



# FIRST READING

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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## Major Bills Passed by the 101st Illinois General Assembly

This issue of *First Reading* summarizes bills as they passed both houses of the 101st General Assembly, and reports on the Governor’s actions on them. A total of 22 bills passed both houses in the unusual spring 2020 session, shortened due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Governor Pritzker declared a disaster in Illinois on March 12, 2020, and has continued to issue the 30-day disaster declarations as of this writing. The 101st General Assembly met again in early January, when 23 bills passed both houses.

This issue summarizes 24 bills of general interest, classified into 9 categories.

Nearly all of the major laws from the spring session related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislators voted to authorize remote learning days during a declared public health emergency; to let the Department of Healthcare and Family Services ease some Medicaid requirements during the emergency; and to encourage voting by mail in 2020. New laws also extend some unemployment benefits during the pandemic; create grants to help businesses that suffered due to COVID-19; and let townships postpone their annual meetings during a declared disaster.

Other new laws create a new tax rate for a future Chicago casino, with proceeds allocated between the state and the city; increase the statewide hospital assessment to obtain additional federal funds; and expand Medicaid eligibility to noncitizens over age 65 with very low incomes.

During the session in early January, legislators voted to do away with monetary bail except in limited circumstances; shorten or eliminate mandatory supervised release after completing



prison sentences for most felonies; and expand the responsibilities of the State Police Merit Board and the Law Enforcement Training Standards Board, among many other related changes. They authorized retailers to make home deliveries of alcohol, and established new learning standards and requirements to promote equity and college readiness in schools. A number of bodies will study equity disparities in various industries; and denial of employment or public housing based on a criminal record is to be allowed only in limited circumstances.

Page 19 of this issue gives Public Act numbers of laws resulting from bills summarized here. Information on all bills of the 101st General Assembly is available at the Illinois General Assembly’s website: [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)

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# Appropriations & State Budget

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*The state's operating budget for fiscal year 2021 is \$99.7 billion—\$8.7 billion over the \$90.9 billion appropriated for fiscal year 2020. Appropriations from the General Funds rose 2.5%, from \$39.1 billion to \$40.1 billion.*

The FY 2021 operating budget was passed in one appropriations law (P.A. 101-637). That act included \$4.3 billion in supplemental appropriations to complete FY 2020. Most of the supplemental appropriations were from federal funds; about \$504 million was from General Funds.

## Largest Dollar Increases

Agencies getting the largest dollar increases in appropriations (from all funds) are the Departments of Healthcare and Family Services (\$4.1 billion, +15.4%); Lottery (\$1.0 billion, +80.5%); Public Health (\$596 million, +50.1%); and Human Services (\$573 million, +8.0%); the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (\$547 million, +26.6%); and the Department of Revenue (\$485 million, +45.0%).

Most of the DHFS increase was for Medicaid costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Appropriations rose by \$2.5 billion from Other State Funds to cover potential increases in service costs due to possible increased enrollment during the pandemic, and by \$830 million from federal funds to spend federal CARES Act awards. The CARES Act funds are for provider stability payments to Medicaid providers to cover some cost increases (for example, hazard pay or additional personal protective equipment) or revenue losses related to COVID-19. Additionally, appropriations rose for payments related to a new hospital assessment—about \$250 million from Other State Funds and \$103 million from General Funds. General Funds appropriations also rose about \$25 million for a rate increase for Federally Qualified Health Centers.

The Lottery increase (entirely from Other State Funds) was due to an approximate doubling of appropriations authority to pay prizes to Lottery winners—including any jackpot winnings and sports wagering prizes. Most of the Public Health increase is for implementing federal awards for COVID-19 contract tracing, testing, and services provided by local health providers, and for the HIV/AIDS program. General Funds appropriations for Public Health declined about \$1.3 million (-0.8%).

The DHS increase is largely for COVID-19 response spending and wage increases for service providers. Appropriations of COVID-19 response funds rose at least \$130 million over what was appropriated in FY 2020. The added funds are for the Illinois Welcoming Center, mental health and developmental disabilities expenses, and other projects. General Funds appropriations included \$77 million more for the Home Services Program (to cover increased caseloads, wage increases, and sick time for providers); \$66 million more for long-term care and community services for developmentally disabled persons under the *Ligas* consent decree (including new placements and wage increases for providers); and \$23 million more for immigrant services.

The IEMA increase provides more authority to spend and distribute federal funds received due to the pandemic. Most of the IDOR increase was new federal COVID-19 funds for the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IDOR is the funding agent for IHDA, so funds are appropriated to IDOR). IDOR appropriations from Other State Funds also rose for pass-through payments of tax revenues to local governments and motor fuel tax refunds (due to the motor fuel tax increases).

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## Largest Dollar Declines

Agencies with the largest dollar declines were Central Management Services (-\$98.2 million, -1.2%); State Board of Education (-\$20.7 million, -0.2%); Military Affairs (-\$5.0 million, -7.2%); and Workers' Compensation Commission (-\$1.7 million, -5.5%).

The CMS decrease was due to reduced General Funds appropriations, almost entirely for lower group health insurance costs. Those appropriations are based on the previous year's liabilities, which declined in FY 2020 as medical treatments were deferred or cancelled due to COVID-19. Assuming liabilities return to more normal levels, additional appropriations may be requested to balance out the impact of COVID-19.

Most of the State Board of Education decrease is due to elimination of a grant for preschool expansion. That was offset in part by additional funds for preschool development for ages birth to 5. The General Funds appropriations included an additional \$2.1 million for evidence-based funding, which was below the Board's recommendation. Appropriations for Military Affairs are lower because supplemental funds were appropriated in FY 2020 to cover civil disturbance and flood duty expenditures. Most of the Workers' Compensation Commission change is from reduced contractual, travel, and technology costs, and possible consolidation of anti-fraud program operations with other agencies.

## Education Appropriations

Elementary and secondary education received about \$327.0 million (+1.8%) more from all funds. Local education's share of the total budget fell from 20.3% to 18.9%; but its share of General Funds appropriations was nearly unchanged at 36.0%.

Higher education appropriations rose \$141.2 million (+3.9%); but appropriations directly to the state's universities and community colleges were unchanged. The increase came in appropriations for the State Universities Retirement System. The percentage of all funds going to higher education fell slightly from 4.7% to 4.5%; but its share of General Funds appropriations inched up from 9.2% to 9.3%.

## Capital Appropriations and Bonding

The Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency Borrowing Act authorized up to \$5 billion in borrowing from federal programs for coronavirus relief, such as using the Federal Reserve Banks' Municipal Liquidity Facility.

General Obligation bond authority was not increased as part of the FY 2021 budget process.

New appropriations for pay-as-you-go capital projects totaled \$3.6 billion. Those appropriations included \$2.9 billion to the Department of Transportation for the road program, grade crossings, mass transit, airports, and high-speed rail; \$652 million for the EPA; and \$77 million to the Department of Natural Resources.

Approximately \$41.5 billion of capital reappropriations were approved for the second fiscal year of the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program—a 6-year, \$45 billion program.

Total appropriations are about \$8.8 billion (+9.7%) over the Governor's initial budget recommendations; General Funds appropriations are about \$0.7 billion (-1.7%) below his recommendations.

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# Appropriations & State Budget *(continued from p. 3)*

## FY 2020 Supplemental Appropriations and FY 2021 Operating Appropriations

**P.A. 101-637**, enacted by S.B. 264 (Harmon-Manar-Lightford-Hunter—G.Harris et al.).

## FY 2021 Budget Implementation

**P.A. 101-636**, enacted by H.B. 357 (G.Harris-Hoffman et al.—Harmon-Steans-Lightford et al.).

## Capital Appropriations

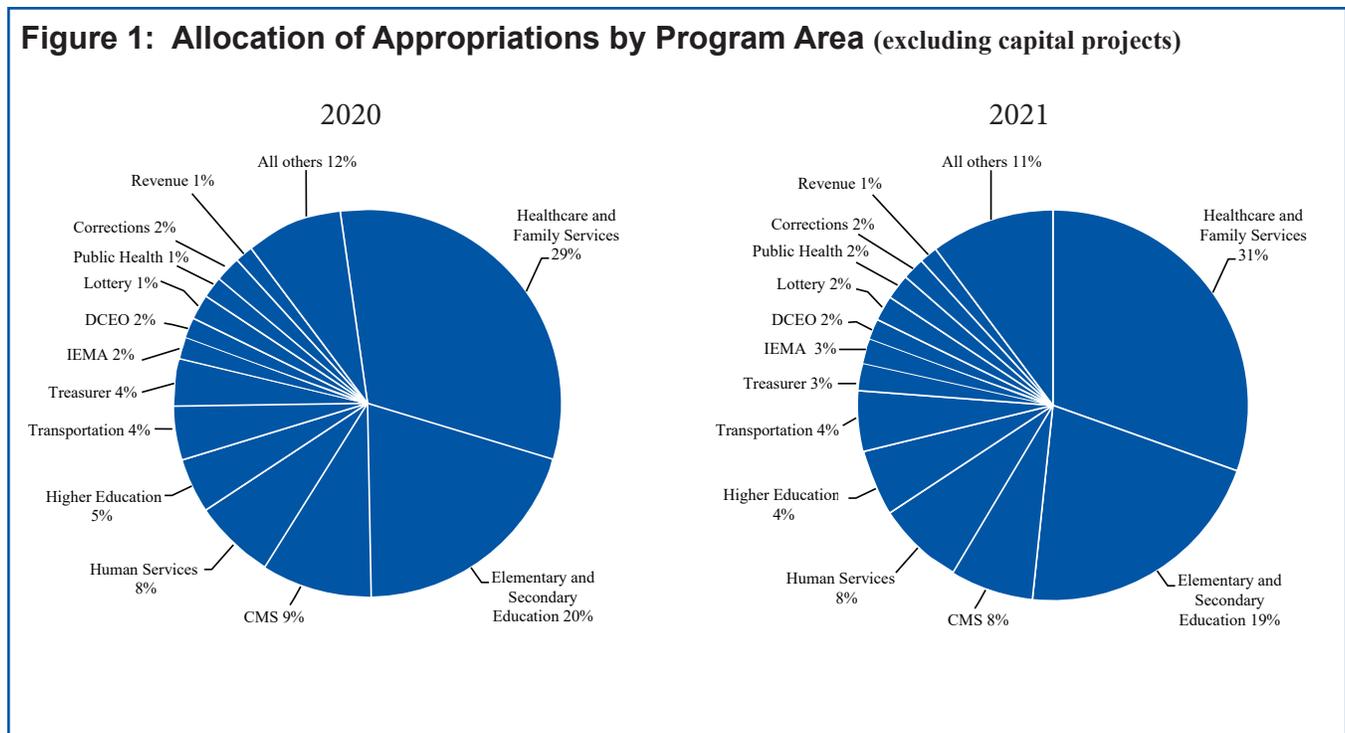
**P.A. 101-638**, enacted by H.B. 64 (Hoffman-Gordon-Booth et al.—Harmon-Sims-J.Collins et al.).

## Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency Borrowing Act

**P.A. 101-630**, enacted by S.B. 2099 (Harmon et al.—Zalewski-Flowers).

*Thomas J. Bazan*

*Assistant Research Administrator*



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# Business & Economic Development

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*A new Public Act extends some unemployment benefits during the pandemic, and creates a presumption that front-line workers who get COVID-19 contracted it in the course of their employment for workers' compensation purposes. Other new laws create a grant program to help businesses that suffered due to COVID-19; extend the time that some public employees can get paid while recovering from on-the-job injuries if COVID-19 hindered their recovery; and allow liquor licensees to sell drinks for customer pickup or delivery until mid-2021.*

*Consideration of conviction records in employment will be sharply limited. A public housing authority may not exclude an applicant due to convictions unless the authority shows that a conviction record indicates danger to other residents.*

*Each private employer of over 100 persons in Illinois must certify that its female and minority employees in each classification are paid as much as male and non-minority employees with similar qualifications and difficulty of work. The goal for the value of state contracts to go to firms owned by minorities, women, and persons with disabilities is raised from 20% to 30%.*

*State-chartered financial institutions will be subject to requirements to meet needs of low- and moderate-income persons similar to those in the federal Community Reinvestment Act.*

## **COVID-19 Business Help.**

A Coronavirus Business Interruption Grant (BIG) Program is to be established in the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide assistance such as grants, expense reimbursements, and other subsidies to qualified businesses that suffered interruptions due to COVID-19. At least 30% of funds appropriated to the BIG program must be allotted to qualified businesses in regions most heavily affected by COVID-19 (P.A. 101-636, enacted by H.B. 357, G.Harris-Hoffman et al.—Harmon-Steans-Lightford et al.).

(Other provisions of this act are described in the Local Government, Social Services, and State Government & Pensions articles.)

## **COVID-19, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment Benefits.**

First responders and front-line workers injured or contracting an occupational disease resulting from COVID-19 exposure will be rebuttably presumed to have been exposed in the course of their employment for workers' compensation purposes.

Extended unemployment benefits are authorized for a limited period starting March 15, 2020. Contributing employers are not chargeable for benefits paid for those weeks through the end of 2020 if the unemployment is attributable to COVID-19. Non-instructional school employees can be eligible for unemployment benefits during the summer break of 2020. The 1-week waiting

period to receive benefits is waived during the COVID-19 disaster period. For 2022, the weekly benefit is raised from 40.6% to 42.4% of the recipient's prior average weekly wage, and the employer benefit surcharge is lowered from 0.425% to 0.325% (P.A. 101-633, enacted by H.B. 2455, Hoffman-Villa-Evans-Flowers et al.—Holmes-Aquino-Cunningham-Gillespie-Lightford et al.).

(Other provisions of this act are described in the State Government & Pensions article.)

**Employment Rights and Reporting.** Employers and labor organizations may not refuse to hire an applicant or take adverse action against an employee due to a conviction record. Exceptions are allowed

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## Business & Economic Development

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where there is a substantial relationship between a previous offense and the employment sought or held, and where the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to persons or property.

Each private business with more than 100 employees in Illinois must get an “equal pay registration certificate” from the Department of Labor every 2 years. Requirements to get a certificate include submitting a statement that pay for female and minority employees is not consistently below that of male and non-minority employees with similar qualifications and difficulty of work, and that employment decisions are not made based on gender; submitting some required employment documents; and paying a \$150 fee.

Beginning in 2023, Illinois corporations that are subject to federal equal opportunity filing requirements must report data on the gender, race, and ethnicity of their employees to the Secretary of State, to be published on the Secretary’s website (S.B. 1480, Belt-Collins-Harmon-Hunter-Lightford et al.—Harper et al.).

### Home Alcohol Delivery.

Licensed retailers may deliver alcohol to a purchaser who meets legal requirements for receiving it (such as being at

least 21). Authorized forms of delivery are curbside pickup; delivery by an employee; and delivery by a third-party contractor. Delivery must be made within 12 hours after the alcohol leaves the retailer’s premises. Home-rule units except Chicago may not regulate alcohol delivery inconsistent with these provisions (S.B. 54, Feigenholtz-Lightford-Syverson-Holmes-Harmon et al.—Zalewski-Welch et al.).

### Interest on Consumer Loans;

**Disparity Studies.** A new Predatory Loan Prevention Act limits the annual percentage rate lenders can charge on consumer loans to 36%.

The Department of Agriculture is to conduct a study on economic and other disparities in farm ownership and operations, especially between African American and white farmers. A new Cannabis Equity Commission is to ensure that equity goals are met in the cannabis industry and that grant funds under the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act are being invested properly. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is to study whether discrimination exists at the supplier or distribution level for retailers of beauty products, cosmetics, and hair and personal care products, and if so, how to reduce it (S.B. 1792, Belt-Collins-Hunter-Peters-N.Harris et al.—Harper et al.).

### Job-Related Injuries During COVID-19; Merchant Protection.

*Recovering from job-related injuries.* The 1-year period given to state and local public safety employees covered by the Public Employee Disability Act to recover from on-the-job injuries while being paid under the Act is extended by up to 60 days if circumstances attributable to COVID-19 occurring between March 9 and the end of 2020 hindered their recovery.

*Battery of merchant.* The definition of aggravated battery is expanded to include battery of a merchant who is performing his or her duties, and any battery of a merchant during a disaster or declared public health emergency and for 6 months after the declaration (**P.A. 101-651**, enacted by S.B. 471, Lightford-Gillespie-Castro-Collins-Villanueva et al.—Hoffman-Evans et al.).

(Other provisions of this act are described in the State Government & Pensions article.)

### Liquor Sales and Licenses.

Through June 1, 2021, cocktails and mixed drinks may be transferred and sold by retail licensees in sealed containers for off-premises consumption. Those drinks may be transferred within the premises, by curbside pickup, or by employee delivery. Delivery by third-party delivery services is not permitted.

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Late-filing fees will not be applied to liquor licensees whose businesses were disrupted as a result of COVID-19. Affected licensees may also temporarily defer license fees. Their liquor license renewals are to be automatically approved and their licenses extended for a defined period during the COVID-19 pandemic (**P.A. 101-631**, enacted by H.B. 2682, Zalewski-LaPointe-Pizer-Butler-M. Murphy et al.—Feigenholtz).

**Promoting Diversity.** *State contracts.* The goal for the percentage of total dollars awarded in state contracts to businesses owned by minorities, women, or persons with disabilities is raised from 20% to 30%. Competitive sealed proposals submitted under the Illinois Procurement Code must include information on commitment to diversity, which must be considered in awarding points. State purchasing officers, procurement compliance monitors, and their support staff must complete annual training for diversity and inclusion.

A new 7-member Commission on Equity and Inclusion is to help oversee and promote diversity in state hiring and purchasing. The Commission may review state contracts and propose procurement rules. It takes over the functions of the Business Enterprise Council.

*Equity measures.* An African Descent-Citizen Reparations Commission is to study measures to ensure equality for

African American descendants of slavery and the feasibility of reparations for them. The Commission is to report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly.

State agencies and public colleges and universities are to submit to the Department of Central Management Services annual reports of employee wages categorized by race and gender.

*Banking.* The State Treasurer may deposit up to \$10 million of earnings on state funds each year, up to a total of \$50 million at any time, in financial institutions to be available to cover losses on loans to borrowers in low-income communities who would not otherwise qualify for loans. The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is to assess how well financial institutions are meeting the needs of local communities, and include in compliance exams ratings ranging from “outstanding” to “substantial noncompliance” by that criterion. The Department is to take such findings into account in decisions such as whether to renew an institution’s license and allow new branches. State funds may not be deposited in an institution subject to the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 unless it has at least a “satisfactory” rating under that Act (S.B. 1608, Belt-Bush-Collins-Lightford et al.—Harper-Flowers et al.).

**Public Housing.** Housing authorities are to collect specified criminal history data on applicants for federally assisted housing. The data will be categorized by applicants’ race, ethnicity, and gender and reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The Authority is to further report such information to the General Assembly and make the data available on its website.

If a housing authority requests a criminal history report on an applicant, it must inform the applicant and allow him or her to provide additional mitigating information for consideration with the housing application. Unless required by federal law, an authority may not consider (a) arrest records, (b) juvenile offenses, or (c) any conviction occurring more than 180 days before an application to rent. An authority may deny an application based on a criminal record only after offering a hearing, and only if there is a direct relationship between the applicant’s criminal history and a risk to the health, safety, and peaceful enjoyment of fellow tenants, or if denial is required under federal law (S.B. 1980, Belt-Collins-Hunter-Lightford et al.—Harper et al.).

*Robert L. Bayless*  
*Senior Staff Scientist*

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# Criminal Law

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*(Most provisions are effective July 1, 2021; others have later effective dates. Effective dates of provisions are shown in parentheses before their summaries.)*

*Pretrial release.* (January 1, 2023) Monetary bail will no longer be required, except under three interstate compacts that Illinois has joined. Each statutory reference to bail or a related term is to be deemed to mean “pretrial release” or conditions of pretrial release. A person charged with a Class B or C misdemeanor, or a traffic, business, or petty offense, who provides identification and poses no obvious risk to anyone, is to be issued a citation in lieu of arrest and scheduled for a court date within 21 days. A police officer who arrests a person on a charge for which pretrial release may not ordinarily be denied is encouraged to release the person with a summons to appear within 21 days. A defendant is to be presumed entitled to release on personal recognizance with requirements to appear at required court proceedings; not commit a crime; and comply with any other conditions of pretrial release, including any orders of protection.

(January 1, 2023) A defendant may be denied pretrial release for only seven reasons (six involving danger to others and one involving flight risk). The state must show such a reason by clear and convincing evidence. The state must

identify the person(s) in danger if the defendant is released, and (as under current law) inform the defendant about any statements by such person(s) on which it relies. A judge who denies pretrial release must make written findings supporting the decision, and must make a similar finding at each later appearance while the defendant is in custody. The defendant and/or the state may appeal a judge’s decision on pretrial release. If a person on pretrial release fails to comply with a condition of release, the court may issue an order to show cause why it should not be revoked; it must be served on the defendant at least 48 hours before a hearing. Failure to appear at the hearing may result in an arrest warrant or modification of release conditions.

(July 1, 2021) A defendant on pretrial home confinement must be “provided with open movement spread out over no fewer than two days per week” for activities such as buying groceries.

(July 1, 2021) The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts is directed to create a board to oversee local practices for collecting data on arrestees before trial, and develop a strategy to collect many kinds of data



on such arrestees, including misdemeanor and felony nonappearance and rearrest rates. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) is to create a group to study and report on practices in “pretrial domestic violence courts.”

*Sentences.* (July 1, 2021) Offenses committed before age 21 cannot be counted toward an adjudication of habitual criminality. Felonies committed before age 21, and nonforcible felonies, cannot count toward sentencing as a Class X felon for three serious felony convictions. A sentencing judge must give a defendant credit for time spent in home detention or on a curfew that lasted at least 12 hours a day. A sentencing judge may replace a statutory mandatory minimum term with a shorter term, conditional discharge, or probation if the defendant is being sentenced for drug possession or use, retail theft, or driving after license revocation due to unpaid fines or penalties, and the judge does not deem the defendant a risk to

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public safety. Reasons for such reduction must be stated in the record.

*Prisons, sentence credits, etc.*

(July 1, 2021) A person serving a sentence of at least 5 years may be given extra sentence credit of up to 1 year for good conduct (formerly 180 days regardless of sentence length). A person who receives an associate's degree while in pretrial detention or in prison is to get 120 days' additional credit. Up to half a day of credit is also to be awarded per day spent in a self-improvement program or work not otherwise eligible for credit. If a prisoner has no disciplinary violations for some (unstated) period, the Department of Corrections is to restore sentence credit previously revoked.

(July 1, 2021) Protections of pregnant and postpartum prisoners are increased. The Department of Corrections and county corrections departments must provide training on this topic to officers serving where female prisoners are confined.

(July 1, 2021) A person convicted and ordered to electronic home monitoring or detention, who violates a condition of the order, will thereby commit a crime only if the violation lasts at least 48 hours.

(July 1, 2021) Periods of mandatory supervised release after completing prison sentences are shortened for most felonies, and abolished for most Class 3 and 4 felonies.

*Deaths in custody.* (July 1, 2021)

Any death of a person while in law enforcement custody, or due to an officer's use of force, must be investigated by the agency involved, which must report to the ICJIA within 30 days after the death. Such reports, except any portion that ICJIA deems privileged or protected, must be made public. ICJIA must annually summarize data from those reports (including demographic data on the deceased persons) and recommend ways to reduce such deaths.

*Obstructing an officer.* (January 1, 2023)

A person may not be arrested for resisting or obstructing an authorized act by a peace officer, firefighter, or correctional employee unless the person was already subject to arrest before resisting or obstructing.

*Police conduct and discipline.*

(July 1, 2021) Complaints against police officers need not be supported by sworn affidavits. Public and other records of allegations of police misconduct are to be kept permanently.

(July 1, 2023) Anyone may file a complaint alleging police misconduct anonymously with the Law Enforcement Training Standards Board. The Board is to make a preliminary investigation of whether there is enough evidence for a full investigation.

(July 1, 2021) Each law enforcement agency must notify the Board if an officer resigns after being served notice of an investigation for a felony or a sex crime (formerly only a Class 2 or more serious felony). A new Class 3 felony of law enforcement misconduct is created, consisting of intentionally making false reports of incidents; withholding information about another officer's misconduct; or noncompliance with body camera requirements. Police union contracts can no longer supersede the Uniform Peace Officers' Disciplinary Act.

(January 1, 2022) The State Police Merit Board is expanded from five to seven members, with the Governor appointing the added members. No former State Police employee may be a Board member or employee. The Board is to screen State Police applicants and exclude those with adjudications for any of a list of offenses, including any shown in a new Officer Misconduct Database. The Board must terminate any State Police officer who has an adjudication for a felony, or (starting when this act takes effect) for any of a list of misdemeanors. The Board may terminate an officer if it finds that the officer used excessive force; failed to intervene against use of force that violated state or federal law; tampered with body-worn or dashboard camera evidence, or caused such a camera to be turned off to conceal evidence; made

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## Criminal Law

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false statements or fabricated evidence in an investigation; or engaged in “unprofessional, unethical, deceptive, or deleterious conduct” that could harm the public. Terminations must be based on clear and convincing evidence, and are subject to judicial review. The State Police must annually report data on complaints, investigations, and actions taken against officers.

(January 1, 2022) The Law Enforcement Training Standards Board can investigate a local police officer, and may revoke the officer’s certification on grounds like those for terminating a State Police officer. Government agencies must, and anyone else may, notify the Board of conduct by an officer that appears to justify decertification (agencies need not reveal information protected by attorney-client privilege). Any agency must notify the Board of significant disciplinary actions against its officers. That information will go into a database open to agencies that hire officers. The Board must annually report data on officer discipline. A person may so notify the Board confidentially. The Board must investigate such notifications; the Board, the agency, and the state’s attorney must cooperate in an investigation. The Board is to issue a summary report and, if it finds reasonable basis, file a formal complaint with a

new Illinois Law Enforcement Certification Review Panel (appointed by the Governor and Attorney General from specified groups of people). The Panel will notify the officer and convene a hearing before an administrative law judge (ALJ). If the ALJ recommends decertification, the Board will decide the matter by majority vote. Its decision is subject to judicial review. The Board may issue an emergency suspension of certification of an officer who is arrested or indicted for a felony. No one may serve as a full-time law enforcement officer unless certified. An officer may serve part-time on probationary status for 6 months while taking training, or with a Board waiver based on long experience in law enforcement.

*Police training.* (July 1, 2021) Probationary training, and in-service training every 3 years, must include specified numbers of hours on use of force, de-escalation techniques, and high-risk traffic stops, and include role-playing based on scenarios. Implicit bias and ethnic sensitivity are added to requirements for in-service training. The Law Enforcement Training Standards Board is to develop a curriculum of at least 40 hours on crisis intervention involving persons with mental illnesses. To be eligible for election as a sheriff after this act takes effect, a person must complete the Minimum Standards Basic Law

Enforcement Officers Training Course prescribed by the Board.

*Police use of force.* (July 1, 2021) An officer may use deadly force only if reasonably necessary to defend human life. An officer is not to use such force in making an arrest unless the officer reasonably believes the person to be arrested has just committed a forcible felony that caused or threatened great bodily harm, or is endangering human life, and cannot be captured later. Deadly force may not be used to prevent escape except to avoid death or great bodily harm. Each officer has a duty to intervene to prevent or stop another officer from unauthorized use of force in the intervening officer’s presence, and may not be retaliated against for doing so. Police officers are to render aid to injured persons (including those injured by officers), and summon emergency medical assistance if needed. If possible, an officer is to give a warning before using deadly force unless the officer reasonably believes that the other person knows it may be used. Officers are not ordinarily to use deadly force due to property crimes, except terrorism. Police and persons assisting them may not use chokeholds, or above-the-shoulders restraint that risks asphyxiation, unless legally justified in using deadly force. Use of projectiles such as “rubber bullets” and chemical irritants is restricted. Each law enforcement agency is to report

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monthly to the State Police on incidents involving use of force.

*No-knock searches.* (July 1, 2021) A judge may not issue a warrant for no-knock entry unless the officer who will execute it attests that all participants will follow procedures for body cameras if their department has them—or if not, that the entry will otherwise be recorded. The officer must also attest that the search was planned carefully, and that any entry into a residence not listed on the warrant will be reported to a supervisor and investigated.

*Body cameras.* (July 1, 2021) All law enforcement agencies must deploy body cameras, starting between 2022 and 2025 based on the populations of their localities.

*Substance abuse treatment.* (July 1, 2021) A law on deflecting substance abusers from the criminal justice system is expanded to apply to EMS, fire department, and similar first responder agencies. Funds appropriated for programs under the law can be used for drugs to reverse overdoses (added to other purposes).

*Military equipment.* (July 1, 2021) The State Police, sheriffs, and municipal police departments are prohibited from acquiring or using military-style offensive equipment.

*Whistleblower retaliation.* (July 1, 2021) Units of local government and their employees are prohibited from retaliating against employees or contractors due to reporting or providing evidence of improper government actions as defined in this act. Procedures are prescribed for reporting such retaliation.

*Drivers' license sanctions.* (July 1, 2021) Drivers' licenses may no longer be suspended or cancelled for unpaid traffic fines or penalties—including those from red-light, school bus, and railroad crossing cameras. By July 1, 2021, the Secretary of State is to reverse any suspension, cancellation, or ban on license renewal due to such nonpayment.

*Crime victim compensation.* (July 1, 2021; some provisions will apply to claims filed earlier but not yet decided.) Limits on awards under the Crime Victims Compensation Act are increased; categories of relatives or associates of victims who can file claims are broadened; and the time for filing a claim is lengthened from 2 years after the crime to 5 years (which the Attorney General can further extend after finding good cause for delay). A victim's provocation of a crime will no longer bar relief under the Act. The Attorney General's functions in investigating claims under the Act are expanded.

*Civil rights investigations.* (July 1, 2021) The Attorney General may investigate whether any state or local law enforcement authority has a pattern or practice that deprives persons of state or federal constitutional rights, and file a civil suit alleging such a pattern or practice. Remedies can include equitable relief and civil penalties.

*Task force on rights.* (July 1, 2021) A Task Force on Constitutional Rights and Remedies, appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders, is to study ways to “reform constitutional rights and remedies,” including police officers' qualified immunity from suit, and report by May 1, 2021.

*Legislative redistricting.* (January 1, 2025.) To the extent possible, state prisoners will be counted for legislative redistricting purposes where they lived before imprisonment. (H.B. 3653, Slaughter-Buckner-Villanueva et al.—Sims-Peters-Collins-Hunter-E.Jones et al.).

*David R. Miller*  
*Research Administrator*

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# Education

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*A new act authorizes remote and blended remote learning days during a declared public health emergency. It suspends or alters a number of requirements during such a time, including required daily hours of attendance, teacher remediation and discipline processes, and standardized testing requirements.*

*New high school graduation requirements, including 2 years each of laboratory science and a foreign language, will be phased in during the coming years. High school students are to be able to take all courses that public universities require or recommend for admission. History and social studies courses are to be more inclusive. Aid to future minority teachers will be increased.*

**Remote Learning and Other Changes in a Public Health Emergency.** The following provisions are in effect during a declared public health emergency:

*Remote learning.*

The State Superintendent of Education may require specific school districts, regions, or the entire state to use remote and/or blended remote learning days in place of in-person student attendance. Remote learning plans must address accessibility for all students; a way for students to confer with educators; needs of students in special populations; and how to verify students' participation.

In lieu of the clock hours normally required for a day of attendance, the State Superintendent may set minimum clock hours. Remote or blended remote learning days, and up to 5 remote and blended remote learning planning days, are deemed pupil attendance days.

Student teaching hours and school business management internships may be completed remotely when schools are operating remotely. Those internship requirements for

educator licenses are waived for spring 2020.

*Teacher licensing, evaluation, and discipline.*

The requirement that teacher license applicants pass a state-approved performance assessment is waived. Educator licenses expiring in June 2020 are extended to June 2021.

If teacher evaluations cannot be conducted due to a public health emergency, teachers who were rated "excellent" on their most recent evaluations are to be rated as "excellent" unless the school and union agree otherwise.

Teacher remediation plan timelines are waived while in-person instruction is suspended. Unless all parties agree otherwise in writing, plans that had been in place at least 45 days before the suspension of in-person instruction are to resume once in-person instruction resumes; plans in place for less than 45 days are discontinued and new plans are to be developed when in-person instruction resumes.



During a public health emergency, a teacher dismissal hearing process may be suspended until the end of the declared emergency. Such hearings may proceed if all parties agree in writing. Any hearings may be held remotely. Any hearing officer may voluntarily withdraw and be replaced by another such officer.

*Other provisions.*

Schools may not withhold report cards due to lack of dental or eye exams.

Requirements for physical fitness assessments are suspended.

Diplomas awarded to 2019-2020 graduates are deemed valid and are not subject to challenge or review.

Preschool programs receiving state grants may serve children of essential workers, including school employees, who are up to age 12.

Standardized testing is not required if the U.S. Department of Education waives it.

*(continued on p. 13)*

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# Health & Safety

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*Legislators voted to allow the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to ease some Medicaid requirements during the COVID-19 emergency, and to cover COVID-19 testing for all uninsured people. Another new law allows federally supported health centers to provide forensic services to sexual assault survivors temporarily during the statewide health emergency.*

**COVID-19 Medicaid Coverage; Health Insurance Study.** The Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) may take federally required, approved, or authorized actions to address the COVID-19 emergency. The actions may continue during and for up to 12 months after the emergency. They may include eliminating resource tests for Medicaid eligibility determinations, suspending changes that would negatively affect an applicant's eligibility, or suspending Medicaid premiums or co-payments.

Medicaid is to cover COVID-19 testing for any uninsured person; treatment may also be

covered. DHFS may also provide such coverage to noncitizens during the emergency. With federal approval, Medicaid is to provide coverage of routine care costs incurred in an approved clinical trial if it would cover the same costs not incurred in a clinical trial. DHFS is to seek a federal waiver to allow remote monitoring and support services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

DHFS, in consultation with the Department of Insurance, is to study options to make health insurance more affordable for low- and middle-income persons, and report by February 28, 2021. A Kidney Disease Prevention and Education

Task Force will work with educational institutions to create kidney disease and transplantation health education programs. It is to report on its work by the end of 2021, and then be dissolved (**P.A. 101-649**, enacted by S.B. 1864, Hunter-J. Morrison-J. Collins-Steans et al.—G. Harris-Ammons-Flowers-Lilly et al.).

**Sexual Assault Treatment Services.** Health centers funded by the federal government to care for underserved populations are temporarily added to the kinds of facilities that may provide specified medical forensic services to sexual assault survivors, but only during a declared statewide public health emergency. This authority is repealed June 30, 2021 (**P.A. 101-634**, enacted by S.B. 557, Bush-Sims et al.—Cassidy-Connor-McDermed-Mason et al.).

*Robert L. Bayless  
Senior Staff Scientist*

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## Education *(continued from p. 12)*

Without regard to whether a public health emergency is in effect, a school district operating under an independent authority or subject to control of the State Board of Education under a court order may get district intervention money added to its Base Funding Minimum if it shows progress in governance, academic growth, and finances, and the General Assembly approves the money (**P.A. 101-643**, enacted by S.B. 1569, Bertino-Tarrant-Lightford-

Martinez-Manar-J. Collins—Davis-K. Stuart-Scherer et al.)

**New Learning Standards; Equity in Schools.** *Learning standards and high school graduation requirements.* By July 2021, the State Board of Education (ISBE) is to adopt revised social science learning standards inclusive of all U.S. residents, with recommendations from a new Inclusive American History Commission. Schools' Black History units are to be expanded to include more topics.

By December 2021, ISBE is to develop rigorous learning standards for computer science. Starting in 2022-23, high school students must complete 1 year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy. By 2023-24, they are to have an opportunity to take a computer science course.

Starting in 2024-25, the 2 years of science required for high school graduation is changed to 2 years of laboratory science.

*(continued on p. 14)*

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# Local Government

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*Legislators voted to let townships postpone their annual meetings during a declared disaster; disregard COVID-19 stimulus payments in determining township assistance eligibility; and allow electronic school construction bidding. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will distribute federal COVID-19 relief funds designated for local governments as grants or expense reimbursements.*

**Township Meetings; Library Fees; Etc.** Townships may postpone their annual meetings during a disaster declared by the Governor. If another disaster is declared before, or within one day after, the first one expires, the board must get written approval from the county health department to have a meeting during the second disaster.

A municipal or township library or library district board may exempt low-income students living in unincorporated areas from paying nonresident fees to use the library. Townships are not to count COVID-19-related federal stimulus payments or rebates as income for General

Assistance or emergency assistance purposes.

School construction bids may be sent, opened, and accepted electronically.

The Cook County Housing Authority (added to the Chicago Housing Authority) may partner with developers to provide low- and mixed-income housing (**P.A. 101-632**, enacted by H.B. 2096, Willis—L.Murphy-Lightford).

**Local CURE Support Program.** The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is to establish a Local Coronavirus Urgent

Remediation Emergency (Local CURE) Support Program. It will distribute federal funds allotted to it for helping local governments incurring expenditures due to the COVID-19 emergency, in the form of grants or expense reimbursements (**P.A. 101-636**, enacted by H.B. 357, G.Harris-Hoffman et al.—Harmon-Steans-Lightford et al.).

(Other provisions of this act are described in the Business & Economic Development, Social Services, and State Government & Pensions articles.)

*Alexis Dawson  
Research Associate*

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## Education *(continued from p. 13)*

Starting in 2028-29, high school students must complete 2 years of foreign language study.

*College readiness.* By May 1, 2021 and afterward as needed, the Board of Higher Education must compile a review identifying all courses each Illinois public university will require or recommend that high school students take for admission. High schools must publicize the review and offer those courses to any student who wants to take them, or find

alternative ways for students to enroll in them.

Community colleges are to use specified data to determine whether to place students in introductory college-level English or math courses instead of developmental courses, including high school GPA; completion of a similar course; or standardized test scores. If a student qualifies for placement in an introductory college-level course by any one of those measures, no additional measures need be considered.

*Accelerated placement (AP).* By 2023-24, a school district's AP policy must allow automatic enrollment of a student into the next most rigorous course if the student meets or exceeds state standards in that course area. A student's parents may decline such enrollment.

*Studies.* A new Whole Child Task Force will study ways for schools to support students who have experienced trauma. Existing bodies will study

*(continued on p. 20)*

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# Revenue

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*A new tax rate will apply to a future Chicago casino, with proceeds allocated between the state and the city. The license application process for that casino and five new riverboats will be reopened if no applications are submitted; the time for them to make their reconciliation payments is extended. Counties can renew some property tax exemptions and waive interest on late payments during the COVID-19 emergency.*

**COVID-19 Property Tax Relief.** In counties that declared a local disaster related to COVID-19, the chief county assessment officer may approve for the 2020 tax year, without application, the following property tax exemptions that were validly approved for 2019 if the owners of record have not changed: homestead exemptions for persons with disabilities and veterans with disabilities, and the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption.

Counties other than Cook may waive some or all interest on delinquent property tax payments due in 2020 (except the final installment), and must postpone the annual 2020 tax sale, until the earlier of (1) 120 days after this law took effect or (2) the first month after the statewide COVID-19 emergency is declared over. (Cook County already did this.)

For tax years 2018 and later, in Cook County, applications to sell property for delinquent taxes are to be made within 365 days after the second installment due date. But the application for the 2018 annual tax sale that would normally be held in 2020 may not be filed until there is no

longer a statewide COVID-19 emergency (**P.A. 101-635**, enacted by S.B. 685, Koehler-Martinez-Sims-J.Collins et al.—Zalewski-Flowers).

**Gambling Taxes and Licensing.** Before the Illinois Gaming Board issues a license for a Chicago casino, the applicant must make a public presentation on its casino proposal and post a summary on the city or county website (added to other requirements already in the law). If, after June 1, 2020, there are no pending applications for the Chicago casino license or for the five new riverboat gambling licenses authorized in 2019, the Board is to reopen the application process. The time for those six licensees, and previously licensed riverboats and racetracks that added gaming positions under the 2019 law, to make their reconciliation payments based on their highest 12 months' receipts is extended from 2 years with interest to 6 years without interest.

New tax rates will apply to a Chicago casino. The rates on all gambling games except table games range from 22.5% to 74.7% of adjusted gross receipts, and for table games

from 15% to 35%. Proceeds will be split between the state and Chicago, with the state's share ranging from 1.2 to 5.3 percentage points more than the city's. The city's portion will be used for criminal justice system improvements and pension payments. The new tax rate for table games at existing gambling facilities took effect July 1, 2020 instead of when a new owner's license is issued.

The initial master sports wagering license fee due date is extended 1 year to July 1, 2021.

The Illinois Gaming Board, in lieu of licensing video gaming terminal operators for the Illinois State Fair and DuQuoin State Fair, is to issue a license to the Department of Agriculture, which will select licensed terminal operators for the fairs (**P.A. 101-648**, enacted by S.B. 516, Cunningham-Hunter-Castro-Feigenholtz-Lightford et al.—Rita-Hoffman).

*Sarah E. Barlow  
Senior Research Associate*

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# Social Services

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*A new law increases the statewide hospital assessment to obtain additional federal funds; increases Medicaid reimbursement rates; and creates a program to support communities with healthcare disparities. Legislators also voted to increase wages for frontline staff at facilities for the developmentally disabled, and to expand Medicaid eligibility to noncitizens over age 65 with very low incomes.*

**Healthcare Funding.** Hospital assessments are increased for 2021 and 2022 to obtain additional federal money for hospitals. Medicaid reimbursement rates for physician services are to rise to “close to” 60% of Medicare rates in effect on January 1, 2020. Hospital access payments will continue after June 2020 at rates set in this law, including regular payments to hospitals based on type (such as critical access hospitals, safety-net hospitals, and hospitals that treat many Medicaid patients) and number of patient days, among other criteria. A for-profit hospital that, before July 1, 2021 and within 12 months after changing from nonprofit to for-profit, ceases to provide hospital services must repay the access payments it received since becoming for-profit.

A new hospital and health care transformation program will support communities with healthcare disparities, with at least \$150 million to be allocated in FYs 2021 to 2023.

Before a health facility asks permission to close, its owners must notify the municipality, local state legislators, the Health Facilities and Services Review Board, and the Directors of

Public Health and Healthcare and Family Services (**P.A. 101-650**, enacted by S.B. 2541, Steans-Holmes-Sims-Van Pelt-Gillespie et al.—G.Harris et al.).

**Wage Increases, Poverty Study, Etc.** The base wage for non-executive staff at facilities for the developmentally disabled is to rise by 26¢ per hour. Their per-hour wage is to rise \$1 beginning July 1, 2020, and 50¢ more after 2020. Payment rates for federally qualified health centers are to increase.

Income eligibility limits for some energy assistance programs can rise from 150% to 200% of the federal poverty level until June 30, 2021. Monthly credits for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program are also raised until then.

The Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) may expand Medicaid eligibility to noncitizens over age 65 with incomes up to 100% of the federal poverty level who meet all other eligibility requirements.

DHFS is to develop a process to distribute federal pandemic-related stability payments to healthcare providers serving Medicaid patients. At least 30% of such payments must go to

providers serving areas most impacted by COVID-19.

Subject to appropriation, the Department of Human Services is to establish a data system to track intergenerational poverty. A new Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security is to develop by November 30, 2021 a plan to address poverty and economic insecurity in the state and report annually on its implementation, with the help of a new Interagency Workgroup on Poverty and Economic Insecurity (**P.A. 101-636**, enacted by H.B. 357, G.Harris-Hoffman et al.—Harmon-Steans-Lightford et al.).

(Other provisions of this act are described in the Business & Economic Development, Local Government, and State Government & Pensions articles.)

*Sarah E. Barlow*  
*Senior Research Associate*

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# State Government & Pensions

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*Legislators voted to encourage voting by mail in 2020; create a Legislative Budget Oversight Commission to monitor distribution of federal COVID-19 response funds; and allow virtual open meetings and virtual witnessing of signatures by notaries during a declared disaster. Under another new law, Chicago police officers and firefighters who die with COVID-19 are rebuttably presumed to have been fatally injured while in active service if stated conditions are met.*

**2020 Election.** Several changes are made to the voting process for the 2020 general election only. Election Day in 2020 is a state holiday, and schools must be available as polling places. Methods for requesting a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot are expanded, and applications must be sent to all recent voters or registrants. The requirements for how election authorities review VBM ballots are changed, including using panels of 3 election judges. VBM ballots may be rejected for only six reasons, and voters can try to correct deficiencies if time allows. Election authorities and the Illinois Secretary of State's office must provide information on the process and encourage use of VBM.

Election authorities must follow health and safety guidelines, may offer curbside voting, and must offer a central voting location for all voters in the jurisdiction. Minimum early voting hours are expanded. The minimum age for election judges is lowered to 16 (in lieu of being a junior or senior in high school), and any county of under 250,000 can use 3 election judges instead of 5 (presumably per voting place).

Several reporting deadlines are established—for election authorities (to the State Board), and for the State Board (to the Secretary of State and to election authorities) (**P.A. 101-642**, enacted by S.B. 1863, J.Morrison-Sims-Manar-Villivalam-Aquino et al.—Burke-K.Stuart-Conroy-Ammons et al. and **P.A. 101-641**, enacted by H.B. 2238, Burke-K.Stuart-Conroy et al.—J.Morrison-Bush et al.).

**Budget Implementation.** Several cash management functions are extended to Fiscal Year 2021 only, related to liquidity transfers for the General Funds and Health Insurance Reserve Fund (extended through the end of fiscal year 2021 and increased from \$1.2 billion outstanding to \$1.5 billion); line-item appropriations transfers (increased from 4% to 8% of an agency's total operations appropriations); and lapse-period expenditures (fiscal year 2020 liabilities can be paid through the end of calendar 2020). Federal funds received due to the COVID-19 pandemic can be deposited into the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund. Two funds are

created for distribution of that money: the State Coronavirus Urgent Relief (State CURE) Fund for state spending, and a similar Local CURE Fund for grants and reimbursements to local governments.

A Legislative Budget Oversight Commission is created to monitor budgetary actions by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) and the distribution of federal COVID-19 response funds. The Commission has 22 members (7 each from the House and Senate majority caucuses, and 4 each from the minority caucuses). GOMB must report monthly to the Commission on its budget management actions, and quarterly on how revenues and spending compare to anticipated and budgeted amounts (**P.A. 101-636**, enacted by H.B. 357, G.Harris-Hoffman et al.—Harmon-Steans-Lightford et al.).

(Other provisions of this act are described in the Business & Economic Development, Local Government, and Social Services articles.)

*(continued on p. 18)*

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## State Government

(continued from p. 17)

**Emergency Borrowing.** The Governor, with approval of the Comptroller and Treasurer, can borrow federal funds under the Municipal Liquidity Facility program created by the federal CARES Act. Funds can be used for five purposes, including covering revenue failures due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Up to \$5 billion in borrowing can be outstanding at any time; funds must be repaid within 10 years. The Short Term Borrowing Act is amended to allow this new borrowing at negotiated rates (P.A. 101-630, enacted by S.B. 2099, Harmon et al.—Zalewski-Flowers).

### Government Emergency Administration Act.

Several changes are made to state and local government administration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Open Meetings Act is amended to allow virtual meetings during a declared disaster if stated conditions are met. Also during an emergency, notaries public may witness signatures virtually if the communications technology and processes meet stated standards. Through June 30, 2022, the number of days that zoos and museums must be open to the public without charge is reduced.

The 2020 deadline for filing statements of economic interests under the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act was deferred by about 4½ months.

The Illinois Secretary of State may temporarily extend expiration dates for several registrations (such as driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, and professional licenses). The Secretary of State Merit Commission can temporarily extend its time limits for up to 90 days. University of Illinois investment procurements can be extended through June 2021 without following the Procurement Code. Time limits for municipalities to adopt appropriations or budget ordinances are extended if a disaster is declared within 60 days before such an ordinance is due.

The Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission, consisting of 14 legislators, is created to provide input on plans to revive the state economy. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity must report regularly to the Commission and General Assembly. A Task Force on Business Interruption Insurance Policies is created in the Department of Insurance to study the need for changes to business interruption insurance policies. Several areas of study for the Broadband Advisory Council are prescribed, related to expanding broadband access (P.A. 101-640, enacted by S.B. 2135, Sims-S.Bennett—Burke-Ford-Lilly).

**Horse Racing.** Each entity in the horse racing industry with at least 10 employees that

applies for a new or renewed organization gaming license must enter into a collective bargaining agreement with any labor organization seeking to represent at least half of its non-supervisory employees (P.A. 101-651, enacted by S.B. 471, Lightford-Gillespie-Castro-Collins-Villanueva et al.—Hoffman-Evans et al.).

(Other provisions of this act are described in the Business & Economic Development article.)

**Police & Fire Benefits.** For compensation annuity and death benefit purposes, Chicago police officers and firefighters who die with COVID-19 are rebuttably presumed to have been fatally injured while in active service if they contracted it between March 9, 2020 and the end of 2020, unless they were on leaves of absence or otherwise not required to report to work for 14 days before contracting the virus (P.A. 101-633, enacted by H.B. 2455, Hoffman-Villa-Evans-Flowers et al.—Holmes-Aquino-Cunningham-Gillespie-Lightford et al.).

(Other provisions of this act are described in the Business & Economic Development article.)

*Thomas J. Bazan  
Assistant Research  
Administrator*

## Bills With Governor's Action

All bills summarized in this issue of *First Reading* are listed below. Beside the number of each bill on which the Governor had acted by mid-February is its Public Act number. The following abbreviations are used for the Governor's actions on bills:

- AV     Amendatorily vetoed
- AVD   Amendatorily vetoed; bill dead
- IV     Item and/or reduction vetoed
- V      Totally vetoed

Information on all 2020-21 bills and Public Acts, including their texts, is available at: <http://www.ilga.gov> Click on the "Bills & Resolutions" or "Public Acts" link near the top of the page for information on a given bill or Public Act. Information on the General Assembly's workload over the years can be found at the CGFA's webpage.

H.B.	Public Act 101-	S.B.	Public Act 101-	S.B.	Public Act 101-
64	638	54	-	1608	-
357	636	264	637	1792	-
2096	632	471	651	1863	642
2170	-	516	648	1864	649
2238	641	557	634	1980	-
2455	633	685	635	2099	630
2682	631	1480	-	2135	640
3653	-	1569	643	2541	650

### Types of Actions Governor Can Take on Bills

The Illinois Constitution allows the Governor to make any of four kinds of vetoes: total, amendatory, item, or reduction. The following describes each kind of veto and legislative responses to it.

#### Total Veto

The Governor may reject an entire bill and return it to its house of origin. Overriding such a total veto requires the affirmative votes of at least three-fifths of the members elected to each house (71 in the House, 36 in the Senate). Unless a total veto is overridden, the bill dies.

#### Amendatory Veto

A Governor can return a bill "with specific recommendations for change" to its house of origin. Such an amendatorily vetoed bill is considered like a vetoed bill, except that each house can accept the Governor's recommendations by vote of a mere constitutional majority (60 in the House and 30 in the Senate). Thus if a bill is amendatorily vetoed, the General Assembly can do any of three things to it: (1) override the veto by three-fifths vote in each house, enacting the bill as it originally passed the General Assembly, (2) accept the Governor's recommendations and return the bill to the Governor for his certification that the acceptance conforms to his recommendations, or (3) do neither, in which case the bill dies.

#### Item and Reduction Vetoes

The Governor can cut line items, and/or reduce the amount of any line item, in an appropriation bill without vetoing the entire bill. The amounts not eliminated or reduced become law immediately when the Governor transmits his veto message. But the majorities needed to restore those amounts differ. If a line item is vetoed, a three-fifths majority in each house is needed to restore it. But if the item is merely reduced, it can be restored to its original amount by a mere constitutional majority in each house.



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## Education *(continued from p. 14)*

learning recovery actions after the COVID-19 pandemic; changes to school funding to promote racial equity in schools; and consolidating all federally-funded workforce development programs into one agency.

*Other provisions.* Students entering kindergarten are to be assessed using a common assessment tool.

ISBE is to establish a 6-week summer program on the Freedom School model, and make grants to entities that support African American students in alignment with that model.

Scholarship amounts under the Minority Teachers of Illinois program are raised; and programs helping minority candidates can get incentives under the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program. A 3.0 GPA is no longer required to get an Alternative Educator license.

ISBE and 10 other state agencies are to annually report on racial and ethnic demographics of participants in each of their major programs (H.B. 2170, Ammons et al.—Lightford-Belt-Collins-Peters et al.)

*Jennifer Hebel*  
*Research Librarian*

## First Reading

A publication of CGFA

**Clayton Klenke**  
*Executive Director*

**Laurie Eby**  
*Deputy Director*

**Jason Gerwig**  
*Research Unit Manager*

**Sarah E. Barlow**  
*Editor of First Reading*

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