

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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January 12, 2007

## SPRING 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

The 94<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly adjourned for the final time on Tuesday, January 9, 2007. On January 10, the new legislators who were elected last November were seated and the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was sworn in. Both the House and the Senate began the process of organizing and re-elected Michael Madigan as Speaker of the House and Emil Jones as Senate President. Both chambers will complete their respective organizational processes upon their return to Springfield in late January and early February.

The Illinois Senate Democrats begin the new two-year legislative session with an five-member increase in the size of their majority (37 Democrats compared to 22 Republicans). Because they now have a “veto proof” majority, Senate Democrats will enjoy a dramatic increase in their role and influence on the legislative process. House Democrats increased their majority by one member, seating 66 Democrats compared to 52 Republicans in the minority.

Both houses now begin the process of starting the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. All bills that existed in the past are now dead, and the filing of new bills will begin with Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1. New committee chairs and minority spokespersons will soon be named and the session will be under way.

The Governor and all other elected constitutional officers were sworn in on January 8 for their new four-year terms. All constitutional offices are now occupied by Democrats.

The House returns to Springfield on January 31 for one day of business. Both houses return to Springfield on February 6 to continue the business of the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

■ **For additional legislative updates, call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282** ■



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