



Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

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FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, as summer winds down, fall begins with a rise in COVID cases and disruptions. The Delta Variant has caused a surge in the positivity rates and number of infected across Illinois. Lawmakers, who had not formally met since they adjourned in May, have recently begun holding hearings, many of them to update themselves and the public on the current state of the delta variant in Illinois and the various efforts underway to protect and help communities rebound.

In response to increasing number of COVID positive patients, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced it is requiring all individuals to wear masks while indoors at state facilities, including those who are fully vaccinated. As well as extending the requirement to all nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

“Given that the majority of the state is experiencing substantial or high COVID-19 transmission as measured by the CDC, all State of Illinois facilities will require face coverings—regardless of vaccination status—in line with the CDC’s current best guidance for ending this pandemic,” Governor Pritzker said via a statement.

The Delta variant, a more contagious version of the virus, now accounts for more than 80 percent of new cases in the state.

Dr. Ngozi Ezike Director of IDPH released a statement regarding the new mask rules for state facilities saying, “While the vaccines have been proven to be effective against the Delta variant at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death, with this new evidence of breakthrough spread, we are adding another layer of protection for State employees and the people we serve. IDPH continues to monitor all conditions for any additional mitigations as the pandemic changes over time.”

In addition to the mask requirements for state facilities, Governor Pritzker also announced that the state would begin requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for specific state employees. This announcement comes as a growing number of private companies are making their own vaccine requirements.

All state employees that work in congregate facilities (facilities where a number of people work and reside

in close proximity to one another) such as veteran’s homes, prisons, and mental health care facilities will be required to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Pritzker stressed that vaccination is necessary to protect those most vulnerable in these settings.

“They run the risk of carrying the virus into work with them. Then it’s the residents who are ending up seriously sick, hospitalized, or worse. It’s a breach of safety, it’s fundamentally wrong, and in Illinois, it’s going to stop. We already require masks for everyone entering state facilities, but if we’re going to fully protect our vulnerable populations, the most effective infection control measure is vaccination,” Pritzker said in the announcement.

The Pritzker administration is working with the relevant unions to work out the details and is offering incentives for vaccination, such as paid time off for employees. The deadline for employees working in these settings to receive a vaccine is Oct. 4, 2021.

As the situation in the state continues to be very fluid, fall veto session is currently set to take place October 19-21 and October 26-28. At this time, it is anticipated that veto session will be held in the Capitol building however, it is unknown what rules, requirements, and limitations might be adopted due to the pandemic and the various variants. Although spring session ended with in person business being conducted in the Capitol, both chambers have adopted rules in the past that would allow for law makers to conduct their work remotely and could do so again if deemed necessary. TOI will do our best to keep you updated as we near veto session. Below please find a few bills that have had/or will soon have action taken on them by the Governor.

Bills that have been signed into law over the summer:

P.A. 102-0124 (HB 396)

Rep. Martin Moylan (D-55th) / Sen. Laura Murphy (D-28th)

Amends the Article of the Illinois Vehicle Code concerning size, weight, load, and permits. Creates a new class of weight limits for vehicles with a distance between 8 and 9 feet between the extremes of any group

of 2 or more consecutive axles, with a maximum weight of 38,000 pounds on 2 axles and 42,000 pounds on 3 axles. Provides that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles of these tandems is 36 feet or more. Deletes language requiring an applicant for a permit for excess size and weight to make certain disclosures relating to whether the applicant is a motor carrier of property. Makes other changes. Provides that the additional fee for certain gross overweight loads is for each additional 45 (instead of 60) miles traveled. Effective immediately.

P.A. 102-0024 (HB 1932)

Rep. Tony McCombie (R-71st) / Sen. Neil Anderson (R-36th)

Provides that the governing body of a county, township, or municipality may waive any fees or costs associated with a permit, inspection, or certification of occupancy required by law for construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, movement to another site, removal, or demolition of a manufactured home, building, dwelling, or structure, either commercial or residential, damaged as a result of a disaster, emergency, weather event, or for any reason deemed warranted in the interests of public safety, welfare, and recovery of the community by the governing body of the county, township, or municipality. Defines “disaster”. Effective immediately.

P.A. 102-0231 (SB 1799)

Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-23rd) / Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-77th)

Amends the Township Code. Provides that general assistance funds are included in provisions prohibiting accumulation of township funds that exceed an amount equal to or greater than 2.5 times the annual average expenditure of the previous 3 fiscal years. Effective immediately.

P.A. 102-0393

Rep. Andrew Chesney (R-89th) / Sen. Brian Stewart (R-54th)

Provides that the Department of Transportation shall update its policy for providing notification of construction projects to the public. Provides that the policy shall include a requirement that the Department contact the highway commissioner located in each Department district that will be impacted by a proposed construction project. Provides that the policy shall be completed and published on the Department’s website by January 1, 2022. Effective immediately.

P.A. 102-0449

Rep. Daniel Swanson (R-74th) / Sen. Win Stroller (R-37th)

Provides that, in the case of township roads, the county superintendent of highways may either grant consent for construction or deny the application. Provides that the county superintendent of highways shall provide written confirmation, citing the basis of the decision, to both the highway commissioner and the applicant.

P.A. 102-0554

Sen. Laura Fine (D-9th) / Rep. Denyse Stoneback (D-16th)

Provides that, whenever the date for an annual township meeting as required by statute conflicts with the celebration of Ramadan, the township board may postpone the annual township meeting to the first Tuesday following the last day of Ramadan. Effective immediately.



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