

Legislative Report

May 15, 2021
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Lowder

INENA/APCO LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Bill Information

HB3702 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM *(WILLIS K)*

Amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Extends the repeal of the Act from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Makes various changes to definitions. Provides that within 18 months of the awarding of a contract under the Public Utilities Act to establish a statewide next generation 9-1-1 network (rather than by December 31, 2021), every 9-1-1 system in Illinois shall provide next generation 9-1-1 service. Amends various other Acts to make conforming changes. Effective immediately.

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Further amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Provides that the information registered by an emergency telephone system with the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator shall include the identification of the System Manager. Provides that an Emergency Telephone System Board has the power to designate a 9-1-1 System Manager, whose duties and responsibilities shall be set forth by the in writing. Defines "System Manager". Changes references from "county 9-1-1 system" or "9-1-1 system" to "county or 9-1-1 Authority". Provides that the installation of or connection to a telephone company's network of any automatic alarm, automatic alerting device, or mechanical dialer that causes the number 9-1-1 to be dialed in order to directly access emergency services and does not provide for 2-way communication is prohibited in a 9-1-1 system. Provides that training for public safety telecommunicators must be completed within one year of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator establishing the required guidelines, rules, and standards. Provides that upon completing of training, all public safety telecommunicators must complete specified continuing education training regarding the delivery of 9-1-1 services and professionalism bi-annually. Makes other changes.

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - Further amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Provides that a municipality with a population over 500,000 shall establish a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 network by December 31, 2023. Provides that on or after January 1, 2024 (rather than 2022), a municipality with a population over 500,000 may not impose a monthly surcharge in excess of \$2.50 per network connection. Provides that on or after January 1, 2024 (rather than 2022), the municipality may continue imposing and collecting its wireless carrier surcharge. Amends the Prepaid Wireless 9-1-1 Surcharge Act. Deletes language providing that on or after January 1, 2021, a home rule municipality having a population in excess of 500,000 may only impose a prepaid wireless 9-1-1 surcharge not to exceed 7% per retail transaction sourced to that jurisdiction. Deletes the amendatory changes to the disorderly conduct provisions of the Criminal Code of 2012.

RECENT STATUS

5/13/2021 - Referred to Senate Assignments

5/13/2021 - FIRST READING

5/13/2021 - Chief Senate Sponsor Sen. Bill Cunningham

COMMENTS

Neutral as drafted

POSITION

Neutral

PRIORITY

Active

[HB3702 Bill Page](#)



NOTES

HA#1 - provides that the information registered by an emergency telephone system with the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator shall

include the identification of the System Manager. Provides that an Emergency Telephone System Board has the power to designate a 9-1-1 System Manager, whose duties and responsibilities shall be set forth by the in writing. Defines 'System Manager'. Changes references from 'county 9-1-1 system' or '9-1-1 system' to 'county or 9-1-1 Authority'. Provides that the installation of or connection to a telephone company's network of any automatic alarm, automatic alerting device, or mechanical dialer that causes the number 9-1-1 to be dialed in order to directly access emergency services and does not provide for 2-way communication is prohibited in a 9-1-1 system. Provides that training for public safety telecommunicators must be completed within one year of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator establishing the required guidelines, rules, and standards. Provides that upon completing of training, all public safety telecommunicators must complete specified continuing education training regarding the delivery of 9-1-1 services and professionalism bi-annually.

HB2379 SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY-REPEAL (WALSH L)

Amends the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act. Provides that the Act is repealed on December 31, 2026 (currently, June 1, 2021). Effective immediately.

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Provides for repeal of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act on December 31, 2023 (rather than December 31, 2026).

RECENT STATUS

5/10/2021 - Assigned to Senate Energy and Public Utilities

4/27/2021 - Referred to Senate Assignments

4/27/2021 - FIRST READING

PRIORITY

High

[HB2379 Bill Page](#)



NOTES

Synopsis

HB2380 UTILITIES REPEAL EXTENSION (WALSH L)

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Extends the repeal dates of the Telecommunications Article and the Cable and Video Competition Article from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2026. Provides that any cable service or video service authorization issued by the Illinois Commerce Commission will expire on December 31, 2029 (rather than December 31, 2024). Effective immediately.

House Committee Amendment No. 1 - Further amends the Public Utilities Act. In a provision concerning abandonment of service, provides for the procedure through which a Small Electing Provider may choose to cease offering or providing a telecommunications service. Defines "Small Electing Provider" as an incumbent local exchange carrier that is an electing provider, and that, together with all of its incumbent local exchange carrier affiliates offering telecommunications services within the State of Illinois, has fewer than 40,000 subscriber access lines as of January 1, 2020.

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - Extends the repeal dates of the Telecommunications Article and the Cable and Video Competition Article to December 31, 2024 (rather than December 31, 2026). Provides that any cable service or video service authorization issued by the Illinois Commerce Commission will expire on December 31, 2027 (rather than December 31, 2029).

House Floor Amendment No. 3 - Further amends the Public Utilities Act. In provisions of the Cable and Video Customer Protection Law concerning customer service and privacy protection, provides that notice of proposed termination shall be provided in electronic format or mailed (rather than mailed), postage prepaid, to the customer to whom service is billed. Provides that notice of proposed termination shall not be delivered or mailed (rather than mailed) until the 24th day after the date of the bill for services.

RECENT STATUS

5/20/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities

Time & Location: 11:00 AM, Virtual Room 1 - ILGA.GOV

5/4/2021 - Assigned to Senate Energy and Public Utilities

4/23/2021 - Referred to Senate Assignments

POSITION
Monitor

PRIORITY
High

[HB2380 Bill Page](#) →

HB2784 MENTAL HEALTH-EMERGENCY *(CASSIDY K)*

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Creates the Community Emergency Services and Support Act. Provides that each 9-1-1 call center and provider of emergency services dispatched through a 9-1-1 system must coordinate with the mobile mental and behavioral health services established by the Division of Mental Health of the Department of Human Services so that the following State goals and State prohibitions are met whenever a person interacts with one of these entities for the purpose seeking emergency mental and behavioral health care or when one of these entities recognizes the appropriateness of providing mobile mental or behavioral health care to an individual with whom they have engaged. Provides that the Division of Mental Health is also directed to provide guidance regarding whether and how these entities should coordinate with mobile mental and behavioral health services when responding to individuals who appear to be in a mental or behavioral health emergency while engaged in conduct alleged to constitute a non-violent misdemeanor. Provides that 9-1-1 call centers, emergency services dispatched through 9-1-1 call centers, and the mobile mental and behavioral health service established by the Division of Mental Health must coordinate their services so that certain specified State prohibitions are avoided. Provides that the Division of Mental Health shall establish regional advisory committees in each EMS Region to advise on emergency response systems for mental and behavioral health. Provides that the Act applies to persons of all ages, both children and adults. Provides that the Act does not limit an individual's right to control his or her own medical care. No provision of this Act shall be interpreted in such a way as to limit an individual's right to choose his or her preferred course of care or to reject care. Provides that no provision of this Act shall be interpreted to promote or provide justification for the use of restraints when providing mental or behavioral health care. Amends the Emergency Telephone System Act to make conforming changes.

RECENT STATUS

5/18/2021 - Senate Behavioral and Mental Health

Time & Location: 5:00 PM, Virtual Room 3 - ILGA.gov

5/14/2021 - Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Referred to Assignments

5/14/2021 - Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Filed with Secretary by Sen. Robert Peters

POSITION
Amend

PRIORITY
High

[HB2784 Bill Page](#) →

NOTES

DD

HB3911 FIRST RESPONDERS TASK FORCE *(HURLEY F)*

Amends the First Responders Suicide Prevention Act. Provides that the First Responders Suicide Prevention Task Force shall make specified recommendations to specified entities.

RECENT STATUS

5/18/2021 - Senate Behavioral and Mental Health

Time & Location: 5:00 PM, Virtual Room 3 - ILGA.gov

5/10/2021 - Assigned to Senate Behavioral and Mental Health

4/27/2021 - Referred to Senate Assignments

POSITION

Support

PRIORITY

High

[HB3911 Bill Page](#)



SB693

EMS SYSTEMS-TRANSPORT *(BUSH M)*

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that when a patient has been determined by EMS personnel to (1) have no immediate life-threatening injuries or illness, (2) not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, (3) have no immediate or obvious need for transport to an emergency department, and (4) have an immediate need for transport to an EMS System-approved mental health facility, the EMS personnel may contact Online Medical Control or his or her EMS Medical Director or Emergency Communication Registered Nurse to request bypass or diversion of the closest emergency department and request transport to the closest or appropriate EMS System-approved mental health facility.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause with the provisions of the introduced bill with the following change. Provides that EMS personnel may transport a patient to an EMS System-approved urgent care or immediate care facility that meets the proper criteria and is approved by Online Medical Control or his or her EMS Medical Director or Emergency Communications Registered Nurse.

RECENT STATUS

5/14/2021 - Senate Bills on Second Reading

5/13/2021 - Senate Bills on Second Reading

5/12/2021 - House Committee Amendment No. 2 Tabled Pursuant to Rule 40

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

High

[SB693 Bill Page](#)



NOTES

When a patient has been determined by EMS personnel to have no injuries or illnesses, not be under the influence, have no immediate need for transportation to an ER, and have an immediate need for transport to a mental health facility; they may request bypass or diversion from the closest ER and transport directly to the appropriate mental health facility.

SB1575

FIRST RESPONDER MNTL HLTH DATA *(MARTWICK R)*

Amends the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act. Provides that the Department of Human Services shall create and maintain an online database and resource page on its website. Provides that the database and resource page shall contain mental health resources specifically geared toward first responders with the goal of connecting those persons with mental health resources related to crisis services, wellness, trauma information, nutrition, stress reduction, anxiety, depression, violence prevention, suicide prevention, and substance use and of encouraging information sharing among families of first responders, first responder organizations, first responder professional organizations, and first responders. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/14/2021 - Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Consent Calendar

5/14/2021 - Senate Bills on Second Reading Consent Calendar - Second Day

5/13/2021 - Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading - Consent Calendar

POSITION

Support

PRIORITY

High

SB1575 Bill Page →

NOTES

Creates a first responder mental health database and resource page to aid first responders with mental health resources.

SB2530 WIRELESS SERVICE-CALL LOCATION (CURRAN J)

Amends the Department of State Police Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that upon request of a law enforcement agency or a public safety answering point on behalf of a law enforcement agency, a wireless service provider shall provide call location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user to the requesting law enforcement agency or public safety answering point. Provides that a law enforcement agency or public safety answering point may not request information under this provision unless for the purposes of responding to a call for emergency services or in an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or serious physical harm. Provides that a wireless service provider may establish protocols by which the carrier voluntarily discloses call location information. Provides that a claim for relief may not be brought in a court against a wireless service provider or any other person for providing call location information if acting in good faith. Provides that the Illinois State Police shall obtain contact information from all wireless service providers authorized to do business in the State to facilitate a request from a law enforcement agency or a public safety answering point on behalf of a law enforcement agency for call location information. Provides that the Illinois State Police shall disseminate the contact information to each public safety answering point in the State.

RECENT STATUS

5/14/2021 - Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Consent Calendar

5/14/2021 - Senate Bills on Second Reading Consent Calendar - Second Day

5/13/2021 - Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading - Consent Calendar

COMMENTS

Ask to add VOIP

POSITION

Amend

PRIORITY

High

SB2530 Bill Page →

NOTES

Upon the request of a law enforcement agency or a PSAP on behalf of a law-enforcement agency, a wireless service provider shall provide call location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user to the law enforcement agency and/or the PSAP. This information can only be requested for the purposes of responding to an emergency that involves the risk of death or serious physical harm. A claim may not be brought in any court against the wireless service provider or any other person who acted in good faith under the section. The Illinois State police Charlottetown contact information for all wireless service providers and disseminate that information to each PSAP in the state.

HB2568 PSEBA HLTH PLAN BARGAINED (MAYFIELD R)

Amends the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act. Provides that a health insurance plan, as defined, is limited to the insurance plan options codified in the employee collective bargaining agreement or bargained upon with an authorized agent and subject to the

grievance process.

RECENT STATUS

5/19/2021 - Senate Labor

Time & Location: 10:00 AM, Virtual Room 1 - ILGA.gov

5/13/2021 - Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Referred to Assignments

5/13/2021 - Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Filed with Secretary by Sen. Thomas Cullerton

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

[HB2568 Bill Page](#) →

NOTES

Line of Duty Health Benefit

HB2860 FIRE CHIEF VEHICLE EQUIPMENT *(SWANSON D)*

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. 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. Provides that deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs are eligible for fire chief license plates. Provides that any fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief operating warning devices upon a vehicle not owned by a municipality or fire protection district shall display fire chief license plates. Provides that, with the exception of permanently issued license plates, upon the resignation, termination, or reassignment to a rank other than fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief, a person issued fire chief license plates shall immediately surrender the license plate to the Secretary of State. Provides that the Secretary of State shall have the ability to recover the license plates.

RECENT STATUS

5/18/2021 - Senate Transportation

Time & Location: 3:00 PM, Virtual Room 1 - ILGA.gov

5/11/2021 - Assigned to Senate Transportation

4/23/2021 - Referred to Senate Assignments

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

[HB2860 Bill Page](#) →

HB3571 EMS SERVICES-EXPIRED LICENSE *(WELTER D)*

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that an Illinois licensed EMR, EMD, EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic, ECRN, PHPA, PHAPRN, or PHRN whose license has expired may, within 6 months after license expiration, apply for relicensure, show compliance with all relicensure requirements, and submit the required relicensure fees, including a late fee, and, after that 6-month period, may apply for reinstatement.

RECENT STATUS

5/19/2021 - Senate Licensed Activities

Time & Location: 2:00 PM, Virtual Room 2 - ILGA.gov

5/10/2021 - Assigned to Senate Licensed Activities

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

HB3571 Bill Page →

NOTES

Allows an EMT whose license has expired to apply for relicensure within six months by showing compliance with all pre-licensure requirements and submitting the proper relicensing fees.

SB347 MIND STRONG ACT (PETERS R)

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Creates the Mind Strong Act. Requires the Department of Public Health, or a third party contractor with experience in successful public education and awareness campaigns selected by the Department of Public Health, to develop and lead a 2-year educational campaign within each of Illinois' 11 health regions on the availability of adult mobile crisis response services within each region and how to access such services. Requires the Department to develop and implement this public awareness and educational campaign in collaboration with community stakeholders, including certain organizations, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and the Department of Human Services. Requires the public awareness campaign to begin no later than January 1, 2022 and to take into account crisis services, if any. Sets forth certain requirements for the public awareness campaign, including that it be culturally competent and that any written materials be written in plain, easy-to-understand language and available in multiple languages that are representative of the communities in a particular health region. Lists the types of stakeholders that shall be included as partner-stakeholders in the development of the campaign. Requires the Department of Human Services to establish, subject to appropriation, a grant program for the purposes of providing adult mobile crisis response services to any adult age 18 or older experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis regardless of insurance status. Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to develop and implement training and protocols for individuals answering crisis calls to the Crisis and Referral Entry Services (CARES) line. Contains provisions concerning the use of data to strengthen CARES line responses and adult mobile crisis response services, and other matters. Requires the Departments of Public Health, Human Services, and Healthcare and Family Services to adopt rules to implement the Act. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/13/2021 - House Mental Health & Addiction

5/4/2021 - Assigned to House Mental Health & Addiction

4/27/2021 - Referred to House Rules

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

SB347 Bill Page →

NOTES

Creates the Mind Strong Act. Requires the Department of Public Health to develop and lead a two-year educational campaign within each of Illinois' 11 health regions on the availability of adult mobile crisis response services within each region. They shall collaborate with community stakeholders, HFS, and DHS. The public awareness campaign shall be culturally competent and locally tailored to ensure local buying and community understanding. All written materials must be in plain, easy to understand language and shall be available in multiple languages. Material shall be specifically tailored for different types of community stakeholders or audiences, including healthcare providers, law-enforcement, and community groups. Subject to appropriation, DHS show establish a grant program for the purposes of providing adult mobile crisis response services to any adult experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. This program shall mirror the adult mobile crisis services covered by Illinois' Medicaid program. HFS will identify crisis response policies and practices that must be standardized across providers to ensure quality and consistency of crisis response care.

SB486 UTILITIES REPEAL EXTENSION *(CUNNINGHAM B)*

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Extends the repeal dates of the Telecommunications Article and the Cable and Video Competition Article from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2026. Provides that any cable service or video service authorization issued by the Illinois Commerce Commission will expire on December 31, 2029 (rather than December 31, 2024). Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/10/2021 - Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments
4/30/2021 - Rule 2-10 Committee/3rd Reading Deadline Established As May 7, 2021
4/23/2021 - Rule 2-10 Committee/3rd Reading Deadline Established As April 30, 2021

POSITION
Monitor

PRIORITY
Medium

[SB486 Bill Page](#) →

HB2864 EMS SYSTEMS-RURAL POPULATIONS *(SWANSON D)*

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that, in a rural population of 5,000 or fewer inhabitants, each EMS System Medical Director may create an exception to the credentialing process to allow registered nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to apply to serve as volunteers who perform the same work as EMTs. Requires that, as part of the volunteer recognition process, EMS Systems shall ensure that registered nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses have an active license issued by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. This system-level recognition shall require documentation and proof of the completion of at least 20 hours of prehospital care-specific coursework approved by the Department of Public Health and 8 hours of observant riding time. Provides that each EMS System Medical Director who creates an exception to the credentialing process may require additional training or documentation and may reject a volunteer applicant for just cause. Provides that each exemption period shall be no longer than one year, after which time a volunteer applicant may apply for another exemption. Provides that each EMS System Medical Director is responsible for ensuring that volunteer applicants meet EMS System requirements for credentialing and authorizing the practice in accordance with the EMS System plan for basic life support. Provides that exceptions to the credentialing process are only allowable for volunteer EMS agencies in Illinois.

RECENT STATUS

5/14/2021 - Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading May 17, 2021
5/14/2021 - SECOND READING
5/14/2021 - House Bills on Second Reading

PRIORITY
None

[HB2864 Bill Page](#) →

SB2356 OPEN MEETINGS-SESSION MINUTES *(CURRAN J)*

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that each public body shall periodically (currently, specifies no less than semi-annually) meet to review minutes of all closed meetings. Provides that meetings to review minutes shall occur every 6 months, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the public body. Provides that committees which are ad hoc in nature shall review closed session minutes at the later of (1) 6 months from the date of the last review of closed session minutes or (2) at the next scheduled meeting of the ad hoc committee. Provides that when a public body is dissolved, disbanded,

eliminated, or consolidated by executive action, legislative action, or referendum, the governing body of the unit of local government in which the public body was located shall review the closed session minutes of that public body.

RECENT STATUS

5/14/2021 - Senate Bills on Second Reading Consent Calendar - First Day

5/13/2021 - Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Consent Calendar

5/12/2021 - Do Pass / Consent Calendar State Government Administration Committee; 008-000-000

PRIORITY

None

SB2356 Bill Page →

HB198 PUBLIC SAFETY&JUSTICE PRIVACY (MARRON M)

Creates the Public Safety and Justice Privacy Act. Defines terms. Provides that government agencies, persons, businesses, and associations shall not publicly post or display publicly available content that includes a first responder's, prosecutor's, public defender's, or probation officer's ("officials") personal information, provided that the government agency, person, business, or association has received a written request from the person that it refrain from disclosing the person's personal information. Provides injunctive or declaratory relief if the Act is violated. Includes procedures for a written request. Provides that it is a Class 3 felony for any person to knowingly publicly post on the Internet the personal information of an official or an official's immediate family under specified circumstances. Excludes criminal penalties for employees of government agencies who publish information in good faith during the ordinary course of carrying out public functions. Provides that the Act and any rules adopted to implement the Act shall be construed broadly to favor the protection of the personal information of officials. Amends various Acts and Codes allowing an official to list a business address rather than a home address and makes conforming changes. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

3/27/2021 - Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

3/3/2021 - House Executive

2/23/2021 - Assigned to House Executive

COMMENTS

JL to ask to have 911 added.

POSITION

Amend

PRIORITY

Stalled

HB198 Bill Page →

NOTES

Provides that it is a Class 3 Felony to make certain persons information public without their permission. Creates a definition of 'First Responder'

HB628 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (DAVIDSMEYER C)

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that a Vehicle Service Provider that serves a rural or semi-rural population of 10,000 or fewer inhabitants and exclusively uses volunteers, paid-on-call, or a combination thereof to provide patient care may apply for alternate rural staffing authorization from the Department of Public Health to authorize the ambulance, Non-Transport Vehicle, Special-Use Vehicle, or Limited Operation Vehicle to be staffed by one EMT licensed at or above the level at which the vehicle is licensed, plus one Emergency Medical Responder when 2 licensed Emergency Services personnel are not available

to respond. Provides that an alternate rural staffing authorization shall not expire. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

4/23/2021 - Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

4/23/2021 - House Bills on Second Reading

4/22/2021 - House Bills on Second Reading

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Stalled

[HB628 Bill Page](#) →

NOTES

Allows for alternative EMT staffing rules in rural areas.

SB1731 SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY-REPEAL *(JONES, III E)*

Amends the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act. Provides that the Act is repealed on December 31, 2026 (currently, June 1, 2021). Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

4/16/2021 - Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments

4/15/2021 - To Subcommittee on Future Cellular Development

4/7/2021 - Assigned to Senate Energy and Public Utilities

PRIORITY

Stalled

[SB1731 Bill Page](#) →

Week in Review

Illinois owed more than \$3M in unpaid fines from PACS – with no means to collect

The Republican Party of Illinois owes the Illinois Board of Elections \$23,350 in unpaid files.

DeKalb Daily Chronicle

Vax yes? Mask no! Pritzker to ease Illinois rules on face coverings for fully vaccinated following CDC update

Those who've rolled up their sleeves can now take off their masks — even in most indoor gatherings.

Chicago Sun-Times

Illinois' plan to use chunk of \$7.5 billion in federal coronavirus relief to pay off debt may be in jeopardy

State officials are asking the U.S. Treasury Department for permission to use a portion of the \$7.5 billion in federal aid Illinois is in line to receive from President Joe Biden's coronavirus relief plan to repay loans the state took out last year to help cover pandemic-related expenses.

Chicago Tribune

Mendoza suggests Illinois due for credit upgrade

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza is asking the nation's three major credit rating agencies to reconsider the state's credit rating with an eye toward a possible upgrade.

Chicago My Suburban Life

Bills allow redistribution of prescription drugs, require menstrual products at homeless shelters

SPRINGFIELD — The Senate Health Committee voted Tuesday to advance two bills which would create a prescription drug repository

program and require that feminine hygiene products be provided free of charge at homeless shelters.

Joliet Herald-News

Northwestern students must have COVID vaccine to return in fall

The university joins Loyola, DePaul University and Columbia College Chicago in the requirement.

Crain's Chicago Business

Pritzker urges Illinoisans to visit ... Illinois! Tourism campaign targets locals, residents of nearby states to get behind the wheel

The campaign highlights the "fun and beauty" of the state's diverse communities, as well as its natural assets and man-made ones, through a \$6 million media campaign soundtracked by a play on Champaign, IL band REO Speedwagon's "Time for Me to Fly."

Chicago Sun-Times

State lawmakers tackle hair discrimination, inadequate care for new mothers, restraining orders allowing temporary gun seizure

Those were among the measures contained in bills passed by the state House or Senate on Wednesday, a little less than three weeks before the current legislative session is scheduled to end.

Crain's Chicago Business

Ambassador Rahm Emanuel: Former Chicago mayor reportedly President Joe Biden's pick for Japan

President Joe Biden is expected to select former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel as his ambassador to Japan, according to multiple reports Tuesday.

Chicago Tribune

Davis, LaHood silent on GOP punishment for Liz Cheney; they panned the option in the past

Two Republican congressmen representing parts of the Springfield area were mum Tuesday on whether they would vote Wednesday to strip Wyoming's Liz Cheney of her leadership post in the U.S. House GOP caucus.

The State Journal-Register

'Shot and a beer' bill would allow free drink for the vaccinated

Free booze with your COVID-19 vaccine? It soon could be possible in Illinois.

Daily Herald

Illinois group says gas shortage unlikely here

MOUNT VERNON — The cyber attack of the Colonial Pipeline on the East Coast, which has caused gas shortages in several states, is unlikely to be a long-term problem, according to the Illinois Oil and Gas Association.

Bloomington Pantagraph

CPD launched secret drone program with off-the-books cash

In an email last summer, a police official reported that its counter-terrorism bureau started a pilot drone program using forfeiture proceeds — money and other assets seized in connection to criminal investigations.

Chicago Sun-Times

Disinvestment, pandemic leave Illinois' state of mental health care in 'crisis'

SPRINGFIELD – Rooted in disinvestment and growing amid economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois is facing a statewide mental health crisis due to workforce shortages and accessibility.

The Southern Illinoisan

Senator seeks to spare children pain with fight against hairstyle discrimination: 'I understand what this feels like personally'

State Sen. Mike Simmons knows what it's like to be "humiliated" in front of other kids because of a lack of understanding or acceptance of his hairstyle.

Chicago Sun-Times

Big downtown office buildings to offer vaccines to workers

The Merchandise Mart and the Wrigley Building are among commercial properties participating in a program to both boost vaccination rates and encourage people to come back downtown.

Crain's Chicago Business

Architect Helmut Jahn's death reignites debate over sale of his renowned — and reviled — Thompson Center

Advocates for preserving and reusing the James R. Thompson Center plan to renew their push for landmarking it in light of the pending sale and the architect's death. But Gov. J.B. Pritzker said it "was a building that never lived up to his creative genius."

Chicago Sun-Times

Alderman behind Outer LSD renaming push enters secretary of state race with vow to honor Jesse White, put ads on license plates

Ald. David Moore said in his conversations with state residents he's heard common themes, mostly boiling down to people wanting the next secretary of state to be like the incumbent in terms of focusing on the office's services rather than politics and seeing the office "operate effectively without hurting them in their pockets."

Chicago Sun-Times

FDA authorizes Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children as young as 12; shots could begin as soon as Wednesday

U.S. regulators on Monday expanded the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to children as young as 12, offering a way to protect the

nation's adolescents before they head back to school in the fall and paving the way for them to return to more normal activities.
Chicago Tribune

Illinois sees lowest number of cases since March 22; Pritzker reiterates opposition to vax passports

Illinois saw yet another day of declining COVID-19 cases Monday, with the state's lowest daily caseload since March 22.
The State Journal-Register

LaSalle investigation prompts legislation strengthening inspectors general

SPRINGFIELD — Lawmakers representing the LaSalle Veterans' Home, including Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, unveiled new legislation that would allow inspectors general of state agencies to subpoena former state employees.
The Southern Illinoisan

Tax credit considered by state lawmakers to spur more construction of affordable housing

SOUTH JACKSONVILLE — Even with Social Security, her late husband's pension as a former Jacksonville police chief and her own pension, Wanda Irlam says she would have a hard time paying rent for most two-bedroom apartments.
The State Journal-Register

Midterm correction, COVID-19 fatigue or mass exodus? Lightfoot's revolving door keeps spinning

The chief operating officer and street commissioner are leaving. Last month saw the departures of both Chief Procurement Officer Shannon Andrews and mayoral press secretary Jordan Troy.
Chicago Sun-Times

Relatives of LaSalle Home veterans who died of COVID-19 to sue state for handling of outbreak: 'Nobody knew what to do'

David Liesse is one of about two dozen relatives who lost family members at the LaSalle Veterans Home who are now preparing to sue the state and the home for what Liesse calls "all-around mismanagement."
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