



Illinois Updates – December 23, 2020

Pacione-Zayas Appointed to Senate

Cristina Pacione-Zayas was appointed this week to fill the opening in the 20th Senate District previously held by Sen. Iris Martinez (D-Chicago). Martinez was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County in the November general election. Pacione-Zayas was previously named by Governor JB Pritzker to serve on the Illinois State Board of Education, and has worked for the Erikson Institute, an early childhood development organization.

Court Ruling Goes Against DeVore

A Sangamon County judge this week vacated a ruling made this summer in Clay County that brought into question the Governor's authority to close or limit business operations during the pandemic. The original case was filed on behalf of State Representative Darren Bailey by his attorney, Thomas DeVore. DeVore has also represented a number of individuals and businesses that have filed suit against state and local authorities related to coronavirus mitigations. The Clay County judge who heard the original case ruled in favor of the plaintiff (Bailey) against Governor Pritzker and extended the effect of the ruling on behalf of all of the state's residents. That case along with similar cases was transferred to the jurisdiction of Sangamon County as the seat of state government.

In her ruling Monday, Circuit Judge Raylene Grischow said that Bailey's case did not allege or prove any facts necessary to maintain a class action, did not reveal any intention to form a class nor did it ask for class certification. In light of her findings, Judge Grischow vacated the July 2 order granting summary judgment in Bailey's amended complaint and also vacated the order applying it to all citizens of the state of Illinois.

Bills Filed to Allow for Remote Legislating

Rep. Ann Williams (D-Chicago) and Sen. Robert Martwick (D-Chicago) filed bills this week to allow for certain legislative meetings to be held virtually. Both lawmakers referred to their proposals as a "starting point." Under the proposed legislation, the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate would issue a joint proclamation allowing for remote meetings of both legislative committees and floor session. The legislation also allows for both chambers to adopt rules governing remote or virtual meetings. A previous bill that was proposed in the House to allow for remote meetings fell short during the abbreviated May legislative session, partly due to push back from Springfield area lawmakers. The Senate adopted rules allowing for virtual committee hearings this spring, and several Senate Zoom hearings were held in the past several months.

Senate Releases Calendar

The Illinois Senate has released a calendar for the upcoming spring 2021 legislative session (attached). Although plans regarding how the General Assembly will meet are not available at present, members of the Senate were informed by Senate President Don Harmon to keep dates available during the first and second week of January for a possible “lame duck” session for the 101st General Assembly.

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

- January 14, 2021 – Inauguration of the 102nd General Assembly