

Senate Committee Action April 25, 2017

Public Health

Nurse Staffing Requirements (SB 626):

Provides that at the discretion of the Director of DPH, he or she may or may not grant or renew a waiver of the nurse staffing requirements relating to long term care facilities. Also, that the fines or penalties for violating registered nurse staffing requirements is charged by the department.

PURA Syndrome Day (SR 408): Declares April 28, 2017 as PURA Syndrome Day. PURA Syndrome is a very rare condition with symptoms including difficulty breathing, maintaining body temperature, severe sleepiness, and very low muscle tone.

Veterans' Affairs

Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities (SB 87):

With relation to the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities, changes the definition of "surviving spouse" to now mean that for tax years prior to 2015, the definition means the surviving spouse of a veteran who was granted the exemption prior to his or her death; for tax year 2015, the definition means the surviving spouse of a veteran who was granted the exemption prior to the veterans death, and for the surviving spouse of the veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year; for tax year 2016 and after, the definition means the surviving spouse of a veteran who qualified for the exemption prior to his or her death, the surviving spouse of a veteran that was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year, and the surviving spouse of a veteran who did not obtain an exemption before his or her death but would have if he or she had survived.

Chicago Veteran's Home Fund (SB 266):

Establishes the Illinois Veterans' Home at Chicago, and directs IDVA to operate and maintain the home in Chicago. The home will be able to accommodate 200 veterans and has a total project cost of \$76 million. Construction resumed during

the stopgap budget bill, but the estimated time of completion has been extended to 2019.

Veterans' Cancer Screenings (SB 838): Requires the Department of Public Health to conduct a program to promote the awareness of cancer in veterans, and creates a Veterans' Cancer Screening Program within the Department. Requires the department to make their information public beginning January 1, 2018.

Education

Chicago Ag Science School (SB 447): Allows the Chicago Board of Education to enroll an additional 80 students into the agriculture science school for diverse learners.

School Code Assessment Transcript (SB 757):

Removes the requirement that college readiness test scores be placed on a student transcript.

School Code Debt Limit Exception (SB 1290):

Allows Waltham Community Consolidated School District 185 to exceed its statutory debt limit and issue bonds with an aggregate principal not to exceed \$9.5 million to build and equip a new school building if certain conditions are met.

Homeless Child School Transit (SB 1482):

Transfers the decision-making authority for school choice for homeless children from the parent/guardian to the school district, pursuant to a best interest determination under Every Student Succeeds Act.

School Code Requirement Buses Nurse (SB 1486):

States that in provisions regarding home or hospital instruction, adds advanced practice nurses to be able to provide and sign off on medical documentation that certifies that a student is unable to participate due to a medical condition. Removes obsolete requirements for high school graduation. Provides that private schools that do not utilize a bus to transport students are exempt

from conducting bus evacuation drills.

School Report Card Attendance (SB 1532):

Provides that the State Report Card for schools must contain data on average daily attendance. Defines average daily attendance. Effective July 1, 2019.

Agriculture Task Force (SB 1991): Establishes the Agriculture Education Shortage Task Force.

Transportation

Annual Supplier Diversity Report (SB 1267): Allows all Class I railroad companies to submit an annual supplier diversity report, by April 15th of each year, to the Illinois Commerce Commission. Also, requires the ICC to hold an annual workshop open to the public on the state of railroad supplier diversity.

Motor Vehicle Accident Reports (SB 1580):

Removes provisions providing that a written motor vehicle accident report is privileged as to the Secretary of State and the Department of Transportation and shall be held confidential. As well as, provides that the Department may provide for in-depth investigations of accidents involving Department employees or other motor vehicle accidents.

Lapse Pool Funds (SB 1680): Clarifies language to match how the Township Bridge Program is currently, and has historically been delivered except that the eligibility criteria are being clarified to match the minimum road and bridge levy requirements for receiving any allotment of Motor Fuel Tax funds. Requires that funds reverted to the Road Fund after not being obligated within 48 months shall be considered lapse pool funds to provide additional monetary assistance to township road districts that have insufficient funding for the construction of bridges that are 20 feet or more in length under Section 6-901 of the Highway Code.

Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week (SR 322): Declares April 24 to 28, 2017 as the inaugural "Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week."

Auditor General Report on IDOT's Performance

Factor (SR 323): Directs the Auditor General to conduct an audit of IDOT's compliance with 44 Ill. Admin. Part 650.240 of the Illinois Administrative Code (requires Performance Factor to be utilized when considering contractors) over the past two years in the cities of Chicago, East St. Louis, and Peoria.

Taskforce on Modes of Transportation for Education (SJR 17): Creates the Task Force on Modes of School Transportation for Elementary and Secondary Education to review and study school transportation practices and make recommendations for future school transportation. Adds the Lieutenant Governor or their designee and, a representative of a statewide association representing high school districts appointed by the State Superintendent of Education to the Task Force.

Government Reform

Township Code (SB 666): Provides that an individual participating in a township or multi-township caucus is entitled to one vote for each office, and the vote will not be weighted to equal more than one vote.