

The Basics of Illinois State Government

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Illinois: A Very Blue State

J. B. Pritzker, Governor



Juliana Stratton, Lt. Governor



Kwame Raoul, Attorney General



Illinois also elects: Secretary of State, Comptroller, State Treasurer and Supreme Court.

Five of the six statewide elected officials and both legislative leaders live in the City of Chicago.

Only State Treasurer Michael Frerichs lives outside of City of Chicago.



Democrat Super-Majorities in State Senate and House



Senate

- John Cullerton, Senate President
- 40 D vs. 19 R
- Mix of 4 and 2 year terms



House

- Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House
- 74 D vs. 44 R
- 2 year terms



Nuts and Bolts of a Legislative Session

Illinois Legislature convenes in early January and is scheduled to adjourn on May 31st

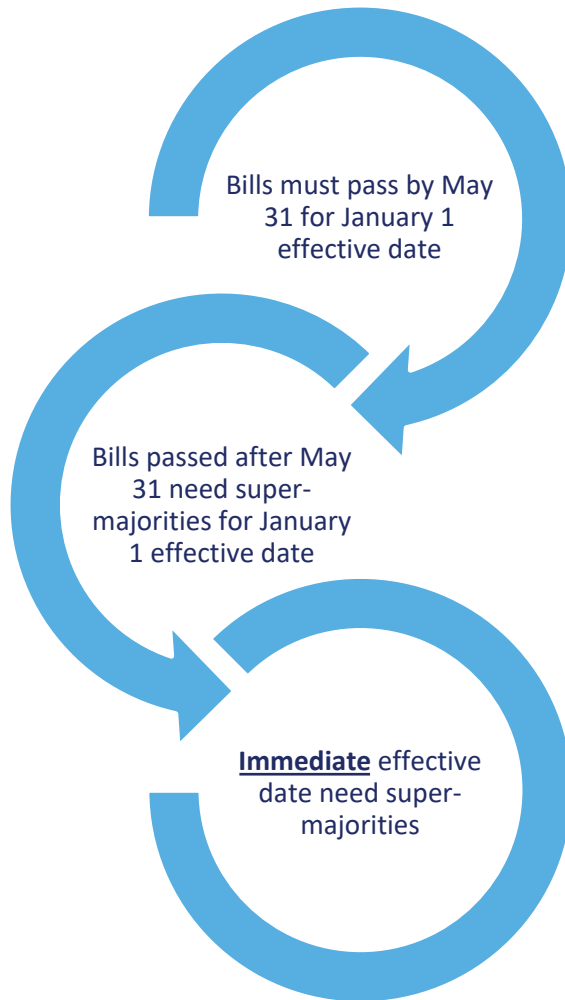
- Mostly meets Tuesday-Thursday with plenty of cancelations
- Meets most weeks, with a few off weeks
- Committee & chamber deadline weeks can be very busy
- A General Assembly spans two years & bills are alive until Sine Die

Committee system is “flexible”

- Traditional committees (Judiciary, Agriculture, Insurance etc.)
 - New committees created occasionally to tackle topical issues
- Committee Chair & Minority Spokesman lead committees
- Bill deadlines frequently extended at direction of leadership
- Controversial bills assigned to “Executive Committee”
- Members frequently substituted on/off committees for political purposes
- Sub-committees are where bills go to die



Nuts and Bolts of a Legislative Session



Concurrence vs. Conference Committee

Shell bills present unique challenges when monitoring legislation

Two week fall veto session is essentially a mini-legislative session

Illinois Governors have several veto options when reviewing legislation



Influential Groups & Organizations in Illinois

“Pro-Business” Groups

- Illinois Manufacturers Association
- Illinois Retail Merchants Association
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Illinois State Medical Society
- Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Realtors, Bankers
- Civic Federation
- Illinois Policy Institute

“Left Leaning” Groups

- Public sector unions & private sector unions
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association
- Environmental Council



Illinois Political Odds and Ends

- Illinois is not the California of the Midwest...yet!
- Republican legislative leaders are not irrelevant
- Suburban Democrats present unique opportunities for business community and downstate Republicans can help out unions
- Speaker Madigan
- Ask yourself, “How will my bill impact the City of Chicago?”



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