Fund.
SB 2290	Authorizes the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish the Illinois Innovation Voucher Program for the purpose of fostering research and development in key industry clusters leading to the creation of new products and services that can be marketed by Illinois businesses.
SB 2424	Adds the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (doing business as Amtrak) to the list of entities that may report to the Illinois Commerce Commission.



Education

- HB 0219 - Prohibits a school district employee or independent contractor from secluding children to any locked or unlocked space as a discipline management practice.
- HB 2438 - Requires school report cards to include the number of teachers who are National Board Certified Teachers, with racial and ethnic breakdowns.
- SB 0805 - Requires all school districts to incorporate a food sharing plan for unused food into their local wellness policy. This food sharing plan should focus on needy students, with the plan being developed and supported jointly by the district's local health department.

HB 0004	Allows school districts to conduct district-wide e-learning days because a school was selected to be a polling place by a county board or board of election commissioners.
HB 0015	Requires Chicago Public Schools to provide written notification to parents or guardians of students who commit misconduct and to the parent or guardian of any student who is the victim of the act of misconduct.
HB 0018	Requires teachers who are rated as excellent or proficient to be evaluated at least once in the following three school years after receipt of that evaluation rating rather than once every two years.
HB 0024	Requires age-appropriate discussions on sexting be included in sex education courses in grades 6 - 12 for students allowed to take those courses.
HB 0026	Requires all school boards to require all online educational platforms and web services used for the learning needs of students comply with Level AA of the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.
HB 0040	Allows special education students to finish out the school year when they turn 22 and age out of the system.
HB 0041	Requires any child being placed in an out-of-state special education residential facility be given the option for placement in an in-state special education residential facility.
HB 0102	Requires the Illinois State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Health and Department of Children and Family Services, to establish an anaphylactic policy for school districts and day care centers.
HB 0120	Allows student athletes at public schools, universities and community colleges to modify their athletic or team uniform for the purpose of modesty in clothing or attire that is in accordance with requirements of their religion.
HB 0156	Provides that menstrual hygiene products shall be made available, at no cost to the student, in bathrooms of every school building used for grades 4-12 during the regular school day.
HB 0160	Allows students who are fasting for religious purposes to be excused from physical education activities for the duration of the religious fasting period, if the student's parents have sent in written notification to the school principal for this reason.
HB 0169	Allows for religious absence from a public school to observe a religious holiday or participation in religious instruction, not to exceed five days per school year.
HB 0212	Makes recommendations for ensuring all Illinois youth receive mental health education and have access to mental health care in school.
HB 0219	Prohibits a school district employee or independent contractor from secluding children to any locked or unlocked space as a discipline management practice.
HB 0234	Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, requires every public high school to include a unit of instruction on media literacy in its curriculum.



HB 0290	Requires the State Board of Education, through districts, to provide a copy of the Department of Human Services guide “Understanding PUNS” at the annual review meeting for the student’s Individual Education Plan to help them apply for needed services.
HB 0343	Provides that for school zone speed limits, a school day begins at 6:30 a.m. instead of 7 a.m.
HB 0376	Requires every public elementary and high school to include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events and contributions of Asian Americans in Illinois and the U.S.
HB 0557	Allows dependents of U.S. military personnel living in temporary housing located outside of a school district to have the opportunity to enroll within six months instead 60 days in the district that they will be living in by the end of those six months.
HB 0576	Allows excused mental health absences in schools.
HB 0577	Changes school code to include specific examples of reasons to identify a student as at risk for suicide.
HB 0597	Requires school districts to provide contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and for the Crisis Text Line on the back of each student ID card issued by the school district.
HB 0832	Establishes the Illinois Literacy Council would no longer need to represent the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity or the Prairie State 2000 Authority.
HB 1158	Requires that by the 2021-22 school year each local school council at a primary and secondary school shall have 15 voting members to now include three full-time student members.
HB 1162	Requires instruction, study and discussion in grades kindergarten through eighth grade on effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drugs and the dangers of opioid and substance abuse.
HB 1710	Reduces education and experience requirements for Superintendents of the Illinois School for the Deaf and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired.
HB 1719	Replaces all references to school guidance counselor and guidance counselor with “school counselor” and uses the prior definition of “guidance counselor” for the updated position name.
HB 1725	Requires trustees of schools in Class II county school units to maintain a website on which information descriptive of the office’s duties and financial information shall be made publicly available; makes change to Lyons Township Board of Trustees.
HB 1778	Requires school districts (grades 6-12) and colleges to provide crisis hotline resources on student ID cards.
HB 1785	Requires school boards to hold public hearings when closing a school building that they have decided is unnecessary, unsuitable or inconvenient for a school.
HB 1934	Allows for less strict methods of book keeping for Regional Offices of Education to utilize when complying with an OAG audit.
HB 1966	Allows members of the Teachers’ Retirement System to establish credit for up to two years of service as a teacher or administrator employed by a private school recognized by the Illinois Board of Education.
HB 2400	Adds guidelines and responsibilities for schools to implement trauma-informed lockdown drills for active shooter incidents to the School Code.
HB 2425	Extends the complaint filing window for alleged delays or denials of special education or related service in the 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 school years by a district by one year.
HB 2438	Requires school report cards to include the number of teachers who are National Board Certified Teachers, with racial and ethnic breakdowns.
HB 2569	Extends the sunset of the return-to-work statute for a retired teacher employed by a school district experiencing a teacher shortage in the Teachers’ Retirement System code from 2021 to 2024.
HB 2584	Allows the Illinois Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program to permit the testing of safety equipment on school buses that are not otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.



HB 2748	Provides that if a student turns 22 during the time in which the student's in-person instruction is suspended for a period of three months or more as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the student is eligible for special education services through the end of the following school year.
HB 2795	Provides that an independent contractor conducting an audit on a charter school shall not be an employee of the charter school or affiliated with the charter school or authorizer.
HB 2908	Requires the Chicago Board of Education be elected members in the 2022 primary election via nonpartisan election on separate ballot for a five year term and methods for election purposes.
HB 3099	Eliminates the Chicago Board of Education's Office of Chronic Truant Adjudication and instead requires the Chicago Board of Education to implement a socio-emotional focused attendance policy that targets the underlying causes of chronic truancy.
HB 3114	Creates the State Education Equity Committee to strive to ensure equity in education for all children from birth to grade 12.
HB 3178	Provides the committee of agriculturists established to represent the Illinois agriculture industry should advise the State Board of Education on the administration of the agricultural education line item appropriation.
HB 3202	Expands the tobacco health curricula in public schools by including e-cigarettes and other vapor devices as major educational areas in all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois.
HB 3223	Helps reduce the impact of domestic and sexual violence on the education of grades K-12 students who are parents, expectant parents or survivors of sexual or domestic violence.
HB 3272	Requires all school boards in the state to adopt written policies related to absences and missed homework or classwork assignments as a result of or related to a student's pregnancy.
HB 3281	Allows schools to include in their curricula a unit of instruction about the process of naturalization for foreign citizens and nationals to become a U.S. citizen.
HB 3461	Requires schools to adopt an evidence-informed curriculum to provide age-appropriate education on sexual abuse to all students and updates school personnel sexual abuse training policies.
HB 3906	Allows the State Superintendent to determine a student's parent or guardian location as unknown when there is documented evidence that a minimum of four separate attempts were made to locate the parent or guardian.
SB 0346	Allows the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to put in place a school-based dental program that would allow out-of-office preventative services – like teeth cleanings.
SB 0517	Creates the High-Cost Special Education Funding Commission to recommend to the governor and General Assembly for an alternative funding structure in this State for high-cost special education students.
SB 0564	Requires schools to include in history education the contributions made by Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective community of faith that has shaped America.
SB 0605	Requires every school district, charter school, alternative school, or any school with public funds to develop an annual absenteeism and truancy policy and communicate it clearly with families on an annual basis.
SB 0633	Requires school districts to report incidents of violence that occurred on school grounds or during school-related activities that resulted in an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or removal to an alternative setting on their School District Report Card website.
SB 0652	Provides that if the number of members serving on a local CPS school council falls below seven members due to vacancies, then four serving members of the local school council shall constitute a quorum for the sole purpose of convening a meeting to fill vacancies through appointments.



SB 0654	Provides that all public schools shall provide daily time for supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students in kindergarten through grade 8.
SB 0662	Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will consider up to \$6,500 in loan forgiveness options for borrowers employed in social work for at least one year at a public school.
SB 0673	Increases accountability measures for alternatives to suspension and expulsion when the incident of bullying is based on a protected class.
SB 0692	Requires public schools and districts, day cares, and state agencies to disclose prior to any application of a coal tar-based or high PAH sealant; requires anyone planning to use coal tar-based sealant to look into cleaner alternatives.
SB 0805	Requires all school districts to incorporate a food sharing plan for unused food into their local wellness policy. This food sharing plan should focus on needy students, with the plan being developed and supported jointly by the district's local health department.
SB 0808	Prohibits student teacher candidates from being required to videotape themselves in a classroom setting in order to obtain a teaching license.
SB 0812	Requires ISBE to make available on its website the total number of school support personnel sorted by specialty area and the pupil-to-school support personnel ratio for each school district.
SB 0813	Allows for school districts to have their average student enrollment calculated based off of their pre-COVID levels from the 2020-2021 or 2019-2020 school years, whichever is greater, instead of as an average of the last three years.
SB 0814	Creates the New Teacher Induction and Mentoring program and the New Principal Mentoring Program.
SB 0817	Bans schools from discriminating against student hairstyles associated with racial, ethnic and cultural tradition.
SB 0818	Creates the Keeping Youth Healthy and Safe Act to establish new requirements for comprehensive personal health and safety, and comprehensive sexual health education.
SB 0820	Contains various provisions to clean up the Education and Workforce Development pillar of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus agenda.
SB 1305	Makes changes to the requirements regarding the supervision of school construction projects.
SB 1577	Provides that public school students shall be granted up to five days of excused absences for mental or behavioral health, no medical note required.
SB 1624	Allows agricultural sciences and agricultural education to count as requirements for university admission.
SB 1646	Allows members of TRS to establish credit for up to two years of service as a teacher or administrator employed by a private school recognized by the Illinois Board of Education.
SB 1723	Enables applicants for the certified public accountant exam to take the exam after obtaining 120 credit hours rather than 150.
SB 1830	Allows that one semester, or part of one semester, of a financial literacy course may count toward the social studies requirement to graduate high school.
SB 2043	Updates the School Code by removing outdated and problematic provisions.
SB 2088	Expands the charges of the Whole Child Task Force, and allows groups to be included as members of the Children's Readiness Assessment Advisory Committee.
SB 2109	Establishes requirements for training of superintendents and each member of a school board to take part in an State Board of Education-approved course of study regarding the adoption and administration of trauma informed school standards.
SB 2164	Allows school activity buses to be used to transport students to and from any agrarian-related school activity.



SB 2245	Provides that beginning January 1, 2022, it would be unlawful to apply a restricted-use pesticide within 500 feet of a school during normal school hours when children are present.
SB 2354	Allows for students to take one year of forensic speech and debate in high school as a replacement for music, art, foreign language that are currently required.
SB 2357	Amends the Chicago Public Schools article of the Pension Code and the School Code to efficiently and effectively respond to educator misconduct.
SB 2434	Allows elementary and high school districts to share student records and information when they have attendance boundaries that overlap and there is an intergovernmental agreement that allows the sharing of student records in place.

Elections

- HB 1871 - Allows election authorities to establish permanent ballot drop boxes, among other vote-by-mail opportunities.
- HB 2908 - Creates a 21-member fully elected school board in Chicago by November 2026, following a two-year hybrid period.
- SB 0825 - Extends the vote-by-mail expansion, establishes Election Day as a holiday, moves the 2022 General Primary and makes other changes relating to election law.

HB 0004	Allows school districts to conduct district-wide e-learning days because a school was selected to be a polling place by a county board or board of election commissioners.
HB 1871	Allows election authorities to establish permanent ballot drop boxes, among other vote-by-mail opportunities.
HB 2908	Creates a 21-member fully-elected school board in Chicago by November 2026, following a two-year hybrid period.
SB 0593	Amends the Address Confidentiality Program by removing the requirement for the attorney general to confirm eligibility to the Board of Elections, and allows program participants to vote in person.
SB 0825	Extends the vote-by-mail expansion, establishes Election Day as a holiday, moves the 2022 General Primary and makes other changes relating to election law.

Environment & Energy

- HB 3404 - Makes various changes to bring the residents of Pembroke Township a natural gas pipeline.
- HB 3739 - Creates the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act to establish timelines and requirements for the removal and replacement of all lead service lines in Illinois.
- SB 2245 - Provides that beginning January 1, 2022, it would be unlawful to apply a restricted-use pesticide within 500 feet of a school during normal school hours when children are present.

HB 0122	Ends early termination fees for utility customers who are deceased before the end of a contract.
HB 0247	Provides restrictions for certain state buildings to be composed of glass that preclude bird collision.
HB 0395	Bans the sale, import, and purchase of any animal parts or products made from an expanded list of endangered or threatened species.
HB 0414	Provides that utility providers that voluntarily opt in to the Water and Sewer Financial Assistance Act may charge an assessment to customers' bills.
HB 0633	Creates the Vegetable Garden Protection Act. Provides for the right to cultivate a vegetable garden and permits state and local regulation.



HB 0644	Amends the Homeowners' Energy Policy to enable more homeowners to install solar generation on their rooftops and eliminate restrictions and timeline delays caused by homeowners' associations.
HB 0653	Increases the fee collected by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency from the owners or operators of a current or former quarry, mine or other excavation where clean construction or demolition debris is used as fill materials.
HB 2411	Gives data centers seeking tax credits two years (instead of 90 days) to certify to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that the center meets certain carbon neutral or environmental standards.
HB 3113	Extends the period for which the Illinois Commerce Commission may issue an interim order regulating a public utility's provision of service to a customer from 15 days to 45 days.
HB 3116	Changes the timeline for alternative retail electric suppliers and alternative gas suppliers to report their retail rates to the Illinois Commerce Commission.
HB 3174	Provides that the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may revoke a High Impact Business designation for a new wind power facility if the facility violates the Prevailing Wage Act and provides that wind power facilities built to replace existing power generators qualify for High Impact Business tax incentives.
HB 3190	Prohibits the incineration of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS chemicals) in Illinois.
HB 3404	Makes various changes to bring the residents of Pembroke Township a natural gas pipeline.
HB 3739	Creates the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act to establish timelines and requirements for the removal and replacement of all lead service lines in Illinois.
HB 3783	Requires Coal Combustion Residual workers to participate in specified training programs approved by the United States Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration which cover environmental protection and instruction in the operation of heavy equipment and excavation.
HB 3928	Creates the Thirty-by-Thirty Task Force, which would explore ways in which Illinois can protect 30% of its land and water resources by 2030.
SB 0265	Changes the Energy Assistance Act to provide more low-income families with access to the program.
SB 0294	Creates the Wipes Labeling Act, which requires manufactures to clearly label products covered under the act as "do not flush."
SB 0515	Extends the optional valuation method available to large public utilities acquiring water and sewer utilities to public utilities with 15,000 or more water or sewer customers.
SB 0561	Creates a variety of provision to prohibit, punish, phase out, or otherwise disincentivize the production, distribution, sale, and use perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS chemicals) in Firefighter materials.
SB 0692	Requires public schools and districts, day cares, and state agencies to disclose prior to any application of a coal tar-based or high PAH sealant. Requires anyone planning to use coal tar-based sealant to look into cleaner alternatives.
SB 0695	Changes the sunset date on the Clean Air Act rules from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2026.
SB 1086	Revises the Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act to eliminate a potential loophole that could allow coal plant operators to avoid the requirements of the state law regarding removal of coal ash surface impoundments if a federal permit on such becomes available.
SB 1089	Modifies existing requirements for construction and demolition recycling under the Environmental Protection Act to adjust the landfill diversion rate to a minimum of 40%.
SB 1878	Removes bowfin and paddlefish from the list of protected species.



SB 1879	Makes it unlawful for any person to take aquatic life by means of a pitchfork, spear gun, bow and arrow, including a sling shot bow, spear, or gig on any public right of way or highway in the state.
SB 1920	Provides that if demolitions are conducted at coal-fueled power plants, the owner must notify and provide demolition plans to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the public.
SB 2245	Provides that beginning January 1, 2022, it would be unlawful to apply a restricted-use pesticide within 500 feet of a school during normal school hours when children are present.
SB 2563	Would allow the Illinois Department of Transportation to accept portable emissions testing from companies approved by the agency with a \$10 annual application fee, and a bond of \$1,000 on the condition that IDOT rules are followed.
SB 2663	Annexes territory in Mahomet without water service due to methane contamination to the Sangamon Valley Public Water District.

Ethics & Transparency

- SB 0539 - The ethics omnibus legislation which makes various changes to lobbying, disclosure and campaign finance rules to increase transparency and accountability in Illinois.
- SB 1767 - Requires that the Illinois Department of Labor's electronic database of certified payrolls be searchable by the general public.

HB 3004	Establishes that no former board members of a pension fund, investment board or retirement system may be employed by the fund, board or system or any vendor of the fund for 12 months after serving on the board.
HB 3474	Establishes that no person who meets the criteria to be an executive trustee can serve on the board of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund as an employee trustee.
SB 0539	Makes various changes to lobbying, disclosure and campaign finance rules to increase transparency and accountability in Illinois.
SB 1079	Clarifies that licensees under the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation are required to complete sexual harassment prevention training in accordance with the Illinois Human Rights Act.
SB 1767	Requires that the Illinois Department of Labor's electronic database of certified payrolls be searchable by the general public.
SB 2240	Makes various changes to the Government Severance Pay Act regarding severance pay for university presidents and chancellors.
SB 2356	Requires that public bodies meet to review meeting minutes every six months, that a committee reviews closed session minutes six months from the last review, or at next meeting.
SB 2357	Amends the Chicago Public Schools article of the Pension Code and the School Code to efficiently and effectively respond to educator misconduct.



Family

- HB 3027 - Allows expectant mothers during the third trimester to use a disabilities motor decal or device for no more than 90 days with adequate documentation.
- HB 3620 - Makes permanent the income threshold for child care benefits at 200% of the federal poverty level.
- SB 0107 - Addresses various issues that affect the adoption process in Illinois.
- SB 1592 - Prohibits an insurer from denying or refusing to provide otherwise covered services for children with autism based on the location where services are provided.

HB 0266	Requires a guardian to consider the preferences of a ward when making decisions on behalf of the ward.
HB 1836	Amends the State Treasurer Act to allow proceeds from an ABLE account to be transferred, upon death of the designated beneficiary, pursuant to a payable on death account agreement executed by the designated beneficiary or their representative.
HB 2590	Provides that for a person married in Illinois, the county clerk shall issue a new marriage certificate when it receives legal documentation indicating that one of the parties listed on the certificate has legally changed names.
HB 3027	Allows expectant mothers during the third trimester to use a disabilities motor decal or device for no more than 90 days with adequate documentation.
HB 3223	Helps reduce the impact of domestic and sexual violence on the education of grades K-12 students who are parents, expectant parents or survivors of sexual or domestic violence.
HB 3267	Creates an Advisory Commission on Reducing the Disproportionate Representation of African-American Children in Foster Care Act to analyze state and local data on the racial disproportionality of children in foster care.
HB 3277	Requires the court to appoint a special advocate if an advocate is available for court actions involving an abused, neglected, or dependent minor.
HB 3462	Provides child victims of sexual assault or sexual abuse have a right to have a child's forensic interview from an accredited advocacy center serving their area when such service is available.
HB 3595	Authorizes Illinois courts to order the Department of Children Family Services to assess a child's proposed or current out-of-state living arrangements in two limited scenarios if the Interstate Compact of the Placement of Children declines involvement.
HB 3620	Makes permanent the income threshold for child care benefits at 200% of the federal poverty level.
HB 3849	Creates the Supported Decision-Making Agreement Act to provide a less restrictive alternative to guardianship to assist adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with decisions regarding daily living.
HB 3886	Declares all youth in custody or guardianship of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services are entitled to the freedom of speech guaranteed under both U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and that the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services must not interfere if youth choose to exercise the right to speak with the media.
SB 0107	Addresses various issues that affect the adoption process in Illinois.
SB 0139	Allows a person currently married to request a copy of their marriage certificate with the term "spouse" rather than any gender identifying language and provides an affidavit for individuals to fill out in order request the certificate.
SB 0258	Prevents employers from removing children from insurance obligor's health insurance coverage.
SB 0259	Allows clients to seek permission to relocate during a pending case if it is in the child's best interest.



SB 1592	Prohibits an insurer from denying or refusing to provide otherwise covered services for children with autism based on the location where services are provided.
SB 1846	Requires restaurants to serve water, milk, milk alternative or juice with a children's meal as the default beverage.
SB 1904	Expands the scenarios when unfounded investigative reports of child abuse or neglect may be available in court or for investigative purposes.
SB 2110	Resolves a number of issues relating to custody and child support when parents separate or divorce.
SB 2339	Requires law enforcement agency records and all circuit court records relating to any investigation or proceeding pertaining to a criminal sexual offense to exclude the identity of a child victim.
SB 2384	Requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to develop a pediatric palliative care program under which a qualifying child may receive community-based pediatric palliative care from a trained interdisciplinary team and may also continue to pursue treatments for a serious illness under Medicaid.

Gaming

- HB 0848 - Extends the sale of the special instant scratch-off game for the benefit of the Alzheimer's care, support, education, and awareness to January 1, 2025.

HB 0848	Extends the sale of the special instant scratch-off game for the benefit of the Alzheimer's care, support, education and awareness to January 1, 2025.
SB 0081	Adds the Ronald McDonald House Charities to the list of checkoff funds that taxpayers can donate to on the standard income tax form.
SB 1360	Requires an application for an owners license for one of the new casinos to include evidence that the applicant has entered into a construction project labor agreement that includes provisions regarding employee compensation and a commitment to pay a prevailing wage for construction employees.

Gun Control

- HB 2400 - Adds guidelines and responsibilities for schools to implement trauma-informed lockdown drills for active shooter incidents to the School Code.

HB 0562	Modernizes the Firearm Owners Identification Card; closes loopholes in state gun laws.
HB 1092	Creates the three year Commission on Implementing the Firearms Restraining Order Act. The commission is tasked with developing a model policy with a framework for the timely relinquishment of firearms whenever a firearms restraining order is issued.
HB 2400	Adds guidelines and responsibilities for schools to implement trauma-informed lockdown drills for active shooter incidents to the School Code.



Health

- HB 0119 - Creates the Illinois Prescription Drug Repository Program, under which any person may donate a prescription drug or supplies needed to administer a prescription drug for use by an individual who meets eligibility criteria.
- HB 0158 - Improves equity in health care by addressing access to health care, hospital closures, Medicaid managed care organization reform, maternal mortality and morbidity, mental health/substance use treatment and implicit bias training.
- HB 3709 - Ensures coverage for infertility applies to individuals beyond just those who are in heterosexual relationships by expanding the definition for “infertility” and further requiring coverage parity for infertility services.

HB 0055	Allows clinical psychologists, rather than licensed physicians, to assess if an individual has an intellectual disability which may affect their need for a guardian.
HB 0068	Requires quarterly reports for hospitals to include female deaths and the number of female patients diagnosed with COVID-19 and at least one known underlying condition identified by the CDC as increasing the risk of mortality from COVID-19 who died at the hospital within the reporting period.
HB 0102	Requires the Illinois State Board of Education, in consultation with the Illinois Department of Public Health and Department of Children and Family Services, to establish an anaphylactic policy for school districts and day care centers.
HB 0119	Creates the Illinois Prescription Drug Repository Program, under which any person may donate a prescription drug or supplies needed to administer a prescription drug for use by an individual who meets eligibility criteria.
HB 0135	Requires health insurance policies to provide coverage for health care or patient care services around the dispensation of birth control.
HB 0155	Provides that recipients under the Supplemental Assistance Program and the Women, Infant, and Childrens Program may use their benefits to purchase menstrual hygiene products.
HB 0158	Improves equity in health care by addressing access to health care, hospital closures, Medicaid managed care organization reform, maternal mortality and morbidity, mental health/substance use treatment and implicit bias training.
HB 0212	Makes recommendations for ensuring all Illinois youth receive mental health education and have access to mental health care in school.
HB 0214	Allows advanced practice registered nurses to sign death certificates as “certifying health care professionals” who treated or managed care for a patient within 12 months of the patient’s death.
HB 0449	Creates the Housing is Recovery Pilot Program, which is intended to prevent a person with a serious mental illness who is at high risk of unnecessary institutionalization or substance abuse from being institutionalized or dying.
HB 0590	Designates the month of April each year as Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.
HB 0597	Requires school districts to provide contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and for the Crisis Text Line on the back of each student ID card issued by the school district.
HB 0684	Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to exempt ground ambulance services from the Medicaid Managed Care Program and shift those services to Medicaid fee-for-service.
HB 0690	Allows non-Illinois licensed dentists to apply for temporary permits to practice in the state without compensation provided that the visiting dentist has a collaborative agreement with a charitable organization or an approved continuing education provider.



HB 0704	Removes the requirement that physicians and other health care professionals providing care under the Health Care Surrogate Act be licensed specifically in Illinois.
HB 0711	Provides requirements for disclosure and review of prior authorization practices.
HB 0714	Requires health care facilities and practitioners to provide free copies of medical records to patients to support a claim for benefits, and allows records to be provided to the legally authorized representative of a patient.
HB 0738	Expands the available licenses for birthing centers under the Alternative Health Care Delivery Demonstration Program from 10 to 17 and expands available licenses in specified locations, including the Westside of Chicago, the Southside of Chicago and East St. Louis.
HB 0739	Allows health care professionals who makes a diagnosis of trichomoniasis to provide prescription antibiotic drugs to the infected person's sexual partner or partners without physical examination of the partner or partners.
HB 0848	Extends the sale of the special instant scratch-off game for the benefit of the Alzheimer's care, support, education, and awareness to January 1, 2025.
HB 1745	Requires all health insurance carriers that cover prescription drugs to implement a flat-dollar copayment structure to the entire drug benefits for individual and group plans on a phased-in basis.
HB 1776	Adds hospitals with a pediatric or adolescent inpatient psychiatric unit to the type of hospitals that the Department of Children and Family Services is required to pay the Department of Children and Family Services per diem rate for inpatient psychiatric stays.
HB 1778	Requires school districts (grades 6-12) and colleges to provide crisis hotline resources on student ID cards.
HB 2394	Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to collaborate on developing a standardized format for collecting de-identified aggregate data from providers of mental and behavioral health services, and that these agencies comply with the format within six months of its completion.
HB 2589	Expands the use and reimbursement of dispensing opioid antagonists to prevent overdose deaths, and improves treatment services for substance use disorders.
HB 2595	Requires treatment for mental, emotional and nervous disorders to be considered medically necessary by insurance companies.
HB 2864	Allows EMS System Medical Directors to allow registered nurses, physician assistants and advance practice registered nurses to serve as volunteers who perform the work of EMTs in specified rural areas.
HB 3025	Requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to reimburse epilepsy specialists for providing treatment services to people with epilepsy or related disorders via telehealth.
HB 3069	Removes a provision that requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to post the contracted claims report required by HealthChoice Illinois on its website every 3 months.
HB 3175	Changes the Illinois' Navigator Certification Act's certification requirements for Navigators and Certified Application Counselors to make it consistent with federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidance.
HB 3202	Expands the tobacco health curricula in public schools by including e-cigarettes and other vaping devices as major educational areas in all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois.
HB 3308	Requires telehealth services be delivered when clinically appropriate and medically necessary in the same manner as other benefits, and requires insurance plans to reimburse an in-network health care facility in a tiered network for telehealth services.
HB 3355	Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to develop and publish on its website information on the risks of developing a dependence on opioids or alternatives, as well as a pamphlet with the same information.



HB 3445	Provides that a person seeking medical assistance for an opioid overdose is immune from prosecution for possession.
HB 3497	Adds two members to the State Board of Pharmacy -- a pharmacist who practices at an inpatient hospital pharmacy and a pharmacy technician.
HB 3504	Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to administer an annual Healthy Illinois Survey to measure public health and health equity, and to make the results available to cities, communities, local health departments, hospitals, and the public.
HB 3592	Establishes that medical examiners qualify as part of medical facilities for the purpose of several federal laws.
HB 3596	Requires controlled substance prescriptions to be sent electronically in accordance with the Prescription Monitoring Program.
HB 3709	Ensures coverage for infertility applies to individuals beyond just those who are in heterosexual relationships by expanding the definition for “infertility” and further requiring coverage parity for infertility services.
HB 3739	Creates the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act to establish timelines and requirements for the removal and replacement of all lead service lines in Illinois.
HB 3803	Requires a hospital to offer information on charity care options available to patients, regardless of their immigration status, health insurance or residency.
HB 3879	Requires applicants approved by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and designated as a health care tele-mentoring entity to be eligible for state funding, in accordance with rules developed by the department.
HB 3895	Requires Illinois Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice to create a wellness program to provide employees and staff with support to address both professional and personal challenges as they relate to the correctional environment.
HB 3995	Establishes a permanent licensure pathway for freestanding birth centers.
SB 0105	Expands how an Advanced Practice Registered Nurses can prove he or she completed clinical experience.
SB 0109	Removes the requirement that two physicians certify a patient being non-decisional and having a qualifying condition in the case of providing life-sustaining treatment.
SB 0119	Provides that the Illinois Department of Public Health, local health departments and public health districts may not regulate the sale of lemonade, non-alcoholic drinks or mixed beverages by a person under the age of 16.
SB 0194	Allows students pharmacists and licensed pharmacy technicians to process prescriptions for certain home dialysis products remotely under the supervision of a pharmacist.
SB 0258	Prevents employers from removing children from insurance obligor’s health insurance coverage.
SB 0332	Requires insurance network plans to make a directory of telehealth providers and must specify whether family caregivers can take part in telehealth services.
SB 0335	Adds dental anesthesiology in the definition of “branches of dentistry.”
SB 0346	Requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to put in place a school-based dental program that would allow out-of-office preventative services – like teeth cleanings.
SB 0363	Creates the Task Force on Best Practices and Licensing of Non-Transplant Organ Donation Organizations.
SB 0471	Requires any insurer who issues or delivers group accident and health policies to ensure that those insured have timely access to treatment for mental, emotional, nervous or substance use disorders or conditions.



SB 0499	Provides that the medical assistance program and a group accident and health insurance policy providing coverage on an expense-incurred basis should offer optional coverage for the reasonable and necessary medical treatment of temporomandibular joint disorder and craniomandibular disorder.
SB 0500	Prevents a hospital, physician and surgeon, procurement organization, or other person from discriminating against any individual solely on the basis of having a mental or physical disability, by deeming that person ineligible to receive an anatomical gift or organ transplant.
SB 0512	Creates the Preventing Youth Vaping Act by placing additional restrictions and regulations on e-cigarettes.
SB 0555	Expands the current Tobacco Enforcement Program to tobacco and vape retailers.
SB 0567	Makes changes to the Illinois Optometric Practice Act to specify regulations for the use of telehealth by optometrists.
SB 0579	Requires ambulatory surgical treatment centers, licensed hospitals and pharmacies to offer to a patient, upon discharge, any unused portion of a facility-provided medication when the medication is ordered at least 24 hours in advance for cataract surgeries and is required for treatment.
SB 0677	Requires licensed health care professionals to complete at least one hour of continuing education on Alzheimer's and other dementias each license renewal period.
SB 0693	Allows EMS to request bypass or diversion from the closest emergency department and request transport to the closest or appropriate EMS System-approved mental health facility.
SB 0965	Extends the sunset date for the Autism and Co-Occurring Medical Conditions Awareness Act from Aug. 12, 2021 to Jan. 1, 2027.
SB 0967	Makes a number of changes to maternal mortality measures, including expanding Medicaid to cover perinatal depression screenings for 12 months after giving birth.
SB 0968	Requires all health insurance plans, the Public Aid Code, and public health benefits in Illinois to provide coverage for medically necessary pancreatic cancer screening.
SB 1078	Changes the Illinois Athletic Trainers Practice Act and provides that an athletic trainer licensed under the act may only perform dry needling after completion of requirements, as determined by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.
SB 1096	Provides coverage for COVID-19 testing for nursing home employees.
SB 1592	Prohibits an insurer from denying or refusing to provide otherwise covered services for children with autism based on the location where services are provided.
SB 1682	Requires pharmacies to post a notice informing consumers that a consumer may request current pharmacy retail prices at the point of sale.
SB 1740	Requires providers of non-emergency medi-car and service car transportation to conduct in-house safety programs to train their own staff.
SB 1790	Requires the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to publish on its website the process for requesting a rehearing on disciplinary action and the process for restoring a medical license after successful completion of a term of probation, suspension, or revocation.
SB 1840	Requires community benefit reports to be filed by all nonprofit and public hospitals and requires hospitals to make their annual community benefits plan publicly available and easily accessible.
SB 1842	Allows the Prescription Monitoring Program to send unsolicited reports to prescribers and dispensers when medication shopping is detected from five identifications of a prescriber or pharmacy in a six-month period, and to require opioid treatment programs to attempt to obtain written consent to treatment.
SB 1846	Requires restaurants to serve water, milk, milk alternative or juice with a children's meal as the default beverage.



SB 1854	Creates two new sections in the insurance code requiring providers to cover A1C and Vitamin D testing recommended by a health care provider for prediabetic and diabetics.
SB 1905	Strengthens the disclosure laws around all health services and treatments, specifically fertility treatments.
SB 1908	Requires hospitals and ambulatory surgical treatment centers to adopt policies to ensure the elimination of surgical smoke plume by use of a surgical smoke plume evacuation system.
SB 1966	Permits Illinois and Wisconsin residents who are subject to involuntary admission to inpatient mental health or substance use disorder treatment to obtain appropriate treatment across state lines in private facilities that are closer to their homes than are facilities available in their home states.
SB 1970	Allows certain individuals to receive information from a mental health facility regarding a family member who is a recipient of care from that facility when certain conditions and requirements are met.
SB 1977	Requires Department of Healthcare and Family Service to apply for all available federal funding to promote community inclusion and integration for persons with disabilities and older adults so they have the option to transition out of institutions and receive long-term care services and support in the settings of their choice.
SB 2007	Expands the places a cottage food operation may sell their products to include farmers markets, fairs, festivals or public events and allows online sales.
SB 2014	Requires public higher education institutions to provide contact information for mental health resources on student ID cards.
SB 2133	Expands the demographic data collection performed by state agencies and hospitals to include data on age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and primary or preferred language, in an effort to better study health care outcomes for the LGBTQ community.
SB 2153	Requires the Nursing Care Committee to develop a hospital-wide staffing plan to be adopted by the hospitals, allows DPH to award \$500,000 annually in nursing education scholarships and creates an income tax credit for those who work as nurse educators.
SB 2172	Moves the effective date of new training requirements for pharmacy technicians back from January 1, 2022 to January 1, 2024.
SB 2249	Allows Department of Correction employees to continue their employment after having their FOID card revoked due to receiving mental health treatment, as long as the employee has not been deemed a threat to themselves or others.
SB 2265	Corrects and cleans up language regarding informed consent from long-term care facility residents for certain psychotropic medications.
SB 2270	Provides that the Department of Public Health shall file proposed rules and amendments to existing rules regarding the certification of nursing homes, or units within nursing homes, for the management of aggressive patients with the secretary of state.
SB 2294	Expands Medicaid coverage to include chiropractic care, post-kidney transplant management, counseling on how to quit smoking and peer support services for veterans.
SB 2325	Requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to allot \$2 million to reimburse non-emergency ground ambulance claims properly denied on and after Dec. 15, 2012 and prior to Jan. 1, 2021 if the provider proves medical necessity for the service by other means.
SB 2384	Requires Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to develop a pediatric palliative care program under which a qualifying child may receive community-based pediatric palliative care from a trained interdisciplinary team and may also continue to pursue treatments for a serious illness under Medicaid.



Higher Education

- HB 0796 - Requires the University of Illinois to create a uniform admission pilot program, allowing community college transfers students who meet certain qualifications to automatically be accepted.
- HB 2746 - Requires private educational lenders to obtain certification from the student's institution of higher education to obtain information about a number of items about the student including, but not limited to, enrollment status and cost of attendance.
- SB 0063 - Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to ensure that youth in care who are seniors in high school have completed a FAFSA by Nov. 1 of their final year of school and provide assistance in obtaining required documents.

HB 0120	Allows student athletes at public schools, universities and community colleges to modify their athletic or team uniform for the purpose of modesty in clothing or attire that is in accordance with requirements of their religion.
HB 0226	Allows Illinois students to choose whether to submit a standardized test score when applying to Illinois public universities.
HB 0332	Creates the College Course Materials Affordability and Equitable Access Task Force to evaluate cost-saving methods and practices to improve students' equitable access to required course materials.
HB 0374	Allows board of trustees of a community college district to develop affordable housing for community college students.
HB 0375	Requires the governing board of a public university or community college district to notify an adjunct professor about the status of the class the adjunct professor was hired to teach at least 30 days before the start of a term and again 14 days before the beginning of a term.
HB 0573	Establishes the Illinois Higher Education Savings Programs as part of the College Savings Pool and requires the Department of Public Health and the Department of Revenue to provide the State Treasurer with information concerning eligible children under the program.
HB 0641	Requires public universities and community college districts to make menstrual hygiene products available, at no cost to students, in the bathroom of facilities or portion of facilities owned or leased by the institution that are used for student instruction or administrative purposes.
HB 0741	Permits disbursements from 529 accounts up to \$10,000 to be used for additional reasons without being taxed and make Illinois law consistent with the federal law.
HB 0796	Requires the University of Illinois to create a uniform admission pilot program, allowing community college transfer students who meet certain qualifications to automatically be accepted.
HB 0814	Allows the probate estate of a ward to be deposited into a qualified tuition program that falls under section 529 or the Internal Revenue Code.
HB 1802	Permits members of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to retain their seat after expiration of the term, until a new student member is appointed and qualified to the seat; replaces gendered pronouns referring to the student member in the section.
HB 2746	Requires private educational lenders to obtain certification from the student's institution of higher education to obtain information about a number of items about the student including, but not limited to, enrollment status and cost of attendance.
HB 2878	Creates the Early Childhood Education Access Consortium for Equity in order to strengthen Illinois' early childhood educator workforce.
HB 3218	Adds agricultural sciences as a type of course that may be counted towards the requirement for three years of sciences in order to gain admission to a public university in the state.



HB 3359	Provides that a personal support worker for adults with mental disabilities solely to provide personal support services to the student, shall not be charged tuition and fees for attendance.
HB 3438	Requires public universities and community colleges to designate an employee as a Dream Resource Liaison to be available on campus to provide assistance to undocumented students in streamlining access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities.
HB 3950	Expands postsecondary opportunities, including career and technical education programs, for students with intellectual disabilities.
SB 0063	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to ensure that youth in care who are seniors in high school have completed a FAFSA by Nov. 1 of their final year of school and provide assistance in obtaining required documents.
SB 0136	Creates a fellowship pilot program that provides up to \$10,000 to applicants pursuing a degree in social work who commit to work for a Department of Children and Family Services contractor for at least three years after graduation.
SB 0190	Requires higher education institutions to designate at least one employee to serve as a liaison between the institution and homeless students.
SB 0267	Creates the Student Parent Data Collection Act to better understand the needs of student parents at institutions of higher education.
SB 0340	Extends the sunset of the student-assistance contribution tax credit from December 30, 2021 to December 31, 2024.
SB 0641	Requires public universities with a coordinator of veterans and military personnel student services to advertise the coordinator's information on campus social media accounts and to report on any veteran-focused recruitment and retention efforts in the university's annual fiscal impact report.
SB 0661	Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will award Post-Master of Social Work Professional Educator License scholarships, giving priority to underrepresented communities in the social work field.
SB 0662	Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will consider up to \$6,500 in loan forgiveness options for borrowers employed in social work for at least one year at a public school.
SB 0669	Requires Student Loan Debt Relief companies to disclose that they are not affiliated with the Department of Education and limits the fees companies can charge the borrowers.
SB 0815	Creates the Commission on Equitable Higher Education Funding to recommend specific criteria and approaches to the General Assembly to equitably fund public universities and evaluate the existing formula used for public community colleges.
SB 1085	Creates the Educational Planning Services Consumer Protection Act, also known as the Segura Act, to protect consumers who enter into agreements with educational planning service providers and to regulate educational planning service providers.
SB 1610	Requires institutions of higher education to conduct annual sexual misconduct climate surveys.
SB 1638	Requires that the board of trustees of each public university in the state, upon a student declaring or changing his or her academic major or program of study, to provide the student with an occupational outlook report associated with that major.
SB 1640	Provides that a guidance counselor may not intentionally solicit or accept any gift from a higher education institution or a person affiliated with the university.
SB 1697	Exempts state appropriations to public universities from the provisions of the Grant and Accountability and Transparency Act.
SB 1928	Removes the Superintendent of Public Instruction from membership on the SIU Board of Trustees, and adds the Dean of the SIU Agricultural School to the Ethanol Advisory Board.



SB 2014	Requires public higher education institutions to provide contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line on the back of each student ID card or on its website.
SB 2240	Makes various changes to the Government Severance Pay Act regarding severance pay for university presidents and chancellors.
SB 2338	Allows student athletes to earn compensation for the use of their name, image, or likeness, and the ability to obtain an agent for representations.

Housing

- HB 0648 - Establishes that tenants who receive assistance under the Rental Housing Support Program remain eligible for assistance until they make up to 35% of the area median family income before transitioning out, and apartments bigger than a 1-bedroom should be among those intended to be supported under the program.
- HB 2621 - Creates several monetary incentives for residential developers to build affordable housing in Illinois.
- SB 0190 - Requires higher education institutions to designate at least one employee to serve as a liaison between the institution and homeless students.

HB 0355	Allows a lease for real property to be amended to reflect the reduced square footage, regardless of the method of procurement or source selection.
HB 0374	Allows the board of trustees of a community college district to develop affordable housing for community college students.
HB 0449	Creates the Housing is Recovery Pilot Program to prevent people with serious mental illnesses who are at high risk of unnecessary institutionalization or substance abuse from being institutionalized or dying.
HB 0648	Establishes that tenants who receive assistance under the Rental Housing Support Program remain eligible for assistance until they make up to 35% of the area median family income before transitioning out, and apartments bigger than a 1-bedroom should be among those intended to be supported under the program.
HB 2614	Provides that in addition to managing a guarantee fund, the Northwest Home Equity Assurance Program may also establish a Delinquent Tax Repayment Loan Fund, which may be used to assist residents with delinquent property tax payments.
HB 2621	Creates several monetary incentives for residential developers to build affordable housing in Illinois.
HB 2877	Provides emergency relief to renters and property owners suffering financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
HB 3864	Repeals the Blighted Areas Redevelopment Act of 1947.
SB 0154	Allows tenants of housing units funded by the Illinois Housing Development Authority Trust Fund to maintain at least two cats or one dog that weighs under 50 pounds, regardless of breed or height, and establishes that housing providers will not be held liable for injuries caused by a pet on the property except in cases of misconduct.
SB 0190	Requires higher education institutions to designate at least one employee to serve as a liaison between the institution and homeless students.
SB 0636	Allows condominium boards to require that the majority of the condominium board be made up of unit owners who occupy their units as a primary residence.
SB 1779	Requires a lender or its agent to disclose certain affiliations and details about the loan when offering terms for a mortgage note for the purchase of a manufactured home.



SB 1780	Provides that if exigent circumstances arise, a mobile home park owner is responsible for providing a water supply to each household following a five-day period of no water.
SB 1839	Establishes that structural requirements adopted for modular dwellings and mobile structures should not be more stringent than the requirements contained in the International Residential Code or the International Building Code.

Human Rights

- HB 0121 - Makes it a violation of the Illinois Human Rights Act for employers, employment agencies and labor organizations to discriminate against individuals based on their work authorization status.
- HB 1290 - Provides that for the purpose of determining eligibility for any veterans benefit available from the state, “honorable discharge” includes anything other than an honorable discharge if that discharge was related to a person’s sexual orientation or identity.
- HB 3709 - Ensures coverage for infertility applies to individuals beyond just those who are in heterosexual relationships by expanding the definition for “infertility” and further requiring coverage parity for infertility services.

HB 0053	Requires businesses that use artificial intelligence analysis on video interviews to screen applicants to collect and report race and ethnicity of rejected applicants and submit an annual report to DCEO.
HB 0121	Makes it a violation of the Illinois Human Rights Act for employers, employment agencies and labor organizations to discriminate against individuals based on their work authorization status.
HB 0709	Requires the Department of Human Services to conduct a public information campaign to educate immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and other noncitizens residing in Illinois of their rights under the U.S. Constitution and Illinois laws that apply regardless of immigration status.
HB 1063	Repeals the offense of criminal transmission of HIV.
HB 1290	Provides that for the purpose of determining eligibility for any veterans benefit available from the state, “honorable discharge” includes anything other than an honorable discharge if that discharge was related to a person’s sexual orientation or identity.
HB 1838	Expands the definition of discrimination based on a disability in the Illinois Human Rights Act to include unlawful discrimination against an individual because of the individual’s association with a person with a disability.
HB 2553	Creates the Protecting Household Privacy Act to protect information stored in or shared by electronic devices by prohibiting law enforcement from seizing private information collected by these devices without a valid warrant, court order, or exigent circumstance.
HB 2590	Provides that for a person married in Illinois, the county clerk shall issue a new marriage certificate when it receives legal documentation indicating that one of the parties listed on the certificate has legally changed names.
HB 2790	Allows public defenders in a county with more than 3,000,000 inhabitants to provide legal representation for noncitizens in immigration cases.
HB 3217	Amends numerous state statutes by deleting the use of “Haitian” or “Negro” and instead uses Black or African American.
HB 3262	Adds three forms of disorderly conduct to the types of conduct for which a person experiencing such conduct as the result of a hate crime may bring forth civil action independent of any criminal prosecution.
HB 3281	Allows schools to include in their curricula a unit of instruction about the process of naturalization for foreign citizens and nationals to become a U.S. citizen.



HB 3709	Ensures coverage for infertility applies to individuals beyond just those who are in heterosexual relationships by expanding the definition for “infertility” and further requiring coverage parity for infertility services.
HB 3886	Declares all youth in custody or guardianship of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services are entitled to the freedom of speech guaranteed under both U.S. and Illinois Constitutions and that DCFS must not interfere if youth choose to exercise the right to speak with the media.
HB 3914	Requires Illinois Central Management Services to take positive action toward addressing systemic racism in the State’s hiring practices.
HB 3922	Designates June 19 as a paid state holiday, Juneteenth.
SB 0139	Allows a person currently married to request a copy of their marriage certificate with the term “spouse” rather than any gender identifying language and provides an affidavit for individuals to fill out in order request the certificate.
SB 0500	Prevents a hospital, physician and surgeon, procurement organization, or other person from discriminating against any individual solely on the basis of having a mental or physical disability.
SB 0564	Requires schools to include in history education the contributions made by Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist Americans, and any other collective community of faith that has shaped America.
SB 0667	Prohibits law enforcement from inquiring about or investigating the citizenship, immigration status, or place of birth of any person in the agency’s custody or who has been detained by the agency.
SB 0673	Increases accountability measures for alternatives to suspension and expulsion when the incident of bullying is based on a protected class.
SB 0919	Expands membership of the Broadband Advisory Council to require more ethnic diversity.
SB 1561	Provides that it is a civil rights violation for a loan modification service provider to refuse to engage in services or to discriminate in making such services available, or alter the terms of services, if such decisions were based on unlawful discrimination, familial status, or an arrest record.
SB 1596	Provides committing a specified criminal act against a person because of their actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status is a hate crime.
SB 1730	Requires public corporations to report the self-identified sexual orientation and self-identified gender identity of their directors.
SB 1765	Requires state agencies to implement an equal opportunity employment interview initiative.
SB 1965	Creates a state holiday for Juneteenth National Freedom Day on June 19.
SB 2079	Amends the VOICES Act to provide that if the Designated Certifying Official cannot determine that the requester is a victim of a criminal activity, the officer should provide written notice explaining why.
SB 2665	Reinstates the Illinois Immigrant Impact Task Force to assess the impact of COVID-19 on immigrant communities.



Human Services

- HB 0709 - Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to conduct a public information campaign to educate immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and other noncitizens residing in Illinois of their rights under the U.S. Constitution and Illinois laws that apply regardless of immigration status.
- HB 3620 - Makes permanent the income threshold for child care benefits at 200% of the federal poverty level.
- SB 2177 - Provides that no youth in custody or guardianship of the Department of Children and Family Services be required to store their belongings in a plastic bag or similar disposable container when relocating from one placement type to another or when being discharged.

HB 0019	Adds other relevant experienced members, including attorneys and doctors, that may serve on the Direct Child Welfare Service Employee License Board.
HB 0263	Requires the appointment of a temporary guardian for a person with an alleged disability to be filed at the same time or following the filing of a petition for adjudication of disability and appointment of a guardian.
HB 0290	Requires the State Board of Education, through districts, to provide a copy of the Department of Human Services guide “Understanding PUNS” at the annual review meeting for the student’s Individual Education Plan to help them apply for needed services.
HB 0310	Creates the Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act, which ensures that feminine hygiene products are available for free at all homeless shelters providing housing assistance to women and/or youth.
HB 0414	Provides that utility providers that voluntarily opt in to the Water and Sewer Financial Assistance Act may charge an assessment to customers’ bills.
HB 0452	Makes various technical changes regarding the Illinois Department of Human Services, including deleting the provision that requires the department to submit an annual report; inserting language that reduces education and experience requirements for the Superintendents of the Illinois School for the Deaf and Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; and moving the Serve Illinois Commission from the Department of Public Health to the Department of Human Services.
HB 0588	Gives certain businesses and establishments the ability to post a Human Trafficking Resource Center-related notice in all restrooms open to the public, near public entrances or other places where similar notices are typically posted.
HB 0709	Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to conduct a public information campaign to educate immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and other noncitizens residing in Illinois of their rights under the U.S. Constitution and Illinois laws that apply regardless of immigration status.
HB 1068	Allows the Department of Child and Family Services to consider guardianship and adoption simultaneously after the Department of Children and Family Services has obtained temporary custody of a child.
HB 1162	Requires instruction, study, and discussion in grades kindergarten through eighth grade on effective methods for the prevention and avoidance of drugs and the dangers of opioid and substance abuse.
HB 1746	Requires each school board to appoint at least one employee to act as a liaison to facilitate enrollment and transfer of records of students in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.
HB 1805	Requires the Department of Human Services to permanently establish the Call4Calm text line to support Illinois residents’ mental health needs free of charge and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



HB 1836	Amends the State Treasurer Act to allow proceeds from an ABLE account to be transferred, upon death of the designated beneficiary, pursuant to a payable on death account agreement executed by the designated beneficiary or their representative.
HB 1854	Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services to provide a written after care plan to the conservator, guardian, or other legal representative of a person who is being discharged from an inpatient facility.
HB 1928	Creates the Child Abuse Council of the Quad Cities Fund and allows the Department of Human Services to issue Child Abuse Council of the Quad Cities decals for universal special license plates.
HB 1954	Designates the first full week of April as Autism Acceptance Week.
HB 2394	Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services and Healthcare and Family Services to collaborate on developing a standardized format for collecting de-identified aggregate data from providers of mental and behavioral health services, and that these agencies comply with the format within 6 months of its completion.
HB 2426	Expands the right of individuals to request a transfer to a more clinically appropriate security level within the Department of Human Services facility system.
HB 2589	Expands the use and reimbursement of dispensing opioid antagonists to prevent overdose deaths and improves treatment services for substance use disorders.
HB 2616	Changes the procurement code to create a faster process to allow government entities to purchase essential equipment to assist disabled individuals in a timely manner.
HB 2784	Creates the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act, which requires every unit of local government that provides emergency services to coordinate between a 911 and 988 call when engaging people seeking behavioral or mental health services.
HB 2914	Requires Department of Children and Family Services to prepare and submit an annual report, covering the previous fiscal year, to the General Assembly regarding racial disparities for children and families involved in the child welfare system.
HB 3100	Requires mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect to complete an initial mandated reporter training, including a section on implicit bias training.
HB 3267	Creates an Advisory Commission on Reducing the Disproportionate Representation of African-American Children in Foster Care Act to analyze state and local data on the racial disproportionality of children in foster care.
HB 3463	Requires the Illinois Department of Corrections to make information about the availability of referral services to state or local agencies known to a parolee or release prior to release from the correctional facility.
HB 3620	Makes permanent the income threshold for child care benefits at 200% of the federal poverty level.
HB 3786	Provides that when an employee of a mental health or developmental disability facility is under investigation for an alleged abuse, that employee should immediately be barred from any further contact with recipients of services of the facility.
HB 3793	Provides that nothing in the provisions concerning temporary custody of an abused or neglected minor should restrict the Department of Children and Family Services from immediately restricting or terminating parent-child contact or sibling contacts.
HB 3821	Creates the Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare Task Force to examine the racial disparities of children and families involved in the child welfare system and the causes of such disparities.
SB 0063	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to ensure that youth in care who are seniors in high school have completed a FAFSA by Nov. 1 of their final year of school and provide assistance in obtaining required documents.



SB 0100	Establishes that a person who uses Medicaid spend-down to qualify for Medicaid assistance can't be eligible for assistance if the monthly spend-down requirement isn't made for six consecutive months.
SB 0106	Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to submit an annual report regarding youth-in-care.
SB 0190	Requires higher education institutions to designate at least one employee to serve as a liaison between the institution and homeless students.
SB 0265	Changes the Energy Assistance Act to provide more low-income families with access to the program.
SB 0295	Requires the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court to appoint two members of the judiciary to the Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security, instead of the current requirement of one.
SB 0661	Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will award Post-Master of Social Work Professional Educator License scholarships, giving priority to underrepresented communities in the social work field.
SB 0755	Provides that if a youth in care, current foster parent, caregiver, or caseworker request the information, the Advocacy Office is required to make each youth's court-appointed guardian ad litem's contact information available.
SB 0805	Requires all school districts to incorporate a food sharing plan for unused food into their local wellness policy to help needy students.
SB 1575	Requires Illinois Department of Human Services to create and maintain an online mental health database on its website for first responders.
SB 1786	Requires the Department of Human Services to maintain a resources page on its website with mental health resources geared toward post-secondary education institutions, their staff, students and families.
SB 1842	Allows the Prescription Monitoring Program to send unsolicited reports to prescribers and dispensers when medication shopping is detected from five identifications of a prescriber or pharmacy in a six-month period, and to require opioid treatment programs to attempt to obtain written consent to treatment.
SB 1904	Expands the scenarios when unfounded investigative reports of child abuse or neglect may be available in court or for investigative purposes.
SB 2079	Amends the VOICES Act to provide that if the Designated Certifying Official cannot determine that the requester is a victim of a criminal activity, the officer should provide written notice explaining why.
SB 2177	Provides that no youth in custody or guardianship of the Department of Children and Family Services be required to store their belongings in a plastic bag or similar disposable container when relocating from one placement type to another or when being discharged.
SB 2323	Prohibits the use of restraints on youth in care during transport that is arranged or provided by DCFS and requires a process for the use of soft restraints. Requires DCFS to prepare a written individualized trauma-sensitive transportation plan when youth are being transported to or from treatment.



Insurance

- HB 2109 - Allows only medically necessary comprehensive cancer testing and testing of blood or constitutional tissue for cancer predisposition testing through the prior authorization process in private or HMO plans.
- HB 3308 - Requires telehealth services be delivered when clinically appropriate and medically necessary in the same manner as other benefits, and requires insurance plans to reimburse an in-network health care facility in a tiered network for telehealth services.
- SB 0930 - Allows the Illinois Department of Insurance to create a task force to study the current plans and policies of disability income insurance offered in Illinois.

HB 0033	Prohibits companies from denying individuals life insurance coverage based solely on whether that individual has participated in a substance use treatment or recovery support program, or has been prescribed or has obtained an opioid antagonist.
HB 0706	Makes technical changes to the State Employee Group Insurance Act to improve clarity and consistency relative to both the program's practices and federal regulation.
HB 0711	Sets standards for prior authorization practices by insurers.
HB 1745	Requires all health insurance carriers that cover prescription drugs to implement a flat-dollar copayment structure to the entire drug benefits for individual and group plans on a phased-in basis.
HB 1779	Expands appropriate coverage of biomarker testing for state-regulated public and private insurance plans.
HB 1955	Allows the Director of Insurance to act as or designate the group-wide supervisor for any internationally active insurance group.
HB 1957	Amends the Illinois Insurance Code by changing the filing date from June 1 to March 1 of each year, and allows insurance licensing and renewal courses to be conducted via webinar.
HB 2109	Allows only medically necessary comprehensive cancer testing and testing of blood or constitutional tissue for cancer predisposition testing through the prior authorization process in private or HMO plans.
HB 2405	Authorizes the creation of a not-for-profit association to provide services to various insurance agencies.
HB 2570	Provides that in provisions concerning reductions to rates and premium charges for automobile liability insurance for any insured over age 55 upon successful completion of the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course or accident prevention course, the course may be an eLearning course.
HB 2653	Provides that group accident and health insurance policies shall provide coverage for a colonoscopy that is a follow-up based upon an initial non-colonoscopy screening, without a cost-sharing requirement.
HB 3308	Requires telehealth services be delivered when clinically appropriate and medically necessary in the same manner as other benefits, and requires insurance plans to reimburse an in-network health care facility in a tiered network for telehealth services.
HB 3598	Requires insurance companies that issue group accident and health insurance policies to offer such policies to local chambers of commerce.
HB 3712	Sets requirements for car-sharing programs to resolve insurance and liability issues.
SB 0061	Outlines proper claim practice for transacting businesses, insurers and third-party claimants on a private passenger total loss claim.
SB 0147	Entitles a Medicare supplement policyholder to an annual open enrollment period lasting at least 45 days, starting on the individual's birthday, to buy a Medicare supplement policy irrespective of health status, claims experience, or a medical condition.



SB 0493	Standardizes the forms used in the billing and reimbursement of dental care, reduces the number of forms, and encourages the use of and prescribes a timetable for implementation of electronic data interchange of dental care expenses and reimbursement.
SB 0499	Provides that the medical assistance program and a group accident and health insurance policy providing coverage on an expense-incurred basis should offer optional coverage for the reasonable and necessary medical treatment of temporomandibular joint disorder and craniomandibular disorder.
SB 0930	Allows the Illinois Department of Insurance to create a task force to study the current plans and policies of disability income insurance offered in Illinois.
SB 0968	Requires all health insurance plans, the Public Aid Code, and public health benefits in the state of Illinois to provide coverage for medically necessary pancreatic cancer screening.
SB 1087	Discontinues the Comprehensive Health Insurance upon the implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
SB 1588	Regulates travel insurance marketing practices.
SB 1672	Requires homeowners' and renters' insurance companies to collect data on claims involving dog-related incidents and report the data to Department of Insurance to be made publicly available.
SB 1753	Adds provisions to the Insurance Code concerning making diligent efforts to procure surplus line insurance contracts through authorized insurers, including for master policy insurance contracts and program business.
SB 1854	Creates two new sections in the insurance code requiring providers to cover A1C and Vitamin D testing recommended by a health care provider for prediabetic and diabetics.
SB 1876	Provides that a policy of group life insurance shall contain, if replacing policies, a provision preventing loss of coverage, subject to premium payments, for those active employees if conditions are met.
SB 1974	Provides that an insurer, health maintenance organization, independent practice association or physician-hospital organization may not attempt recoupment or offset until all appeal rights of a health care professional or health care provider are exhausted.
SB 1993	Transfers power and responsibilities from the Insurance Compliance Division of the Workers' Compensation Commission to the Department of Insurance.
SB 2112	Allows a person to add an agent as the secondary addressee at their discretion to their life insurance plan.
SB 2158	Requires all insurers that provide coverage to an Illinois resident to provide coverage for the treatment, removal, elimination, or maximum feasible treatment of nevus flammeus, also known as port-wine stains, including, but not limited to, port-wine stains caused by Sturge-Weber Syndrome.
SB 2411	Provides that in provisions concerning enterprise risk filings, describe insurance holding company systems that are required to file an annual group capital calculation and those that are exempt from filing a group capital calculation.



Labor

- HB 0121 - Makes it a violation of the Illinois Human Rights Act for employers, employment agencies and labor organizations to discriminate against individuals based on their work authorization status.
- HB 2521 - Provides it is an unfair labor practice for an employer to take any adverse action or discriminate against an employee who participated in a strike.
- HB 3895 - Requires the Illinois Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice to create a wellness program to provide employees and staff with support to address both professional and personal challenges as they relate to the correctional environment.

HB 0012	Offers public school, public university, and public community college employees in Illinois family and medical leave on the same terms and conditions as the federal Family and Medical Leave Act but with a lower eligibility threshold.
HB 0118	Increases the amount of damages a worker is entitled to when underpaid by their employer from 2% to 5% of the amount of underpayments for each month they were underpaid in addition to the full underpayment amount owed.
HB 0121	Makes it a violation of the Illinois Human Rights Act for employers, employment agencies and labor organizations to discriminate against individuals based on their work authorization status.
HB 0126	Creates a six month period to allow participants of downstate police pension funds to transfer service credit accumulated in IMRF's Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel Plan.
HB 0202	Expands the requirement that firefighter training include the history of the fire service labor movement to include Chicago.
HB 0375	Requires the governing board of a public university or community college district to notify an adjunct professor about the status of the class the adjunct professor was hired to teach at least 30 days before the start of a term and again 14 days before the beginning of a term.
HB 0645	Creates the Illinois Future of Work Task Force to identify the potential jobs of the future and opportunities to shape those jobs for the improvement of life for all of Illinois.
HB 0809	Provides that the Joint Labor and Management Committee may establish or operate the community outreach program or master register of eligible individuals, or they may contract with a testing agency to do so, but the committee is not required to.
HB 0816	Allows teachers and other school employees in schools outside of Chicago to use up to 30 working school days of paid sick leave for the birth or adoption of a child, or for the acceptance of a child in need of foster care at any time within the 12-month period following.
HB 1207	Provides that an employer or his or her agent may discuss the (1) unvested equity or (2) deferred compensation with an applicant for employment that the applicant would forfeit (or would be canceled) because of the applicant's resignation.
HB 1428	Lowers the minimum contribution rate to the over-funded CTA Retiree Health Care Trust.
HB 2521	Provides it is an unfair labor practice for an employer to take any adverse action or discriminate against an employee who participated in a strike.
HB 2568	Requires health insurance plans offered under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act to be the same as the insurance plan options codified in the employee's collective bargaining agreement.
HB 2569	Extends the sunset of the return-to-work statute for a retired teacher employed by a school district experiencing a teacher shortage in the Teachers' Retirement System code from 2021 to 2024.



HB 3174	Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may revoke a High Impact Business designation for a new wind power facility if the facility violates the Prevailing Wage Act and provides that wind power facilities built to replace existing power generators qualify for High Impact Business tax incentives.
HB 3582	Amends the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act to provide that victims and family members of victims of any violent crime are protected under the act's provisions regarding unpaid leave and prohibited discriminatory acts.
HB 3662	Provides that with respect to firefighters and emergency medical technicians, a contagious staph infection, including MRSA, is rebuttably presumed to arise out of and in the course of employment for the purposes of worker compensation benefits.
HB 3716	Gives veterans preference for appointment to and employment with the Illinois Department of Transportation for snow removal operator and winter salaried highway maintainer positions under the Department's Winter Seasonal Employment Program.
HB 3743	Modernizes 9-1-1 across the state, extends sunset dates for the Telecommunications Act and Video and Cable Competition Act and the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, and requires construction projects performed by a third party contracted by any public utility company to pay workers a prevailing wage.
HB 3783	Requires Coal Combustion Residual workers to participate in specified training programs approved by the United States Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration which cover environmental protection and instruction in the operation of heavy equipment and excavation.
HB 3798	Provides that a "health care employer" includes the Department of Corrections or a third-party vendor employing certified nursing assistants working with the Department of Corrections.
HB 3895	Requires the Illinois Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice to create a wellness program to provide employees and staff with support to address both professional and personal challenges as they relate to the correctional environment.
HB 3911	Provides that the First Responders Suicide Prevention Task Force shall make certain recommendations to certain entities.
SB 0121	Allows for EMS workers to administer a Respirator Medical Evaluation on behalf of firefighters.
SB 0307	Establishes that an Occupational Disease Disability Benefit is available for firefighters who can't perform their duties due to an injury, disease, or medical condition that prevents the firefighter from receiving a salary. For Chicago firefighters, it expands the availability of the firefighter Occupational Disease Disability Benefit.
SB 0525	Clarifies the determination of "confidential employee," "managerial employee" or "supervisor" is determined by looking at the employees' actual duties, not solely the written job descriptions.
SB 0603	Allows paramedics in the Chicago Firefighters Pension Fund to continue to earn credit toward their pension after age 63 (the compulsory retirement age for firefighters in the system).
SB 0672	Provides that a written agreement not to compete is prohibited unless the employee's earnings exceed \$75,000 per year, and an agreement not to solicit is prohibited unless the employee's earnings exceed \$45,000 per year.
SB 0696	Enables those authorized to issue employment certificates to minors to allow a minor to apply remotely if accompanied by a guardian.
SB 1360	Requires an application for an owners license for one of the new casinos to include evidence that the applicant has entered into a construction project labor agreement that includes provisions regarding employee compensation and a commitment to pay a prevailing wage for construction employees.



SB 1632	Removes the requirement that social workers pass an examination for licensure, but retains the examination requirement for clinical social workers.
SB 1681	Adds probation officers to the list of individuals that qualify for death benefits if killed in the line of duty.
SB 1714	Amends the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act and removes the firefighter training requirement to learn about the history of the fire service labor movement.
SB 1767	Requires that the Illinois Department of Labor's electronic database of certified payrolls be searchable by the general public.
SB 1771	Changes the definition section of the Health Care Worker Background Check Act to make it easier for CNAs working for the Department of Corrections to maintain their CNA certification while working as CNAs.
SB 1847	Changes the Equal Pay Act to make minor changes to the application submission dates and to the equal pay compliance statement requirements.
SB 2150	Provides that a current, regularly enrolled volunteer, paid-on-call, or part-time firefighter who is over 35 years of age may take the exam to become a full-time firefighter without having been enrolled for the past five years as current law states.
SB 2172	Moves the effective date of new training requirements for pharmacy technicians back from January 1, 2022 to January 1, 2024.
SB 2486	Extends the period that an individual may file a complaint with the Department of Labor alleging their employer or former employer wrongfully divulge a disciplinary report, letter of reprimand, or other disciplinary action to a third party, without written notice.

Local Government

- HB 0633 - Provides for the right to cultivate a vegetable garden and permits state and local regulation.
- HB 2454 - Allows counties and municipalities to waive or provide a credit for licensing, registration, permitting and application fees for businesses with financial need resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HB 2784 - Creates the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act, which requires every unit of local government that provides emergency services to coordinate between a 911 and 988 call when engaging people seeking behavioral or mental health services.

HB 0056	Mandates that compensation of county elected officers be fixed by a resolution or ordinance made by either the county board or the board of county commissioners.
HB 0058	Sets forth a procedure to allow entities or individuals to remove language for unlawful restrictive covenants from recorded property interests, including deeds to property.
HB 0185	Permits the city of Woodstock to use a quick-take proceeding for the acquisition of specified property to construct a roundabout.
HB 0270	Requires the Illinois Department of Transportation to fund the cost of construction projects on state roadways, including infrastructure for people walking and bicycling in or within one mile of a municipality of 1,000 people or more with programed funds that have not been expended in the past 5 years.
HB 0282	Permits the superintendent of a county Veterans Assistance Commission to request legal assistance from its county's state's attorney in all counties except Cook.
HB 0351	Expands reporting requirements on firefighter secondary employers.
HB 0410	Exempts individuals who have served as a judge in Illinois from the training program requirements set forth by individual municipalities for the administrative adjudication of municipal code violations.
HB 0633	Provides for the right to cultivate a vegetable garden and permits state and local regulation.



HB 1428	Lowers the minimum contribution rate to the over-funded CTA Retiree Health Care Trust.
HB 1755	Allows the Kaskaskia Port District to apply and enter into grants, loans and appropriation agreements with the state.
HB 1760	Amends the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Act by allowing a unit of local government to opt out of advanced payments and sets requirements for the Department of Natural Resources to consider requests by the grant recipient for extensions on the timeline of the grant.
HB 1765	Prohibits police from knowingly and intentionally running a background check on a person because they're speaking at a public meeting, including police disciplinary boards, except to provide security to the meeting and for the protection of public officials and others at the meeting.
HB 1926	Repeals the City and Village Tuberculosis Sanitariums Division of the Illinois Municipal Code in its entirety, so that cities and villages no longer need to establish programs for the care of those afflicted with tuberculosis.
HB 1931	Changes the Industrial Project Revenue Bond Act of the Municipal Code to include surplus real estate owned by a municipality as an industrial project.
HB 1932	Allows counties, cities and townships to waive any fees or costs associated with the permit or inspection for homes damaged from a disaster.
HB 2413	Discontinues the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District.
HB 2415	Allows a county that submitted its county cannabis tax paperwork by November 2020 to begin collecting the tax in May 2021 to remedy an issue in Kane County.
HB 2427	Creates the Public Defender Quality Defense Task Force to examine Illinois public defenders' current caseloads and what their optimal caseloads should be, examine the quality of legal services being offered, and how to improve their caseloads and quality of legal services.
HB 2449	Allows non-elected county board chairpersons the ability to call a special meeting of the county board.
HB 2454	Allows counties and municipalities to waive or provide a credit for licensing, registration, permitting and application fees for businesses with financial need resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
HB 2784	Creates the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act, which requires every unit of local government that provides emergency services to coordinate between a 911 and 988 call when engaging people seeking behavioral or mental health services.
HB 2806	Allows non-compensated volunteer board members on local government boards to be removed for misconduct or neglecting the office.
HB 2863	Requires county highway superintendents to provide written confirmation of positive or negative decisions on applications to build ditches, drains, tracks, rails, poles, wires, pipe line or other equipment alongside a township road.
HB 3160	Authorizes forest preserves districts and conservation districts to use design-build processes to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering public projects.
HB 3165	Eliminates all restrictions placed on portions of the Illinois and Michigan Canal.
HB 3763	Requires a response-time study before any territory may be involuntary disconnected or consolidated with another fire protection district or municipal fire department.
SB 0084	Conveys ownership of a specified parcel of real property from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to the Village of Dunlap, located in Peoria County.
SB 0085	Provides that any procurement involving the acquisition of improvements to real estate by a fire protection district resulting in more than \$20,000 must be competitively bid.
SB 0501	Amends Township Code to require that a county only change a duplicate township name if the duplicate name exists for townships within the same county.



SB 0508	Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law by providing that a taxing district's aggregate extension base must be adjusted whenever an assessment decrease due to an error results in a refund.
SB 0583	Provides that the reports and records of the obligation, receipt, and use of public funds of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County are public records and must be retained pursuant to the Local Records Act.
SB 0740	Changes the Park Commissioners Land Sale Act to allow the Bensenville Park District to sell up to 125 acres of the White Pines Golf Course owned by the District.
SB 1655	Conveys several pieces of real property from Illinois Department of Natural Resources to several units of local government.
SB 1667	Provides that certification of the levy by the county clerk may be done electronically.
SB 1721	Reduces interest rate on unpaid property taxes for municipalities to intervene and save abandoned properties, facilitates partnership between land banks and local governments to transform vacant lots and abandoned buildings into viable living or working spaces and reduces maximum interest rates on delinquent taxes to 9%.
SB 1799	Clarifies that general assistance funds, along with any other township funds except for the township's capital fund, may not exceed an amount equal to or greater than 2.5 times the annual average expenditure of the previous three fiscal years.
SB 2278	Allows counties that have authorized imposing a Special County Retailers' Occupation Tax to establish a seven-member board to oversee the use of funds received from the tax specifically for mental health and substance abuse.
SB 2356	Requires that public bodies meet to review meeting minutes every six months, that a committee reviews closed session minutes 6 months from the last review, or at next meeting.
SB 2390	Allows the date of an annual township meeting to be moved if it conflicts with the celebration of Ramadan.
SB 2515	Creates the Mahomet Aquifer Council, consisting of 25 members appointed by various entities, to review, evaluate and make recommendations regarding various issues concerning the aquifer.
SB 2522	Permits Moultrie County to use a quick-take proceedings for the acquisition of specified property for the purpose of replacing an old bridge and constructing an associated roadway.
SB 2663	Annexes territory in Mahomet without water service due to methane contamination to the Sangamon Valley Public Water District.

Mental Health

- HB 0212 - Makes recommendations for ensuring all Illinois youth receive mental health education and have access to mental health care in school.
- HB 0576 - Allows excused mental health absences in schools.
- HB 1805 - Requires the Department of Human Services to permanently establish the Call4Calm text line to support Illinois residents' mental health needs free of charge and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

HB 0212	Makes recommendations for ensuring all Illinois youth receive mental health education and have access to mental health care in school.
HB 0449	Creates the Housing is Recovery Pilot Program which is intended to prevent a person with a serious mental illness who is at high risk of unnecessary institutionalization or substance abuse from being institutionalized or dying.



HB 0576	Allows excused mental health absences in schools.
HB 0577	Changes the school code to include specific examples of reasons to identify a student as at-risk for suicide.
HB 0597	Requires school districts to provide contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and for the Crisis Text Line on the back of each student ID card issued by the school district.
HB 0835	Streamlining process for the funding of the the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program, which funds substance and mental health programs for attorneys, judges, and law students.
HB 1778	Requires school districts (grades 6-12) and colleges to provide crisis hotline resources on student ID cards.
HB 1805	Requires the Department of Human Services to permanently establish the Call4Calm text line to support Illinois residents' mental health needs free of charge and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
HB 2394	Requires the Illinois Department of Human Services and Healthcare and Family Services to collaborate on developing a standardized format for collecting de-identified aggregate data from providers of mental and behavioral health services, and that these agencies comply with the format within 6 months of its completion.
HB 2784	Creates the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act, which requires every unit of local government that provides emergency services to coordinate between a 911 and 988 call when engaging people seeking behavioral or mental health services.
HB 2784	Creates the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act, which requires every unit of local government that provides emergency services to coordinate between a 911 and 988 call when engaging people seeking behavioral or mental health services.
HB 3911	Provides that the First Responders Suicide Prevention Task Force shall make certain recommendations to certain entities.
SB 1575	Requires the Department of Human Services to create and maintain an online mental health database on its website for first responders.
SB 1577	Provides that public school students shall be granted up to five days of excused absences for mental or behavioral health, no medical note required.
SB 1786	Requires the Department of Human Services to maintain a resources page on its website with mental health resources geared toward post-secondary education institutions, their staff, students and families.
SB 1966	Permits Illinois and Wisconsin residents who are subject to involuntary admission to inpatient mental health or substance use disorder treatment to obtain appropriate treatment across state lines in private facilities that are closer to their homes than are facilities available in their home states.
SB 2014	Requires public higher education institutions to provide contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line on the back of each student ID card or on its website.



Pensions

- HB 0117 - Expands the Secure Choice Savings Program Act to include employers with five or more employees; allows the board to establish automatic contribution increases up to 10% of enrollee's wage by default. Clarifies penalties for full years instead of partial years.
- SB 1056 - Makes a number of changes to Illinois pension law.
- SB 1989 - Increases the hours a retired teacher can substitute without impairing retirement status.

HB 0117	Expands the Secure Choice Savings Program Act to include employers with five or more employees; allows the board to establish automatic contribution increases up to 10% of enrollee's wage by default. Clarifies penalties for full years instead of partial years.
HB 0126	Creates a six-month period to allow participants of downstate police pension funds to transfer service credit accumulated in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel Plan.
HB 0232	Adds for-profit companies that contract to shelter migrant children to the list of companies the Illinois Investment Policy Board must divest from.
HB 0381	Creates a six-month period for members of a downstate firefighters' pension fund to transfer up to eight years of service credit accumulated in a police pension fund that is administrated by another unit of local government.
HB 0417	Makes changes to Chicago Park District's pension system and payments.
HB 0426	Permits Chicago police officers to apply to buy back service credit after taking a leave of absence if leave was taken for a qualifying purpose.
HB 1777	Requires the City of Chicago to provide notice that it may pay for police and firefighter injuries that occurred in the line of duty and that it must pay until a determination of eligibility is made.
HB 1966	Allows members of Teacher Retirement System to establish credit for up to two years of service as a teacher or administrator employed by a private school recognized by the Illinois Board of Education.
HB 2569	Extends the sunset of the return-to-work statute for a retired teacher employed by a school district experiencing a teacher shortage in the Teachers' Retirement System code from 2021 to 2024.
HB 2766	Allows annuitants of the Municipal Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago to pay dues to a labor organization of their choosing.
HB 3474	Establishes that no person who meets the criteria to be an executive trustee can serve on the board of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund as an employee trustee.
SB 0167	Ensures that firefighters in the Tier 2 Pension system can receive the same reciprocity as Tier 1 firefighters in the event that the Tier 2 employee moves to a new employer who is covered by a different downstate fire pension fund.
SB 0307	Establishes that an Occupational Disease Disability Benefit is available for firefighters who can't perform their duties due to an injury, disease, or medical condition that prevents the firefighter from receiving a salary; expands the availability of the firefighter Occupational Disease Disability Benefit for Chicago firefighters.
SB 0460	Amends the Chicago Municipal Article of the Illinois Pension Code by adding language for the process for awarding contracts for investment services with emerging investment managers who are minority-owned, woman-owned and owned by persons with disabilities.
SB 0603	Allows paramedics in the Chicago Firefighters Pension Fund to continue to earn credit toward their pension after age 63, the compulsory retirement age for firefighters in the system.
SB 1056	Makes a number of changes to Illinois pension law.



SB 1675	Allows the Illinois State Board of Investment to increase the default contribution percentage employees pay into the Deferred Compensation plan.
SB 1989	Increases the hours a retired teacher can substitute without impairing retirement status.
SB 2093	Allows Chicago contract school teachers to participate in the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund.
SB 2103	Disqualifies all new State Universities Retirement System participants from participating in the Central Management Services Deferred Compensation Plan, unless they are actively making contributions to the CMS Deferred Compensation Plan on June 30, 2023.
SB 2107	Requires employees of the Firefighter’s Pension Investment Fund and the Police Officers’ Pension Investment Fund to participate in Illinois Municipality Retirement Fund.
SB 2357	Amends the Chicago Public Schools article of the Pension Code and the School Code to efficiently and effectively respond to educator misconduct.

Property Taxes

- HB 3289 - Extends the policy of approving homestead exemptions for persons with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, and senior citizens, for any property that was approved for the exemption for the 2019 taxable year, as long as that county declared a local disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

HB 3289	Extends the policy of approving homestead exemptions for persons with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, and senior citizens, for any property that was approved for the exemption for the 2019 taxable year, as long as that county declared a local disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
SB 0508	Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law by providing that a taxing district’s aggregate extension base must be adjusted whenever an assessment decrease due to an error results in a refund.
SB 1138	Provides that for levy year 2022, the aggregate extension base of a home equity assurance program that levied at least \$1 million in property taxes in levy years 2019 or 2022 under the Home Equity Assurance Act shall be the amount that the program’s aggregate extension base for levy year 2021 would have been.
SB 1721	Reduces interest rate on unpaid property taxes for municipalities to intervene and save abandoned properties, facilitates partnership between land banks and local governments to transform vacant lots and abandoned buildings into viable living or working spaces, and reduces maximum interest rates on delinquent taxes to 9%.
SB 1845	Amends the Property Tax Code to require the county clerk to file notice of a Certificate within 30 days of the filing of a certificate, and requires the clerk to mail notice.



Public Safety

- HB 2864 - Allows EMS System Medical Directors to allow registered nurses, physician assistants and advance practice registered nurses to serve as volunteers who perform the work of EMTs in specified rural areas.
- HB 3656 - Creates the Move Over Early Task Force and requires that drivers approaching a stationary emergency vehicle in any lane need to heed the warning of the signal, reduce speed, proceed with caution, maintain a safe speed for road conditions, be prepared to stop, and leave a safe distance until safely past the stationary emergency vehicle.
- SB 1600 - Requires a restaurant or truck stop to provide its employees with training in the recognition of human trafficking and protocols for reporting observed human trafficking to the appropriate authority.

HB 0051	Removes Chicago's exemption from the Smoke Detector Act.
HB 0060	Exempts a slide at a playground that does not normally require supervision or any slide that is not open to the general public with monitored admission from the definition of "amusement ride," and defines "trampoline court."
HB 0588	Gives certain businesses and establishments the ability to post a Human Trafficking Resource Center-related notice in all restrooms open to the public.
HB 0592	Authorizes the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to implement a comprehensive radiochemistry laboratory program.
HB 2408	Requires the inspection and testing of fire and smoke dampers to be conducted by individuals certified by the International Certification Board and accredited to comply with relevant regulations by a nationally recognized certifying body.
HB 2860	Provides that vehicles of deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet.
HB 2864	Allows EMS System Medical Directors to allow registered nurses, physician assistants and advance practice registered nurses to serve as volunteers who perform the work of EMTs in specified rural areas.
HB 3265	Expands the definition of rape crisis organizations under the law.
HB 3461	Requires schools to adopt an evidence-informed curriculum to provide age-appropriate education on sexual abuse to all students and updates school personnel sexual abuse training policies.
HB 3656	Creates the Move Over Early Task Force and requires that drivers approaching a stationary emergency vehicle in any lane need to heed the warning of the signal, reduce speed, proceed with caution, maintain a safe speed for road conditions, be prepared to stop, and leave a safe distance until safely past the stationary emergency vehicle.
HB 3743	Modernizes 9-1-1 across the state, extends sunset dates for the Telecommunications Act and Video and Cable Competition Act and the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, and requires construction projects performed by a third party contracted by any public utility company to pay workers a prevailing wage.
HB 3882	Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code to change the definition of "police vehicle" to include recreational off-highway vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, watercraft and aircraft.
SB 0121	Allows for EMS workers to administer a Respirator Medical Evaluation on behalf of firefighters.
SB 0337	Allows the Office of Marshal for the Supreme Court to employ court security officers for any courthouse or courtroom occupied by the Supreme or Appellate Court.
SB 0548	Allows required basic training of private detectives, private alarm contractors, and private security contractors to be conducted online and adds additional firearm training and coursework.



SB 0561	Creates a variety of provision to prohibit, punish, phase out, or otherwise disincentivize the production, distribution, sale, and use of PFAS in firefighter materials.
SB 0667	Prohibits law enforcement from inquiring about or investigating the citizenship, immigration status, or place of birth of any person in the agency’s custody or who has been detained by the agency.
SB 0685	Creates the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission to conduct regional domestic violence fatality reviews, advising the governor and the General Assembly on domestic violence related issues and analyzing data and trends related to domestic violence.
SB 0693	Allows EMS to request bypass or diversion from the closest emergency department and request transport to the closest or appropriate EMS System-approved mental health facility.
SB 1599	Creates the Human Trafficking Task Force Act to address the growing problem of human trafficking across the state of Illinois; task force is required to provide a report to the governor and General Assembly no later than June 30, 2024.
SB 1600	Requires a restaurant or truck stop to provide its employees with training in the recognition of human trafficking and protocols for reporting observed human trafficking to the appropriate authority.
SB 1677	Amends the Stalking No Contact Order Act to include electronic communication in the definition of “contact.”
SB 1681	Adds probation officers to the list of individuals that qualify for death benefits if killed in the line of duty.
SB 1714	Amends the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act and removes the firefighter training requirement to learn about the history of the fire service labor movement.
SB 1839	Establishes that structural requirements adopted for modular dwellings and mobile structures shall not be more stringent than the requirements contained in the International Residential Code or the International Building Code.
SB 1913	Adds community service to the current list of penalties that may be imposed by the court for violating Scott’s Law.
SB 2037	Codifies into statute the reorganizing of the administrative structure within the Illinois State Police.
SB 2150	Provides that a current, regularly enrolled volunteer, paid-on-call, or part-time firefighter who is over 35 years of age may take the exam to become a full-time firefighter without having been enrolled for the past five years as current law states.
SB 2530	Requires a wireless service provider to provide call location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user upon request of a law enforcement agency or a public safety answering point on behalf of a law enforcement agency.

Redistricting

HB 2777	Creates the General Assembly Redistricting Act of 2021.
SB 0642	Creates the Judicial Districts Act of 2021 to set forth the specific counties to be included in the second, third, fourth, and fifth judicial districts.
SB 2661	Creates the Cook County Board of Review Redistricting Act of 2021.



Revenue & Taxes

- HB 1443 - Creates an additional 115 cannabis dispensary licenses, allows relocation of existing medical cannabis dispensaries, expands the R3 board, creates certain exceptions to the 1,500-foot dispensary buffer zone for social equity applicants, and addresses various other issues related to cannabis regulation.
- HB 2950 - Provides that Cook and the collar counties have the ability to use their locally assessed Motor Fuel Tax revenues on shared-use paths, such as sidewalks and bike paths.

HB 0227	Extends a TIF district in the city of Ottawa from 2022 to 2034 and a TIF district in the village of Melrose Park from 2031 to 2043.
HB 0368	Amends the State Auditing Act to require the federal tax information disclosed under the Act to be provided in accordance with the federal law and regulation applicable to the safeguarding of federal tax information.
HB 0453	Requires tax districts with a property tax levy of more than \$5 million to make a good faith effort to collect and electronically publish data from all vendors and subcontractors doing business within that tax district.
HB 1443	Creates an additional 115 cannabis dispensary licenses, allows relocation of existing medical cannabis dispensaries, expands the R3 board, creates certain exceptions to the 1,500-foot dispensary buffer zone for social equity applicants, and addresses various other issues related to cannabis regulation.
HB 2061	Extends TIFs in the city of Mount Carroll and the village of Elizabeth.
HB 2365	Extends a TIF in Mount Pulaski and a TIF in the city of Polo.
HB 2415	Allows a county that submitted its county cannabis tax paperwork by November 2020 to begin collecting the tax in May 2021 to remedy an issue in Kane County.
HB 2826	Extends the Washington TIF district.
HB 2950	Provides that Cook and the collar counties have the ability to use their locally assessed Motor Fuel Tax revenues on shared-use paths, such as sidewalks and bike paths.
HB 3289	Extends the policy of approving homestead exemptions for persons with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, and senior citizens, for any property that was approved for the exemption for the 2019 taxable year, as long as that county declared a local disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
HB 3313	Extends the Morris TIF district.
HB 3698	Makes a number of minor changes relating to credit union governance.
SB 0058	Increases the private vehicle tax by \$75 for each model year where the purchase price is less than \$15,000 and \$100 if the purchase price is above \$15,000. The bill also provides that the registration fee for trailers weighing less than 3000 pounds shall be \$36 instead of \$118.
SB 0081	Adds the Ronald McDonald House Charities to the list of checkoff funds that taxpayers can donate to on the standard income tax form.
SB 0340	Extends sunset of the student-assistance contribution tax credit from December 30, 2021 to December 31, 2024.
SB 0508	Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law by providing that a taxing district's aggregate extension base must be adjusted whenever an assessment decrease due to an error results in a refund.
SB 1138	Provides that for levy year 2022, the aggregate extension base of a home equity assurance program that levied at least \$1 million in property taxes in levy years 2019 or 2022 under the Home Equity Assurance Act shall be the amount that the program's aggregate extension base for levy year 2021 would have been.



SB 1667	Provides that certification of the levy by the county clerk may be done electronically.
SB 1822	Extends the lifetimes of multiple TIFs throughout the state as well as making changes regarding the usage of funds for transit TIFs.
SB 1845	Amends the Property Tax Code to require the Clerk to file notice of a certificate within 30 days of the filing of a certificate, and requires the clerk to mail notice.
SB 2244	Makes temporary changes to the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program for tax years 2022 through 2025 by increasing the income limitation to \$65,000 and the maximum deferral amount to \$7,500.
SB 2531	Provides that partnerships and S corporations may elect to pay a tax imposed on the corporation (as opposed to paying the tax the income passed through to an individual partner or shareholder).

Seniors

- HB 0032 - Requires the Illinois Department on Aging to compile a fact sheet with information on various health conditions, elder abuse and programs for seniors and deliver the fact sheet to recipients of home-delivered meals.
- SB 0701 - Contains several provisions recommended by the Elder Abuse Task Force regarding elder abuse and exploitation.
- SB 1977 - Requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to apply for all available federal funding to promote community inclusion and integration for persons with disabilities and older adults so they have the option to transition out of institutions and receive long-term care services and support in the settings of their choice.

HB 0032	Requires the Illinois Department on Aging to compile a fact sheet with information on various health conditions, elder abuse and programs for seniors and deliver the fact sheet to recipients of home-delivered meals.
HB 2433	Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to appoint one member to represent local health departments and one member who must be a family member or caregiver of the resident to the Long-Term Care Facility Advisory Board to consult with the IDPH and the residents' advisory councils as a non-voting member.
HB 2570	Provides that in provisions concerning reductions to rates and premium charges for automobile liability insurance for any insured over age 55 upon successful completion of the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course or accident prevention course, the course may be an eLearning course.
HB 3147	Requires long-term care facilities to make every reasonable effort to facilitate at least one phone call or video call between a resident and a single family member of the resident each day during a disaster declared by the governor.
HB 3289	Extends the policy of approving homestead exemptions for persons with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, and senior citizens, for any property that was approved for the exemption for the 2019 taxable year, as long as that county declared a local disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
SB 0701	Contains several provisions recommended by the Elder Abuse Task Force regarding elder abuse and exploitation.
SB 1977	Requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to apply for all available federal funding to promote community inclusion and integration for persons with disabilities and older adults so they have the option to transition out of institutions and receive long-term care services and support in the settings of their choice.



SB 2137	Provides the Illinois Department of Public Health should require long-term care facilities to adopt policies to provide technology and staff training to prevent social isolation among residents; sets funding methods and mandates creation of inspection protocols.
SB 2244	Makes temporary changes to the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program for tax years 2022 through 2025 by increasing the income limitation to \$65,000 and the maximum deferral amount to \$7,500.

State Government

- HB 0605 - Prohibits state Institutions and agencies from purchase Illinois state flags and American flags not made in United States of America.
- SB 0225 - Prohibits the secretary of state from sharing facial recognition images with any governmental agency for the purpose of enforcing immigration laws.
- SB 1765 - Requires state agencies to implement an equal opportunity employment interview initiative.

HB 0014	Provides that if the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation denies applications for licenses, certifications and grant registration because of a past criminal conviction, IDFPR must explain how the conviction directly relates to and would prevent the applicant from effectively engaging in the position sought.
HB 0247	Provides restrictions for certain state buildings to be composed of glass that preclude bird collision.
HB 0369	Amends the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 and the Probate Act of 1975 to make Illinois law concerning special immigrant minors compliant with federal law.
HB 0590	Designates the month of April each year as Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.
HB 0605	Prohibits state Institutions and agencies from purchase Illinois state flags and American flags not made in United States of America.
HB 0640	Adds the executive officer, or their designee, of the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Illinois to the Illinois Fire Advisory Commission as ex officio members.
HB 0690	Allows non-Illinois licensed dentists to apply for temporary permits to practice in the state without compensation provided that the visiting dentist has a collaborative agreement with a charitable organization or an approved continuing education provider.
HB 0706	Makes technical changes to the State Employee Group Insurance Act to improve clarity and consistency relative to both the program's practices and federal regulation.
HB 0806	Extends the sunset date for various acts and makes various substantive and technical changes to those acts.
HB 1726	Amends outdated language, statutes surrounding funds and programs that no longer exist.
HB 1746	Requires each school board to appoint at least one employee to act as a liaison to facilitate enrollment and transfer of records of students in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.
HB 1803	Provides that fees and civil penalties collected under the Collection Agency Act be deposited into the Financial Institution Fund instead of the General Professions Dedicated Fund.
HB 1815	Extends deadlines for Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force.
HB 1879	Provides that <i>Penicillium rubens</i> NRRL 1951 is designated the official microbe of the State of Illinois.
HB 2401	Clarifies that the secretary of state has no duty to accept service of process as the default agent in litigation naming private parties.



HB 2543	Extends the sunset date of the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor’s License Act from January 1, 2022 to January 1, 2027.
HB 2616	Changes the procurement code to create a faster process to allow government entities to purchase essential equipment to assist disabled individuals in a timely manner.
HB 2785	Transfers various powers, duties, rights, and responsibilities of the Office of Energy and Recycling under the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to the Environmental Protection Agency.
HB 2834	Designates Aug. 26 of each year as “Illinois Constitution Day.”
HB 3069	Removes a provision that requires the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to post the contracted claims report required by HealthChoice Illinois on its website every 3 months.
HB 3217	Amends numerous state statutes by deleting the use of “Haitian” or “Negro” and instead uses Black or African American.
HB 3497	Adds two members to the State Board of Pharmacy – a pharmacist who practices at an inpatient hospital pharmacy and a pharmacy technician.
HB 3853	Makes the due date of a University of Illinois water rates report for the Lake Michigan service area December 1, 2022 and December, 1 2023 for the rest of Illinois.
HB 3870	Creates the Illinois Commission on Amateur Sports to make recommendations about the promotion and development of amateur sports throughout the state.
HB 3911	Provides that the First Responders Suicide Prevention Task Force shall make certain recommendations to certain entities.
HB 3914	Requires the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to take positive action toward addressing systemic racism in the State’s hiring practices.
HB 3922	Designates June 19 as a paid state holiday, Juneteenth.
SB 0060	Changes the definition of “surplus property,” reduces the number of appraisals required of State property, permits the sale of State property for less than its value, and requires concurrent notice periods for State agencies and local government to request property before it’s offered to the public.
SB 0134	Creates the Local Journalism Task Force Act, which seeks to review, study, and analyze the state of journalism in Illinois.
SB 0168	Requires a party seeking to re-establish a previously discontinued general acute care hospital to be authorized to file a certificate of exemption under the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act if specified conditions are met
SB 0189	Changes the procurement code to clarify the intent of the adoption of a food donation policy requirement.
SB 0214	Reinstates the Landscape Architecture Registration Act, which ended January 1, 2020.
SB 0225	Prohibits the secretary of state from sharing facial recognition images with any governmental agency for the purpose of enforcing immigration laws.
SB 0273	Provides that no more than one-third of a public agency’s funds may be invested in short-term obligations of corporations that mature not later than 270 days (currently, 3 years) from the date of purchase.
SB 0338	Provides a more efficient and effective means of collecting and returning unclaimed property to owners.
SB 0481	Provides fees, assessments, and fines sent to the Illinois State Police must be remitted directly to the State Treasurer to be deposited into the appropriate fund rather than sending directly to Illinois State Police.
SB 0544	Extends the repeal date of the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission Act from January 1, 2022 to January 1, 2032.



SB 0581	Makes the Illinois State Comptroller the administering agency of the State Employee Combined Appeal, and requires all agencies to submit inventory/asset reports on a quarterly basis, which Comptroller's Office finds sufficient.
SB 0622	Addresses the release of various easements and pieces of property from state possession and specifies the amount to be paid for the easements or property addressed.
SB 0632	Reenacts the Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission and extends the sunset to January 1, 2023.
SB 0640	Prohibits the state from procuring contracts with a vendor that receives support from nonmarket economy governments that do not operate on market principles of cost or pricing structures.
SB 0642	Creates the Judicial Districts Act of 2021 to set forth the specific counties to be included in the second, third, fourth and fifth judicial districts.
SB 0653	Updates and clarifies the manner in which a financial institution may become an approved state depository.
SB 0919	Expands membership of the Broadband Advisory Council to require more ethnic diversity.
SB 0921	Creates the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee within the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.
SB 0922	Changes various responsibilities of the board of the Illinois State Museum.
SB 0965	Extends the sunset date for the Autism and Co-Occurring Medical Conditions Awareness Act from August 12, 2021 to January 1, 2027.
SB 1552	Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice make available any relevant information, reports and records, social investigation, psychological and medical records to any county juvenile detention facility where the subject is held or supervised by a county.
SB 1611	Allows the Secretary of State's office to accept electronic signatures and delivery of records.
SB 1650	Requires that a claim be filed no later than Dec. 31, 2022 for a duty death benefit for a death occurring after December 31, 2016 and before January 1, 2021, that is administered by the Court of Claims.
SB 1690	Revises the Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credit Act to reflect the actual administration of the program.
SB 1765	Requires state agencies to implement an equal opportunity employment interview initiative.
SB 1833	Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish criteria for creating state-designated cultural districts and allows for the creation of five such districts per year, up to a total of 15 at any one time.
SB 1962	Eliminates the Commission on the Elimination of Poverty.
SB 2017	Extends the deadline for various requirements regarding reports and meetings of the Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force and allows the Task Force to select its own chairperson.
SB 2089	Requires the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to fly a United States flag, an Illinois flag, and a POW/MIA flag at all state parks within 5 years of the bill becoming law.
SB 2175	Allows the Department of Innovation and Technology to operate and organize similarly to other state agencies.
SB 2232	Modifies provisions concerning emergency powers to further allow the secretary of state to adopt emergency rules and increases the maximum per capita amount for state librarian grants to public libraries.
SB 2279	Provides that the effective date of a pollution control facility certificate shall be the date of the last submitted document that finalizes the application or the date of the construction of the facility, whichever is later and makes other changes relating to revenue laws.
SB 2406	Creates a new judicial circuit in our State's circuit court system by making St. Clair County its own circuit (the 20th) and a new circuit comprised of Randolph, Monroe, Washington, and Perry Counties as the 24th circuit.



SB 2435	Creates the First 2019 General Revisory Act.
SB 2460	Allows municipal ID cards to be used as a secondary form of identification when identification is required in order to gain access to state services and allows municipal ID cards to be used for the purpose of gaining admission into a state owned building.
SB 2662	Reinstates the full 5-year term for REAL IDs for permanent residents and makes the Illinois Identification Card Act compliant with both federal and Illinois state law.

Transportation

- HB 3854 - Requires a driver to use a turn signal before changing lanes, turning a vehicle from a direct course, or moving right or left upon a highway, and makes corresponding changes.
- SB 1536 - Allows a car rental company to void a damage waiver if the vehicle is stolen and the renter does not return the car's ignition key and the identifying key tag, file a police report within 24 hours of discovering the theft and fully cooperate with the rental company or law enforcement.
- SB 1791 - Provides that, in order to further the prevention of accidents, the Illinois Department of Transportation shall conduct a traffic study following the occurrence of any accident involving a pedestrian fatality that occurs on a state highway.

HB 0020	Repeals the registration fee for Gold Star license plates for surviving spouses or parents of veterans who died either during wartime or peacetime.
HB 0096	Grants people with light sensitivity from a brain injury the ability to use additional automobile window tinting.
HB 0161	Allows the secretary of state to terminate a driver's license suspension following an accident when the statute of limitations for bringing a claim for that accident has expired and no action has been filed against the driver.
HB 0253	Requires the Illinois Department of Transportation to establish and implement a statewide transportation performance program for all transportation projects within their jurisdiction.
HB 0270	Requires the Illinois Department of Transportation to fund the cost of construction projects on state roadways, including infrastructure for people walking and bicycling in or within one mile of a municipality of 1,000 people or more with programmed funds that have not been expended in the past 5 years.
HB 0343	Provides that for school zone speed limits, a school day begins at 6:30 a.m. instead of 7 a.m.
HB 0365	Broadens the Roadside Memorial program and DUI Memorial marker programs to include all traffic fatalities, and not just those caused by DUI's and reckless driving.
HB 0396	Updates the Illinois Vehicle Code concerning size, weight, load, and permits to match federal laws.
HB 0399	Creates the High Speed Railway Commission Act for the purpose of producing an annual report to the General Assembly on a plan for high-speed rail line between Chicago and St. Louis, and connecting Rockford, Moline, Peoria and Decatur.
HB 0656	Requires that the passenger of a motorcycle must be capable of resting a foot on the footrest while the motorcycle is in motion.
HB 1916	Requires the Illinois Department of Transportation to update its policy for providing notification of construction projects to the public.
HB 1927	Permits the Illinois chapters of Experimental Aircraft Association to issue aviation enthusiast decals for universal special license plates.



HB 1928	Creates the Child Abuse Council of the Quad Cities Fund and allows the Department of Human Services to issue Child Abuse Council of the Quad Cities decals for universal special license plates.
HB 2413	Discontinues the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District.
HB 2432	Extends the deadline for the secretary of state to implement the use of electronic records for lien and title systems to July 1, 2022.
HB 2529	Provides that an automotive parts recycler may submit a junk vehicle notification to the Secretary of State.
HB 2548	Reduces the time when antique motor vehicles can only be on the road to travel to and from shows to December 1 to the end of February.
HB 2584	Allows the Illinois Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program to permit the testing of safety equipment on school buses that are not otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.
HB 3097	Provides that police procedures and appropriate interactions with law enforcement during traffic stops be added to Illinois adult driver education course curriculum, and the State Board of Education's curriculum.
HB 3854	Requires a driver to use a turn signal before changing lanes, turning a vehicle from a direct course, or moving right or left upon a highway, and makes corresponding changes.
HB 3855	Provides that certain penalties regarding the operation of an uninsured motor vehicle apply to any operator of a motor vehicle subject to registration under a law of another state that is similar to the Illinois Vehicle Code.
HB 3881	Amends the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act to define "local road" as any State roadway, except for (i) a highway with 4 or more lanes, or (ii) an interstate highway.
HB 3882	Changes the Illinois Vehicle Code to change the definition of "police vehicle" to include recreational off-highway vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft.
HB 3929	Permits the Illinois Department of Public Health to issue health care worker decals for license plates.
SB 0573	Makes several technical changes to the Vehicle Code as an initiative of the secretary of state.
SB 0676	Provides the secretary of state the ability to extend a temporary driver's license beyond the current two separate 90-day extensions for individuals waiting on approval of green card or visa applications.
SB 0698	Makes a variety of technical changes to the Secretary of State's Driver Services Department as an initiative of the secretary of state.
SB 1231	Provides that a large non-highway vehicle may not be granted an off-highway vehicle trails public access sticker or be operated on lands or waters that require the display of such a sticker.
SB 1232	Allows for any federal money awarded to airports that serve more than 10,000 passengers a year to receive that money directly instead of the money being distributed by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics.
SB 1536	Allows a car rental company to void a damage waiver if the vehicle is stolen and the renter does not return the car's ignition key and the identifying key tag, file a police report within 24 hours of discovering the theft and fully cooperate with the rental company or law enforcement.
SB 1542	Removes the requirement of having triplicate copies of junk titles to be kept on the licensee's principal place of business at salvage yards and changing the amount of time required to keep the records on file from seven to three years.
SB 1545	Changes the threshold of when a vehicle is considered to be salvage due to damage as a percentage of its fair market value to 50% for licensed rebuilders and repairers.



SB 1791	Provides that, in order to further the prevention of accidents, the Illinois Department of Transportation shall conduct a traffic study following the occurrence of any accident involving a pedestrian fatality that occurs on a state highway.
SB 2183	Extends the sunset date of the Transportation Network Providers Act (ride-sharing) to June 1, 2023.
SB 2424	Adds the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (doing business as Amtrak) to the list of entities that may report to the Illinois Commerce Commission.
SB 2454	Requires the Department of Transportation to implement a State Safety Oversight Agency.
SB 2455	Repeals sections of the Vehicle Code requiring that vehicle accident reports submit paper copies with the Department of Transportation.
SB 2459	Provides that the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority and Capital Development Board may each accept the use of electronic signatures in transactions between those state agencies and other persons or entities.

Veterans

- HB 0557 - Allows dependents of U.S. military personnel living in temporary housing located outside of a school district to have the opportunity to enroll within six months instead of 60 days in the district that they will be living in by the end of those six months.
- HB 1290 - Provides that for the purpose of determining eligibility for any veterans benefit available from the State, “honorable discharge” includes anything other than an honorable discharge if that discharge was related to a person’s sexual orientation or identity.
- HB 3865 - Prohibits and penalizes deceptive service practices targeting veterans and military members.

HB 0020	Repeals the registration fee for Gold Star license plates for surviving spouses or parents of veterans who died either during wartime or peacetime.
HB 0282	Permits the superintendent of a county Veterans Assistance Commission to request legal assistance from its county’s state’s attorney in all counties except Cook.
HB 0557	Allows dependents of U.S. military personnel living in temporary housing located outside of a school district to have the opportunity to enroll within six months instead of 60 days in the district that they will be living in by the end of those six months.
HB 0694	Provides that, with respect to the supporting documentation required to obtain a plate for a veteran with a disability, the secretary of state shall allow an applicant to redact information on the documentation that pertains to the nature of the applicant’s health issue.
HB 1290	Provides that for the purpose of determining eligibility for any veterans benefit available from the State, “honorable discharge” includes anything other than an honorable discharge if that discharge was related to a person’s sexual orientation or identity.
HB 1815	Extends deadlines for Veterans’ Service-Related Ailments Task Force.
HB 1915	Authorizes the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs to issue “Folds of Honor” decals for the universal special license plate, and creates the Fold of Honor Foundation Fund.
HB 2776	Shortens the expedited review period for professional or occupational licenses for service members and their spouses from 60 days to 30 days.
HB 2894	Changes the State Commemorative Dates Act to designate the first Saturday in May of each year as Veterans Gardening Day.
HB 3255	Provides that all service officers and any supervisors, including the field manager, within the field division must be honorably discharged veterans from service in the Armed Forces of the United States.



HB 3289	Extends the policy of approving homestead exemptions for persons with disabilities, veterans with disabilities and senior citizens, for any property that was approved for the exemption for the 2019 taxable year, as long as that county declared a local disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
HB 3515	Provides that if a post, camp, unit, chapter, ship or detachment of a military veterans organization serves more than one county, then it shall be permitted to select one delegate and one alternate for the Veterans Assistance Commission in each county in which at least 25% of its members reside.
HB 3716	Gives veterans preference for appointment to and employment with Illinois Department of Transportation for snow removal operator and winter salaried highway maintainer positions under the Department's Winter Seasonal Employment Program.
HB 3865	Prohibits and penalizes deceptive service practices targeting veterans and military members.
SB 0505	Provides members of the Illinois National Guard serving on State Active Duty, federal duty or training status, with a state flag presented to their next of kin upon their death.
SB 0641	Requires public universities with a coordinator of veterans and military personnel student services to advertise the coordinator's information on campus social media accounts and to report on any veteran-focused recruitment and retention efforts in the university's annual fiscal impact report.
SB 0687	Requires the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to certify a business as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business or a veteran-owned small business in Illinois if the business is certified through the United States VA's Vets First Verification Program.
SB 1533	Provides for a trapping license exemption for disabled veterans, returning military service members and those who are terminally ill.
SB 1539	Provides that any contract for procurements that was entered into under the Quincy Veterans' Home Rehabilitation and Rebuilding Act and executed prior to the repeal of that Act shall continue.
SB 2017	Extends the deadline for various requirements regarding reports and meetings of the Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force and allows the Task Force to select its own chairperson.
SB 2250	Requires administrators of Illinois Veterans Homes who have locally held member's benefits funds to prepare and submit a monthly report to the Department of Veterans Affairs of all donations received and for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs to prepare a quarterly report on all locally held member's benefits funds.
SB 2294	Expands Medicaid coverage to include chiropractic care, post-kidney transplant management, counseling on how to quit smoking and peer support services for veterans.