

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## BOMA/SUBURBAN CHICAGO

May 17, 2019

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned Friday with both chambers set to resume work on Monday, May 20. With only two weeks remaining on the session calendar, lawmakers continue working on bills that were approved by the opposite chamber. Both chambers spent a great deal of time approving bills on the floor as well as amending bills in committee.

As a reminder, House bills amended and approved by the Senate must return to the House for final approval and vice versa for Senate Bills in the House.

### Capital Bill Update

Friday afternoon, the Pritzker administration briefed lawmakers on a preliminary draft of a six-year, \$41.5 billion capital plan. The plan included a brief overview of spending categories as well as a breakdown of the revenue needed to fund the plan.

The spending categories are as followed:

- Transportation - \$28.6 billion
- Education - \$5.9 billion
- State Facilities - \$4.4 billion
- Environment/Conservation - \$1 billion
- Broadband Deployment - \$420 million
- Healthcare and Human Services - \$440 million
- Economic and Community Development - \$711 million

To fund the plan, the administration is proposing a “combination of bonding and consistent, annual pay-as-you-go funding.” Total bonding over six years will be \$17.807 billion. Total pay as you go will be \$7.035 billion over six years. Total federal money is banked at \$10.032 billion. Local/private share is listed as \$6.642 billion for a grand total of \$41.515 billion over six years.

### Revenue Proposals

- A proposed motor fuel tax increase of 19 cents per gallon for gas and diesel, double what it is now.
- The current \$101 a year vehicle registration fee would go to \$199 for vehicles 3 years old or newer, \$169 for vehicles 4-6 years of age, \$139 for vehicles aged 7-11 years, and \$109 for vehicles 12 years and older.
- The registration fee for electric vehicles is now \$34 per vehicle and would rise to \$250 per year.
- The Real Estate Transfer Tax (for non-residential transactions) would rise from 50 cents per \$500 in market value to \$1. The fee hasn't been changed since 1989.

- Current liquor gallonage taxes are 23.1 cents on beer and cider, \$1.39 on wine, and \$8.55 on distilled liquor. The new proposal would increase the rate per gallon by 4.6 cents, 66 cents, and \$4.05, respectively.
- Currently, traded-in property provides a sales tax exemption on the purchase of property up to the value of the property traded-in. This proposal would introduce a \$10,000 cap per trade-in transaction.
- The video gaming terminal tax is currently 30 percent of net. According to the draft: “The structure for this proposal is to be determined, but a portion of the revenues from the current discussions to restructure this industry can be allocated to the capital budget, on top of operating budget needs.”
- A new state tax on ridesharing of \$1 per ride.
- A new 7 percent tax on cable, satellite and streaming services (an almost perennial proposal that has never passed).
- A new parking garage tax of 6 percent tax on daily and hourly garage parking and a 9 percent tax on monthly and annual garage parking.

Total: \$1.782 billion a year.

Affected industries already are objecting to the revenue proposal, and the plan almost certainly will change if it passes at all. But it’s been a decade since the state adopted a capital plan, and there’s a huge thirst for one in Springfield.

## ADDED TO BILL REPORT THIS WEEK

➤ **None**

## UPCOMING DATES

- May 10 – House & Senate Bills Opposite Chamber Out of Committee Deadline
- May 24 – Third Reading Deadline for Bills in Opposite Chamber

## ALDERMAN BURNETT’S SON TAPPED AS REPLACEMENT FOR REP. CONYEARS-ERVIN

[\*Chicago Sun-Times\*](#)

A group of Democratic ward committeemen set aside questions of nepotism, residency and turf Friday to choose Ald. Walter Burnett’s son as the newest state representative on the city’s West Side.

Jawaharial “Omar” Williams, 44, a laborer in the city’s Department of Water Management, was selected over seven other candidates vying to occupy the Illinois House 10th District.

The vacancy was created by the election of Rep. Melissa Conyears-Ervin to the post of city treasurer.

Conyears-Ervin is married to Ald. Jason Ervin, the 28th Ward alderman and Democratic committeeman, who objected to Williams' selection and tried to advance a "placeholder" candidate who would not run for re-election next year.

## HOUSE DEMOCRATS 'CLOSING IN' ON VOTES NEEDED FOR TAX OVERHAUL

*Capitol News Illinois*

With only two weeks remaining in the 2019 regular session, Democrats in the Illinois House say they are close to securing the 71 votes needed to pass one of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's top priorities, a constitutional amendment to overhaul the state's income tax system.

The proposed amendment, which cleared the Senate on May 1, would allow the General Assembly to replace the state's "flat" income tax system, where all tax filers pay the same rate, regardless of their income, with a multibracket "graduated" tax that would impose higher rates on higher levels of income.

But the amendment has languished in the House Revenue and Finance Committee while Democratic leaders have struggled to secure the three-fifths majority, 71 votes, needed to place the issue on the November 2020 ballot. In that election, it would need support from either three-fifths of those voting on the question or a majority of all people voting in the election to take effect.

Pritzker has said he believes a graduated tax is the only way to solve the state's long-term structural budget deficit without making draconian cuts in funding for public services. Opponents, however, argue that such a system would make it easier in the future for lawmakers to raise taxes on selected groups of people.

In addition to the amendment, the Senate also passed a bill May 1 spelling out what the new tax rates would be if the amendment is approved.

State Rep. Michael Zalewski, a Riverside Democrat who chairs the Revenue and Finance Committee, also said he's hopeful Pritzker can secure the votes needed in the House.

"I think the governor has had some productive conversations with members in the last week," he said.

Zalewski's committee is scheduled to meet Monday, May 20, and some observers believe the amendment could come up for a vote then, sending it to the full House.

If the measure is to pass the House, supporters will have to secure the votes entirely from within the 73-member Democratic caucus because House Republicans have said they are unanimously opposed.

## BILL SUSPENDING TEACHER BASIC SKILLS TEST HEADS TO GOVERNOR

[State Journal-Register](#)

A test required for teacher licensing that many argue has contributed to the state's teacher shortage might soon be suspended.

The Illinois Senate on Thursday passed and sent to Gov. J.B. Pritzker House Bill 423, which would put what is known as the "test of basic skills" on hold until July 1, 2025, while state officials try to determine whether that will help relieve the state's teacher shortage.

The bill also calls on the Illinois State Board of Education to re-evaluate the method it uses to score another mandatory test that prospective teachers must pass, one that measures their mastery of the content area in which they want to teach.

Those tests are among three tests that people applying for teaching licenses in Illinois must pass. They also must pass a test covering their content area and a test covering teaching practices and standards, known as the edTPA.

A separate bill, House Bill 256, by Chicago Democratic Rep. Will Guzzardi, would drastically overhaul that exam as well by removing a component requiring prospective Illinois teachers to videotape themselves in an actual classroom setting. That bill also passed the House in April but so far has not been assigned to a Senate committee.

Those tests were the subject of extensive hearings in the Illinois House where Rep. Sue Scherer, a Decatur Democrat and chief sponsor of the bill, questioned their value and effectiveness. She and others have also suggested that they deter many people from trying to enter the teaching profession and that they have a disproportionate impact on people of color, contributing to the state's teacher shortage.

The bill suspending the basic skills test until 2015 passed the House in April, 85-25. It passed the Senate on Thursday, 55-0.