



# Illinois Policy Legislative Summary

A comprehensive outline of legislative action taken during the 2025 legislative session that has impact for the state's youngest children, their families and those who serve them

**2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**



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# Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda

The work of Start Early and its Illinois Policy Team is grounded in the fact that the first five years of a child's life are the most critical for healthy development and long-term well-being. To provide a continuum of high-quality early childhood services to children before birth and through age 5, Illinois must have an early care and education system that is designed well and resourced sufficiently. To best support all of our state's families, services must be culturally, linguistically and ability responsive.

Our policy agenda for Fiscal Year 2024 – Fiscal Year 2027 is representative of our work at the federal, state and local levels (including the City of Chicago) and is comprised of the following priorities:

- Strengthen the infrastructure of Illinois' core early care and learning system
- Increase investments in and strengthen the design and implementation of Illinois' core early care and learning programs
- Recruit and retain a representative, well-compensated and qualified workforce
- Improve the health, mental health, economic security and well-being of young children and their families

As outlined in our [Illinois policy agenda](#), we will continue to work broadly across child- and family-serving systems to influence policy change and drive investments that help us reach our goals. We also commit to advance policy change through systems building; legislative, administrative and grassroots advocacy; and consultation and thought leadership.

Incorporated in our agenda are objectives that support the work of:

- [Raising Illinois](#), a collective effort to support infants and toddlers through high-quality health care, quality learning experiences and economic security
- Illinois Commission on Equitable Funding for Early Childhood Education and Care, which released a [comprehensive report](#) outlining recommendations for improving and transforming the state's early education system.

Legislative action aligned with the three above initiatives is notated – example below – throughout this document. This summary represents Start Early-led legislation (which is notated with \*) and other legislative changes led by legislators, advocacy partners, state agencies and others.

# Executive Summary

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly approved a Fiscal Year 2026 state budget that includes a substantial increase in funding for the state's child care system. Unfortunately, the spending plan maintained past funding levels for other critical early childhood programs – a departure from the multi-year investments pledged by Governor JB Pritzker in 2023 as part of the administration's Smart Start Illinois initiative.

“Start Early commends Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly for their continued commitments to ensure Illinois families have the resources they need to thrive,” Start Early Illinois' Executive Director Celena Sarillo said. “Although this final budget does not include all of the early childhood funding for which families and providers advocated, we are ready to work with policymakers, advocates and families this upcoming year to continue expanding access and strengthening programs and services, like preschool, home visiting and Early Intervention, that give children their best chance at success in school and in life.”

The budget package contained \$85 million in new state funding for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and \$90 million in new funding for Smart Start Workforce Grants (SSWG). The CCAP dollars will allow the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to raise reimbursement rates for home providers while accommodating a growing caseload and avoiding harmful waitlists and delayed payments. Additional funding for the SSWG program will enable IDHS to maintain existing grants to programs.

Start Early is disappointed by the decision to flat-fund the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG), the Maternal and Child Home Visiting (MCHV) program and the Early Intervention (EI) program despite an earlier commitment from the Pritzker Administration to increase spending on the programs in FY26 as part of its original Smart Start Illinois plan.

“Amid an uncertain and evolving federal landscape, Start Early is grateful that our state's leaders remained focused on moving forward a balanced budget that aims to protect Illinois communities first and supports families and those who care for them,” Start Early Vice President of Illinois Policy Ireta Gasner said. “However, additional funding is needed to ensure timely services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays and a well-prepared and compensated workforce – both of which are foundations of an equitable early childhood system. This budget is a small step forward, but much is left to be done.”

Notably, in April, IDHS announced a rate increase for Early Intervention providers, which is to be funded by accumulated Medicaid dollars. The rate increase, informed by the new EI cost model and service delay data, prioritizes service providers with reimbursement rates currently below 50% of the modeled cost. While the administration's plan to increase rates for many providers for FY26 is a welcome one, the increase represents only a fraction of what is needed to stabilize the EI system. As such, we are disappointed with

the final appropriation for EI, as we believe the approved budget is inadequate to address the ongoing workforce crisis and distressingly high service delays.

Here are the specifics of what was in the final package:

- \$85 million increase for the Child Care Assistance Program at the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for caseload growth and rate increases for home providers
- \$90 million increase for the Smart Start Workforce Grants at IDHS to replace expiring federal funds
- Early Intervention provider rate increase ([learn more](#))
- \$7.5 million increase in operations funding for the Illinois Department of Early Childhood

No additional funding for the following programs was included:

- The Early Childhood Block Grant at the Illinois State Board of Education, which supports the state's Prevention Initiative, Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion programs
- The Early Intervention program at IDHS
- Evidence-based home visiting programs at IDHS
- The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) scholarship program

These legislative victories and increased appropriations were achieved only because of the unwavering dedication of parents, providers, and advocates across Illinois. With substantial work still needed to close critical funding gaps for programs like EI and ECACE, we look forward to continuing the work of making Illinois the best state in America in which to raise young children.

# Overview of Newly Enacted State Laws

In addition to approving the budget package during the Spring 2026 legislative session, Governor JB Pritzker enacted several other measures into law. The summary below provides a comprehensive overview of the legislative actions from the 2025 spring and veto sessions that will affect the state's youngest children, their families, and the professionals who support them.

## CHILD WELFARE & SAFETY

### **HB1168 DAY CARE CENTER-CIVIC ORG**

Clarifies that special activity programs offered by arboretums to young children and their families are license-exempt but must still comply with the required background investigations on program employees.

#### Chief Sponsors

Representative Terra Costa Howard  
Senator Laura Ellman

Current Status: Public Act 104-0045

### **\*HB1312 POW MIA RECOGNITION DAY (Veto Session)**

Known as the Safety and Liberation Together (SALT) Act, it includes several provisions aimed at holding federal immigration enforcement accountable and safeguarding immigrants when accessing state courts, hospitals, higher education, and child care services. Under the child care provision, child care programs are required to adopt policies and practices that ensure families are not excluded or discouraged from participating based on their actual or perceived immigration status. It also prohibits programs from threatening to disclose the actual or perceived immigration status of children or associated individuals, except as required by federal law. Additionally, it requires the Department of Children and Family Services and Illinois Department of Early Childhood to make resources on constitutional rights, family preparedness planning, and guardianship publicly available to families.

#### Chief Sponsors

Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch  
Senate President Don Harmon

Current Status: Public Act 104-440

*Aligned with Start Early's Policy Agenda*

*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **\*HB3439 CHILD CARE BACKGROUND CHECK**

Improves basic child care licensing functions in the short-term by codifying into law existing Illinois Department of Children and Family Services guidance regarding provisional hiring and requiring staff background checks to be completed every five years instead of every three years.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Joyce Mason  
Senator Adriane Johnson

Current Status: Public Act 104-307

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda  
Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **HB3444 CHILD CARE ACT REQUIREMENTS**

Clarifies that day care homes and group day care homes that serve the children of military personnel on a military base are exempt from the state's day care licensing requirements.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Harry Benton  
Senator Christopher Belt

Current Status: Public Act 104-0308

## **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

### **HB1366 SCH CD-SPEC ED-PARENTAL NOTICE**

Requires schools to notify parents and guardians of their right to be accompanied throughout the Individualized Education Program (IEP) facilitation process by anyone with knowledge of special expertise on the child or that will advocate for the parent, guardian, or child and it requires parents or guardians to inform the school prior to meeting if other individuals will be present in order to accommodate. It also requires the Illinois State Board of Education to provide written informational material about the Individualized Education Program facilitation process and how to request IEP facilitation to each school district, distributed in the same formats as other documents related to an Individualized Education Program meeting.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Michael Crawford  
Senator Willie Preston

Current Status: Public Act 104-47

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*

## **HB2337 SCH CD-SPECIAL ED-SETTLEMENT**

Protects families from waiving students' future special education rights in settlement agreement by putting limits on the prospective waiver of legal rights and claims that are allowable under special education mediation, resolution, and settlement agreements. The bill includes three significant limitations on those waivers. First, the right being waived must be specifically related to the student who is the focus of the mediation or settlement process. Second, the waiver must only cover claims that are directly associated with those raised within the complaint being settled. Third, the duration of such waivers is limited to a reasonable duration, not to exceed the term of the mediation, resolution, or settlement agreement.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Laura Faver Dias  
Senator David Koehler

Current Status: Public Act 104-211

## **HB3078 DHS-HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION**

Make several technical changes related to healthcare administration, including clarifying who is eligible for EI after they turn the age of three, as well as eligibility for early childhood special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Camille Lilly  
Senator Mattie Hunter

Current Status: Public Act 104-270

## **HB3327 IDEC-EIS-PREMATURE INFANTS**

Improves the Early Intervention referral process for babies born into a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit by requiring hospital staff to provide information about the Early Intervention program and initiate a written referral for families whose children are automatically eligible for Early Intervention services.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Janet Yang Rohr  
Senator Ram Villivalam

Current Status: Public Act 104-294

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*  
*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **HB3500 ABLE ACCOUNT PROGRAM INFO**

Requires regional intake offices (i.e., Child and Family Connections) to provide parents with information about the Illinois Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account program during the initial development of an Individualized Family Service Plan and at each review meeting.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Suzanne Ness  
Senator Paul Faraci

Current Status: Public Act 104-314

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*

## **SB408 EDUCATION-TECH**

Allows a student's permanent record to include a Summary of Performance for those receiving special education services. Families may opt out, but districts must notify them of the potential impact on future access to benefits. Schools may also share records with DHS to help determine eligibility for Medicaid waivers, supporting students with disabilities.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator David Koehler  
Representative Michael Crawford

Current Status: Public Act 104-356

## **SB1231 SCH ED-SPECIAL ED FACILITIES**

Extends the timeline for school districts to respond to requests from parents or guardians for an Independent Educational Evaluation. It provides that a school may initiate a due process hearing within seven school days (rather than five school days) of a parent's written request to defend its evaluation. If the parent is entitled to an Independent Educational Evaluation, it must be completed within 60 school days (rather than 30 school days), unless extended for valid reasons.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Meg Loughran Cappel  
Representative Maura Hirschauer

Current Status: Public Act 104-368

## **\*SB1555 SCH CD-SPEC ED ADVIS COUNCIL**

Add the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Early Childhood as an ex-officio voting member to the Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Meg Loughran Cappel  
Representative Maura Hirschauer

Current Status: Public Act 104-109

*Aligned with Start Early Illinois Policy Agenda*

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD, GENERAL, & HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **HB460 EDUCATION-TECH**

Expands the eligibility for all students, including undocumented students, who reside in Illinois to be able to receive student aid or benefits offered by units of local government, aligning to and clarifying the eligibility rules for state and local student aid programs.

#### Chief Sponsors

Representative Barbara Hernandez  
Senator Celina Villanueva

Current Status: Public Act 104-164

### **HB1368 SCH CD-PROF ED LICENSE RENEW**

Requires the Illinois State Board of Education, Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Service Center, and various Illinois professional associations approved by the state superintendent to ensure that professional development activities related to literacy instruction for preschool through grade 12 are aligned to evidence-based strategies defined in the state's comprehensive literacy plan. The Illinois State Board of Education developed and published the comprehensive literacy plan in January of 2024, as mandated under Public Act 103-402.

#### Chief Sponsors

Representative Laura Faver Dias  
Senator Kimberly Lightford

Current Status: Public Act 104-179

### **HB2574 SCH CD-ISBE-ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Aims to enhance transparency and public accountability regarding assessment contracts managed by the Illinois State Board of Education by requiring the agency to report contract details (i.e., effective and conclusion dates, renewal options, annual cost, and communication with vendor to exercise renewal options), compile and publish contract details on their publicly accessible official website and engage with key stakeholder groups. The Illinois State Board of Education is allowed to adopt rules necessary to carry out these responsibilities.

#### Chief Sponsors

Representative Sue Scherer

Senator Graciela Guzmán

Current Status: Public Act 104-239

## **HB3026 SCH CD-DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION**

Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to develop comprehensive guidance for school districts hoping to establish or expand dual language education programs and also requires them to establish pathways for biliteracy prior to high school. Also requires that the State Board of Education's Equity Journey Continuum to incorporate standards for dual language education and dual language teachers into its strategic plan.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Abdelnasser Rashid  
Senator Graciela Guzmán

Current Status: Public Act 104-266

## **HB3096 SCH CD-FAFSA CONTACT**

Strengthens high school students' access to postsecondary planning resources by requiring each high school to designate a staff member as a point of contact for information and resources related to financial aid and access to higher education. High schools would also be required to annually submit the name and contact information of the designated staff member to Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and to inform high school seniors that the contact is available. The designated staff member will be required to complete an initial orientation and would serve as a liaison between the high school and Illinois State Board of Education/Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Aarón Ortíz  
Senator Javier Cervantes

Current Status: Public Act 104-13

## **HB3097 SCH CD-FAFSA COMPLETION**

Strengthens student access to financial aid by requiring school districts to actively support high school students in understanding and completing financial aid applications, such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Schools may provide these supports in various formats and would be required to include opportunities during the school day for students to receive help with completing applications. Schools would also be allowed to partner with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to provide one-on-one assistance and completion events at no cost to the school. Students may choose to opt out of using the assistance provided.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Aarón Ortíz

Senator Javier Cervantes

Current Status: Public Act 104-0014

## **HB3247 SCH CD-PROHIBT DENIAL FREE ED**

Known as Safe Schools for All, ensures safe learning environments for all students in schools across the state by prohibiting the exclusion of students and their parents from schools and school programs based on immigration status and school procedures or measures that have the effect of excluding or discouraging students from attending school and school programs based on immigration status, including requesting a social security number. The legislation also restricts the disclosure and threats to disclose anything related to the immigration status of a child or associated person. It protects the integrity of the undisturbed classroom environment for students and school communities by requiring schools to craft procedures for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other law enforcement actions at schools and school facilities.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Lilian Jiménez  
Senator Karina Villa

Current Status: Public Act 104-288

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*

## **HB3377 SCH CD-HOMELESS YOUTH FUNDING**

Requires school districts to provide annual reports to the Illinois State Board of Education from the most recent school year detailing the total funds they received, the amount of funds reserved to serve homeless children and youth, the number of homeless children and youth identified and enrolled in the district, and the actual amount and activities for which such funds were spent on homeless children and youth. It also requires the Illinois State Board of Education to post and make public the information on their website.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Nicole La Ha  
Senator John Curran

Current Status: Public Act 104-302

## **SB405 EDUCATION-TECH**

Requires that school counseling services provided in public schools support the needs of all students, regardless of citizenship status.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Adriane Johnson  
Representative Abdelnasser Rashid

Current Status: Public Act 104-353

## **SB407 EDUCATION-TECH**

Creates the Chronic Absence Task Force to study and develop strategies to address challenges related to the chronic absenteeism of students in early childhood education and care and grades kindergarten through 12.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Kimberly Lightford

Representative Michael Crawford

Current Status: Public Act 104-355

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*

## **SB1672 SCH CD-EARLY LITERACY-SCREEN**

Requires school districts to administer universal literacy screenings for students in kindergarten through third grade. The results must be shared with families and the State Board of Education to identify needs earlier and address achievement gaps, ensuring that all young learners build strong reading foundations.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Christopher Belt

Representative Michelle Mussman

Current Status: Public Act 104-389

## **SB1740 SCH CD-MANDATES-REORGANIZE**

Eliminates certain mandates and establishes the School Code Mandate Reduction Council to review and recommend the removal of outdated or burdensome requirements.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Mary Edly-Allen

Representative Michelle Mussman

Current Status: Public Act 104-391

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **SB406 EDUCATION-TECH**

Requires the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to establish an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) that will be used to make equity driven, inclusive, and data-informed decisions within the early childhood system. The Department would also

be required to develop public analytic portals and query tools - online resources that let users explore and search through data – so parents and communities can access aggregated integrated data (combined information that does not show personal details) from the system.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Omar Aquino

Representative Joyce Mason

Current Status: Public Act 104-354

*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*

*Aligned with the Illinois Commission on Equitable Funding for Early Childhood Education and Care Report*

## **HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH**

### **HB2464 INS-HEALTH/NEONATAL COST SHARE**

Requires health insurance providers to ensure that individuals do not incur out-of-pocket costs if they are receiving neonatal intensive care from a provider that is not participating in the health insurance plan, so long as the nonparticipating provider bills the neonatal intensive care as emergency services.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Laura Faver Dias

Senator Laura Fine

Current Status: Public Act 104-60

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*

*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

### **HB2688 NURSE PRACTICE ACT MIDWIVES**

Allows certified nurse midwives to provide home birth services in maternity care deserts given a written collaborative agreement with a physician, even if the collaborating physician does not provide home births. Also allows advanced practice registered nurses certified as nurse midwives to provide out-of-hospital birth services in licensed birth centers without written collaborative agreements at the discretion of the birth center's clinical director. Collaborating physicians are thereafter not liable for the acts of the advanced practice nurse solely from having signed a collaborative agreement.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Yolonda Morris

Senator Lakesia Collins

Current Status: Public Act 104-244

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*

*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **HB2978 NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE LEAVE**

Provides that employees working for companies with 16 to 50 employees are eligible for up to 10 days of unpaid neonatal intensive care leave and employees working for companies with over 50 employees would be eligible for up to 20 days of unpaid neonatal intensive care leave while the employee's child is a patient in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Employers may require reasonable verification for the use of the neonatal intensive care leave and employees are guaranteed the retainment of their job and benefits upon return. It also prohibits employers from taking any adverse action against an employee for using the protections provided within this act.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Laura Faver Dias

Senator Bill Cunningham

Current Status: Public Act 104-259

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*

*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **SB73 BABY FOODS-TOXIC HEAVY METALS**

Aims to protect infants and toddlers from exposure to toxic elements in food by prohibiting the sale, manufacture, or delivery of baby food containing toxic elements (i.e., arsenic, cadmium, lead, or mercury). It also establishes product safety standards, reporting requirements to state authorities, and consumer disclosure obligations that manufacturers must follow. Additionally, the Department of Public Health is required to implement a system for consumers to report concerns about baby food products.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Laura Fine

Representative Tracy Katz Muhl

Current Status: Public Act 104-345

*Aligned with Start Early's Policy Agenda*

*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **SB119 PRENATAL SYPHILIS-TESTING**

Requires every appropriate health care professional caring for a pregnant person in Illinois to test the patient for syphilis at their first examination and again during the third trimester of pregnancy, between 27 and 32 weeks of gestation, free of charge.

## Chief Sponsors

Senator Karina Villa

Representative Anna Moeller

Current Status: Public Act 104-71

## **SB1346 MANAGED CARE & INSURANCE CARDS**

Requires health insurance plans to annually provide enrollees and prospective enrollees, upon request, a statement of all basic services and benefits mandated by state law, especially highlighting any newly enacted regulations. It also requires the Office of Consumer Health Insurance to make publicly available an annual report summarizing state health insurance benefit related legislation passed in the previous year. Expands provision of health care benefit information cards to include health benefit plans offering dental coverage and requires that cards indicate on the back whether the plan is self-insured or fully funded.

## Chief Sponsors

Senator Laura Fine

Representative Bob Morgan

Current Status: Public Act 104-375

*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **SB1560 MENTAL HLTH-KIDS-BEACON**

Requires school districts, starting in the 2027-2028 school year, to offer annual mental health screenings to students in grades 3 through 12 and mandates the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Governor's Children's Behavioral Health team, to develop and publish sample procedures and resources by September 1, 2026, to guide districts in implementing universal mental health screenings.

## Chief Sponsors

Senator Sara Feigenholtz

Representative Lindsey LaPointe

Current Status: Public Act 104-32

## **SB1814 DPH-AMNIOTIC FLUID EMBOLISM**

Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to conduct educational activities for providers on signs, symptoms, and management of amniotic fluid embolism and make information about the condition available on its website. It also requires IDPH to adopt rules requiring local health departments to make public announcements to inform the general public when a positive case of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is detected in a county or area under their jurisdiction.

## Chief Sponsors

Senator Neil Anderson  
Representative Daniel Swanson

Current Status: Public Act 104-394

## **SB2153 PHYSICAL THERAPY TELEHEALTH**

Allows physical therapists to perform initial evaluations via telehealth if the patient has a referral, an existing relationship with the physical therapist, or can be referred for in-person care. It also allows physical therapists to require in-person visits when necessary and ensures patients have the ability to request in-person care at any time. Telehealth providers must be licensed in Illinois, work within their professional scope, and have the ability to refer patients for in-person care within the state. The Department may create rules to exempt physical therapists and physical therapy assistants from the telehealth requirements when they provide services through the early intervention program, Individualized Education Programs, or Section 504 plans. These exemptions aim to reduce service delays and must comply with state and federal laws.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Cristina Castro  
Representative Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar

Current Status: Public Act 104-411

## **SB2437 MEDICAID-MATERNAL HLTH-DOULAS**

The state's Medicaid omnibus, which includes language that requires hospitals and birthing centers to allow patients to have Medicaid-approved doulas present during all phases of labor and birth. The doula will not count toward the number of guests permitted to a patient.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Omar Aquino  
Representative Anna Moeller

Current Status: Public Act 104-9

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda*  
*Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **REVENUE & SPENDING**

### **HB1075 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION ACT**

The state's budget implementation bill, which is the companion bill to the state's main budget appropriation bill and provides the legal framework for how funds will be spent. Among several provisions, it gives the Governor authority to transfer state funds appropriated for the Department of Early Childhood to the Department of Early

Childhood or the Department of Human Services provided that agency leadership for both agencies certify the need for the transfer of these funds, permitted in fiscal year 2026 only.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Robyn Gabel  
Senator Elgie Sims

Current Status: Public Act 104-2

## **HB2755 REVENUE-VARIOUS**

The state's fiscal year 2026 revenue omnibus legislation will raise a number of revenue streams, projected to bring in over \$800 million from several revenue enhancements, including a Tax Amnesty Program, Motor Fuel Sales Tax revenue transfer, Sports Betting Tax increases, Hotel Operator Occupation Tax, Telecommunications Tax, and Corporate Tax changes.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Curtis Tarver, II  
Senator Celina Villanueva

Current Status: Public Act 104-6

## **SB2510 \$APPROPRIATIONS-VARIOUS**

The state's budget for the 2026 fiscal year includes \$85 million in new state funds for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and \$90 million in new funding for Smart Start Workforce Grants (SSWG). It also outlines funding levels, whether they are increases, decreases, or remain unchanged, for other state-funded programs and services such as education, law enforcement, higher education, child welfare, and more.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Elgie Sims  
Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch

Current Status: Public Act 104-3

## **WORKFORCE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **HB2517 MATERNAL MORTALITY EDUCATION**

Expands the required implicit bias training for healthcare professionals providing maternal health services to include content on maternal health risk factors affecting marginalized racial and ethnic groups with higher maternal mortality rates.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Lisa Davis  
Senator Willie Preston

Current Status: Public Act 104-61

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda  
Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **HB3446 EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER REQ**

Requires the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to publish and update annually a comprehensive list of college early childhood courses child care teachers and director candidates can take to meet required qualifications. It also requires the Illinois Department of Early Childhood to create a process to verify which early childhood courses make the list.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Mary Beth Canty  
Senator Meg Loughran Cappel

Current Status: Public Act 104-309

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda  
Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **HB3528 SCH CD-STUDENT TEACHERS-SALARY**

Prohibits institutions of higher education from having policies that require student teaching for preservice teachers to be unpaid.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Michael Crawford  
Senator Adriane Johnson

Current Status: Public Act 104-316

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda  
Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **SB212 NURSING MOTHERS IN WORKPLACE**

Requires employers to compensate employees who need to express breast milk during their break time and prohibits employers from reducing compensation or requiring employees to use paid leave during their break time.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Laura Fine  
Representative Katie Stuart

Current Status: Public Act 104-76

*Aligned with Start Early's Illinois Policy Agenda  
Aligned with Raising Illinois Priorities*

## **SB1584 SCH CD-SHORT-TERM APPROVALS**

Creates a temporary pathway for individuals to fill educator roles by allowing the Illinois State Board of Education to establish rules for issuing a Short-Term Approval credential, which may be part of an existing educator license or stand alone, and may apply to a specific subject area or grade range. Short-Term Approvals are non-renewable and require the holder to obtain full licensure before expiration, with a one-time, one-year extension permitted only if a serious health condition delayed licensure.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Sara Feigenholtz  
Representative Laura Faver Dias

Current Status: Public Act 104-111

## **SB1947 SCH CD-EDUCATOR LICENSURE-MISC**

Expands educator licensure pathways by allowing community college representatives to serve on the Illinois State Board of Education's licensure board and updating credentialing rules. This will help address teacher shortages by making the licensure process more accessible and responsive, ensuring Illinois classrooms have qualified educators.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Meg Loughran Cappel  
Representative Laura Faver Dias

Current Status: Public Act 104-128

## **OTHER**

### **HB2774 DHS-STATEWIDE DV HOTLINE**

Establishes the framework for a statewide, centralized Domestic Violence Hotline in Illinois, ensuring 24/7 access to confidential, multilingual referral services for domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and concerned parties. The Illinois Department of Human Services will be responsible for providing a single, easy-to-use phone number and contracting with a lead entity that will govern, design, implement, support, and coordinate the statewide hotline system. The lead entity will be required to meet rigorous standards, including, but not limited to: the ability to provide 24/7 service delivery; a minimum of two years of experience providing effective referral services; 40 hours of domestic violence training for all staff and volunteers; status as an Illinois-based nonprofit; and other qualifying criteria.

### Chief Sponsors

Representative Jackie Haas

Senator Karina Villa

Current Status: Public Act 104-247

## **SB8 SAFE GUN STORAGE**

Establishes legal requirements for the safe storage of firearms to prevent unauthorized access, particularly by minors (i.e., individuals under the age of 18), at-risk individuals (i.e., those who are suicidal or may cause harm to others), and prohibited individuals (i.e., those legally ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law). The Act also imposes civil penalties for violations and directs all collected funds to the state's Mental Health Fund.

### Chief Sponsors

Senator Laura Ellman

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