



# Senate Committee Action

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This summary lists the bills that were reported passed by Senate Committees during the week of March 8-12. More information about these bills is available at the Illinois General Assembly Web site at <https://ilga.gov/>.

## Executive

**Mead (SB 297):** Allows for self-distribution and sale of mead and alcoholic beverages obtained by the fermentation of the natural contents of honey.

**Campaign Funds Use (SB 536):** Provides that the Election Code does not prohibit political committee funds from being used for either full-time or part-time childcare or elder home care incurred by a candidate, officeholder, campaign staffer, or volunteer if the childcare or elder home care is necessary for the fulfillment of political, governmental, or public duties, activities, or purposes.

## Health

**Student Aid Forms (SB 63):** Requires the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to ensure that every youth in care entering their final year of high school has completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form or a State financial aid form between Oct. 1 and Nov. 1 of that year. Requires DCFS to assist youth in identifying and obtaining all documents necessary to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form.

**DCFS Annual Reports (SB 106):** Requires additional information in the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Youth in Care Annual Reports. Requires DCFS to post the annual report on its website.

## Judiciary

**Installment Sales Contract (SB 71):** Amends the Code of Civil Procedure to clarify that installment sales contracts for residential real property will be subject to foreclosure, not eviction, where the amount unpaid at the time of filing the foreclosure complaint is less than 80 percent of the original purchase price of the real estate.

**Adult Guardianship (SB 80):** Makes a number of changes for adult guardianships. Authorizes separate guardianships of the person and of the estate. Authorizes co-guardianships. Requires the court to approve the fees to be paid to a guardian. Establishes a process to transfer guardianships from an outgoing to an incoming public guardian. Creates a form for notification to the ward of the right to seek revocation or modification of the guardianship.

**Court-appointed Special Advocates (SB 153):** Allows the court – in prosecutions involving the injury, health, or safety of a cat or dog – to appoint a licensed attorney at law or a law student as a special

advocate to assist the court and represent the interests of justice regarding the health or safety of the cat or dog.

**Mandatory Arbitration (SB 277):** Allows the Supreme Court to provide for mandatory arbitration of civil actions as the Court deems appropriate in order to expedite in a less costly manner any litigation wherein a party asserts a claim not exceeding \$75,000 (rather than \$50,000) or any lesser amount authorized by the Supreme Court.

## **Local Government**

**Competitive Bidding (SB 85):** Requires that any procurement by an FPD board involving improvements to real estate costing more than \$20,000 must go through competitive bidding whether the building was directly bought or by beneficial ownership (such as a lease).

**Sheriff Sale (SB 135):** Provides that a county sheriff shall enter upon his/her duties on the Dec. 1 following the election, rather than the first day of the month where the office is required to be open following his or her election.

**Vital Records Requests (SB 140):** States that the Illinois State Treasurer is exempt from paying a 5 percent, 10 percent, or 15 percent delinquency charge on unpaid fees pertaining to the Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act. Allows the unclaimed property administrator to access and reproduce vital records and court records at no cost to the administrator.

## **Pensions**

**Occupation Disease Benefit (SB 307):** Allows retired Chicago firefighters to be eligible for a disease benefit in lieu of their annuity payment if they:

- have not reached age of compulsory retirement (63);
- have not been receiving an annuity for more than five years;
- have a condition that would have qualified the retired fireman for the annuity had they still been working.

**Credit Accumulation (SB 603):** Provides that for Chicago firefighters, a future entrant not subject to the mandatory retirement age (63), the annuity is fixed at the age of withdrawal from service.

## **State Government**

**Poverty Elimination Commission (SB 295):** Provides that the Illinois Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security shall have two members of the judiciary (rather than a member of the judiciary or a designee) who shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.

**ABLE Account Program (SB 539):** Allows for funds remaining in an ABLE account, which is administered by the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer, to be transferred pursuant to a payable on death account agreement executed by the designated beneficiary or designated representative.

## **Veterans Affairs**

**Military Fee Waiver (SB 59):** Requires the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation Law to waive all application and exam fees for active duty military personnel and their spouses. Does not waive all other licensing requirements including other fees required during licensing process.

**State Flag Presentation (SB 505):** Provides that members of the Illinois National Guard shall have a State flag presented to their next of kin upon their death. Requires that the National Guard member be serving in an Active Status with either the State or federal activation codes.