

Laws taking effect on Jan. 1, 2015

On Jan. 1, 2015, more than 200 new laws will take effect in Illinois touching many areas of state government from education and public safety, to transportation and wildlife. Following are a few of the notable measures taking effect when the New Year begins.

New Transportation Laws

Notable laws taking effect on Jan. 1 include several that will affect Illinois motorists. SB 2015/PA 98-1128, sponsored by State Senator Jim Oberweis, brings the state's Toll Highway system in Chicago up to the same 70 mph speed limit as the rest of the state, unless the Toll Highway Authority can prove that speed is unsafe on those roadways. The legislation is a follow-up measure to legislation that took effect in 2014 raising Illinois' speed limit on interstate highways to 70 mph. Senate Bill 2015 had been vetoed by Governor Quinn, but the General Assembly voted to override that veto during the fall veto session.

Legislation reinstating "sign and drive" will also take effect on Jan. 1. HB 2583/PA 98-0870 prohibits law enforcement from taking a driver's license as bail following a traffic law or ordinance violation. Currently, Illinois is one of only six states that confiscates a driver's license for a minor traffic offense.

Marijuana and Epilepsy

Another measure that gained attention during the spring legislative session and will take effect on Jan. 1 is SB 2636/PA 98-0775, which allows seizures, like those common among epilepsy patients, to be treated with medical marijuana under the state's medical cannabis pilot program. The legislation also extends the state's medical marijuana program to children who suffer from seizures.

In 2013, CNN highlighted the story of a little girl in Colorado who, before using medical cannabis oil, suffered up to 300 seizures a week.

Since starting treatment, her seizures have essentially stopped. Since the report, a number of states have taken steps to allow minors to use medical cannabis in the form of an oil to treat seizures.

New Technologies Inspire New Laws

New technologies, like surveillance drones and online communication platforms, continue to develop, inspiring a number of new laws taking effect on Jan. 1. HB 4594/PA 98-0905, sponsored by State Senator Dale Righter, allows for electronic search warrants to utilize services like Skype, which provide simultaneous audio and video transmission, as a way to request search warrants.

A number of laws have been introduced in recent years to regulate the use of drones and mitigate any potential violations of privacy that may result. One such law taking effect Jan. 1 is SB 2937/PA 98-0831, which prohibits a law enforcement agency from using a drone owned by a third party to acquire information.

HB 5623/PA 98-0930, sponsored by State Senator Michael Connelly, requires that a unit of local government or a school district that maintains a website (other than a social media or networking website), to post an email address that members of the public can use to communicate with elected officials of that unit of local government or school district.

In recent years, social media platforms, like Facebook and Twitter, have become increasingly popular. Unfortunately, so has the practice of "cyber bullying." In what some argued was an overreach of a school's authority, HB 4207/PA 98-0801 requires schools to address electronic bullying under certain circumstances, even if the bullying occurred off-campus and was conducted by using private computers, cell phones, etc.

Sex Trafficking

One measure, co-sponsored by a number of Senate Republican legislators, was introduced in response to the growing sex trafficking industry in Illinois. SB 3558/PA 98-1013 provides that solicitation of a sexual act does not apply to a person younger than 18. The law will ensure that minors who have been forced into the sex trafficking industry aren't erroneously charged and convicted of prostitution.

Pregnancy Accommodations

Another new law that garnered support from several Republican State Senators is HB 8/PA 98-1050, which requires employers to provide "reasonable accommodations" for all working pregnant women unless the accommodation would impose an "undue hardship" on the business.

E-Cigarette Restrictions

HB 5868/PA 98-0983, which requires e-cigarettes to be sold from behind the counter in an age-restricted area, or in a sealed display case, will also take effect on Jan. 1.

"Ban the Box"

HB 5701/PA 98-0774 gives job applicants the opportunity to address questions about a past criminal record in person, during an interview. The new law prohibits private employers with 15 or more employees from asking a job applicant about their criminal history until the applicant has been selected for an interview or, if there is not an interview, until after a conditional offer of employment is made.

Propane Emergency Weight Limits

Last winter, Illinois experienced propane shortages that drove up the cost of propane to historic highs. Understanding that many in Illinois rely on this fuel to heat their homes, State Senator Sam McCann sponsored SB 3139/PA 98-0956, which allows propane trucks

to weigh up to 90,000 pounds during a declaration of an emergency propane supply disaster by the Governor under the Illinois Emergency Agency Act. This legislation is intended to increase the supply of propane and therefore decrease the price.

Photo Line-Ups

A new law taking effect Jan. 1 seeks to reduce wrongful convictions by changing the state's existing police photo lineup procedure. HB 802/PA 98-1014 requires police departments, unless not practical, to use an independent administrator, an automated computer program, a random folder photo lineup method, or any other procedure that does not allow the lineup administrator to know the identity of the suspect. The legislation also allows police departments to present each individual in the line-up separately. Research suggests that viewing the line-ups simultaneously may contribute to wrongful convictions.

Liability for Underage Drinking

HB 4745/PA 98-1017, sponsored by State Senator Pam Althoff, expands current law that makes it illegal for parents or guardians to allow underage drinking at a residence or other private property. State law will now include vehicles; conveyances, like trailers, mobile homes, and campers; or a watercraft under the parent or guardian's control.

Wolves, Bears, Cougars

The gray wolf, American black bear and cougar are added to the list of protected species in Illinois under SB 3049/PA 98-1033. The new law also spells out conditions that allow landowners to kill the animals if they are causing an immediate threat of physical harm or death to a person, livestock, domestic animals, or harm to structures or other property. In recent years, all three animals have started to return to Illinois in very limited numbers and this is an effort to manage that reintroduction.

Complete Listing

A complete listing of all new laws scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1 follows.

Not all measures approved by the General Assembly go into effect on January 1. Some pieces of legislation specify an effective date, while other bills that carry an “immediate” effective date can go into effect at other times of the year.

January 1 is the default date for a new law to become effective if there is no specific language establishing another date. As such, a large number of laws take effect on January 1.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the legislature must set a “uniform effective date” for laws passed prior to June 1 of a calendar year. That uniform effective date, Jan. 1, applies if the legislation does not otherwise specify when the law becomes effective.

Agriculture, Animals, and Hunting

Reptiles and Amphibians (SB 902/PA 98-0752):

Creates the Herptiles – Herps Act, which sets provisions for permits to acquire, breed, and sell herptiles (reptiles/amphibians) listed in the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act. All permits, fees and fines will be determined by administrative rule through the Department of Natural Resources.

Aquatic Life Definition (SB 3333/PA 98-0771):

Changes the definition of aquatic life to mean all fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans, algae, aquatic plants, and aquatic invertebrates. The legislation also expands the definition of aquatic life to include any other aquatic plants or animals that the Department of Natural Resources identifies after consultation with biologists, zoologists, or other wildlife experts.

Commercial Fishing License (HB 4277/PA 98-0898): Allows veterans and blind or disabled residents to fish with commercial devices without holding a sports fishing license during valid fishing seasons.

Trapping License (HB 5079/PA 98-0913): An initiative of the Illinois Trappers Association to assure that trappers are competent. After Jan. 1, 2015, anyone who has not held a valid trapping license within three years preceding the license application must provide evidence of competency, as provided within the Wildlife Code. The upswing in fur prices in the last few years have led to an increase in people trapping for the first time. It has been found that a lot of these trappers have little or no real knowledge of how to trap resulting in an increase in non-targeted animals (such as dogs and cats) being inadvertently captured. The Department of Natural Resources offers an online trapper education course, which will give novices basic knowledge of how to properly set and maintain traps, kinds of traps to use, and how to avoid unwanted species. The “grandfather” clause is added to accommodate trappers who are already licensed and engaged in this activity beyond the basic level.

Commercial Hunting Regulations (HB 5080/PA 98-0914):

Initiative of the Conservation Police Lodge to update waterfowl outfitter regulations. This legislation would allow them to be regulated similarly to what is in place for deer and wild turkey outfitters. The legislation also includes deer and wild turkey under the outfitter permit provision and provides that anyone who provides or offers, for compensation, outfitting services for deer, waterfowl, or wild turkey hunting without a permit shall be charged with a Class B misdemeanor.

Native Fish for Bait (HB 5082/PA 98-0915):

Allows bighead carp, black carp, grass carp, and silver carp to be taken with a casting net or shad scoop and used as bait on the body of water where collected, if killed immediately, by a person with a valid sport fishing license.

Additionally, it also allows mooneye, goldeye, skipjack herring, carp (other than bighead carp, black carp, grass carp, and silver carp), buffalo, suckers, gar, bowfin, shad, and drum to be taken with a casting net or shad scoop and used for live or dead bait where collected, by a person with a valid sport fishing license.

Pesticides (HB 5464/PA 98-0923): Streamlines the application process for licensing agricultural pesticide applicators.

Dairy Products (SB 3157/PA 98-0958): Brings Illinois into line with federal U.S. Department of Agriculture standards by modifying definitions in the Grade A Pasteurized Milk and Milk Products Act, making enforcing agencies responsible to prevent the distribution of adulterated milk and milk products, and revising testing rules.

Wolves, Bears, Cougars (SB 3049/PA 98-1033): Adds the Gray Wolf, American Black Bear and Cougar to the list of protected species in Illinois, while spelling out conditions that allow landowners to kill the animals if they are causing an immediate threat of physical harm or death to a person, livestock, domestic animals, or harm to structures or other property. In recent years, all three have started to return to Illinois in very limited numbers and this is an effort to manage that reintroduction.

Protecting Aquatic Life (HB 5869/PA 98-1044): Provides that releasing any aquatic life into the wild in Illinois without first securing permission of the Department of Natural Resources is a Class B misdemeanor. This bill seeks to target potentially invasive species being imported into the state, as has happened with Asian Carp and zebra mussels.

Industrial Hemp Studies (HB 5085/PA 98-1072): Establishes the "Industrial Hemp Pilot Program" and allows higher education institutions or the Department of Agriculture to grow or cultivate industrial hemp if used for research purposes that specifically studies the growth, cultivation, or marketing of industrial hemp. "Industrial Hemp" means cannabis sativa L., having no more than 0.3% total THC content.

Current law does not allow any person to possess cannabis.

Business, Commerce, Labor and Licensure

Provisional CPA Licensure (HB 4707/PA 98-0730): Allows the Department of Professional Regulation to grant a six-month provisional license for registered certified public accountants in other states, who are awaiting Illinois licensure or may only be here temporarily.

Carnival & Amusement Rides (SB 3125/PA 98-0769): Changes the name of the Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Act to "the Amusement Ride and Attraction Safety Act." The bill also adds "amusement enterprise" into the Act to more broadly describe who and what this Act covers.

Corporation Dissolution (SB 1098/PA 98-0776): Provides that the dissolution of a corporation shall not take away any civil liability at the time of or after such dissolution if action is commenced within five years after the date of such dissolution.

Clarifies that this provision does not extend any applicable statute of limitations. Also provides standards of liability for directors when a corporation is dissolved.

Genetic Counselor Licensure Sunset (SB 643/PA 98-0813): Extends the Genetic Counselor Licensing Act to January 1, 2025, and increases the fines for a violation to \$10,000, and makes other standard definition changes.

Transfer of Property (SB 2656/PA 98-0821): Makes it easier to transfer or sell a certain types of property when an owner dies. Applies only to property with one to four units, condominiums or a single tract of agriculture land of 40 acres or less which contains a single family residence.

Small Estate Probate (SB 2985/PA 98-0836): Clarifies the information to be included on a small estate affidavit and requires that a small estate affidavit be notarized. The small estate affidavit, which applies to estates under

\$100,000, has not been updated in many years. This is intended to clarify the small estate affidavit form and reduce abuses.

Roofing Licenses (SB 2999/PA 98-0838): States an applicant for a roofing license must submit satisfactory evidence that he or she has an unemployment insurance employer account number and he or she is not delinquent in any payment under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Beer Definition Change (SB 3103/PA 98-0843): Adds to the definition of “beer” by adding beverages that are brewed or fermented wholly or in part from malt products.

Chicagoland Speedway (SB 3290/PA 98-0847): Allows the Chicagoland Motor Speedway to bring in concerts and additional auto racing schools and functions. Currently, off-road riding facilities such as the Speedway are immune from liability for noise under “normal” facility usage. This would expand the exemption to cover other events.

Bus Drivers (HB 3685/PA 98-0884): Allows for easier renewal of religious organization bus drivers, senior citizen transportation drivers and for-profit ridesharing arrangement drivers. Provides that for a lapse in license renewal of 30 days or less, the applicant shall be eligible for renewal without a waiver from the Secretary of State. A waiver from the Secretary of State would be required for a lapse in excess of 30 days.

Workplace Safety (SB 1103/PA 98-0874): Repeals the Safety Inspection and Education Act and the Health and Safety Act and in its place creates the “Occupational Safety and Health Act” to be administered by the Department of Labor.

Barbering Licensure (HB 4790/PA 98-0911): Brings barbering as a profession to the same oversight standards as cosmetology.

Architecture & Engineering Licensure (HB 4535/PA 98-0993): Allows architects, professional engineers, and structural engineers to opt out of submitting certification of the Test

of English as a Foreign Language if they have earned an advanced degree from an accredited institution in the United States.

Intern Protections (HB 4157/PA 98-1037): Adds unpaid interns to the Illinois Human Rights Act's protections against sexual harassment in the workplace. Defines “unpaid intern” to correlate with the federal minimum wage test under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

“Good Moral Character” for Licensures (SB 232/PA 98-1047): Streamlines disciplinary sanctions for licenses and certificates issued under the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. More clearly defines what constitutes “good moral character.” Provides the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation the power to authorize disciplinary action if a licensee or registrant violates the continuing requirement of “good moral character.”

Pregnancy Accommodations (HB 8/PA 98-1050): Requires employers to provide “reasonable accommodations” for all working pregnant women unless the accommodation would impose an “undue hardship” on the business.

Equal Pay Act Jurisdiction (HB 5563/PA 98-1051): Gives the Illinois Department of Human Rights jurisdiction to enforce the state Equal Pay Act. This duty is concurrent with the responsibilities of the Illinois Department of Labor. Allows the Department of Labor to refer a pay discrimination case back to the Department of Human Rights as long as the referral also includes potential Human Rights Act violations.

Savings and Loans (HB 5685/PA 98-1081): Repeals the Illinois Savings and Loan Act of 1985. The last Savings and Loan Association (located in Milford, Illinois) converted to a savings bank on April 1, 2013, so there are no longer any savings and loan associations in the state.

Resale Dealers Act (SB 1778/PA 98-1096): Regulates sales of precious and recyclable

metals, collectable items and other goods, including assuring that accurate records are available so that items can be traced. “Resale dealers” buy, sell, take on consignment, or trade jewelry, stamps, electronic equipment, or precious metals that have been previously owned by a consumer. This would include swapshop operators, cash for gold operators, and jewelers that purchase and resell items from persons. The term “resale dealer” does not include pawnbrokers, coin dealers, providers of commercial mobile services or their authorized dealers, or retail merchants that do not purchase previously-owned items directly from the public at the retail location.

Individuals must provide a driver’s license or State ID card, or two other forms of identification that include their address. In Chicago, if the seller does not have an ID issued by the government with their photo on it, the resale dealer must photograph the seller in color and record the seller’s name, address, date of birth, gender, height, and weight on the reverse side of the photograph. Transaction records must be kept for 3 years.

Real Estate Analysis (SB 3044/PA 98-1109):

Allows comparative market analysis to be performed by real estate brokers.

Household Donated Goods (SB 3294/PA 98-1116): Requires household goods donation bins (such as Goodwill) to have a permanent, written, printed label prominently displayed on the bin. The legislation also requires the label to contain the contact information of the owner or operator of the bin and whether the entity is a not-for-profit or a for-profit entity. Makes it an unlawful practice to violate the provisions.

Elevator Safety (SB 641/PA 98-1090): Brings Illinois law into compliance with new standards for elevator safety inspectors. As of Jan. 1, 2014, the responsibility for setting standards for elevator inspectors was transferred from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to the American National Standards Institute. The legislation adds generic language so the statute

does not need to be changed each time certification organizations change.

Children and Families

Adult Grandchildren Access (HB 5949/98-0704): Grants adult grandchildren access to original birth certificates, adoption registries and appointments with confidential mediators.

Children’s Information (HB 671/PA 98-0707): Deletes a provision in state law that allowed vendors of personal information to assume parental consent to the buying and selling of a child’s personal information. This legislation would permit the sale or purchase of a child’s personal information without parental consent when it is made as part of a criminal or civil investigation.

DCFS Guardianship Age (HB 4495/PA 98-0803): Temporarily raises the age of a Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) guardianship from 14 to 15, which would allow a judge to place the juveniles in question into the guardianship of DCFS. This provision will sunset in two years and the jurisdictional age would revert back to 14.

Child Care and Adoption Definitions (HB 4636/PA 98-0804): Makes the definition of “related child” consistent in state law and clarifies that when an adoption is finalized there will only be two legal parents. The definition of related is amended to include relationships by civil union and to add a step-grandparent and second cousin to the definition.

DCFS Scholarships (HB 4652/PA 98-0805): Expands the Department of Children and Family Services’ scholarship program. Increases the number of scholarships awarded each year from a maximum of 48 to a minimum of 53. Extends the length of the scholarships from four to five years. Adds members to the scholarship recipient selection committee. Scholarships are awarded to current and former foster-care youth. DCFS covers room and board and school expenses (other than tuition and fees); state universities/colleges must waive tuition and fees.

Youth Advisory Boards (HB 4773/PA 98-0806): Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to convene, fund and maintain a statewide youth advisory board and support regional youth advisory boards.

Parental Custody (HB 5598/PA 98-0808): Requires state agencies to enter into an interagency agreement for the purpose of preventing parents from relinquishing parental custody of a child because of the child's mental health issues. This is in response to parents giving up custody of their children solely in order to secure mental health treatment for them.

Children's Advocacy (HB 5990/PA 98-0809): Modifies the Children's Advocacy Center Act to reflect current practices. Includes "child maltreatment" instead of just sexual abuse. Authorizes multi-county Children's Advocacy Advisory Boards. Grants the National Children's Alliance and the Children's Advocacy Center of Illinois accreditation and review authority over Child Advocacy Centers. Requires Child Advocacy Centers to develop a multidisciplinary approach to child maltreatment.

Daycare Home Licensure (SB 1999/PA 98-0817): Provides that with regard to daycare home licensure, the requirement of a copy of a high school diploma may be satisfied with either a copy of a high school diploma or a college degree from an accredited institution of higher education or a vocational institution. Current standards require a copy of a high school diploma in order to obtain a childcare license, so while an individual may have advanced bachelor's or master's degrees, if they no longer have documentation of their high school diploma, they are ineligible for day care home licensure under current law.

DCFS Case Tracking (SB 2909/PA 98-0830): Requires the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to: provide a copy of the safety plan—as signed by each parent or guardian and responsible-adult caregiver—to each parent or guardian and responsible-adult caregiver participating in the safety plan;

provide each parent or guardian and responsible-adult caregiver information concerning their rights and responsibilities, including information on how to obtain medical care, emergency phone numbers, and information on how to notify schools or day care providers; and ensure that the safety plan is reviewed and approved by the DCFS representative's supervisor.

DCFS Report (SB 3009/PA 98-0839): Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to submit an annual report on its progress in meeting its licensing goals for child day care no later than Sept. 30 each year.

Child Placement (SB 3283/PA 98-0846): Adds "fictive kin" to the definition of "relative." "Fictive kin" is defined as "any individual, unrelated by birth or marriage, who is shown to have close personal or emotional ties with the child or the child's family prior to the child's placement with the individual."

Under this legislation, "fictive kin" are defined as relatives and, as such, are not required to have a foster home license in order to receive the placement of a child with "close personal or emotional ties." "Fictive kin" who accept placement of a child must apply for a foster home license within six months of placement. Children placed with "fictive kin" will not be removed even if the "fictive kin" fail to apply for licensure or fail to meet licensure standards.

Abused Child Reporter Training (SB 3421/PA 98-0850): Authorizes the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to grant continuing education credit for mandated-reporter training.

Minor Moving Out of State (HB 5686/PA 98-1082): Allows guardianship orders to incorporate language governing removal of a minor from the state so that, if the situation is appropriate, removal can be addressed in the order and not require a separate court proceeding. Also amends the Probate Act to create a preference for a short-term guardian to be appointed.

Caregivers and Property (SB 1048/PA 98-1093):

Amends the State’s Probate Act regarding presumptively void transfers to non-family member caregivers. In essence, this would void most transfers of property exceeding \$20,000 to a person who was a caregiver for the deceased. This presumption can be rebutted by showing that the caregiver's share is not greater than the share they would have been entitled to before they became the caregiver, or by showing that the transfer was not the product of fraud, duress, or undue influence.

Adult Disabled Guardian (SB 1051/PA 98-1094):

Amends the procedure for the adjudication of disability and the appointment of a guardian for adults. The amendment does three things: 1) Requires inclusion of contact information of the reporting physician; 2) Relocates provisions on independent evaluations to the appropriate section; and 3) Emphasizes the best interest of the ward in selection of a guardian.

Consumers

Condominiums and E-mail (HB 4784/PA 98-0735):

Allows a condominium board to issue electronic notifications and other communications for association members who opt-in to such a communication system. Also allows a condo owner to designate either an e-mail address or postal address (or both) for official purposes and for an association’s records.

Residential Property Disclosure (SB 2597/PA 98-0754):

Requires that a seller or firm disclose material defects of doors and windows in a residential unit to prospective buyers. This is in addition to the 23 current disclosures that must be made under the original Act.

Condominium Leasing (SB 3057/PA 98-0842):

Unless a condominium, townhouse or apartment association’s by-laws or governing documents state otherwise, the owner who is leasing a unit to a renter must provide a copy of the lease within 10 days after the unit is occupied or the lease is signed (whichever

comes first) regardless of the duration of the lease.

Condominium Rental & Foreclosure (HB 4782/PA 98-0996):

Allows a condominium association board to rent a foreclosed property for longer than previously permitted by state statute.

Condominium Electronic Voting (HB 5322/PA 98-1042):

Enhances electronic communication(s), voting and notifications to and from condo associations and other “common interest” community associations. This legislation is identical to SB 3040, which passed the Senate and is currently in the House.

Mobile Home Parks (HB 4123/PA 98-1062):

Amends the Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Rights Act to mandate a number of new disclosures by mobile home park owners. The measure represents an agreement between mobile home park owners, mobile home owners and renters and the Department of Public Health.

Condominium Rights (HB 4783/PA 98-1068):

Prevents situations where developers put clauses in the condominium bylaws that prevent the association from suing the developer without unit owner approval. In most cases, the developer maintains an ownership interest in the building and thus the board would never be able to gain the unit owners’ permission before suing. Very similar to SB 2892, which passed the Senate earlier this year. Prohibits any provision which restricts the right of a board to represent that association in legal matters which affect the common elements or more than one unit, unless approved by a unit owner percentage vote of 75% or more following the election of the first unit owner board of managers.

Deceptive Practices (SB 3405/PA 98-1119):

Creates a new section in the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act to make it an unlawful practice to send false or deceptive letters alleging patent infringement.

Abandoned Storage Units (SB 2952/PA 98-1106): Allows for electronic notice to owners prior to the sale of property in an abandoned storage units and also allows online auctions of abandoned units. In the case of electronic mail notice, the e-mail address must have been provided by the renter and the owner must receive notice of its receipt. If no "read receipt" is given, a notice must be sent by verified mail to the renter's last known mailing address. According to the Self-Storage Association, almost 50% of self-storage renters do not have permanent reliable physical addresses, making it difficult to locate the owner of property that has been abandoned.

Crime, Courts, Corrections and Law Enforcement

Sealing Records (HB 5815/PA 98-0635): Allows for the sealing of a court supervision or a conviction for a municipal ordinance violation. The intent is to allow for a cannabis or alcohol ordinance violation to be sealed in the same manner that a misdemeanor supervision or conviction for an alcohol or cannabis offense can currently be sealed.

Juvenile Records (SB 978/PA 98-0637): Requires the Department of State Police to automatically expunge all records pertaining to the arrest of a minor if the arrest did not result in a delinquency petition being filed. The State would have to expunge arrests automatically when the minor turns 18 and only if the minor was not arrested within six months of the minor's most recent arrest.

Ticket Quotas (SB 3411/PA 98-0650): Prohibits counties, municipalities, conservation police and state police from implementing ticket quotas.

Juvenile Court Act Revisions (HB 4083/PA 98-0685): Clarifies the shared responsibilities and authority between the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Cleans up previous amendments and revisions made to the Act in 2006 and 2013.

Juvenile Justice Employees (HB 4781/PA 98-0689): Makes changes to the qualifications of Department of Juvenile Justice personnel. Expands the types of Bachelor's degrees that can be considered for employment if the candidate has at least two years experience in juvenile justice.

Victim Registry Confidentiality (HB 4266/PA 98-0717): Prohibits the Prisoner Review Board from releasing the name or address of a victim to anyone other than law enforcement. Prohibits the Attorney General's office from releasing the personal information of any person or entity registered to receive a victim's information or notifications to anyone other than state or local officials.

Probation Officers and Firearms (HB 4417/PA 98-0725): Designed to give probation officers more access to firearms training. This is an initiative of the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association. They are required to be trained but because they do not meet the current definition of "peace officer" in either the Police Training Act or Illinois Peace Office Training Act, they can have a difficult time securing training.

Bulletproof Vests (HB 5688/PA 98-0743): Requires law enforcement agencies to provide bulletproof vests for officers. Outlines requirements that the law enforcement agency, the state and local governments must pursue to provide funding for the cost of these vests. Since 1999, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program has reimbursed more than 13,000 jurisdictions, a total of \$288 million in federal funds for the purchase of over one million vests (1,146,909 as of December, 2013). Based on data collected and recorded by BJA staff, in FY 2012, protective vests were directly attributable to saving the lives of at least 33 law enforcement and corrections officers, in 20 different states, an increase 13.7% over FY 2011. At least 14 of those life-saving vests had been purchased, in part, with BVP funds.

Escape Attempt Ramifications (SB 3332/PA 98-0770): Provides that a person in the custody of

(rather than committed to) the Department of Human Services under the provisions of the Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act who is under a detention order, commitment order, conditional release order, or other court order who intentionally escapes from any secure facility or from a Department employee or any of its agents (rather than a person committed to the Department of Human Services under the provisions of the Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act or in detention with the Department of Human Services awaiting such a commitment) who intentionally escapes from any secure residential facility or from a Department employee or any of its agents (rather than the custody of an employee of that facility) commits a Class 2 felony.

“Ban the Box” Criminal Records (HB 5701/PA 98-0774): Prohibits private employers with 15 or more employees from asking a job applicant about their criminal history until the applicant has been selected for an interview or, if there is not an interview, until after a conditional offer of employment is made. It has been called “ban the box” after the check-box that appears on some employment applications asking if the individual has been convicted of a crime. Advocates argue that the legislation allows applicants to have the opportunity to address questions about their past criminal records in person, during an interview.

Community Service (SB 2709/PA 98-0824): Provides that giving blood or volunteering at a blood bank does not qualify as community service.

Drones (SB 2937/PA 98-0831): Prohibits a law enforcement agency from using a drone owned by a private third party to acquire information (with certain exceptions). Allows the use of a drone without a search warrant, if law enforcement is using a drone during a disaster or public health emergency (flood, tornado, earth quake). It does not require an official declaration of a disaster or public health emergency prior to use.

Law Enforcement Misconduct (SB 2695/PA 98-0867): Provides that an employee of a law enforcement agency commits official misconduct when he or she knowingly uses or communicates, directly or indirectly, information acquired in the course of employment, which obstructs, impedes, or prevents the investigation, apprehension, or prosecution of any criminal offense or person. Specifies that the defendant must have had intent to disrupt the case.

Out-of-State Attorneys (HB 4235/PA 98-0895): Allows a licensed attorney from another state to appear in front of the Illinois Commerce Commission. This legislation was introduced due to a recent Supreme Court rule change.

Probation Services (HB 4082/PA 98-0892): Allows a probation department to meet with a minor offender (and his or her attorney) in a preliminary conference.

TASC Ineligibility (HB 4236/PA 98-0896): Adds Class-4 felony stalking to the list of crimes that would make an individual ineligible for Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) participation. TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) is a not-for-profit organization that provides behavioral health recovery management services for individuals with substance abuse and mental health disorders.

Criminal Fortification (HB 4269/PA 98-0897): Includes preventing or impeding lawful entry of law enforcements entry through the use of video surveillance, motion sensing devices or booby traps as part of the criminal fortification of a residence or building. Law enforcement has found that criminals are increasingly reliant on technology as a way to inhibit law enforcement at locations where illegal activity occurs, and this legislation would incorporate these techniques into current law.

“Skype” Search Warrants (HB 4594/PA 98-0905): Allows for electronic search warrants that utilize simultaneous audio and video transmission between the person requesting the search warrant and the judge. The Chief

Judge or Presiding Judge in the issuing jurisdiction is to determine standards and best practices policies for filing and retaining the transmissions.

Grooming (HB 5290/PA 98-0919): Adds a new provision to the "grooming" statute, in which someone uses the Internet to seduce or entice a child to commit a sex offense, to stipulate that the crime would also include the distribution of photographs depicting the sex organs of a child.

Restitution (HB 5950/PA 98-0940): Sets forth procedures for a crime victim, through the court, to enforce the payment of restitution by a convicted person sentenced to probation, conditional discharge, or supervision. If payment of restitution as ordered has not been made, the victim can file a petition that restitution payments are still unpaid. The court then would hold a review hearing to either extend the probation, conditional discharge, or supervision or issue a judgment for the unpaid restitution.

Defendant Costs (SB 2650/PA 98-0943): Provides that a defendant whose conviction is reversed on final appeal or by a finding of factual innocence is not liable for court costs or fees or for any charge of subsistence while detained in custody. If the defendant has paid any costs, fine, or fees, it will be refunded to the defendant.

Extending Probation (SB 3074/PA 98-0953): Allows a court to extend a defendant's term of probation or conditional discharge that was concurrent to, consecutive to, or otherwise interrupted by a term of imprisonment for the purpose of providing additional time to complete an order of restitution.

Criminal Violations (SB 3110/PA 98-0954): Adds an exception to the physician-patient privilege for situations where a grand jury subpoena is issued and requires the State's Attorney to seek a protective order in certain cases. Requires the State's Attorney to petition the court for a protective order in cases where the grand jury subpoena exception is being used to pierce the physician-patient privilege. A

protective order must be sought in any criminal action where the charge is domestic battery, aggravated domestic battery, or an offense under Article 11 of the Criminal Code (sex offense), where the patient is under the age of 18 years or upon the request of the patient.

Aggravated Meth Manufacturing (HB 4093/PA 98-0980): Includes in the offense of aggravated participation in the manufacture of methamphetamine, methamphetamine manufacturing that occurs within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising any school. The purpose is to create consistency with other drug statutes, which provide enhanced penalties for manufacture or distribution that occurs within 1,000 feet of a school.

Controlled Substances (SB 3275/PA 98-0987): Adds "25I-NBOMe," "25B-NBOMe" and "25C-NBOMe" to the list of Schedule I controlled substances. This is in response to a powerful new hallucinogenic synthetic drug which has caused overdoses and fatalities in youth. It has been marketed as an LSD substitute as it targets the same serotonin receptor as many other hallucinogens including LSD. Small amounts can cause seizures, cardiac and respiratory arrest, and death. According to the DEA, reports from medical examiners link at least 19 deaths of people aged 15-29 years in the U.S. between March 2012 and August 2013.

Sealing Records (HB 2378/PA 98-1009): Allows a petitioner to petition the circuit court to seal his or her conviction record for the following misdemeanor "crimes of violence" including: Assault, Aggravated assault, Battery, or Reckless conduct in as little as four years after the termination of the petitioner's sentence.

Electronic Monitoring (HB 3744/PA 98-1012): Allows a judge to order as a condition of bail a risk assessment evaluation and consider electronic monitoring (GPS) of a person charged with certain violent crimes, regardless of whether an order of protection had been issued. This bill was introduced in response to a 2013 case where a woman was murdered by her former boyfriend, who she had filed an

order of protection against. The order of protection expired, and the victim filed to have it renewed, she was killed three days after the order expired.

Maintenance Award (SB 3231/PA 98-0961):

Provides that no judge may award maintenance in the event of a dissolution of marriage without first determining that it is appropriate. Further, provides standard guidelines for the amount of maintenance to be paid in most instances.

Process Servers and Gated Communities (SB 3286/PA 98-0966):

Requires gated residential communities, including condominium associations or cooperatives, to grant unannounced entry into the community, including its common areas and common elements, to a person who is attempting to serve process on a defendant or witness.

Sex Trafficking (SB 3558/PA 98-1013):

Provides that solicitation of a sexual act does not apply to a person younger than 18. Directs a portion of a fee for an impounded vehicle to the Specialized Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking Fund. Modifies the allocation percentages of moneys and sale proceeds forfeited by individuals convicted of involuntary servitude and trafficking of persons.

Photo Lineups (HB 802/PA 98-1014):

Creates a new lineup procedure that requires all lineups be conducted by 1) an independent administrator (unless it is impractical); 2) an automated computer program; 3) a random folder photo lineup method; or 4) any other procedure that does not allow the lineup administrator to know the identity of the suspect. Allows a lineup of persons or a photo spread lineup to be presented to witnesses sequentially, with each presented separately and then removed before the next person or photo is viewed or presented to witnesses. Requires each law enforcement agency to establish written guidelines on when an officer should present persons or photographs to an eyewitness simultaneously or sequentially. Prohibits the presence during a lineup of any

person who knows the suspected perpetrator's identity, except the eyewitness and defense counsel. Provides instructions to the eyewitness to whom the identification procedure is presented. Provides remedies for failure to comply with lineup identification procedures. Requires a lineup to be video recorded, if practical, unless the eyewitness refuses to consent to the recording.

Liability for Underage Drinking (HB 4745/PA 98-1017):

Expands current law that makes it illegal for parents or guardians to allow underage drinking at a residence or other private property, so that it will include vehicles, conveyances, or watercraft under their control. A "conveyance" would include trailers, mobile homes, campers, etc.

Unfit to Stand Trial (SB 2801/PA 98-1025):

Makes changes to how defendants who are found unfit to stand trial and placed in the Department of Human Services are held. Requires a forensic interview to be videotaped, unless impractical. If the interview is not videotaped, the examiner may still testify, and the court may only consider the lack of compliance and not the admissibility of the expert testimony.

Kratom (HB 5526/PA 98-0981): Prohibits a person under 18 from knowingly possessing kratom or using a fake ID to attempt to obtain a product containing kratom. Prohibits any person from knowingly selling or distributing a product containing kratom to a person under 18. Kratom has been sold for medicinal purposes; however, teens are showing up in the ER after using it to try and get high.

Domestic Violence Penalty Enhancements (HB 4653/PA 98-0994):

Ensures that prior convictions for domestic battery, or for any offense which is substantially similar, that occurs in another jurisdiction will trigger penalty enhancements.

Prisoner Job Training (HB 4113/PA 98-1061):

Authorizes county sheriffs to enter into joint contracts with units of local government and non-profit housing development corporations

to develop job training programs to rehabilitate houses. Provides that these rehabilitated houses may be used as transitional housing for the mentally ill (in addition to homeless or low-income citizens). The Department of Corrections already has this authority, and this is a request of the Cook County sheriff who would like authority to operate a program.

Destruction of Public Records (HB 4216/PA 98-1063): Makes it a Class 4 felony for any person who knowingly and with the intent to defraud, alters, destroys, defaces, removes, or conceals any public record.

Civil Actions (HB 5512/PA 98-1077): An initiative of the Trial Lawyers to allow individuals who may sustain a legal disability after a cause of action accrues but before a case is filed to still bring an action.

Will County Judicial Facilities (HB 5889/PA 98-1085): Allows the Will County Board to impose a new fee of up to \$30 per party in a civil case and \$30 for a defendant in a criminal or traffic case. The proceeds are to be used to build new judicial facilities.

Electronic Legal Documents (SB 1941/PA 98-1097): Creates the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. This applies to all legal material in an electronic record that is designated as official and first published electronically on or after the effective date. This is part of an effort to adopt consistent regulations regarding electronic legal documents in all states.

False Personation (SB 3538/PA 98-1125): Adds to the false personation statute, including anyone who knowingly and falsely represents themselves as the legal guardian, including any representative of a State or public guardian, of a disabled person.

Criminal ID Amendment (SB 1598/PA 98-0528): Amends the Racial and Ethnic Impact Research Task Force Act. Makes a technical change in a section concerning the short title.

Education

School Safety Plans (HB 5716/PA 98-0661):

Provides that when school districts update their school building's emergency and crisis response plans, consideration may be given to making the plans available to first responders, administrators and teachers for use on electronic devices.

GED Certificates (HB 4336/PA 98-0718):

Changes references in state statutes from "General Education Development (GED) testing and certificates" to "high school equivalency testing and certificates". An identical bill, **SB 2729**, passed the Senate unanimously. This is being done because the owner of the GED test has contract with a private company to administer the test and prices are expected to rise significantly. Changing the references in state statutes to the generic high school equivalency will allow other tests to be used and foster competition.

Community College Director (HB 4340/PA 98-0719):

Changes the title of the top executive of the Illinois Community College Board from "President and CEO" to "Executive Director." The Board felt that this title was more in line with other state board and commissions rather than the title of President.

Career and Tech Ed (SB 587/PA 98-0751):

Provides that an individual seeking a career and technical education endorsement need only pass a basic skills test for renewal of the endorsement.

Charter School Accountability (HB 3232/PA 98-0783):

Increases transparency in charter schools. Requires that lotteries be used to fill available student slots when demand exceeds capacity. The lotteries must be videotaped by the charter school. Also allows charter schools to undertake additional intake activities; requires charter schools to include a disclaimer in any advertisements that are paid for with public funds; and requires that charter school governing bodies must be separate and distinct

from any Charter Management Organizations or Educational Management Organizations.

Cyber Bullying (HB 4207/PA 98-0801): Requires schools to address electronic bullying under certain circumstances even when it occurs off-campus and uses private computers, cell phones, etc. Applies if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school. Applies when a school administrator or teacher receives a report that this type of bullying has occurred and does not require school district staff to monitor non-school related activities. Requires school bullying policies or implementing procedures to include a process to investigate if the reported act of bullying is within the school or district's jurisdiction. Opponents argued that expecting schools to regulate speech that occurs outside of the school day and school property breaks new grounds, places an unrealistic burden on schools, sets a dangerous precedent and is unconstitutional.

Distance Learning (SB 3441/PA 98-0792): Creates the Higher Education Distance Learning Act which authorizes the Illinois State Board of Higher Education to participate in a state authorization reciprocity agreement (SARA) on behalf of the state. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall be the lead agency in coordinating interstate reciprocity for distance learning for participating institutions in Illinois. Sets additional parameters for distance learning programs.

State authorization reciprocity agreements (SARA) establish reciprocity between willing regional compact member states that accept each other's approval of accredited institutions that operate within their states and offer distance learning services beyond state boundaries. SARA under this program will be voluntary.

Physical Education Teachers (SB 3274/PA 98-0860): States that a teacher who teaches physical education or health education may meet the requirements for highly qualified

status that apply to teachers who teach core academic subjects pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Storm Shelter Law (HB 2513/PA 98-0883): Provides that all new school building construction governed by the "Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools" must include in its design and construction a storm shelter.

Illinois Purchased Care Review Board (SB 3554/PA 98-1008): Adds one non-voting member to the Illinois Purchased Care Review Board. Requires that the new member be an administrator of a private, nonpublic, special education school. The Illinois Purchased Care Review Board is responsible for determining allowable costs for school districts for special education services including room and board, and other related services that are provided by non-public schools or special education facilities.

Grow Your Own Teachers (HB 3948/PA 98-1036): Makes changes to the Grow Your Own (GYO) Teachers Act including removing the goal of adding 1,000 teachers to low income, hard to staff Illinois schools by 2016. Adds three specific provisions that must be met by GYO candidates: 1) having a 2.5 GPA, 2) attending monthly cohort meetings, and 3) applying for financial aid from other sources before applying for assistance from GYO.

Governance Task Force (HB 1152/PA 98-1053): Creates the Chicago Educational Governance Task Force to recommend the best structure and procedure for the governance of the Chicago Public Schools. The task force would submit its report by May 30, 2016.

Chicago Transportation Reimbursement (HB 3662/PA 98-1057): Allows a custodian of a qualifying pupil to be reimbursed for qualified transportation expenses if the pupil attends the Chicago Public Schools and must walk or travel along a safe passage route to reach school or return home from school or if such pupil does not have access to transportation and conditions were hazardous to the safety of the pupil due to traffic.

Panther Promise (SB 2765/PA 98-1100):

Extends the Panther Promise Tuition Discount Program at Eastern Illinois University (EIU) until after the 2018-2019 academic year. Panther Promise is a tuition affordability discount program that allows EIU to offer a tuition discount of up to \$2,500 per year for four years if a 2.0 GPA is maintained and is targeted towards students from households earning roughly \$35,000 to \$70,000 annually.

Mercer County School District (SB 3113/PA 98-1112):

Allows Mercer County School District #404, which was consolidated in 2009 from the Westmer and Aledo School Districts, to save money through the refinancing of debt, but would also allow the consolidated district to keep that obligation within the perimeter of the original district that incurred the debt. Current law requires that when old debt is refinanced that it be distributed across the entire newly consolidated school district.

Energy/Utilities/Environment

Demolition Debris (HB 4606/PA 98-1130):

Establishes that new demolition debris waste sites in downstate areas do not need a local government hearing.

Grease/Oil Collection (HB 4505/PA 98-0785):

Provides for the licensing of grease and oil collectors to transport grease and oil to processors for uses such as biodiesel conversion.

Non-Natural Cosmetic Ban (SB 2727/PA 98-0638):

Establishes a ban in Illinois on "microbeads," which are small plastic beads often used in cosmetic products like exfoliating face washes. Concerns have been raised that these beads are getting into the water supply and releasing toxic chemicals like PCBs, which are consumed by wildlife, and then in turn, consumed by humans. Over-the-counter drugs containing synthetic plastic microbeads can not be sold in Illinois after December 31, 2019.

Lead Abatement (HB 5410/PA 98-0690):

Addresses regulation and enforcement of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act with regard to

licensure, fines and penalties, billing the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) for lead testing and evaluation of Medicaid-eligible children, reporting of lead-poisoning test results to the Department of Public Health (DPH), and other changes.

Variance Petition Requirements (SB 2657/PA 98-0822):

Requires petitioners, instead of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, to send notice of variance petitions to local governing entities. In other similar environmental proceedings this is already standard, and this simply makes the variance process consistent with other similar procedures.

Ethics and Transparency

Appointee Ethics (HB 4208/PA 98-0894):

Provides that any member of a governmental entity appointed by any member or members of a county board shall abide by the ethics laws of the county in which they serve. Ethics legislation that passed last year did not cover appointees that were appointed by individual members of a county board. This legislation closes that loophole.

Government Transparency (HB 5853/PA 98-1084):

Requires Central Management Services to provide contact information and a link on the Illinois Transparency and Accountability Portal website for all agencies under the Governor.

Health and Human Services

Program Clarification (HB 1584/PA 98-0629):

Changes references to the "Children's Respite Care Center" to "Children's Community Based Health Care Center." DPH considers the terms "Children's Respite Care Center" and "Children's Community Based Health Care Center" to be the same licensed program; therefore, statutory clarification is necessary to avoid future conflict and confusion.

Clinical Lab Testing Guidelines (HB 2544/PA 98-0708):

Requires every accountable care organization providing diagnosis and treatment for patients in this State to establish an advisory

board to consider and recommend guidelines or protocols for clinical laboratory testing.

Blood Specimen Examination (SB 3077/PA 98-0767): Allows advanced practice nurses and physician assistants greater flexibility when dealing with collaborative agreements or written supervision agreements with hospitals or hospital affiliates for blood specimen examination.

Therapist Endorsements (SB 3115/PA 98-0768): Allows a licensed physical therapist to use testimonials of superior quality of care to entice the public.

Marijuana and Epilepsy (SB 2636/PA 98-0775): Adds seizures (including those characteristic of epilepsy) to the list of "debilitating medical conditions" that medical marijuana may be used to treat. Also allows the Illinois Department of Public Health (DPH) to adopt rules authorizing "other" minors with medical conditions covered by current law to become registered users.

The stated purpose of this legislation was to authorize the use of CBD Oil for children with Epilepsy or conditions that cause seizures. Limits cannabis use by minors (with parental consent) to only infused forms.

However, it also broadens use by minors by allowing DPH to adopt rules authorizing "other" minors with medical conditions covered by current law to become registered users.

Hearing Instrument Clean-Up (SB 2811/PA 98-0827): Amends the Hearing Instrument Consumer Protection Act to change references of "hearing impaired" to "deaf or hard of hearing."

Nurse Certification (SB 2998/PA 98-0837): Requires advanced practice nurses to maintain a current national certification from the appropriate national certifying body as determined by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, and certified registered nurse anesthetists.

Clinical Psychologist Licensure (SB 3406/PA 98-0849): States that clinical psychologists must be a graduate of a doctoral program accredited or approved by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System, American Psychological Association or the Council for the National Register of Health Providers in Psychology, or other national board recognized by the Clinical Psychologists Licensing and Disciplinary Board.

Mental Health Exams (SB 3532/PA 98-0853): Clarifies the procedure to obtain an independent mental health evaluation during an involuntary admission, discharge hearing or during a proceeding seeking to administer psychotropic medications or electroconvulsive therapy.

Breast Cancer (HB 3765/PA 98-0886): Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health's written summary regarding the early detection and treatment of breast cancer to also inform individuals, in layman's terms, of potential recommended follow-up tests or studies concerning dense breast tissue.

Cancer Research (HB 4035/PA 98-0891): Authorizes the Department of Public Health to collect and maintain health data on the connection between the long-term effects of childhood cancer and the original cancer diagnosis and treatment.

ID Badges (HB 4033/PA 98-0890): Exempts Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled and Community Integrated Living Arrangements from the requirement that identification badges be worn by employees and volunteers of health care facilities.

Coroner Access to Records (HB 4694/PA 98-0908): Allows coroners access to all mental health records of patients when conducting a preliminary investigation of the patient's death. Removes requirements that records must be limited to those relating to the factual circumstances of the incident being investigated.

Urgent Care (SB 3506/PA 98-0977): Authorizes use of the terms “urgent” or “urging” for facilities that provide care at a walk-in medical clinic. Current law prohibits these terms from being used in the name of the facility.

Long Term Care Ombudsman (SB 798/PA 98-0989): Changes the law governing the Illinois Long Term Care Ombudsman. The Ombudsman investigates and seeks to resolve complaints made by or for residents of nursing or long-term care programs and participants in home or community-based care programs. This measure would revise definitions, increase the ombudsman’s ability to access participants, alters the violation-reporting mandate, and permits the establishment of regional multi-disciplinary teams to assist the Ombudsman.

Stroke Treatment (HB 5742/PA 98-1001): Creates a state designation for Comprehensive Stroke Centers; re-designates Emergent Stroke Ready Hospitals as Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals; provides for state-designation fees for Primary Stroke Centers, Comprehensive Stroke Centers, and Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals; creates the Stroke Data Collection Fund; provides for more rigorous stroke-data collection requirements; modifies the membership of the State Stroke Advisory Subcommittee; modifies the membership of Regional Stroke Advisory Subcommittees; and makes other changes.

Medical Information (HB 5925/PA 98-1046): Seeks to modernize the Illinois Clinical Laboratory and Blood Bank Act, the Genetic Information Privacy Act and the AIDS Confidentiality Act to better align state and federal law. Specifies the circumstances under which HIV-related and genetic information may be shared. An amendment exempts health-care providers from professional discipline (already exempt from criminal or civil liability) for good-faith reliance upon information provided through the Illinois Health Information Exchange. Also specifies that physicians and health-care providers are not liable for the

release of a patient’s health information by other entities that possess the information.

“Telehealth” (SB 647/PA 98-1091): Establishes guidelines that individual or group health and accident insurance policies must comply with if they provide coverage for “telehealth” services. Telehealth is defined as the use of a telecommunication system to provide medical services between places of lesser and greater medical capability or expertise, for the purpose of evaluation and treatment.

Power of Attorney for Healthcare (SB 3228/PA 98-1113): Re-writes the Health Care Power of Attorney form to make it more user friendly. With these changes the reading level for the form will be a high school rather than a college reading level. Includes a savings clause to ensure that previously executed health care powers of attorney and actions thereunder are valid.

Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center (SB 3465/PA 98-1123): Amends the definition of “ambulatory surgical treatment center” to include any place that meets and complies with the definition of an ambulatory surgical treatment center under the rules adopted by the Department of Public Health. An ambulatory surgical treatment center that elects to have an agreement with federal CMS must also meet certain Medicare conditions as an ambulatory surgical center and have an active agreement with CMS to participate in Medicare as an ambulatory surgical center provider in Illinois.

Anatomic Pathology (SB 1630/PA 98-1127): Spells out billing practices of “anatomic pathology services.” Clarifies exemptions and specifies there is no prohibition against a referring physician, who takes a patient specimen, from charging a patient or a payer an acquisition or processing charge. Anatomic pathology is a medical specialty that is concerned with the diagnosis of disease based on the gross, microscopic, chemical,

immunologic and molecular examination of organs, tissues, and whole bodies.

Local Government

Fire Department Cessation (HB 4418/PA 98-0666): In order to protect full-time firefighter staff in the event a municipality considers transitioning to an all-volunteer fire department, the bill provides that municipalities with a population of 500 or more that owns, operates, or maintains any fire department or departments cannot cease operation of that department unless the cessation is submitted to voters by referendum. Protects the rights of the employees of the dissolved fire department provided in the Personnel Code, any collective bargaining agreements, and any pension, retirement, or annuity plan of those employees.

County Impoundments (HB 4743/PA 98-0734): Allows counties to, through an ordinance, set procedures for the release of properly impounded vehicles and charge reasonable fees to cover administrative, processing, impoundment, storage, release costs, and detention and arrest of an offender.

Local Audit Reports (HB 5503/PA 98-0738): Provides greater transparency of local audits by issuing copies to each member and requiring a live presentation of the audit. Within 60 days of the close of an annual audit of the county's funds and accounts, the auditor conducting the audit would be required to provide copies of any management letter and any audited financial statements to each member of the county board. The auditor would also be required to present the audit findings to the county board either in person or phone or web connection during a public meeting. It would also require the county to post the audit information to its website, if it maintains a website.

Regional Economic Development (SB 498/PA 98-0750): Broadens powers of some regional economic development authorities. These changes include increasing the amount of bonds

that can be sold by the Tri-County River Valley authority from \$100 million to \$250 million and giving the Tri-County authority the ability to sell bonds with interest that is exempt from state income taxes. The Tri-County authority covers Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford Counties.

Code of Conduct (SB 3552/PA 98-0779): Permits Lake, Kane, Will, and DuPage Counties to establish a code of conduct by ordinance for appointees appointed by the county board chairman or county executive. Permits removal of appointees for violating the code of conduct with a 2/3 majority approval of the county board at a hearing. Exempts the county superintendent of highways or county engineers due to provisions already in existence for removal due to neglect, malfeasance, or incompetence.

Revitalizing Vacant Property (SB 336/PA 98-0789): Creates the "community stabilization assessment freeze pilot program," under which the assessed value of improvements on residential property may be reduced to 10% for vacant properties, if an owner-occupier takes possession of the property. This only applies in census tracts in the county where at least 10% of the homes have been foreclosed on. For the first seven years, the assessed value of improvements are reduced by 90% of the difference between the base year assessed value and the assessed value in the current year. The credit is then gradually reduced the next two years and disappears after that.

Fire District Bidding (SB 3427/PA 98-0799): Requires a Fire Protection District to use competitive bidding on personal property purchases for supplies, materials or work involving expenditures in excess of \$20,000. Exempts certain types of contracts which, by their nature, are not adapted to award by competitive bidding. Provides a mechanism for emergency purchases. Contains details regarding posting requirements and bidding procedures.

Byron Forest Preserve Debt (SB 2975/PA 98-0835): Limits the indebtedness incurred by the

Byron Forest Preserve District to a maximum of .6% (point-six-percent) of the assessed value of the taxable property in the district. It is currently set at .3%.

Port District Name Change (SB 499/PA 98-0854): Changes the name to the America's Central Port District and expands the Port Authority territory to include parts of Jersey County, which borders Madison County along its northern side. It adds the townships of Chouteau, Wood River, Alton, Godfrey, Elsay and Quarry to its territory. The measure also gives the Port Authority more borrowing authority, allows the agency to establish subsidiary business corporations and sets forth local and state appointments to the Authority's Board of Commissioners.

Email Address Access (HB 5623/PA 98-0930): Requires that a unit of local government or school district, which maintains a website other than a social media or networking website, post an email address which members of the public can use to communicate with elected officials of that unit of local government or school district. The requirement does not apply if such officials have an individual email address for that purpose. The bill exempts units of local government or school districts who serve a population of more than 1,000,000 (Chicago). States that a hyperlink to the email address must be easily accessible from the unit of local government or school district home page.

Real Estate Appraisal (HB 5709/PA 98-0933): Allows municipal engineers under certain instances to complete valuation waivers, instead of using an appraiser, for property under \$10,000. The legislation is an initiative of the Illinois Municipal League.

Sewer Cleaning Vehicles (SB 2620/PA 98-0942): Provides that weight limitations up to 66,000 pounds are allowed for sewer cleaning vehicles when operated or hired by a municipality when executing the emergency repair of sewers. These vehicles may not operate on the interstate or cross bridges. This will only apply

to Cook, Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage, and Will Counties.

Library Procurement (SB 3071/PA 98-0952): Allows local libraries and library districts to accept contract bids other than the lowest bid for certain projects when the cost of those projects exceed \$20,000 and the lowest bid fails to meet the library's established specifications, including terms of delivery, quality and other requirements. The bill also identifies the types of contracts not subject to competitive bidding. It exempts emergency expenditures from competitive bidding when the emergency expenditure is approved by three-quarters of the members of the board.

Fire Protection Districts (HB 5856/PA 98-1003): Provides for a streamlined process to dissolve and consolidate fire protection districts. It would allow fire protection districts to be simultaneously dissolved and consolidated into an adjoining fire protection district upon petition, hearing, and a majority vote, provided the board of trustees of an adjoining district agrees - by resolution - to accept the territory of the consolidating district.

Local Government Ridesharing (HB 5326/PA 98-1074): Allows vehicles owned by counties, townships, or municipal corporations to be issued permanent registration plates. This is an initiative of the suburban bus entity PACE, which would allow them to secure license plates for ridesharing vehicles for a one-time fee instead of annual renewals.

Counties and Not-For-Profits (HB 5812/PA 98-1083): Adds county board members or other county officers to existing state law that allows city council members and other municipal officers to hold a position on the board of a not-for-profit corporation under certain circumstance, even if the not-for-profit has an interest in a contract, work, or business of the public body. This came about when it was discovered that it was a conflict-of-interest for members of the Stephenson County Board to serve on the board of a regional economic development organization, the Northwest

Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA), because the County provides a portion of the funding for the organization.

Township Meetings (SB 2980/PA 98-1108):

Provides that the full statement of financial affairs of the township prepared by the township supervisor may be printed and distributed at the annual township meeting rather than being read aloud by the township clerk.

Municipal Clerk Training (SB 3314/PA 98-1118):

Reduces the number of members on the Municipal Clerk Training Institute Committee, amends requirements for locations for the programs, and changes the requirements of courses offered by the Institute.

Pension and Retirement Benefits

Pension Investment Firms (SB 452/PA 98-1022):

Beginning February 1, 2015, all state and local pension systems, before awarding a contract for investment services, must obtain required information, such as the employment of and contracts with minority/female/disabled individuals and firms. Requires affected systems and commissions to set goals requiring the utilization of relevant minority/female/disability run businesses.

Municipal Pensions (HB 5592/PA 98-1078):

Allows members of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund to make an irrevocable election of a reversionary annuity before retirement. A reversionary annuity allows a person to permanently reduce their pension in order to provide a lifetime annuity for another person after the member passes away. Currently, retirees can make this choice upon retirement but not before. This will allow the individual to choose this option before they retire.

State Government, Insurance and Regulation

Government Clean Up (SB 3443/PA 98-0692):

“Budgeting for Results” annual clean-up eliminating various boards and commissions

and allowing for some documents to be published online.

African-American Families (SB 121/PA 98-0693):

Makes changes to the already existing Illinois African American Family Commission to have four members appointed by each of the four legislative leaders of the General Assembly. Also adds to the list of state agencies required to collaborate and obtain guidance from the Commission.

State Land Trespass (HB 5922/PA 98-0748):

Enhances the penalty for trespassing on property owned by CTA, PACE, Metra, and RTA to a Class 4 felony for a second or subsequent violation. The felony offense is limited to those who enter upon the forbidden part of a right of way, including facilities or improvement areas, rather than simply “land.”

Fraternal Society Insurance (SB 646/PA 98-0814):

Provides new protections for consumers who purchase insurance products through fraternal benefit societies. The legislation will establish additional requirements for fraternal society governing boards, provide more oversight over distressed societies, implement additional reserve requirements, allow societies to reinsure the risks of merging with another society, and require societies to issue a written disclosure informing an applicant they are not subject to a guarantee fund under state law.

Essentially, this bill gives the Department of Insurance authority over fraternal benefit societies in order to ensure that these organizations stay solvent and benefits are guaranteed to their members.

Insurance Certificate Regulations (SB 2608/PA 98-0819):

Prohibits, in issues related to property and casualty insurance, the use of a certificate to alter or change an insurance policy. Provides that a person may not prepare, issue, request, or require the issuance of a certificate of insurance that (1) contains false or misleading information concerning the policy of property or casualty insurance to which the certificate of insurance refers (2) alters, amends, or extends the coverage provided by

the policy of property or casualty insurance to which the certificate of insurance refers.

Investment Parameters for Farm Mutual Insurance Companies (SB 2662/PA 98-0823):

Revises investment parameters for farm mutual insurance companies. Adds new investment options subject to statutory limitations; this would allow these companies to diversify their investment portfolios.

Title Insurance – Crime Disclosure (SB 2947/PA 98-0832):

Currently, applications for a title insurance agent must include a signed and notarized affidavit affirming that the applicant has never been convicted or pled guilty to any felony or misdemeanor involving a crime of theft or dishonesty. The legislation creates an alternative, allowing the affidavit to accurately disclose any such felony or misdemeanor involving a crime of theft or dishonesty. Stipulates that the written notification to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation disclosing the conviction or plea need not be a separate written notice.

Payroll Card Regulations (HB 5622/PA 98-0862):

Establishes new regulations for the use of payroll cards by employers. Imposes new requirements on employers that choose to pay employees via a payroll card, including requirements to ban some fees, disclose permissible fees, obtain written consent, offer other payment alternatives, and ensure that employees can access their entire wages for free once per pay period and obtain free account balances and transaction histories. Requires payroll cards to allow two declined transactions per month, but allows commercially reasonable fees for each declined transaction thereafter. Also requires the employee to have unlimited telephone access to obtain account balances at any time without incurring a fee.

Liquor Commission Powers (SB 728/PA 98-0941):

Creates a statutory look-back date of five years for the Liquor Control Commission to review a license holder's previous activity in

determining penalties for the infraction of sale of alcohol to a minor. Also provides that an agent of the Liquor Control Commission does not have the authority to inspect private areas of the premises without reasonable suspicion or a warrant. These private areas include safes, personal property, and closed desks.

Fiduciaries & Trusts (SB 2002/PA 98-0866):

Makes it clear that a trustee may participate in a virtual representation agreement to create a directed trust and still be an excluded fiduciary under the terms of the statute.

Trust Definitions/Guidelines (SB 2984/PA 98-0946):

Improves portions of the "virtual representation" sections in the Trusts and Trustees Act and makes thirteen (13) minor changes that mostly alter the distribution of assets and tax responsibilities.

Insurance Code (SB 3322/PA 98-0969):

An initiative of the Illinois Department of Insurance. It is a code "clean-up" bill and repeals several archaic and inconsistent sections of the Insurance Code, some in relation to the "Budgeting for Results" initiative.

Insurance Code (SB 3324/PA 98-0978):

Makes changes to the surplus lines article of the Insurance Code. These changes bring Illinois statutes into compliance with federal laws, close a tax loophole and make other technical changes.

Certificate of Registration (SB 3448/PA 98-0974):

Reduces the expiration notice of a retailer's certificate of registration from 120 to 60 days if a taxpayer is in default or owes money that is required to be remitted. The notice is sent by the Department of Revenue.

E-Cigarette Restrictions (HB 5868/PA 98-0983):

Requires e-cigarettes to be sold from behind the counter, in an age restricted area, or in a sealed display case.

E-Cigarette Restrictions (HB 5689/PA 98-1021):

Provides that electronic cigarette liquids sold and marketed for the refilling of e-cigarettes may be sold only in special packaging.

Mine Subsidence (SB 3504/PA 98-1007): Makes changes in the law concerning mine subsidence insurance coverage.

State Procurement (HB 5491/PA 98-1076): An omnibus procurement code change that has been negotiated and agreed to by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the state's Chief Procurement Officers. The intent of this legislation is to provide for the following:

Allow for a more expedited procurement process without losing transparency.

Provide clear intent related to portions of the code where jurisdictional boundaries are not obviously clear.

Provide additional exemptions for situations unique to higher education institutions - specifically research institutions.

Keep the underlying language requested by the Procurement Policy Board in HB5491 as passed by the House.

Statutory clean-up.

Governor's Appointees (SB 229/PA 98-1087): Requires an annual report detailing the demographic composition of gubernatorial appointees on each board, commission, and task force.

Taxes and Fees

Leasing "Use" Tax (HB 2317/PA 98-0628): Beginning July 1, 2014, vehicles sold for purposes of leasing for longer than one year would be taxed at 6.25% of the gross receipts of the lessor; currently, tax is paid at the initial purchase. The bill also requires the township or county collector to receive a request in writing from the property owner or taxpayer prior to sending tax bills via email.

Public Adjuster Fees (SB 2922/PA 98-0701): Caps the amount that public adjusters can charge in insurance settlements. Specifically stipulates that a public adjuster may not charge, agree to, or accept any compensation, payment, commissions, fee, or other valuable consideration in excess of 10% of the amount of

the insurance settlement claim paid by the insurer.

Medical Isotope (HB 4687/PA 98-0728): Reduces the fees for shipping cobalt-60, a medical isotope, less than 100 miles. For trips less than 100 miles, the fee will be reduced from \$2,500 per truck to \$1,500 for the first truck and \$750 for each additional truck in the same shipment. Cobalt-60 is used mainly in the cleaning and sterilization of medical supplies. Proponents say the current fees make shipping cobalt-60 prohibitively expensive.

Tax Refund Rules (HB 5564/PA 98-0925): Requires the Department of Revenue to develop rules on applying a refund due to estimated tax liabilities. Currently, the Department may do this, but it is not a requirement. The bill allows a taxpayer to apply a refund due to their estimated tax payment. A taxpayer would make the election to apply the refund to their estimated taxes on their return.

Visa Waiver Fees (SB 3440/PA 98-1006): Authorizes the Center for Rural Health to collect fees for administering the J-1 Visa Waiver Program (for international medical graduates). The fees shall be deposited into the Rural/Downstate Health Access Fund and used to fund the J-1 Visa Waiver Program. It also authorizes the spending of funds in the Rural/Downstate Health Access Fund on programs for the medically underserved.

Limit Property Tax Overpayments (SB 2854/PA 98-1026): Creates a separate refund process for erroneous assessments and overpayment of property taxes in Cook County. The measure increases the amount of time to file a claim from 5 years to 20 years from the date in which a right to a refund arose, for claims occurring prior to 2009 and caps the amount of money that can be paid each year to \$2.5 million. Excess amounts may be paid in subsequent years.

Retailers Occupation Tax (HB 3885/PA 98-1058): Makes changes with regard to the disclosure of return information as it relates to the Retailers' Occupation Tax Act, specifically

allowing limited amounts of this information to be shared with all municipalities. The information would include a business's name, address, the net revenue distributed to a municipality requesting the information as it directly relates to their share of the various sales taxes, and a listing of all businesses within the municipality by account identification number. Currently this information can only be shared with certain municipalities.

Amazon Tax (SB 352/PA 98-1089): Extends the definition of Illinois retailers to include a retailer who provides to potential customers a code or other method to allow the retailer to track the purchases referred by that person. These can include, but are not limited to, Internet links, promotional codes sent through mail or hand-delivered, or sent via broadcast.

Property Tax Corrections (SB 333/PA 98-0811): Addresses an erroneous homestead exemption in Cook County. It clarifies that the "erroneous exemption principal amount" is the total amount of property tax principal that would have been due, had it not been for the erroneous exemptions.

Also declares that the principal amount, plus all taxes, penalties and interest, shall constitute the lien on the property and adds a 1.5% interest rate to payments that are delinquent after an erroneous exemption is discovered and notice has been sent out.

Clarifies that money collected shall be paid proportionally to the taxing bodies who are owed.

Housing Code Appeals (SB 2829/PA 98-1105): Allows persons to recover reasonable costs, including court costs and attorney's fees, if a court reverses a housing code hearing officer's decision. Does not apply to Chicago. The court must find that the decision of the hearing officer was arbitrary and capricious or the municipality failed to file a record that is sufficient to allow the court to determine whether the decision of the hearing officer was arbitrary and capricious. The court could also award the municipality reasonable costs if the

court finds that the plaintiff's appeal is not reasonably well grounded in fact, is not warranted by existing law, or is not accompanied by a reasonable argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law.

Transportation, Infrastructure and Vehicular Regulation/Safety

Watercraft Towing (SB 2731/98-0697):

Requires that any watercraft towing a person must display at the highest point of the area surrounding the boat's helm, a bright or brilliant orange flag visible from all directions, continuously, from the time the person gets out of the boat until they get back into the boat.

Boating Regulations (SB 3433/PA 98-0698):

Provides for new boating certification requirements, beginning Jan. 1, 2016, including restrictions on persons younger than 18 operating a motorboat.

Watercraft Seizure (SB 3434/PA 98-0699):

Allows for the seizure and forfeiture of a watercraft used with the knowledge and consent of the owner in the commission of specified offenses:

Under the influence of alcohol, other drug or drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds, or combination thereof under the Boat Registration and Safety Act during a period in which his or her privileges to operate a watercraft are revoked or suspended and the revocation or suspension was for operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol, other drug or drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds, or combination thereof;

Operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol, other drug or drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds, or combination thereof and has been previously convicted of reckless homicide or a similar provision of a law in another state relating to reckless homicide in which the person was determined to have been under the influence of alcohol, other drug or

drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds, or combination thereof as an element of the offense or the person has previously been convicted of committing a violation of operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol, other drug or drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds, or combination thereof and was involved in an accident that resulted in death, great bodily harm, or permanent disability or disfigurement to another, when the violation was a proximate cause of the death or injuries; or

The person committed a violation of operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol, other drug or drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds, or combination thereof under the Boat Registration and Safety Act or a similar provision for the third or subsequent time.

SOS Omnibus (HB 4422/PA 98-0726): Secretary of State omnibus legislation that includes a provision allowing certain cancer patients with serious disabilities to receive disabled ID cards; Gives the Secretary discretionary authority to suspend the driving privileges of military personnel that have been punished by military authorities in another state for a traffic offense if it would have resulted in suspension if committed in Illinois; removes the Commercial Driver's License restriction that would allow a person to only operate a school bus.

Window Tinting (HB 5468/PA 98-0737): Allows those who have been issued medial certificates allowing them to have tinted windows on their vehicle to renew the certificate every four years instead of annually.

School Improvements (HB 5619/PA 98-0741): Provides that impact fees or developer donations may be used for technological infrastructure in addition to land or site improvements. Impact fees or developer donations are currently used for school grounds, which includes school buildings or other infrastructure necessitated and attributed to the development or subdivision.

BiOptic Driving Permits (HB 5895/PA 98-0746): Allows persons using non-traditional visual aid

instruments, such as BiOptics to apply for a special, restricted driver's training permit. The permit would allow the applicant to drive from sunset to 10:00 p.m. for six months as long as the applicant is accompanied by a person who has a valid driver's license with no nighttime driving restrictions. BiOptic glasses are vision-enhanced lenses with extreme magnification. They may take the form of head-mounted eyeglasses similar in appearance to goggles or binoculars.

Vision Aid License Renewal (HB 5897/PA 98-0747): Allows people who utilize a BiOptic or telescopic lens for nighttime driving only to take the required driving test once every four (4) years instead of annually. BiOptic glasses are vision-enhanced lenses with extreme magnification. They may take the form of head-mounted eyeglasses similar in appearance to goggles or binoculars. Maintains provisions in current law that provides that all telescopic lens wearers must submit a Vision Specialist Report annually. These tests must be done after dark, making scheduling the tests, especially during the summer months, difficult.

Vehicle Registration (SB 3130/PA 98-0777): Defines "autocycle" in law and provides for the issuance of provisional three-year titles for these vehicles. An autocycle is a three-wheeled vehicle that uses a steering wheel and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride the seat.

Amish Photo Exemption (SB 3302/PA 98-0848): Allows for a religious exemption for identification cards for state licensed professions. It is primarily intended to allow Amish persons to be able to be issued licenses without having to use their photograph. The language for these religious exemptions is identical to the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act. Any applicant 21 or older seeking religious exemption to the photograph requirement must furnish an approved copy of IRS Form 4029.

Gold Star Plates (HB 5475/PA 98-0869): Expands the list of surviving family members

that are eligible for "Gold Star" license plates to include a son or daughter of a deceased soldier.

Sign and Drive (SB 2583/PA 98-0870):

Reinstates "sign and drive" as the law by prohibiting the taking of a driver's license as bail following a traffic law or ordinance violation. Illinois is only one of six states which take a driver's license for a minor traffic offense. As part of the nonresident violator compact of 1977, Illinois does not take the driver's license of an out-of-state resident. "Sign and drive" was the law in Illinois until July of 1986 when it was repealed as part of a broader legislative package.

Vehicle Emergency Lights (SB 927/PA 98-0873):

Allows for vehicles under the authority of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority to be able to be equipped with flashing, oscillating, or rotating lights, under certain conditions. In January an Illinois Tollway worker was killed in a traffic accident while performing a highway emergency call. This legislation is an attempt to provide workers with extra protection while performing such duties.

Auto Arbitration - Litigation (SB 644/PA 98-0864):

Adds to the state law which mandates arbitration for auto insurance disputes under \$2,500, by stating that nothing shall prohibit a party from seeking resolution in court after a decision is made in arbitration. Current law mandates arbitration, but states that those involved in a dispute can only take the case to court if it is mutually agreed upon. This amendment will allow each party the choice to go to court without mutual agreement.

Driver Education (HB 4561/PA 98-0876):

Requires all adult driver education course providers to undergo a criminal background check.

Disabled Veterans Parking (SB 3255/PA 98-0879):

States that military veterans with a disabilities parking placard or decal do not have to show evidence of disability for renewal of the placard or decal if at the time of initial application, the veteran's disability has been classified as permanent. Requires beneficiaries

of these placards or decals to prove they are still alive and residents of the State.

Ambulance Certification (HB 4523/PA 98-0880):

Allows an ambulance-service provider serving a rural population of 7,500 or fewer inhabitants to request to upgrade the vehicle's in-field service level to the highest level of EMT license or pre-hospital RN certification held by any individual staffing that vehicle.

License Plate Fee Waivers (HB 4491/PA 98-0902):

Waives registration and renewal fees (\$101) for any person who is issued "Purple Heart" license plates for one vehicle. Waives registration and renewal fees on an additional vehicle if the applicant has been approved for "Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act."

Vehicle Insurance Damages (HB 5575/PA 98-0927):

Increases the dollar amounts that trigger binding arbitration between auto insurance companies in certain auto claims disputes: \$75,000 (instead of \$50,000) for bodily injury or death of any one person, and \$150,000 (instead of \$100,000) for bodily injury to or death of two or more persons.

Propane Emergency Weight Limits (SB 3139/PA 98-0956):

Provides that during a declaration of an emergency propane supply disaster by the Governor under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, propane trucks may weigh up to 90,000 pounds.

Dealer Plates (SB 3402/PA 98-0971):

Allows vehicles with dealer plates issued from another state that are being brought to Illinois to have repairs performed to be exempt from registration requirements of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

Regional Transportation Authority (SB 3056/PA 98-1027):

An omnibus bill containing a number of changes to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), including:

Creates a website containing RTA and service board financial and safety related information;

Provides revolving door reform by prohibiting directors, members, former directors and former members from doing business, accepting employment, receiving compensation or fees from the RTA and service boards during their term and for a period of one year following their term;

Requires that CTA, PACE and METRA provide the RTA with real time access to financial information systems, documents, papers and records, including audits and reports that may be requested by the RTA;

Provides the RTA board must review any bonus for any employee, officer or agent of the RTA, CTA, PACE and Metra in excess of 10% of annual salary. Does not apply to salary changes;

Provides that CTA, PACE and METRA must obtain approval from the RTA board for severance agreements in excess of \$50,000 or an employment-related settlement agreement in excess of \$200,000;

Provides that CTA, PACE and Metra must submit employment contracts in excess of \$100,000 to the RTA for review. Provides that RTA must submit employment contracts in excess of \$100,000 to the Illinois House Mass Transit Committee and to the Illinois Senate Transportation Committee;

Provides that "geographically equitable" be considered by the RTA for budgetary and planning processes;

Provides that the RTA must consult the Illinois Department of Transportation's division on Programming and Planning when developing RTA's strategic plan;

Provides that the RTA shall (instead of may) cooperate with other governmental and private agencies in bikeway and trail programs.

Natural Gas Vehicles (SB 3574/PA 98-1029):

Allows a vehicle that uses natural gas as a motor fuel to exceed weight limitations for other trucks by 2,000 pounds. Does not allow this exception for vehicles using interstate

highways or on roads or bridges in the state with a posted weight limit.

Proof of License Plate Renewal (SB 2802/PA 98-1103): Allows a printed receipt of an online license plate renewal to be used as proof of renewal until the physical sticker is received in the mail.

Vehicle Code Amendment (SB 1898/ PA 98-0519) Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code.

Increases the minimum mandatory coverage amounts for liability insurance policies in this State and increases the amounts sufficient to satisfy a judgment following a motor vehicle accident as follows: bodily injury or death to any one person from \$20,000 to \$50,000; bodily injury or death to more than one person from \$40,000 to \$100,000; and injury or destruction of property of others from \$15,000 to \$40,000.

Vehicle Speed Limits (SB 930/PA 98-1126):

Sets a 60 mph speed limit for second division vehicles on interstates in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties. Second division vehicles are those weighing over 8,001 pounds. This is to allow large trucks to travel at a speed closer to the 70 mph speed limit allowed for passenger vehicles. Proponents have raised concerns that the 15 mph differential between a 55 mph speed limit for trucks and a 70 mph speed limit for cars can be dangerous.

Tollway & Urban Areas (SB 2015/PA 98-1128):

Codifies case law and Illinois Department of Transportation policy that for the purposes of setting the speed limit, "urban areas" do not include any portion of interstates or tollways. This is IDOT current practice.

Veterans and Military Affairs

Veterans and Police (SB 3225/PA 98-0960):

Authorizes the Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to conduct a training program on veterans' awareness.