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**Illinois Updates – October 2, 2020**

Special Committee Hears from ComEd

The special investigative committee formed to consider disciplinary measures against House Speaker Michael J. Madigan met on Tuesday to hear testimony from David Glockner, an executive vice president for Exelon, the parent company of Commonwealth Edison. The focus of the committee is to examine Madigan’s role in an ongoing bribery investigation of electric utility Commonwealth Edison. Committee members questioned Glockner for several hours about details of the deferred prosecution agreement that ComEd negotiated with the U.S. Attorney, including asking Glockner to confirm the identity of individuals outlined in the agreement. In many cases, the witness was unable to provide answers if the information was embargoed by the U.S. Attorney’s office.

Republican members of the committee requested subpoenas for a number of individuals connected to the case including the former CEO of the company and lobbyists named in the investigation. Committee Chair Representative Chris Welch (D-Westchester) denied the requests, saying that the committee had been given no prior notice that the requests would be made and that subpoenas could not be issued without additional inquiry. While the complaint filed in the ComEd bribery investigation names the House Speaker as Public Official A, Speaker Madigan has not been indicted or charged at this time.

Kifowit Announces Run for Speaker

State Representative Stephanie Kifowit (D-Aurora) announced Thursday her intention to run for Speaker of the House. Kifowit was one of several House members who called for current Speaker Michael J. Madigan to step down from his leadership post after news of the ComEd bribery case became public. A former Marine, Kifowit served as an alderman for the city of Aurora prior to her election to the House in 2012. Her candidacy marks the first instance of Madigan being challenged for Speaker by a member of his own caucus.

COVID-19 Updates

The Northern Illinois Rockford Region (Region 1) has met the threshold for additional mitigation measures according to the Illinois Public Health Department. The positivity rate in Region 1 is at 8 percent, and under the Restore Illinois program, a rolling three-day average positivity rate of 8 percent calls for greater restrictions. The additional mitigations include no indoor dining or bar service, bars and restaurants must close no later than 11:00 p.m., reservations are required, and service is limited to one party per table. In addition to limits on food and beverage retailers, no indoor visitation is allowed at long term care facilities. Region 1 consists of Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, DeKalb, Lee, Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside counties. The new restriction will go into effect on Saturday, October 3.

Another region experiencing an uptick in positivity over the last week is Region 6, which includes the following counties: Iroquois, Ford, Dewitt, Piatt, Champaign, Vermillion, Madison, Moultrie, Douglas, Edgar, Shelby, Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Clay, Richland, Lawrence. Champaign County’s numbers are significantly lower due to a robust testing program at the University of Illinois. When Champaign’s numbers are removed from the average, the rest of the region is at 7.2 percent.

In contrast, the City of Chicago announced this week that they would be lifting some current restrictions due to a decreasing positivity rate. Under the new conditions, allowed capacity for businesses including bars and restaurants will be 40 percent, up from the 25 percent limit previously imposed. The number of people allowed to be seated together at a restaurant will remain at a maximum of six persons, but other gatherings such as exercise classes can increase from 10 to 15 people.

Senate Looks at Drug Sentencing Reforms

A joint meeting of the Senate Criminal Law and Public Safety Committees heard subject matter testimony this week on recommended reforms for sentencing of drug offenses. The Illinois ACLU testified regarding their proposal to move all drug offenses down by one class. Lawmakers also heard from a states attorney who disagreed with the proposal, saying that the threat of a felony conviction provides an incentive for drug offenders to get help with their substance abuse issues. The hearing was the latest in a series of subject matter, or informational hearings organized by members of the legislative Black Caucus to look at issues surrounding criminal justice reform.

**Illinois COVID-19 Resources**

* State of Illinois: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov>
* Illinois House Republican Caucus: <https://ilcovid19info.com>
* Chicago residents can access information about the city’s response to the outbreak by texting “covid19” to 78015, or visiting the city’s dedicated webpage at <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home.html>
* A list of public and private testing sites can be found on the IDPH website at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/testing>.

**Dates to Remember**

* November 3, 2020 – General Election
* November 17, 18, 19 – First week of Veto Session
* December 1, 2, 3 – Second week of Veto Session