

Legislative Report

October 28, 2023
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Lowder

INENA/APCO LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Bill Information

HB4162 OMA-DEFAULT RULES *(WEST, II M)*

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that, except as otherwise provided in the Act or any other Illinois statute (rather than except as otherwise provided in the Act), a quorum of members of a public body must be physically present at the location of an open meeting or present by video or audio conference at the open meeting (now, members must be physically present at the meeting). Provides that a member is present by video or audio conference at an open meeting if the member can hear and be heard by all other members of the body who are participating in the meeting. Specifies that, if a member wishes to attend a meeting by video or audio conference, the member must notify the recording secretary or clerk of the public body before the meeting, unless providing that advance notice is impractical for the member. Repeals existing provisions concerning the participation of public body members in open meetings by video conference or other means.

RECENT STATUS

10/18/2023 - Referred to House Rules

10/18/2023 - FIRST READING

10/10/2023 - Filed with the Clerk by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

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HB4179 EMERGENCY SERVICE DIST-VARIOUS *(MEIER C)*

Amends the Rescue Squad Districts Act, which is becoming the Emergency Services District Act on January 1, 2024. Increases the amount of the levy that a district may initially levy upon formation of the district from .20% to .40%. Provides that districts organized before January 1, 2024 may, by ordinance or resolution, increase the tax rate authorized by their organizational proposition by up to .20% (but no more than a .40% tax rate in the aggregate, including the amount levied under the organization proposition). Provides that the aggregate amount of all district tax levies may not exceed .80% (with no more than .40% authorized by the organizational referendum and .40% authorized by an ambulance service tax referendum). Provides that the board of trustees of a district may fix, charge, and collect fees not exceeding the reasonable cost of the service for ambulance services rendered by the district within or outside of the district (rather than fix, charge, and collect fees against persons who are not residents of the district and against businesses and other entities that are not located within the district). Removes a provision setting fee amounts at a rate not to exceed \$250 per hour and not to exceed \$70 per hour per ambulance worker responding to a call for assistance. Provides that the fee that may be charged to reimburse the district for extraordinary expenses of materials used in rendering ambulance services may be up to the reasonable cost of the materials. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

10/25/2023 - Referred to House Rules

10/25/2023 - FIRST READING

10/18/2023 - Filed with the Clerk by Rep. Charles Meier

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HB4208 PAID LEAVE FOR ALL-EMPLOYERS *(SOSNOWSKI J)*

Amends the Paid Leave for All Workers Act. Provides that the definition of "employer" does not include municipalities organized under the Illinois Municipal Code, townships organized under the Township Code, counties organized under the Counties Code, or forest preserve districts organized under the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act or the Cook County Forest Preserve District Act.

RECENT STATUS

10/27/2023 - Filed with the Clerk by Rep. Joe C. Sosnowski

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HR444 FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY *(DAVIS J)*

Urges the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, the Illinois State Police, the State's fire departments and districts, the Office of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator, and all public safety agencies in the State to review policies and procedures pertaining to the potential dangers encountered by emergency medical technicians, paramedics, public safety telecommunicators, and other first responders involved in rendering medical assistance. Urges that the training of first responders include policies and procedures to improve situational awareness and communication. Urges that training also include policies and procedures to help identify potentially dangerous situations, how to properly communicate a threat, and the appropriate actions, disengagement, or response needed to de-escalate dangerous situations. Urges State's public safety agencies to critique past experiences of emergency medical responses that evolved into violent or potentially violent incidents.

RECENT STATUS

10/24/2023 - Referred to House Rules

10/18/2023 - Filed with the Clerk by Rep. Jed Davis

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SB853 STATE GOVERNMENT-TECH *(JOYCE P)*

Amends the Open Operating Standards Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

RECENT STATUS

10/26/2023 - Senate Floor Amendment No. 3 Recommend Do Adopt State Government; 009-000-000

10/26/2023 - Senate Bills on Third Reading

10/25/2023 - Senate Floor Amendment No. 3 Assignments Refers to State Government

[SB853 Bill Page](#) →

Week in Review

First week of veto session wraps up with little legislative movement

Lawmakers are heading back to their districts after three days of legislative session in Springfield this week that saw little movement on several major initiatives.

New US House speaker tried to help overturn the 2020 election, raising concerns about the next one

The new leader of one of the chambers of Congress that will certify the winner of next year's presidential election helped spearhead the attempt to overturn the last one, raising alarms that Republicans could try to subvert the will of the voters if they remain in power despite safeguards enacted after the 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Bloomington Pantagraph

Assistant in Pritzker's emergency agency quits amid questions over pay that peaked at \$48K a month

Between February and August, the assistant has accounted for \$240,761.30 in billings — double the salary of her boss Alicia Tate-Nadeau — during that period.

Chicago Sun-Times

Proponents drop push to give downstate utilities dubs on new transmission lines

With billions of dollars of construction projects on the line, Ameren Illinois and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have been vying to secure first rights on new electricity transmission line construction in downstate Illinois.

Capitol News Illinois

At least 16 dead after active shooter rampages in Maine; Suspect still on the loose

At least 16 people have been confirmed dead after an active shooter situation in Lewiston on Wednesday night.

WICS Springfield

Republicans unanimously elect Mike Johnson as House Speaker, ending weeks of turmoil

WASHINGTON (TND) — Rep. Mike Johnson, a relatively unknown conservative lawmaker from Louisiana, was unanimously elected by Republicans as the House Speaker on Wednesday after uniting the conference after three weeks of turmoil and inter-party fights that paralyzed the House.

WICS Springfield

At least 16 killed in Maine mass shootings as police hunt for gunman

At least 16 people were killed in mass shootings in Lewiston, Maine, Wednesday night, State Police said. Multiple sources said dozens were injured, but it was unclear how many had been shot.

CBS 2 Chicago

Death toll in Gaza surpasses 7,000 as aid groups raise alarm about fuel

TEL AVIV, Israel — The streets of Gaza are empty of cars. Many of its bakeries are shuttered; meat suppliers have no refrigeration. Doctors perform operations by flashlight.

NPR Illinois

Who is Mike Johnson? An ardent conservative who embraces far-right policies

After weeks of uncertainty, House Republicans elected Louisiana Rep. Mike Johnson, a conservative Christian who opposes abortion rights and same-sex marriages, to become House speaker.

NPR Illinois

UAW and Ford negotiators reach agreement on contract terms

Negotiators for the United Auto Workers and Ford Motor Co. have agreed on terms of a new four-year labor contract, people close to the negotiations said Wednesday, nearly six weeks after the union began a growing wave of walkouts against the three Detroit automakers.

Chicago Tribune

Downstate utility, electrical workers union put effort to control transmission line construction on hold

SPRINGFIELD — Measures tied to organized labor were the focus at the Illinois Capitol Wednesday as the state House voted to allow legislative staffers to organize while a politically powerful union and a downstate energy company announced a temporary hold on efforts to pass a measure allowing the utility to build transmission lines without going through a competitive bidding process.

Chicago Tribune

Amendments agreed upon, House Speaker Welch's legislative union bill advances in House

A bill allowing the unionization of legislative staff passed in the Illinois House of Representatives on Wednesday and now heads to the Senate.

The State Journal-Register

Autoworkers reach a deal with Ford, a breakthrough toward ending strikes

DETROIT -- The United Auto Workers union said Wednesday it has reached a tentative contract agreement with Ford that could be a breakthrough toward ending the nearly 6-week-old strikes against Detroit automakers.

Daily Herald

Maternal mortality continues to disproportionately affect Black women in Illinois

As the maternal mortality rate in Illinois rises, Black women are continuing to die at disparately higher rates during pregnancy compared to their white peers, according to data released today by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Crain's Chicago Business

House approves framework allowing legislative staff to unionize

SPRINGFIELD – Democrats in the Illinois House on Wednesday approved a measure to allow certain legislative staffers to unionize, following in the recent footsteps of lawmakers in California and Oregon.

Capitol News Illinois

Gov. J.B. Pritzker proposes new agency for early childhood services

Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Tuesday offered a broad outline of his plan to create a new state agency devoted to early childhood services, consolidating work now handled by three separate entities including the beleaguered Department of Children and Family Services.

Chicago Tribune

Dan Wright will become an associate judge on Nov. 17 joining nine other circuit judges

Dan Wright will be sworn in as a Seventh Judicial Circuit associate judge on Nov. 17, according to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

The State Journal-Register

Speaker Welch pushes bill allowing legislative staff union, amendment to follow

Illinois Democrats championed the passage of the Workers' Rights Amendment last year, enshrining the right to collectively bargain for workers in the state. Now, its own legislative staff is pushing for those protections.

The State Journal-Register

Pritzker wants to merge early education; speaker's bill allows staff to unionize

SPRINGFIELD -- Early childhood education in Illinois would be administered by a separate state agency, combining disparate services that bind parents in red tape, under a proposal Gov. J.B. Pritzker unveiled Tuesday.

Daily Herald

Pritzker plan would put all Illinois early childhood programs under one state agency

Vowing to make Illinois the top state in the nation for child care accessibility, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker unveiled a plan Tuesday to consolidate all the state's early childhood programs and funding into one new state agency.

Belleville News Democrat

Illinois fall session kicks off with legislative staff union proposal

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch's proposal that would clear the way for state legislative staff to unionize received its first hearing Tuesday as lawmakers returned to the Capitol for their annual fall veto session.

Bloomington Pantagraph

Chicago's top cop vows 'stringent' efforts to root out officers with extremist ties after investigation by WBEZ, Sun-Times

Supt. Larry Snelling and other brass did not explain the department's lack of action since a membership list was leaked two years ago.

Chicago Sun-Times

Pritzker proposes creation of new standalone early childhood agency

SPRINGFIELD – Vowing to make Illinois the top state in the nation for child care accessibility, Gov. JB Pritzker unveiled a plan Tuesday to consolidate all the state's early childhood programs and funding into one new state agency.

Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Doled Out Millions to Pot Growers. It Still May Not Be Enough to Save the Industry

As independent "craft growers" in Illinois struggle to secure financing for their cannabis businesses, a state-backed fund has emerged as a key lifeline.

Block Club Chicago

Private school tax credit top issue for Illinois fall legislative session

A controversial private school tax credit that's set to expire at the end of the year is one of the biggest unresolved issues Illinois lawmakers could take up when they return to Springfield on Tuesday to begin their final session of 2023.

Bloomington Pantagraph

EXTREMISM IN THE RANKS: Part Three - He was a rising football star — then he met this state trooper

The Oath Keepers' membership rolls included an Illinois state trooper, a campus cop for the University of Illinois Chicago, and an officer in a village known as "America's First Black Town."

Chicago Sun-Times

Pritzker urges residents to unite 'across religions, across ethnicities to renounce hatred'

Illinois has seen an "alarming increase" in anti-Arabism, Islamophobia and antisemitism, the Democratic governor said, noting "online hatred has skyrocketed" nationwide.

Chicago Sun-Times

Head of auto workers union says strikes will continue in drive to gain better offers from companies

DETROIT — United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain said Friday that while Detroit's automakers have increased their wage and benefit offers, he believes the union can gain more if it holds out longer in contract talks.

Chicago Tribune

Controversial pipeline canceled amid safety concerns, regulatory pushback

Navigator CO2, a Nebraska-based company specializing in carbon capture and sequestration, announced Friday it is canceling plans to build a 1,300-mile carbon dioxide pipeline that would have run through central Illinois.

Capitol News Illinois

Gun laws, scholarship tax credits, nuclear energy – but not new spending – on table for veto session

SPRINGFIELD – When lawmakers return to the Capitol next week for their annual fall veto session, they have a full agenda, including a handful of vetoes from Gov. JB Pritzker to consider overriding, in addition to deciding whether to revive a private school scholarship program.

Capitol News Illinois

These are the 9 Republicans vying to be House speaker

As the House enters its third week without a speaker, nine Republicans are vying to earn the support of their conference to wield the gavel, throwing the chamber into even more uncertainty.

The Southern Illinoisan

EXTREMISM IN THE RANKS: Part One - Chicago police with extremist ties have troubling records

An investigation by WBEZ, Chicago Sun-Times and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project found allegations of excessive force, improper searches and racist comments on the job.

Chicago Sun-Times

EXTREMISM IN THE RANKS: Part Two - Chicago Police Department tolerates officers with extremist ties

A new civilian oversight panel is working with Chicago police on a policy that would bar officers from joining hate and extremist groups.

Chicago Sun-Times