

ICCTA Legislative Report

March 16, 2020

Capitol Update

Illinois lawmakers were scheduled to return to the State Capitol following Tuesday's primary election, but both chambers canceled session for March 18-20 due to the coronavirus outbreak. According to leadership, future session days will be determined on a week-by-week basis. The original session calendar requires legislation to be passed out of committee in the first chamber by Friday, March 27. We are waiting to hear how the General Assembly will handle existing deadlines moving forward. The General Assembly is scheduled to be in district for the spring holidays from April 4-21.

The possibility of canceling the March 17 primary was discussed but that has been walked back for now.

Governor Pritzker officially issued a disaster proclamation regarding COVID-19, which makes Illinois eligible for federal resources. The Secretary of State has canceled all tours and lobby days at the Capitol. It is possible the legislature could return before the scheduled holiday break to address "must-pass" legislation, such as the Hospital Assessment proposal. The state must submit its proposal to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by April 1 for approval to be implemented by July 1 when the current assessment expires. Without the assessment, the state could lose \$3.5 billion in Medicaid funding. The Illinois Hospital Association's board meets on March 27, and legislators and administration people involved in the talks hope to have the IHA's tentative approval by then. That doesn't leave much of a window of opportunity before April 1 or 2, but these are wild times.

In the meantime, please call or email your state lawmakers to remind them of the importance of the Governor's proposed \$75 million set-aside for community college Monetary Award Program grants.

COVID-19 Update

As of Sunday evening, there are 93 cases of the virus in 13 counties in Illinois. There have been no deaths in Illinois attributed to the virus to date. Five additional counties are now reporting cases – Champaign, Clinton, Sangamon, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties. Other locations with cases include Chicago and Cook, Cumberland, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, St. Clair, and Woodford counties.

Governor Pritzker has asked that any indoor events which attract over 250 people be canceled, while mandating all outdoor events of 1,000 people or more be canceled or postponed. The Governor also ordered schools closed from March 17 through the end of March. On Sunday, the Governor announced all bars and restaurants in Illinois will be closed to the public for dining-in, beginning at close of business on Monday, March 16, through Monday, March 30. The state is working closely with restaurant owners and food delivery services to ensure kitchens can safely remain open to continue food delivery and put in place drive-thru and curbside pickup options for restaurants to continue to serve the public.

The Governor also announced he has directed state agencies to implement plans for a temporary reduction of government functions and workforce while maintaining core functions and essential operations. All state employees will continue to be paid during this period.

For information about how you, your school, workplace, and community can prepare, please visit [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#). For general questions about COVID-19, call the hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov. A list of local health departments can be found on the [IDPH website](#).

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