



Counties at the Capitol



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Third Reading deadlines for both Senate Bills and House Bills have passed. At this stage in the legislative process, discussions have begun on appropriation measures and omnibus bills that cover a number of diverse topics. This report focuses on bills that have passed their initial chamber in addition to new amendments filed.

The following bills have passed the Senate and arrived in the House.

SB 39 (S. Turner) – TINY HOMES ELECTRIC VEHICLE EXEMPTION

Status: Passed 55-0-0

Exempts nonprofit-built tiny homes for veterans from a state law requiring all newly constructed homes to have electric vehicle charging capacity.

SB 58 (Belt) – REGIONAL MANUFACTURING

Status: Passed 55-0-0 – SUPPORT

Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may enter into grants, contracts, or other agreements to provide technical assistance in support of regional manufacturing partnerships.

SB 212 (Fine) – NURSING MOTHERS IN THE WORKPLACE ACT

Status: Passed 50-3-1

Provides that an employer shall compensate an employee during the break time provided under the Act at the employee's regular rate of compensation. An employer shall not require an employee to use paid leave during the break time or reduce an employee's compensation during the break time in any other manner.

SB 220 (Porfirio) – MILITARY LEAVE ACT

Status: Passed 55-0-0

An employee may use up to 8 hours per calendar month to participate in a funeral honors detail, up to a total of 40 hours per calendar year, or more if authorized by the employer or if provided for in a collective bargaining agreement. Provides for requirements to take leave for funeral honors details.



SENATE MOVES TO HONOR ROUTE 66'S LEGACY

As the 100-year anniversary of the historic Illinois Route 66 is fast approaching, **Senate Joint Resolution 12 (SJR 12)**, which officially declares 2026 as the Illinois Route 66 Centennial Year, passed out of the Senate.

SJR 12 highlights Illinois' key role in Route 66 history, as the first state to fully pave the highway and the location of its starting point. Route 66 is more than just a road, it is a symbol of American freedom and exploration, and rightfully deserves recognition.

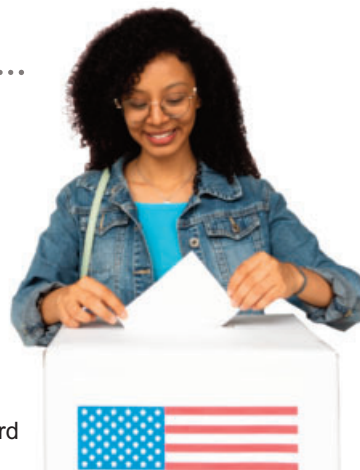
The resolution now moves to the House for consideration.

Sangamon County recall process advances

Senator Doris Turner (D-Sangamon County) proposed legislation to allow the recall of countywide elected officials has advanced from the Senate. The legislation was introduced following the death of Sonya Massey in July 2024, which led to calls for the resignation of the former Sangamon County Sheriff. **Senate Bill 1954** limits the recall bill only to Sangamon County, where the incident occurred.

The bill would allow the Sangamon County Board to put a recall process referendum on the ballot for the 2026 General Election. If approved, petitions to recall an elected official must be signed by at least 15% of the total votes cast for governor in the last election in the county. The petitions must be collected within 150 days and cannot be filed in the first or last six months of a term.

"When Senator Turner's bill becomes law, I believe there is widespread support on the county board to put the question of recall before the voters of Sangamon County," said Chairman Andy Van Meter.



SB 243 (Porfirio) – OPEN MEETINGS / SERVICE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Status: Passed 56-0-0 – NEUTRAL

If a quorum of the members of the public body is physically present, a majority of the public body may allow a member of that body to attend the meeting by other means if the member is prevented from physically attending because of performance of active military duty as a service member.

SB 1195 (Edly-Allen) – TRAUMA RESPONSE

Status: Passed 56-0-0 – NEUTRAL

Requires the curriculum for probationary law enforcement officers to include a block of instruction addressing trauma-informed programs, procedures, and practices meant to minimize traumatization of the victim.

SB 1241 (McClure) – CEMETERY BOARD

Status: Passed 55-1-0

If a township owns or controls a cemetery lying within or without, or partly within and partly without, the territory of the township, and if the township has no township collector, then the township supervisor may appoint a cemetery board of managers.

SB 1380 (Curran) – COUNTIES CODE / UTILITY POLES

Status: Passed 54-0-0 – NEUTRAL

A State agency may, by rule, or a unit of local government may, by ordinance or resolution, create a permitting process to allow a utility pole or a public right-of-way that it owns to be used by a county or municipality for public safety purposes.

SB 1420 (Rose) – LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Status: Passed 53-0-0

The Department of Public Health shall adopt rules requiring a local health department to make public announcements for the purpose of informing the general public when a positive case of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is detected within a county or area under the local health department's jurisdiction.

SB 1422 (Halpin) – HUMAN TRAFFICKING RECOGNITION

Status: Passed 55-0-0

A local government regulating an employer or a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over an employer may, in the course of its regulatory or enforcement duties, monitor and enforce compliance with the Human Trafficking Recognition Training Act.

SB 1523 (Turner) – COUNTIES CODE / DEED VERIFICATION

Status: Passed 51-0-0

Requires every county to establish and maintain a property fraud alert system. Requires every recorder to establish a fraud referral and review process to review deeds and instruments.

SB 1563 (Collins) – CRIMINAL TRESPASS

Status: Passed 55-1-0

Amends the Code of Civil Procedure. Provides that nothing in the Eviction Article may be construed to: (i) prohibit law enforcement officials from enforcing the offense of criminal trespass under the Criminal Code of 1963 or any other violation of the Code; or (ii) to interfere with the ability of law enforcement officials to remove persons or property from the premises when there is a criminal trespass.

Measure advances to reform Illinois' juvenile justice system

In a major step toward reforming Illinois' juvenile justice system, a measure from Senator Robert Peters (D-Cook County) aims to raise the minimum age at which minors can be detained from 10 to 12 years old, making it clear the state is moving away from harsh detention practices and prioritizing rehabilitation.

"Our juvenile justice system should focus on rehabilitation over punishment," said Peters.

"By raising the age at which a minor can be detained and emphasizing alternative methods, we're giving young people a fair chance at reformation without subjecting them to the damaging effects of detention at an early age."

Under **Senate Bill 1784**, arrest would only be used as a last resort and under strict conditions. Minors could only be detained if there is probable cause that they committed a crime and immediate detention is necessary, or if they have repeatedly failed to appear at scheduled hearings.

NOTE: *Opponents to the bill include the Illinois Sheriffs' Association and the Illinois State Attorneys Association.*



Removing cannabis odor as probably cause



A measure from Senator Rachel Ventura (D-Will County) stipulating the odor of raw or burnt cannabis could not alone constitute a search of a motor vehicle, driver or passenger passed through the Senate, aiming to clarify law enforcement's handling of driving situations involving cannabis.

Senate Bill 42 would remove odorless packaging requirements while continuing to require that cannabis be stored in a secured, sealed or re-sealable child-resistant container. Under the bill, law enforcement would not be able to stop, detain or search a vehicle whose driver or passengers are 21 or older solely based on the odor of cannabis.



SB 1941 (Murphy) – CROSSWALK FLASHING LIGHTS

Status: Passed 56-0-0

Allows a local government that has ownership or control over an intersection that is adjacent to property that is used for an elementary or secondary school to install at the ends of the pedestrian crosswalks for that intersection rapid flashing beacons that alert motor vehicle drivers to the presence of pedestrians in the crosswalk when the pedestrians activate the beacons.

SB 1950 (Eilman) – SANITARY FOOD

Status: Passed 54-1-0

A local health department may assess a fee for any inspection it conducts at meal kit and ready-to-eat meal distribution facilities if the fee for the inspection is not included in the fee for the operating license or permit, with certain requirements.

NEWSWORTHY...

Bill advances to protect Mahomet Aquifer



Senate Bill 1723 sponsored by Sen. Chapin Rose (R-Champaign) and Sen. Paul Faraci (D-Champaign) to permanently ban CO2 storage under the Mahomet Aquifer passed the Senate, marking a critical step forward in the effort to safeguard central Illinois' most vital drinking water source.

The Mahomet Aquifer, a federally designated Sole Source Aquifer, provides drinking water to more than 1 million residents across central Illinois. Rose took immediate action after Gov. Pritzker signed **Senate Bill 1289** last year, which allowed carbon sequestration under the aquifer. The Governor's decision triggered strong bipartisan opposition from vocal central Illinois residents concerned about the safety of the region's water supply.

SB 1953 (Turner) – LAW ENFORCEMENT HIRING PRACTICES

Status: Passed 56-0-0

Requires law enforcement to have stricter hiring practices. Upon hiring a new police officer, entitles employers to receive all past records, investigations, arrests, crimes, physical and mental evaluations from past employers. **NOTE: This bill is a product of the Massey Commission in Sangamon County.**

SB 2044 (Balkema) – WEB-BASED SIGNATURES ACT

Passed: 56-0-0 – SUPPORT

Provides that a county, township, or municipality may allow a person to sign any document with a web-based signature if the county, township, or municipality uses a secure web-based platform.

SB 2102 (Harriss) – PROPERTY TAX BUDGET FILING

Status: Passed 56-0-0

Provides that a taxing district's budget and appropriation ordinance and estimate of revenues may be filed electronically with the county clerk. If filed electronically, the county clerk shall accept and acknowledge that electronic filing by providing a receipt to the taxing district.

SB 2129 (Morrison) – IDOT LOCAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL

Status: Passed 56-0-0 – SUPPORT

The Department of Transportation shall establish an online portal that allows units of local government to submit forms electronically to the Department. The online portal shall provide a tracking feature for the submission as well as a point of contact at the Department of Transportation.

SB 2156 (Ventura) – CHILD FIRST REFORM TASK FORCE

Status: Passed 35-17-0

The Task Force will review and recommend reforms to the juvenile justice system, including training for courts and law enforcement on child-first directives and integrating restorative practices, prioritizing rehabilitation over punishment. The Task Force shall have one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor who is a member of a county board of a county operating a county detention facility.

SB 2175 (Porfirio) – VETERANS CARE

Status: Passed 55-0-0

Guarantees veteran employees four days per year to receive medical care and treatment. Current law restricts visits to hospitals and clinics for examinations only. This bill would authorize veterans to receive care at any health care provider or facility. It also expands the acceptable reasons for leave to include treatment for medical conditions.

SB 2314 (Eilman) – SHORELINE RESTORATION FUNDING

Status: Passed 54-1-0

Authorizes grants to be provided under the Healthy Forests, Wetlands, and Prairies Act for financing shoreline restoration and protection projects on behalf of counties and park districts.

SB 2339 (Cervantes) – PRIVACY IN THE WORKPLACE

Status: Passed 35-21-0

Prevents employers from firing an immigrant worker if their records don't match the federal E-Verify system.

SB 2466 (Koehler) – OPEN SPACE LANDS GRANTS TO GOVERNMENTS

Status: 44-10-0 – SUPPORT

A distressed location project that is located within a distressed community shall be eligible for assistance of up to 100% for the acquisition of open space lands and for capital development and improvement proposals that are in conformity with the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Act.



The following bills have passed the House and arrived in the Senate.

HB 1085 (LaPointe) – INSURANCE
Status: Passed 72-33-0 – MONITOR
Intended to improve access to mental and behavioral health (MH/BH) care by facilitating provider participation in insurance networks and increasing provider reimbursements. **NOTE: May significantly drive up health insurance costs for local governments.**

HB 1189 (Hoffman) – PREVAILING WAGE FEDERAL PROJECTS
Status: Passed 82-28-1
Provides that the definition of "public works" includes all federal construction projects administered or controlled by a public body if the prevailing rate of wages is equal to or greater than the prevailing wage determination by the U.S. Secretary of Labor for the same locality for the same type of construction used to classify the federal project.

HB 1575 (Evans) – COVENANT FEE
Status: Passed 105-0-0
A county recorder may not impose a fee for filing a restrictive covenant modification to an unlawful restrictive covenant (currently a county recorder may impose a fee in an amount not to exceed \$10). A county recorder may not charge a fee for any copies of records necessary for filing a restrictive covenant modification to an unlawful restrictive covenant.



HB 1615 (DeLuca) – COURTHOUSE FLAG DISPLAY
Status: Passed 112-0-0
It shall be the duty of each county board to provide United States national flags that are kept floating from a suitable flag-staff to be placed on the top of or prominently displayed on the grounds of the courthouse.

HB 1616 (Syed) – ORGAN DONATION
Status: Passed 70-34-0
A participating employee or part-time employee may use up to 10 days of leave in any 12-month period to serve as an organ donor.

HB 1632 (Avelar) – UNIFORM ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS ACT
Status: Passed 115-0-0
To the extent that a governmental agency uses electronic records and electronic signatures, the agency (rather than the Dept. of Innovation and Technology and the Secretary of State) may specify (rather than shall adopt rules specifying) the required format and of the electronic records and signatures and the specific processes and procedures governing their use.

HB 1866 (Guerrero-Cuellar) NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1
Status: Passed 107-0-0
Aims to establish a comprehensive framework for management and operation of 9-1-1 services across Illinois, addressing issues related to emergency communication. Key provisions of the bill include the introduction of advanced telecommunications services capable of supporting 9-1-1 calls, as well as the implementation of automatic location identification (ALI) and automatic number identification (ANI) systems. **NOTE: May impose financial implications for local governments.**

IN THE KNOW

HB 1911 (Fritts) – TOWNSHIP AUDITS
Status: Passed 106-0-0 – SUPPORT
Establishes clearer guidelines for the auditing of township accounts, mainly for those receiving significant revenue. Townships generating over \$1.4 million in revenue will be required to undergo an audit by a certified public accountant within six months of the fiscal year's end.

HB 2350 (Johnson) – BODY CAMERAS
Status: Passed 111-0-0 – SUPPORT
Specifies the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board must make grants to local governments for, among other things, purchasing or leasing officer-worn body cameras and associated technology for auxiliary officers and training auxiliary officers.

HB 2394 (Benton) – WEIGHT LIMITS
Status: Passed 75-37-0 – OPPOSE
A vehicle operated by an engine fueled wholly or partially by an electric battery or hydrogen fuel cell electric fueling system may exceed the posted weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds.

Bill advances to create jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commissions

House Bill 1352 sponsored by Rep. Kyle Moore (R-Adams County) will allow multiple counties who are within a judicial circuit to form a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC).

"Under current guidelines most of large counties have Veterans Assistance Commissions in place, but many smaller counties lack the resources or funding to form one on their own," Moore said. "This change will allow smaller counties to form joint commissions to better serve veterans in their communities."

According to testimony, Illinois counties currently without VACs are: Bond, Boone, Brown, Bureau, Calhoun, Cass, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Fayette, Ford, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jo Daviess, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Marshall, Massac, Menard, Monroe, Morgan, Moultrie, Perry, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Scott, Schuyler, Shelby, Stark, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White, and Williamson.

House Bill 1352 passed the House on a vote of 114-0-0.



HB 2419 (Hirschauer) – EPA LOCAL SITING REVIEW

Status: Passed 76-38-0

When determining whether certain local siting review criteria have been met, the county board shall consider, among other things, vehicle emissions.

HB 2442 (Ugaste) – TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPT DEVICE

Status: Passed 104-0-0

Allows vehicles used by a local or county emergency management services agency, when responding to a bona fide emergency and when use in combination with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights, to install and operate a traffic control signal preemption device.

HB 2458 (Rita) – ADJUDICATIONS

Status: Passed 85-25-0 – OPPOSE

Limits home rule powers in provisions allowing a county or municipality to provide by ordinance for a system of administrative adjudication for ordinance or code violations.

HB 2488 (Johnson) – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY PENALTY

Status: Passed 79-37-0

Amends the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Provides that a public employer that intentionally violates the Act, the Safety Inspection and Education Act, or the Health and Safety Act, or any standard, rule, regulation, or order under any of those Acts, or who demonstrates plain indifference to any provision of any of those Acts or any such standard, rule, regulation, or order, commits a willful violation and may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$70,000 per violation.

HB 2493 (Grasse) – MARRIAGE LICENSE VIDEO APPEARANCE

Status: Passed 80-34-0

Amends the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act. Requires county clerks to establish a process within 6 months or sooner after the effective date of the Act to allow a party or parties to appear by using an electronic communication device to participate in any video conferencing application in which the party or parties may be seen and heard by the county clerk in real time. **NOTE: The remote access is limited to parties who cannot travel or have difficulty traveling because of a disability, physical impairment, or health condition that impedes the mobility of the party or parties.**

HB 2551 (Guerrero-Cuellar) – FIRST RESPONDER TASK FORCE

Status: Passed 116-0-0 – SUPPORT

Reinstates the First Responders Suicide Task Force. Adds to the Task Force two members who represent organizations that advocate on behalf of public safety telecommunicators. Directs the Task Force to issue a final report to the General Assembly on or December 31, 2026. Repeals the Task Force on January 1, 2027.

HB 2675 (Moylan) – BIKE TRAIL SIGNAGE

Status: Passed 106-0-0

Aims to enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians on publicly owned paved bicycle trails by mandating the installation of permanent signage.

HB 2894 (Hoffman) – DESIGN BUILD PROJECTS

Status: Passed 112-0-0

Amends the Counties Code. In a provision concerning the development of scope and performance criteria for design-build projects, deletes a provision that requires the county to develop preliminary design plans. Specifies that a design-build entity shall not be disqualified solely due to having previously been awarded a project or projects under any applicable public procurement statute of the State. Provides that, if a county receives one Phase I response, nothing prohibits the county from proceeding with a Phase II evaluation of the single respondent, if the county, in its discretion, finds proceeding to be in its best interest.

NEWSWORTHY...

Training 911 Operators

911 operators will be prepared to provide potentially lifesaving care over the phone due to a measure passed by Rep. Lisa Davis (D-Cook County) training emergency dispatchers to give tele-CPR instruction over the phone.



“911 operators are the first emergency personnel who a victim will interact with, and their timely intervention can mean the difference between life and death in the most serious scenarios,” said Davis. “Having operators who are able to guide victims and others during times of crisis will save lives and make our emergency services more effective.”

House Bill 1697 trains emergency personnel in telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation (T-CPR). The measure will save lives by ensuring that the individuals who answer emergency phone calls are able to relay accurate T-CPR instructions to a caller.

Veterinary care for retired police dogs

Senate Bill 3140 filed by Rep. Tom Weber (R-Lake County) provides stable funding for retired K-9s at no cost to Illinois taxpayers. The bill creates the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program, which directs the University of Illinois to select a not-for-profit organization to distribute grants up to \$1,500 to the former handler or adopter of a retired police dog. These grants are funded by purchasing Illinois Police K-9 Memorial Plates, which Illinois drivers can have for a \$25 annual fee.

“Our police dogs deserve healthy, comfortable lives after retirement, and we can help them thrive after their years of service by providing financial relief for their handlers,” said Rep. Weber.



IN THE KNOW

HB 2952 (Hernandez)
BABY CHANGING STATIONS
Status: Passed 75-38-0

Expands the facilities subject to the provisions to include lodging facilities, small entertainment venues, transit public parks with restroom facilities and stand-alone public parks among others.

HB 3098 (Olickal) – SUPPORT
ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
Status: Passed 116-0-0

Changes requirements for a collection program under provisions regarding a manufacturer e-waste program. Adds conditions in certain provisions regarding the applicable county, municipal joint action agency, or municipality.

HB 3144 (Delgado)
JUDICIAL PRIVACY ACT
Status: Passed 112-0-0

Adds administrative law judges to the definition of judicial officer in the Act.

HB 3255 (LaPointe)
PUBLIC SAFETY BENEFITS ACT
Status: Passed 108-0-0 – OPPOSE

Provides that, if the injured employee subsequently dies, the employer shall continue to pay the entire health insurance premium for the surviving spouse (rather than the surviving spouse until remarried) and for dependent children under specified conditions.

HB 3266 (Benton)
PREVAILING WAGE – TIF DISTRICT
Status: Passed 77-35-0

The term "public works" also includes all private projects that are located in a tax increment financing district and paid for wholly or in part out of public funds, unless the total cost of the project is less than \$25,000 or the project is performed in a designated historic district requiring specialty contractors because of that designation.

SPRING BREAK

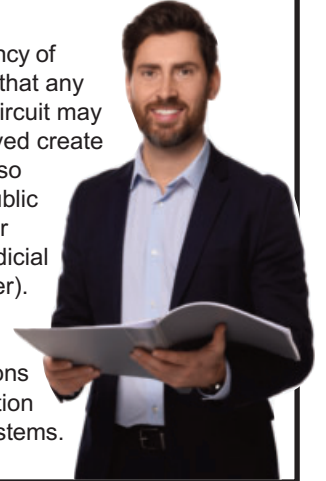
The Illinois House is adjourned until April 22nd.

The Illinois Senate is adjourned until April 29th.

New Office of State Public Defender

HB 3363 (Vella) – Passed 72-41-0

Creates the Office of State Public Defender as an agency of State government. Among other provisions, provides that any 2 or more counties that are within the same judicial circuit may by joint resolution of the several county boards involved create a common Office of public defender for the counties so joined or allow representation in one county by the public defender appointed in the collaborating county (rather than 2 or more adjoining counties within the same judicial circuit may create a common Office of public defender). The State Public Defender may ensure access to a digital discovery storage management system, case management software, and legal research subscriptions for each public defender office, taking into consideration compatibility with existing county and State-based systems.



HB 3388 (Swanson) – VEHICLE CODE / FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES
Status: Passed 114-0-0

Includes any recreational off-highway vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, watercraft, or aircraft that is designated or authorized by proper local authorities for fire department use in the definition of "fire department".

HB 3493 (Mason) – CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD ACT
Status: Passed 77-38-0

Provides that an ordinance of a unit of local government shall not be enforced against the construction, reconstruction, improvement, or installation of a State facility. Applies to the construction, reconstruction, improvement, and installation of State facilities that are either ongoing or that start on or after the effective date of the Act. **NOTE:** *The Capital Development Board shall, to the fullest extent practicable, coordinate with local utilities regarding utility connection requirements and procedures.*

HB 3638 (Williams) – WORK TRANSPARENCY CONFIDENTIAL
Status: Passed 77-37-0

An employee or former employee and an employer may enter into a valid and enforceable settlement or termination agreement that prevents the employee or former employee from working or from applying to work for the employer in the future if the provision expires within 7 years.

HB 3725 (Sosnowski) – LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILLING ACT
Status: Passed 115-0-0

Establishes the Local Government Billing Act, a measure designed to streamline billing processes for utility services across the state. A local government shall bill for any utility service, including previously unbilled service, within 12 months (for residential customers) or 24 months (for nonresidential customers) after the provision of the utility service. Provides exceptions to time limits for billing when the customer prevented the utility from accurately reading the meter. **NOTE:** *This initiative seeks to address a growing concern among consumers who have faced unexpected charges for previously unbilled services.*

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on May 31.
For more information visit our website at www.ilcounty.org.