



A Look Under The Dome

L e g i s l a t i v e
U p d a t e

Legislators returned to Springfield for the second year of the 103rd General Assembly on January 16, 2024. It was a quiet week. Provided that it is an election year, it is expected for a very slow start and a reluctance to confront controversial issues. Historically, much of the heavy lifting occurs in the first year of any General Assembly and legislators will not be returning to the Capitol until February 6th.

Legislation for the 2024 spring session is actively being filed, but it has been gradual so far. We have now entered the inaugural “blackout period,” during which time the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) will not accept requests for amendments. The blackout period will be lifted at the same time as the deadline to introduce new legislation on February 9th. The more than 7,000 bills filed last calendar year remain viable and lawmakers could act on those as well between now and May.

2024 Key Session Deadlines:

- January 16: Convene Session for the 2nd year of the 103rd General Assembly
- January 19: Deadline – House & Senate LRB Requests
Begin LRB Blackout Period until 2/9
- February 9: Deadline – Introduction of House & Senate Bills
LRB Amendment Requests Begin
- February 21: Governor’s State of the State/Budget Address
- March 10: Deadline – Senate Bills Out of Senate Committee
- March 19: Primary Election
- April 5: Deadline – House Bills out of House Committee
- April 12: Deadline – Third Reading Senate Bills in the Senate
- April 19: Deadline – Third Reading House Bills in the House
- May 3: Deadline – House Bills out of Senate Committee & Senate Bills out of House Committee
- May 17: Deadline – Third Reading House Bills in Senate & Senate Bills in House
- May 24: Adjournment
- May 25-31: *Contingent Session Days for the Budget*

SOS Expanding Online Services

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is urging Illinois drivers looking to update their vehicle registration or renew their license to skip a planned visit to a DMV facility and instead use his offices' newly expanded online services. After initially encountering a severe problem with no-shows to scheduled appointments, a new text message notification system will now require individuals to confirm or cancel their upcoming appointments. The office has also established an online portal to clarify what services require an in-person appointment and what can be quicker online, over the phone, or via mail.

HB4431- Rep. Jeff Keicher-

New legislation would amend the Illinois Vehicle Code, ending requirements for drivers over the age of 75 to retake a driving test to renew their driver's license.

According to data from the National Safety Council, after age 34 the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes decreases as the age of the driver increases.

While many may have preconceived notions about older drivers causing more car accidents, State Representative Jeff Keicher says the facts show seniors are actually the safest drivers on the road.

"Illinois is the only state in the United States that does this, I think it's time we trust our seniors" Keicher said.

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, in 2022, 24.39 out of every 1,000 Illinois drivers over the age of 75 have gotten in a crash, the lowest crash rate for every range of drivers between 16 and 69 years old.

Empowering Retired Educators: Donate to IRTA's PAC fund and help shape your future!

Unleash the power of retired educators with a simple act of kindness! We are inviting you to consider donating to the Illinois Retired Teachers Political Action Committee (IRTAPAC). Our PAC fund is paving the way to benefit the entire Illinois retired educator community through strategic political contributions to state candidates. By supporting IRTAPAC, you can play a significant role in shaping the future of post-retirement benefits for educators. So, let's dive in and discover how your donation can make a difference!

Understanding IRTAPAC's Purpose

IRTAPAC is a vital force when it comes to consolidating retired educators' interests. As retired educators, your welfare is of utmost importance to us, and we recognize that political contributions are an essential tool in advocating for your rights and benefits.

IRTAPAC utilizes the funds it receives to strategically support state candidates who align with our mission. Through these financial contributions, we can support legislators who understand the importance of your health and pension benefits.

The Importance of Political Engagement in Advocacy

Now, you might be wondering why political engagement matters in advocating for your rights as a retired educator. The answer is simple: the decisions made by lawmakers directly impact the policies and benefits you receive.

By actively participating in political activities and supporting initiatives such as IRTAPAC, you can help shape state legislation that affects your retirement benefits. From pension reforms to healthcare options, it is critical that retired educators have a say in these matters.

While it may seem daunting, lack of political engagement can have significant consequences. Without a strong collective voice, your interests may not be adequately represented, and your benefits could be at risk. That's why it's crucial for retired educators to stand together and advocate for their rights.

Making Your Impact: How to Donate

Donating to IRTAPAC is simple, and every contribution makes a difference in advancing the cause of retired educators. Here's how you can join us:

1. Head over to www.irtaonline.org
2. Click on PAC and choose the DONATE option.
3. If you are a TRS annuitant, you may fill out the form which allows TRS to donate \$1 dollar a month from your monthly pension check.
4. If you are not a TRS annuitant, please feel free to send a check payable to IRTAPAC | 828 S. 2nd Street | 4th Floor | Springfield, Illinois 62704
5. If you would like to donate using a credit card just hit the yellow DONATE button and choose your amount.

Join the cause and donate today!

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