



Illinois 2024 End-of-Session Report

What Illinois Lawmakers Accomplished This Year

Illinois state legislators returned to Springfield this January following a productive 2023 session highlighted by action on issues in the national conversation including abortion rights and book bans. Governor Pritzker’s national profile has grown steadily since becoming Governor in 2019. He has developed a reputation for big spending and taking on national “culture war” issues.

Legislators began their work this session knowing they’d need to pass another annual budget, pick up some work that didn’t get finished in 2023, and take on new challenges like inflation and immigration. This work was due to be completed by the end of May, leaving lawmakers just under five months to tackle many priorities.

In this report, we detail the key outcomes of Illinois’s 2024 legislative session. Read on for a breakdown of what the General Assembly achieved this session, and what issues may need to wait until 2025.



BY THE NUMBERS

Illinois Legislature’s 2024 Activity

It can be helpful to step back and take a high-level look at the numbers that capture the legislative work in Illinois. Below we take a look at the membership of the General Assembly and the sheer volume of work they consider.

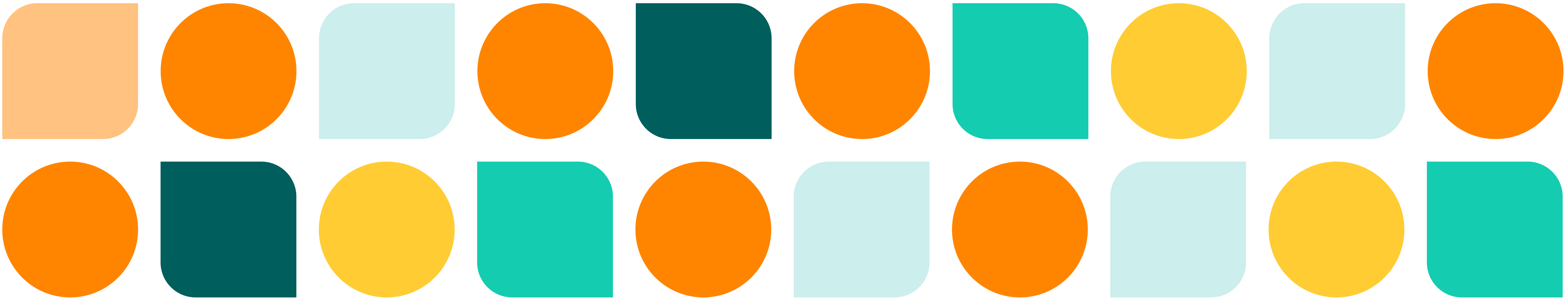
The Makeup of the Legislature

Over the past decade, Illinois Democrats have steadily grown their majority in the House of Representatives while maintaining a majority in the Senate. With no regular elections held between the 2023 and 2024 sessions, the makeup of the legislature was nearly identical when lawmakers reconvened in January.

Voters will have the opportunity to assess the work of the past two sessions in November as nearly one-third of Senate seats and all House seats are up for election. While overall party control is unlikely to shift, it’s worth watching to see if the size of Democrat’s majorities shrinks or continues to grow.

Partisan Representation in the Illinois Legislature

	House of Representatives	Senate
Democrats	78	40
Republicans	40	19



Key Session Data

In total, lawmakers introduced just under 10,000 bills across the two years of the 103rd General Assembly. In 2024 alone, legislators introduced over 2,800 new bills and continued action on about 1,000 bills carried over from 2023.

After signing 583 bills into law in 2023, Governor Pritzker has already signed 136 bills into law in 2024. An additional 333 bills passed by the General Assembly are currently awaiting gubernatorial action, which is likely to come within the next few weeks.

Key Policies Passed by the General Assembly

FY2025 State Budget

Lawmakers needed an extra week but were able to agree on a package of spending and revenue-generation policies that resulted in a \$53.1 billion state budget. On the spending side, notable provisions include:

- Increased funding for migrants, including \$182 million for services for migrants seeking asylum and \$440 million for healthcare for noncitizens.
- Over \$400 million in new funding for early childhood, elementary and secondary education.
- An expansion of state child tax credit eligibility to include families with children under 12 years of age.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, much of the debate over the budget centered not on what new spending was included, but on how to pay for that new spending. In the end, new revenue was raised by increasing business taxes, including a significant increase in the taxes that sports wagering operators must pay. The bill also made an effort to end the statewide 1% tax on groceries, but allows municipalities to reinstate a similar tax in its absence.

Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA) Updates

Lawmakers passed [SB 2979](#), a revision to their existing privacy laws, clarifying how those laws should be enforced. The legislation is a response to a recent court ruling stating that multiple violations of the same individual's privacy could make a company liable for multiple penalties. The case concerned companies, who felt it could lead to excessive damages and motivated action from the legislature.

SB 2979 effectively overrules that court case and clarifies state law. It states that multiple violations of an individual's privacy would only constitute a single infraction eligible for damages. The Governor has not yet indicated whether he will sign the legislation, but the bill passed with overwhelming majorities in both chambers and is likely to become law.

Multiple Wins for Labor

Organized labor has a strong history in Illinois and a continued political influence. That tradition continued this session with some notable wins for workers. [SB 3649](#) permits employees to not attend employer-sponsored meetings on "religious or political matters," including regarding organizing a union. Mandatory meetings to discourage

unionization have long been a controversial tactic used by employers.

[SB 3646](#) is another example of Illinois Democrats responding to Republican efforts in other states. In recent years, many states have passed legislation to weaken child labor protections. Illinois's response to this issue, SB 3646, includes additional penalties for child labor violations. It also expands protections for children in the entertainment industry.

Minor, but Controversial, Election Law Changes

Originally, [SB 2412](#) was related to child welfare services — but it hadn't been revisited since May 2023. In early May, House Democrats gutted and replaced the bill with a small package of election law changes. SB 2412, which became law within days, prevents major parties from getting a candidate on a general election ballot if they did not file for the primary election. Democrats argued that the new law outlaws a practice in which party leadership, rather than voters, appointed candidates. Republicans claimed the fast-tracked changes unfairly influence their ability to run at least one candidate on their party line in this year's elections.

Major Legislation That Did Not Pass

The legislative process inherently involves many bills not becoming law. This can be due to various reasons — insufficient support, funding, and time among them. In Illinois, many bills failed to pass in 2024. We've highlighted the most notable ones, especially those that garnered significant attention and are likely to reappear in 2025.

[HB 4469/SB 2633](#) – Katrina's Bill

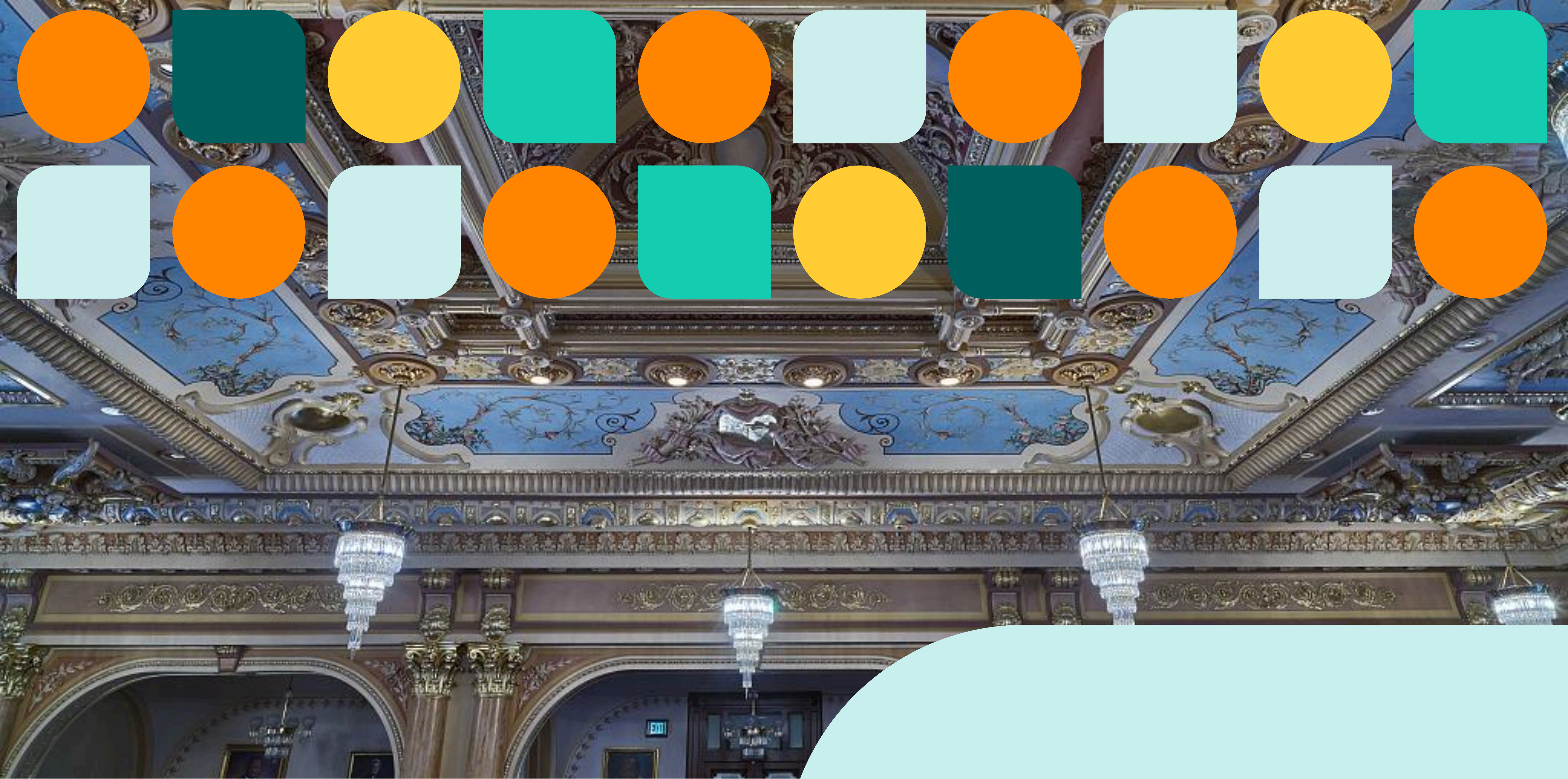
Katrina's Bill was named in honor of a mother who was shot and killed despite having a domestic order of protection against her murderer. The bill would enhance protections when domestic orders are granted. Under the bill, judges would be required to issue a search warrant and law enforcement would be required to confiscate firearms. Katrina's Bill stalled this session amid concerns about gun control, but advocates have pushed for its serious consideration and passage. Advocates will surely aim to revive the bill when lawmakers reconvene later this year.

[HB 4629](#) – Junk Fees

House lawmakers responded to [federal action on junk fees](#) by passing state legislation requiring companies to be more forthright in disclosing fees for services. While the legislation appears popular, it stalled in the Senate before session ended. We expect to see this issue revived in 2025.

Public Funding for a New Football Stadium

Public debate over where the Chicago Bears will play football in the near future looks likely to continue. The franchise has requested about \$2 billion in public funding to support the development of a new stadium. Public funding of sports stadiums has become increasingly unpopular politically, and lawmakers simply avoided tackling the issue this spring. Negotiations to finalize a plan and secure financing are certain to continue. However, it's unclear whether state legislators will get involved.



What's Next?

Lawmakers, activists, and ordinary citizens alike will follow Governor Pritzker's actions on legislation in the coming weeks as he continues to work through the hundreds of bills passed this year. The General Assembly will reconvene this fall to respond to any vetoes issued by the Governor, and possibly take action on additional outstanding issues.

At the same time, many legislators have now shifted their attention towards their upcoming elections. They'll spend much of the fall on the campaign trail touting their work over the past two years. Voters will then decide the size of the majority that Democrats have to work with when they begin their work in early 2025.

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