

Legislative Report

May 22, 2021
Prepared by: John
Lowder

INENA/APCO LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Bill Information

HB3702 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM *(WILLIS K)*

Amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Extends the repeal of the Act from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Makes various changes to definitions. Provides that within 18 months of the awarding of a contract under the Public Utilities Act to establish a statewide next generation 9-1-1 network (rather than by December 31, 2021), every 9-1-1 system in Illinois shall provide next generation 9-1-1 service. Amends various other Acts to make conforming changes. Effective immediately.

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Further amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Provides that the information registered by an emergency telephone system with the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator shall include the identification of the System Manager. Provides that an Emergency Telephone System Board has the power to designate a 9-1-1 System Manager, whose duties and responsibilities shall be set forth by the in writing. Defines "System Manager". Changes references from "county 9-1-1 system" or "9-1-1 system" to "county or 9-1-1 Authority". Provides that the installation of or connection to a telephone company's network of any automatic alarm, automatic alerting device, or mechanical dialer that causes the number 9-1-1 to be dialed in order to directly access emergency services and does not provide for 2-way communication is prohibited in a 9-1-1 system. Provides that training for public safety telecommunicators must be completed within one year of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator establishing the required guidelines, rules, and standards. Provides that upon completing of training, all public safety telecommunicators must complete specified continuing education training regarding the delivery of 9-1-1 services and professionalism bi-annually. Makes other changes.

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - Further amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Provides that a municipality with a population over 500,000 shall establish a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 network by December 31, 2023. Provides that on or after January 1, 2024 (rather than 2022), a municipality with a population over 500,000 may not impose a monthly surcharge in excess of \$2.50 per network connection. Provides that on or after January 1, 2024 (rather than 2022), the municipality may continue imposing and collecting its wireless carrier surcharge. Amends the Prepaid Wireless 9-1-1 Surcharge Act. Deletes language providing that on or after January 1, 2021, a home rule municipality having a population in excess of 500,000 may only impose a prepaid wireless 9-1-1 surcharge not to exceed 7% per retail transaction sourced to that jurisdiction. Deletes the amendatory changes to the disorderly conduct provisions of the Criminal Code of 2012.

RECENT STATUS

5/19/2021 - Waive Posting Notice

5/13/2021 - Referred to Senate Assignments

5/13/2021 - FIRST READING

COMMENTS

Neutral as drafted

POSITION

Neutral

PRIORITY

Active

[HB3702 Bill Page](#)



NOTES

HA#1 - provides that the information registered by an emergency telephone system with the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator shall

include the identification of the System Manager. Provides that an Emergency Telephone System Board has the power to designate a 9-1-1 System Manager, whose duties and responsibilities shall be set forth by the in writing. Defines 'System Manager'. Changes references from 'county 9-1-1 system' or '9-1-1 system' to 'county or 9-1-1 Authority'. Provides that the installation of or connection to a telephone company's network of any automatic alarm, automatic alerting device, or mechanical dialer that causes the number 9-1-1 to be dialed in order to directly access emergency services and does not provide for 2-way communication is prohibited in a 9-1-1 system. Provides that training for public safety telecommunicators must be completed within one year of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator establishing the required guidelines, rules, and standards. Provides that upon completing of training, all public safety telecommunicators must complete specified continuing education training regarding the delivery of 9-1-1 services and professionalism bi-annually.

HB2379 SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY-REPEAL *(WALSH L)*

Amends the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act. Provides that the Act is repealed on December 31, 2026 (currently, June 1, 2021). Effective immediately.

House Floor Amendment No. 1 - Provides for repeal of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act on December 31, 2023 (rather than December 31, 2026).

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments

5/20/2021 - Postponed - Energy and Public Utilities

5/20/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities

PRIORITY

High

[HB2379 Bill Page](#)



NOTES

Synopsis

HB2380 UTILITIES REPEAL EXTENSION *(WALSH L)*

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Extends the repeal dates of the Telecommunications Article and the Cable and Video Competition Article from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2026. Provides that any cable service or video service authorization issued by the Illinois Commerce Commission will expire on December 31, 2029 (rather than December 31, 2024). Effective immediately.

House Committee Amendment No. 1 - Further amends the Public Utilities Act. In a provision concerning abandonment of service, provides for the procedure through which a Small Electing Provider may choose to cease offering or providing a telecommunications service. Defines "Small Electing Provider" as an incumbent local exchange carrier that is an electing provider, and that, together with all of its incumbent local exchange carrier affiliates offering telecommunications services within the State of Illinois, has fewer than 40,000 subscriber access lines as of January 1, 2020.

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - Extends the repeal dates of the Telecommunications Article and the Cable and Video Competition Article to December 31, 2024 (rather than December 31, 2026). Provides that any cable service or video service authorization issued by the Illinois Commerce Commission will expire on December 31, 2027 (rather than December 31, 2029).

House Floor Amendment No. 3 - Further amends the Public Utilities Act. In provisions of the Cable and Video Customer Protection Law concerning customer service and privacy protection, provides that notice of proposed termination shall be provided in electronic format or mailed (rather than mailed), postage prepaid, to the customer to whom service is billed. Provides that notice of proposed termination shall not be delivered or mailed (rather than mailed) until the 24th day after the date of the bill for services.

RECENT STATUS

5/27/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities

Time & Location: 10:30 AM, Virtual Room 1 - ILGA.gov

5/21/2021 - Rule 2-10 Committee Deadline Established As May 29, 2021

5/20/2021 - Postponed - Energy and Public Utilities

POSITION
Monitor

PRIORITY
High

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HB2784 MENTAL HEALTH-EMERGENCY *(CASSIDY K)*

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Creates the Community Emergency Services and Support Act. Provides that each 9-1-1 call center and provider of emergency services dispatched through a 9-1-1 system must coordinate with the mobile mental and behavioral health services established by the Division of Mental Health of the Department of Human Services so that the following State goals and State prohibitions are met whenever a person interacts with one of these entities for the purpose seeking emergency mental and behavioral health care or when one of these entities recognizes the appropriateness of providing mobile mental or behavioral health care to an individual with whom they have engaged. The Division of Mental Health is also directed to provide guidance regarding whether and how these entities should coordinate with mobile mental and behavioral health services when responding to individuals who appear to be in a mental or behavioral health emergency while engaged in conduct alleged to constitute a non-violent misdemeanor. Provides that 9-1-1 PSAPs, emergency services dispatched through 9-1-1 PSAPs, and the mobile mental and behavioral health service established by the Division of Mental Health must coordinate their services so that the State goals listed in this Section are achieved. Appropriate mobile response service for mental and behavioral health emergencies shall be available regardless of whether the initial contact was with 9-8-8, 9-1-1 or directly with an emergency service dispatched through 9-1-1. Provides that the Division of Mental Health shall establish a Statewide Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations for aspects of coordinating 9-1-1 and the 9-8-8 mobile mental health response system most appropriately addressed on a State level. Provides that the Division of Mental Health shall establish Regional Advisory Committees in each EMS Region to advise on regional issues related to emergency response systems for mental and behavioral health. Provides that the exemptions from civil liability in the Emergency Telephone Systems Act apply to any act or omission in the development, design, installation, operation, maintenance, performance, or provision of service directed by the Act. Provides that the Act applies to persons of all ages, both children and adults. This Act does not limit an individual's right to control his or her own medical care. No provision of this Act shall be interpreted in such a way as to limit an individual's right to choose his or her preferred course of care or to reject care. No provision of this Act shall be interpreted to promote or provide justification for the use of restraints when providing mental or behavioral health care.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - House Bills on Third Reading

5/20/2021 - Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 Referred to Assignments

5/20/2021 - Senate Floor Amendment - Filed No. 2 Filed with Secretary by Sen. Robert Peters

POSITION
Amend

PRIORITY
High

[HB2784 Bill Page](#) →

NOTES

DD

HB3911 FIRST RESPONDERS TASK FORCE *(HURLEY F)*

Amends the First Responders Suicide Prevention Act. Provides that the First Responders Suicide Prevention Task Force shall make

specified recommendations to specified entities.

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 - Provides that Task Force recommendations could be accomplished by revising (rather than revamping) agencies' and organizations' employee assistance programs. Provides that specialized training for first responders could be accomplished by not underestimating the crucial importance of mindfulness-based stress reduction techniques and moderate and vigorous intensity activities (rather than meditation). Provides that training components could include recommending comprehensive and evidence-based training (rather than sophisticated trainings) on the importance of preventative measures on the topics of sleep, nutrition, mindfulness, and physical movement (rather than movement). Corrects typographical errors. Makes other changes.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading May 24, 2021

5/21/2021 - SECOND READING

5/21/2021 - House Bills on Second Reading

POSITION

Support

PRIORITY

High

[HB3911 Bill Page](#) →

SB693 EMS SYSTEMS-TRANSPORT *(BUSH M)*

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that when a patient has been determined by EMS personnel to (1) have no immediate life-threatening injuries or illness, (2) not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, (3) have no immediate or obvious need for transport to an emergency department, and (4) have an immediate need for transport to an EMS System-approved mental health facility, the EMS personnel may contact Online Medical Control or his or her EMS Medical Director or Emergency Communication Registered Nurse to request bypass or diversion of the closest emergency department and request transport to the closest or appropriate EMS System-approved mental health facility.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause with the provisions of the introduced bill with the following change. Provides that EMS personnel may transport a patient to an EMS System-approved urgent care or immediate care facility that meets the proper criteria and is approved by Online Medical Control or his or her EMS Medical Director or Emergency Communications Registered Nurse.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - House Floor Amendment No. 4 Referred to Rules Committee

5/21/2021 - House Floor Amendment - Filed No. 4 Filed with Clerk by Rep. Deb Conroy

5/21/2021 - Senate Bills on Second Reading

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

High

[SB693 Bill Page](#) →

NOTES

When a patient has been determined by EMS personnel to have no injuries or illnesses, not be under the influence, have no immediate need for transportation to an ER, and have an immediate need for transport to a mental health facility; they may request bypass or diversion from the closest ER and transport directly to the appropriate mental health facility.

SB1575 FIRST RESPONDER MNTL HLTH DATA *(MARTWICK R)*

Amends the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act. Provides that the Department of Human Services shall create and maintain an online database and resource page on its website. Provides that the database and resource page shall contain mental health resources specifically geared toward first responders with the goal of connecting those persons with mental health resources related to crisis services, wellness, trauma information, nutrition, stress reduction, anxiety, depression, violence prevention, suicide prevention, and substance use and of encouraging information sharing among families of first responders, first responder organizations, first responder professional organizations, and first responders. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - Third Reading - Consent Calendar - First Day
5/21/2021 - Senate Bills on Third Reading Consent Calendar - First Day
5/20/2021 - Senate Bills on Third Reading Consent Calendar - First Day

 **POSITION**
Support

 **PRIORITY**
High

SB1575 Bill Page 

NOTES

Creates a first responder mental health database and resource page to aid first responders with mental health resources.

SB2530 WIRELESS SERVICE-CALL LOCATION *(CURRAN J)*

Amends the Department of State Police Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that upon request of a law enforcement agency or a public safety answering point on behalf of a law enforcement agency, a wireless service provider shall provide call location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user to the requesting law enforcement agency or public safety answering point. Provides that a law enforcement agency or public safety answering point may not request information under this provision unless for the purposes of responding to a call for emergency services or in an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or serious physical harm. Provides that a wireless service provider may establish protocols by which the carrier voluntarily discloses call location information. Provides that a claim for relief may not be brought in a court against a wireless service provider or any other person for providing call location information if acting in good faith. Provides that the Illinois State Police shall obtain contact information from all wireless service providers authorized to do business in the State to facilitate a request from a law enforcement agency or a public safety answering point on behalf of a law enforcement agency for call location information. Provides that the Illinois State Police shall disseminate the contact information to each public safety answering point in the State.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - Third Reading - Consent Calendar - First Day
5/21/2021 - Senate Bills on Third Reading Consent Calendar - First Day
5/20/2021 - Senate Bills on Third Reading Consent Calendar - First Day

COMMENTS

Ask to add VOIP

 **POSITION**
Amend

 **PRIORITY**
High

SB2530 Bill Page 

NOTES

Upon the request of a law enforcement agency or a PSAP on behalf of a law-enforcement agency, a wireless service provider shall provide call location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user to the law enforcement agency and/or the PSAP. This information can only be requested for the purposes of responding to an emergency that involves the risk of death or

serious physical harm. A claim may not be brought in any court against the wireless service provider or any other person who acted in good faith under the section. The Illinois State police Charlottetown contact information for all wireless service providers and disseminate that information to each PSAP in the state.

HB2568 PSEBA HLTH PLAN BARGAINED (MAYFIELD R)

Amends the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act. Provides that a health insurance plan, as defined, is limited to the insurance plan options codified in the employee collective bargaining agreement or bargained upon with an authorized agent and subject to the grievance process.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - House Bills on Third Reading

5/20/2021 - Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading May 21, 2021

5/20/2021 - SECOND READING

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

[HB2568 Bill Page](#) →

NOTES

Line of Duty Health Benefit

HB2860 FIRE CHIEF VEHICLE EQUIPMENT (SWANSON D)

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that vehicles of deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet. Provides that deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs are eligible for fire chief license plates. Provides that any fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief operating warning devices upon a vehicle not owned by a municipality or fire protection district shall display fire chief license plates. Provides that, with the exception of permanently issued license plates, upon the resignation, termination, or reassignment to a rank other than fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief, a person issued fire chief license plates shall immediately surrender the license plate to the Secretary of State. Provides that the Secretary of State shall have the ability to recover the license plates.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - House Bills on Third Reading

5/20/2021 - Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading May 21, 2021

5/20/2021 - SECOND READING

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

[HB2860 Bill Page](#) →

HB3571 EMS SERVICES-EXPIRED LICENSE (WELTER D)

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that an Illinois licensed EMR, EMD, EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic, ECRN, PHPA, PHAPRN, or PHRN whose license has expired may, within 6 months after license expiration, apply for

relicensure, show compliance with all relicensure requirements, and submit the required relicensure fees, including a late fee, and, after that 6-month period, may apply for reinstatement.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments

5/19/2021 - Postponed - Licensed Activities

5/19/2021 - Senate Licensed Activities

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

[HB3571 Bill Page](#) →

NOTES

Allows an EMT whose license has expired to apply for relicensure within six months by showing compliance with all pre-licensure requirements and submitting the proper relicensing fees.

SB347 MIND STRONG ACT *(PETERS R)*

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Creates the Mind Strong Act. Requires the Department of Public Health, or a third party contractor with experience in successful public education and awareness campaigns selected by the Department of Public Health, to develop and lead a 2-year educational campaign within each of Illinois' 11 health regions on the availability of adult mobile crisis response services within each region and how to access such services. Requires the Department to develop and implement this public awareness and educational campaign in collaboration with community stakeholders, including certain organizations, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and the Department of Human Services. Requires the public awareness campaign to begin no later than January 1, 2022 and to take into account crisis services, if any. Sets forth certain requirements for the public awareness campaign, including that it be culturally competent and that any written materials be written in plain, easy-to-understand language and available in multiple languages that are representative of the communities in a particular health region. Lists the types of stakeholders that shall be included as partner-stakeholders in the development of the campaign. Requires the Department of Human Services to establish, subject to appropriation, a grant program for the purposes of providing adult mobile crisis response services to any adult age 18 or older experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis regardless of insurance status. Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to develop and implement training and protocols for individuals answering crisis calls to the Crisis and Referral Entry Services (CARES) line. Contains provisions concerning the use of data to strengthen CARES line responses and adult mobile crisis response services, and other matters. Requires the Departments of Public Health, Human Services, and Healthcare and Family Services to adopt rules to implement the Act. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/15/2021 - Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

5/13/2021 - House Mental Health & Addiction

5/4/2021 - Assigned to House Mental Health & Addiction

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

[SB347 Bill Page](#) →

NOTES

Creates the Mind Strong Act. Requires the Department of Public Health to develop and lead a two-year educational campaign within each of Illinois' 11 health regions on the availability of adult mobile crisis response services within each region. They shall collaborate with community stakeholders, HFS, and DHS. The public awareness campaign shall be culturally competent and locally tailored to ensure local buying and community understanding. All written materials must be in plain, easy to understand language and shall be

available in multiple languages. Material shall be specifically tailored for different types of community stakeholders or audiences, including healthcare providers, law-enforcement, and community groups. Subject to appropriation, DHS show establish a grant program for the purposes of providing adult mobile crisis response services to any adult experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. This program shall mirror the adult mobile crisis services covered by Illinois' Medicaid program. HFS will identify crisis response policies and practices that must be standardized across providers to ensure quality and consistency of crisis response care.

SB486 UTILITIES REPEAL EXTENSION *(CUNNINGHAM B)*

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Extends the repeal dates of the Telecommunications Article and the Cable and Video Competition Article from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2026. Provides that any cable service or video service authorization issued by the Illinois Commerce Commission will expire on December 31, 2029 (rather than December 31, 2024). Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

5/10/2021 - Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments

5/7/2021 - Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-9(b) / Referred to Assignments

4/30/2021 - Rule 2-10 Committee/3rd Reading Deadline Established As May 7, 2021

POSITION

Monitor

PRIORITY

Medium

[SB486 Bill Page](#) →

HB2864 EMS SYSTEMS-RURAL POPULATIONS *(SWANSON D)*

House Floor Amendment No. 2 - Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that, in a rural population of 5,000 or fewer inhabitants, each EMS System Medical Director may create an exception to the credentialing process to allow registered nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to apply to serve as volunteers who perform the same work as EMTs. Requires that, as part of the volunteer recognition process, EMS Systems shall ensure that registered nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses have an active license issued by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. This system-level recognition shall require documentation and proof of the completion of at least 20 hours of prehospital care-specific coursework approved by the Department of Public Health and 8 hours of observant riding time. Provides that each EMS System Medical Director who creates an exception to the credentialing process may require additional training or documentation and may reject a volunteer applicant for just cause. Provides that each exemption period shall be no longer than one year, after which time a volunteer applicant may apply for another exemption. Provides that each EMS System Medical Director is responsible for ensuring that volunteer applicants meet EMS System requirements for credentialing and authorizing the practice in accordance with the EMS System plan for basic life support. Provides that exceptions to the credentialing process are only allowable for volunteer EMS agencies in Illinois.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - House Bills on Third Reading

5/20/2021 - House Bills on Third Reading

5/19/2021 - House Bills on Third Reading

PRIORITY

None

[HB2864 Bill Page](#) →

SB2356 OPEN MEETINGS-SESSION MINUTES *(CURRAN J)*

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that each public body shall periodically (currently, specifies no less than semi-annually) meet to review minutes of all closed meetings. Provides that meetings to review minutes shall occur every 6 months, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the public body. Provides that committees which are ad hoc in nature shall review closed session minutes at the later of (1) 6 months from the date of the last review of closed session minutes or (2) at the next scheduled meeting of the ad hoc committee. Provides that when a public body is dissolved, disbanded, eliminated, or consolidated by executive action, legislative action, or referendum, the governing body of the unit of local government in which the public body was located shall review the closed session minutes of that public body.

RECENT STATUS

5/21/2021 - Senate Bills on Second Reading

5/20/2021 - House Floor Amendment No. 1 Referred to Rules Committee

5/20/2021 - House Floor Amendment - Filed No. 1 Filed with Clerk by Rep. Deanne M. Mazzochi

PRIORITY

None

SB2356 Bill Page →

HB198 PUBLIC SAFETY&JUSTICE PRIVACY (MARRON M)

Creates the Public Safety and Justice Privacy Act. Defines terms. Provides that government agencies, persons, businesses, and associations shall not publicly post or display publicly available content that includes a first responder's, prosecutor's, public defender's, or probation officer's ("officials") personal information, provided that the government agency, person, business, or association has received a written request from the person that it refrain from disclosing the person's personal information. Provides injunctive or declaratory relief if the Act is violated. Includes procedures for a written request. Provides that it is a Class 3 felony for any person to knowingly publicly post on the Internet the personal information of an official or an official's immediate family under specified circumstances. Excludes criminal penalties for employees of government agencies who publish information in good faith during the ordinary course of carrying out public functions. Provides that the Act and any rules adopted to implement the Act shall be construed broadly to favor the protection of the personal information of officials. Amends various Acts and Codes allowing an official to list a business address rather than a home address and makes conforming changes. Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

3/27/2021 - Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee

3/3/2021 - House Executive

2/23/2021 - Assigned to House Executive

COMMENTS

JL to ask to have 911 added.

POSITION

Amend

PRIORITY

Stalled

HB198 Bill Page →

NOTES

Provides that it is a Class 3 Felony to make certain persons information public without their permission. Creates a definition of 'First Responder'

SB1731 SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY-REPEAL (JONES, III E)

Amends the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act. Provides that the Act is repealed on December 31, 2026 (currently, June 1, 2021). Effective immediately.

RECENT STATUS

4/16/2021 - Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments

4/15/2021 - To Subcommittee on Future Cellular Development

4/7/2021 - Assigned to Senate Energy and Public Utilities

PRIORITY

Stalled

SB1731 Bill Page →

Week in Review

Illinois will repay Fed loans with state funds, dropping appeal over rules on the use of federal coronavirus relief

Illinois will tap state coffers to repay roughly \$2 billion in remaining debt on emergency coronavirus loans from the Federal Reserve, abandoning plans to use federal COVID-19 relief money, state officials said Thursday.

Chicago Tribune

State to repay feds \$2 billion with local money, not COVID relief

Tired of waiting for a rules answer from the U.S. Treasury, Springfield leaders say they'll rely on peppy tax receipts and cash management instead.

Crain's Chicago Business

New marijuana licensing bill heads to House floor

SPRINGFIELD – A bill aimed at allowing more people from distressed communities to get into the lucrative recreational marijuana business is on its way to the House floor as lawmakers head into the final days of the spring 2021 session.

Joliet Herald-News

Democrats warn of 'severe' state budget cuts unless GOP-sought tax loopholes are closed: 'It's a very bad scenario'

"We have two choices here," House Majority Leader Greg Harris told the Chicago Sun-Times. "We can either vote to support closing loopholes on the wealthiest of corporations that Gov. Pritzker proposed in his budget. If people don't want to vote for that new revenue, then we'll have to go to the cuts."

Chicago Sun-Times

Illinois State Board of Education: Public schools to return to in-person learning next year

Rockford Register Star

New rules aim to tighten regulations on forgotten byproduct of coal

SPRINGFIELD – After years of work by environmental activists to push action on the issue, the Illinois Pollution Control Board has issued findings and recommendations related to the regulation of coal ash storage – an action advocates call "the first of its kind" in the state.

DeKalb Daily Chronicle

Lightfoot's office was blindsided by CPD's use of controversial facial recognition software — then raised serious concerns

Hacked emails show the city only learned police were using technology developed by Clearview AI — which faces multiple suits claiming it violated the state's biometrics privacy act — until after inquiries last year by the Sun-Times.

Chicago Sun-Times

\$8 million is enough? Alderman seeks ban on Madigan, Burke, Solis 'using obscene amounts' of campaign cash to pay lawyers

Under intense federal scrutiny, former Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan and embattled Ald. Ed Burke (14th) are reaching deeply into their campaign funds to pay lawyers — already hitting a combined total of nearly \$8.5 million.

Alton Telegraph

Mask off, Rebuild on? Pritzker touts nearly \$21 billion roads and bridges plan as 'bolstering our pandemic recovery'

Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman said that the plan would renew the transportation sector in Illinois after "the most challenging year ever experienced in our industry."

Chicago Sun-Times

With weeks of session left, dueling ethics bills stalling despite multiple corruption scandals

Since lawmakers last had a full spring session in Springfield in 2019, four one-time state lawmakers have been arrested on corruption charges. Three resigned after being charged, and federal investigators pursued charges on other individuals with close connections to the statehouse and the former House speaker.

The State Journal-Register

Mask off? Pritzker eases face covering rules, supports those still wearing them — including himself

Asked about his face covering at an unrelated news conference on Monday, Pritzker said he thinks all residents “are going to have to adjust to the idea” of not needing to wear a mask. “I have to think about it a little more, I must admit,” Pritzker said.

Chicago Sun-Times

Black Caucus backs civilian police oversight compromise over Lightfoot’s objection

The Chicago City Council’s Black Caucus has endorsed a civilian police oversight plan summarily rejected by Mayor Lori Lightfoot, setting the stage for what could be Lightfoot’s first Council defeat.

Chicago Sun-Times

Lightfoot plans to keep wearing mask despite CDC guidance

“To say, ‘If you’re vaccinated, you don’t have to wear a mask.’ that’s great. But what about all of the other people who ... aren’t vaccinated? So I think ... most people are gonna continue to wear masks outside of their homes. And I think that’s great.” the mayor said Monday on MSNBC.

Chicago Sun-Times

Alexi Giannoulias gets Downstate county chairmen’s endorsement for secretary of state Democratic nomination

Former state Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias on Sunday won the endorsement of Democratic county officials from 26 Downstate counties in his bid for the Democratic nomination to replace Jesse White as secretary of state next year.

Chicago Tribune

What’s allowed as Illinois and Chicago reopen: The rules for restaurants, gyms, concerts, conventions and more

Coronavirus restrictions in Illinois will be further loosened on May 14 as the state prepares to enter what is called the bridge phase, Gov. J.B. Pritzker said on Thursday.

Chicago Tribune

Thousands take to Michigan Avenue to protest occupation of Palestinian territories: ‘Support right now is the only thing we can do’

Several thousand people gathered Sunday afternoon in the Loop, waving Palestinian flags and donning kaffiyehs — Palestinian headscarves — calling for an end to bloodshed and “ethnic cleansing” in the Middle East.

Chicago Tribune

State takes action against academy that serves children with disabilities

Officials from multiple state agencies said Friday that they are cutting ties with a residential school that serves children in state care with mental and developmental disabilities after an independent review documented reports of mistreatment of youth at the facility.

The State Journal-Register

Former LaSalle home administrators misled Pritzker administration, officials claim

Top officials from Gov. JB Pritzker’s administration claimed Thursday that they were misled by leadership at the state Department of Veterans’ Affairs regarding a deadly COVID-19 outbreak at the state-run LaSalle Veterans’ Home.

The State Journal-Register

A new congressional map surfaces in Springfield

In the first firm indication of how the state’s congressional alignment is likely to change, a map of proposed new U.S. House districts is being quietly shopped to key players. Republicans aren’t going to like it.

Crain’s Chicago Business

At the 2-year mark, this may be Lori Lightfoot’s biggest obstacle

COVID crises. Union standoffs. Policing controversies. Budget battles. Any of these could qualify as the most significant hurdle the mayor has faced in office. But as the re-election race looms, it’s starting to look like her success will turn on her capacity to either change the minds of those around her—or change her own.

Crain’s Chicago Business

Amid intensifying violence in Middle East, thousands rally downtown in support of Palestinians: ‘The death, the destruction must end’

“We cannot — indeed we must not — characterize these events within the context of war or religious conflict or who shot the first rocket,” said Tarek Khalil, of American Muslims for Palestine. “This is not only false and misleading, but dangerous and dehumanizing.

Chicago Sun-Times