

SB 268 Update

All has been very quiet on this front. Industry provided our last proposal to Sen. Hastings and the Department of Insurance at the beginning of last week but as of today nothing has been filed. Time is running out to get anything across the finish line in the coming days, especially when negotiations and communication have ceased. I can't say anything is for certain (because nothing ever is in Illinois politics) but my belief at this point is nothing is going to move forward this session. I will keep members informed of anything that does move based off of these negotiations.

104th ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Both chambers are scheduled to be in session through Saturday, May 31. Just four days remain scheduled for the 2025 Spring Legislative Session, with adjournment scheduled for May 31.

Last Friday was the deadline to pass substantive legislation out of the second chamber. Deadline extensions are likely for items still pending on the calendar.

The Illinois Senate created and approved an [Agreed Bill List](#) to expedite the passage of 95 non-controversial House Bills. Last week, the Senate passed 182 House Bills and 8 Senate Bills. In the House, 160 Senate Bills and 5 House Bills passed the lower chamber.

Several items remain on the agenda as we head towards the final few days of session. Although vehicle bills have been positioned for quick action, only a couple of the significant end-of-session items have been officially filed. Democratic leaders and the Governor continue to negotiate a budget deal and any associated revenue necessary to fund the budget.

Senator Koehler filed SCA # 1 to [SB 2385](#) to address the 340B prescription drug issue. The amendment is currently pending in the Senate Assignment Committee.

[SB 40](#) (Preston/Evans) has been identified as the vehicle for an energy omnibus, although no amendments have been filed at this time.

Passed Both Houses: Several bills passed both houses this week and now head to the Governor's desk. Highlights include:

The House unanimously approved [SB 1289](#) (Hastings/DeLuca), which the Big I IL introduced. The bill was an initiative of the Surplus Line Association of Illinois and cleans up language from a previous bill as well as redefines the definition of "home state" in setting up insurance programs. The bill passed both chambers unanimously.

The Senate unanimously approved [HB 1226](#) (Hoffman/Villivalam), which raises the age for mandatory, in-person renewals for driver's licenses from 75 to 79. The bill also raises the driving test requirement from the age of 79 to 87 (or 75 and older if the individual holds a commercial driver's license). Finally, the bill expands the list of who may submit information to the Secretary of State about the medical condition of drivers and their ability to safely operate a vehicle; the list would now include immediate family members such as a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, or child.

Establishing protections to safeguard the health care licenses for providers of abortion care is the focus of [HB 3637](#) (Avelar/Villa), which the Senate approved 38-19. The bill further guarantees continued access to abortion medication even if the medication's approval is rescinded by the federal Food and Drug Administration, as long as the World Health Organization recommends it.

Legislation to require insurance coverage for Alzheimer's medication, [SB 126](#) (Murphy/Gill), unanimously passed the House.

[SB 212](#) (Fine/Stuart) requires employers to provide paid break time to an employee who needs to express breast milk and prohibits employers from forcing nursing mothers to use their paid leave to express breast milk; the House approved the measure 82-27.

A proposal to create the One Health Task Force, [SB 291](#) (Morrison/Mussman), passed the House unanimously.

Manufacturers of baby food would be required to notify parents about toxic chemicals within the food under [SB 73](#) (Fine/Katz Muhl), which unanimously passed the House. The bill requires manufacturers to test their products for toxic heavy metals and then put their findings on the baby food label. A QR code would also be required from the manufacturers, enabling consumers to learn more about the test results as well as the FDA position on the effects of toxic elements on children.

[SB 1563](#) (Collins, J. Williams) clarifies that nothing in the eviction article prohibits law enforcement from enforcing criminal trespass laws. An attempt to target the rise in "squatters," the bill passed the House unanimously.

Other Bills Under Consideration: Both chambers acted on a variety of other legislation this week. Highlights include:

The House approved, by a vote of 83-28, [HB 2987](#)(Stuart), which incorporates three of the four recommendations made by the Warehouse Safety Task Force. The

legislation mandates the creation and sharing of site-specific safety plans with local first responders, includes new building specifications for newly built warehouses, and requires training for building inspectors. Components related to the mutual aid box alarm were excluded from the final package. The bill moves to the Senate for further consideration.

[SB 1976](#) (Peters/Evans) creates the Illinois Workers' Rights and Safety Act, requiring Illinois to adopt many of the Biden Administration's workplace regulations, including those under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act. The bill also directs IDOL to restore any repealed federal occupational safety rules not already covered under state law and would allow legal actions against employers that violate them. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 38-19-1 and will be taken up by the House.

The Senate Licensed Activities Committee unanimously approved [HB 1807](#) (Costa Howard/Cervantes), requiring the Board of Nursing at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to oversee a variety of aspects of nursing programs, including accreditation standards, program remediation, withdrawal or closure of programs, and more. The Board of Nursing would also have approval authority over program directors to ensure not only their credibility but also that they have purview over the program curriculum and faculty members. The measure now heads to the full Senate.

The Senate Insurance Committee unanimously approved SFA # 3 to [SB 2405](#) (Villivalam) which creates the Consumer Protection from Surprise Health Care Billing Act to address surprise bills for ambulance services. The bill is an initiative of the Illinois State Ambulance Association to prevent balanced billing. SFA # 3 is now pending before the full Senate.

The Illinois Junk Fee Transparency, [SB 1486](#) (Aquino/Morgan) unanimously passed out of the House Consumer Protection Committee. The legislation cracks down on hidden and deceptive junk fees that inflate prices for everyday purchases -- like hotel bookings, food delivery apps, and event tickets. The bill requires upfront pricing and gives the attorney general authority to hold violators accountable. The bill is now pending before the full House.

2025 Spring Session Key Dates and Deadlines:

May 31: Adjournment

GOVERNORS HIGHLIGHTS:

Department of Innovation and Technology: Governor Pritzker has appointed Patrick Nolan as Deputy Secretary and Christopher Britten as Assistant Secretary of the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology. Nolan brings extensive operational expertise to the role, currently serving as Chief of Staff at the Illinois Department of Central Management Services. Britten is a seasoned technology executive with over 25 years of experience in leading IT strategy, innovation, and service transformation within both public and private sectors.

State Workforce Reaches Highest Levels Since 2008: The Illinois Department of Central Management Services announced that the state's workforce increased from 50,544 in 2019 to 55,340 in 2025, the highest since 2008. The Department of Child and Family Services saw a 44% increase in staffing, while the Illinois Department of Human Services had a 15% rise in direct care worker roles. Most gains occurred in agencies that support vulnerable residents, says CMS; more [here](#).

Supportive Housing Development Grants: The Illinois Housing Development Authority awarded over \$50 million in funding to develop permanent supportive housing, an investment that will create 129 affordable housing units with integrated services for vulnerable populations. Seven developments were selected through a competitive process under Round XI of the PSH Development Program. Targeted housing recipients: the homeless, people with disabilities, and individuals transitioning from institutional care. Residents will benefit from customized on-site services, including case management, healthcare referrals, and employment assistance to support independent living. Read more [here](#).

Federal Funding Halted for Digital Equity Capacity Program: The Trump Administration, via the NTIA, recently terminated the Digital Equity Capacity Program, halting the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's implementation of a Digital Equity Capacity Grant in Illinois. This cancellation eliminated over \$23.7 million in funding that would have helped Illinois residents gain internet skills and resources needed for full participation in the state's economy. Read more [here](#).

IDOT Grants Awarded: The Illinois Department of Transportation awarded \$139.2 million through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program. Some 66 projects are supported, including bike paths, pedestrian trails, and streetscape beautification to promote safe multi-modal transportation at the local level. Under Rebuild Illinois, funding prioritized communities with demonstrated financial need, which received approximately 74% of the allocated resources. Read more [here](#).

OTHER NEWS:

2026 Election Update: Congresswoman Lauren Underwood announced she will seek reelection to the 14th Congressional District rather than running for the U.S. Senate. State Representative Jed Davis said he will seek the Republican nomination to challenge Underwood.

Political commentator Pamela Denise Long announced she will seek the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Matteson village clerk Yumeka Brown is running for the Democratic nomination in the 2nd Congressional District seat now held by Robin Kelly.

State Representative LaShawn Ford filed his statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission to run for the 7th Congressional District. Long-time Congressman Danny Davis currently represents the District; he has not announced his intentions for 2026.

Democrat Dylan Blaha will challenge Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski in the 2026 primary. Blaha is a 12-year veteran in the Illinois Army National Guard who served more than five years on active duty, including in Afghanistan.

Eric France, who runs The France Group management consulting firm, will seek the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 2nd District.

Morgan Coghill, a wood-products business owner from Mundelein, is running as a Democrat against Congressman Brad Schneider in the 10th Congressional District.