**Illinois Updates – May 31, 2024**

End of Session Highlights

Lawmakers finalized the FY 25 state budget along with several substantive measures early Wednesday morning, with the House voting on measures passed by the Senate on Sunday. It was a dramatic conclusion to the spring session, with several moderate House Democrats balking at the increased spending and tax increases that were part of the budget deal, requiring three separate votes for passage. Democrats in both chambers used their supermajorities to pass a $53.1 billion spending plan, $400 million more than what Governor JB Pritzker requested in his budget proposal. Highlights of the budget include:

* $14 million to support the newly-created Department of Early Childhood;
* $75 million for the ISBE Early Childhood Block Grant;
* $36.5 million to increase participation in the Child Care Assistance Program;
* $350 million increase in funding for K-12 schools through the Evidence Based Funding formula;
* $10.3 million for career and technical programs;
* $45 million for the Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot program;
* $700 million for Monetary Award Program grants for higher education;
* $200 million to enhance after school and summer youth programs;
* $45 million for the Reimagine Public Safety grant program;
* $290 million for the HOME Illinois program to address homelessness;
* $2.4 billion for services for people with developmental disabilities, including a $1/per hour increase in pay for direct support professionals;
* $155 million for safety net hospitals.

The General Assembly also finalized several substantive bills, including:

* House Bill 4959 which is the FY 25 Budget Implementation bill containing substantive changes to state law required to implement the spending bill, Senate Bill 251.
* Passage of Governor Pritzker’s Healthcare Protection Act (House Bill 5395), which prohibits the practice of step-therapy by insurers, eliminates prior authorization of mental health treatment, and a separate bill (House Bill 2499) that will prohibit the sale of short-term insurance plans.
* Revenue omnibus legislation in House Bill 4951 enacted some of the revenue enhancements sought by the Governor to support the budget, including increased tax rates on sports books, a re-renters tax, and changes to taxes currently collected by retailers. The omnibus also included language that creates the County Official Compensation Task Force to examine the salaries of county elected officials.
* House Bill 4582 which increased the state’s bonding authority to $7.988 billions.
* House Bill 4488 which is an elections omnibus bill including changes to the amounts that can be transferred into political action committees.
* House Bill 3144 eliminates the 1% state tax on groceries. The legislation includes the ability for municipalities to impose their own tax on groceries to offset losses to local governments.
* Senate Bill 3268 represents Medicaid omnibus legislation, authorizing $120 million in new spending and a “Gold Card” program for physicians.
* House Bill 5511 is a procurement omnibus bill.
* House Bill 5390 creates a medical debt pilot program to be administered by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.
* House Bill 5142 represents the Governor’s Birth Equity initiative, requiring private insurance to cover all services related to pregnancy, postpartum and newborn care and also applying to abortion services.

Also notable are legislative measures that did not see final action before adjournment. Those include legislation to regulate hemp products, a bill to reform the beleaguered Illinois Prisoner Review Board, and a bill to transfer state land to the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe.

AT&T Ruling Delayed

A federal judge has delayed ruling on evidentiary issues related to the bribery case against former AT&T president Paul La Schiazza, citing an upcoming SCOTUS ruling that could impact the case. The judge was expected to rule on information provided by the U.S. Attorney in what is referred to as a Santiago proffer. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule in the next few weeks on a bribery case in Indiana that could have direct bearing on the multiple Illinois bribery cases related to former House Speaker Michael J. Madigan.

Upcoming Meetings

* June 4, 2024 – Joint Committee on Administrative Rules

Election Calendar

* November 5, 2024 – General Election

Dates to Remember

* Veto Session - TBA