

Government Affairs Update



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State Government Affairs Update

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The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to return to Springfield for the Veto Session during the weeks of November 17th and December 1st. As usual, six days are scheduled for the Veto Session. It is expected that the legislature will meet in the same fashion as it did in the May Special Session, with the House and Senate meeting in separate buildings, and with masks and social distancing required.

The purpose of the Veto Session is to provide the legislature with the opportunity to address the Governor's action on bills that passed in the Spring Session; however, Governor Pritzker has not issued any vetoes this summer. We expect that the legislature will take up the Black Caucus Agenda (see below) and address concerns about the recreational cannabis license selection process.

While there have been calls for a Special Session prior to the Veto Session to address ethics and issues in policing and racial disparity, I believe a Special Session is unlikely.

The Senate began holding remote access hearings with public viewing available in August. The Senate Transportation Committee held two virtual committees on the subject matter of equity in state contracting, with the Illinois Toll Highway Authority and the Illinois Department of Transportation providing testimony.

The Caucus Agenda addresses the concerns of black citizens and contains four issue areas:

- criminal justice reform
- education and workforce development
- economic access, equity and opportunity
- health care and human services

Finally, following the US Attorney's Office bombshell revelation in July that they had agreed to a Deferred Prosecution Agreement with Commonwealth Edison, the House Republicans led by Jim Durkin, called for the creation of a Special Investigatory Committee. This committee is charged with determining whether Speaker Madigan committed acts "unbecoming" of a state representative, and if so, what the disciplinary action of the House should be.

Please note that the Veto Session is scheduled for after the November 3 General Election. In addition to the Presidential election, all 118 seats of the Illinois House are up and 1/3 of the Senate. The new 102nd General Assembly will convene in January, 2021, and as is typical when a new General Assembly is sworn in, there may be changes in committee membership, committee chairs and within leadership.

