



Legislative Update - January 14, 2022

The spring 2022 legislative session is getting off to a slow start. As a result of the rising number of COVID-19 cases, the Illinois General Assembly has cancelled recent scheduled session dates through January 20th. Based on public statements made by legislative leadership, it seems very likely that the General Assembly will not convene in Springfield (i.e. in-person) until February. Both chambers remain adjourned until the call of Senate President Don Harmon and House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch. While session days are seemingly “cancelled” for the near future, both chambers are holding virtual committee hearings on pending legislation.

Due to 2022 being an election year, legislators will likely keep controversial initiatives to a minimum; opting instead to promote legislation that is more appealing to the public. The Democratic majority has signaled their top legislative priorities will be passing a “balanced and responsible budget”, addressing social issues highlighted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and legislative oversight of laws previously approved by the legislature. Republicans will likely use the upcoming spring session to promote fiscal responsibility, ethics reform, and job creation. **Governor Pritzker is scheduled to provide his “State of the State / Budget” address on February 2nd.** The Governor’s speech will likely paint a clearer picture of upcoming legislative and budget priorities for the 2022 legislative session.

Lawmakers are facing a more condensed timeframe to promote their legislative agendas. The spring 2022 legislative session is scheduled to adjourn April 8th; which is over a month earlier than usual. The early adjournment date was established to accommodate this year’s primary election; which will be held on June 28th instead of mid-March. The primary election was moved due to pandemic-related delays in the legislative re-districting process.

While continuing to wait for lawmakers to return to Springfield, legislation is slowly being introduced that will be debated by the Illinois General Assembly this year. ICIC staff is busy reviewing each bill introduction and paying close attention to those that may impact the Illinois construction industry. As of today, ICIC has identified nearly 40 bills for placement on our “watch list”. ICIC’s bill list is expected to grow as bill introduction deadlines quickly approach. **The bill introduction deadline in the Senate is January 21st, and the deadline in the House is January 28th.**

ICIC remains diligently engaged on **HB 3293 (Sen. Castro/Rep. Gong-Gershowitz)**. As a reminder, this bill as amended, seeks to hold general contractors liable for wage claims at any tier on a private construction project. This legislation is an initiative of the Mid-American Carpenters Regional Council and is supported by the IL AFL-CIO. **ICIC and our construction industry partners strongly oppose HB 3293 as amended.** ICIC maintains the position that there is no data to support that these wage claims stem in any significant way from union contractors. Further, labor and management have long-standing remedies and processes in place to address non-payment of wages by union contractors. **In light of these facts, ICIC has proposed that contractors who are subject to collective bargaining agreements, such as ICIC members, should be exempt from HB 3293, should it become law.** We will continue to reiterate the fact there are existing remedies in place to protect workers from wage theft. HB 3293 casts too wide of a net and will be harmful to responsible contractors.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend **ICIC's 2022 Legislative Reception on Tuesday, March 22nd** at the **Sangamo Club in Springfield, IL**. This event will be co-hosted with the Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association. ICIC staff encourages you to invite your colleagues to attend this event to discuss issues important to the Illinois construction industry and your business. Additional event details and registration information is forthcoming. Please be advised that ICIC will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to keep our members healthy and safe, adjustments may be made to this event as necessary.

As the spring 2022 legislative session gets underway, you are encouraged to pay close attention to Calls to Action and other alerts to help communicate ICIC's message on important legislative measures to members of the Illinois General Assembly. Your ICIC staff and lobbying team looks forward to representing the Illinois construction industry in Springfield this session. We are confident that by working alongside our members, ICIC will have another legislatively successful year.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Newbold Hoselton by calling 217.523.4361 or by email at jnewbold@boldnewstrat.com.