**Health Science Librarians of Illinois Legislative Committee Report**

**Submitted by Kirstin Duffin & Carmen Howard, co-chairs**

**Covering: December 2020 through June 2021**

1. Committee Members Kirstin Duffin & Carmen Howard
2. Illinois Updates

**Bills and other legislative items**

* House Bill 3202 – HEALTH ED-E-CIGARETTES has been sent to the Governor to sign.  This bill amends “the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act. Adds e-cigarettes and other vapor devices as one of the educational areas the Comprehensive Health Education Program must include.” (<https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB3202/2021>)
* House Bill 0158 - sent to the Governor.  HB158 has a lot in it so here is a summary from Legiscan: “Creates the Community Health Worker Certification and Reimbursement Act. Amends various Acts regarding medical staff credentials; electronic posters and signs; N95 masks; Legionella bacteria testing; continuing education on implicit bias awareness; overdoses; the Prescription Monitoring Program; a dementia training program; taxation of blood sugar testing materials; funding of safety-net hospitals; a Child Care Assistance Program Eligibility Calculator; managed care organizations; Federally Qualified Health Centers; care coordination; billing; the Medicaid Business Opportunity Commission; reimbursement rates; doula services; personal care of family members; the State Health Assessment; the State Health Improvement Plan; child care training; and a Medicaid Managed Care Oversight Commission. Creates the Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center of Illinois Act. Creates the Underlying Causes of Crime and Violence Study Act. Creates the Special Commission on Gynecologic Cancer Act. Creates the Racial Impact Note Act to require the estimate of the impact on racial and ethnic minorities of certain bills. Creates the Health and Human Services Task Force and Study Act to review health and human service departments and programs. Creates the Anti-Racism Commission Act concerning elimination of systemic racism. Creates the Sickle Cell Prevention, Care, and Treatment Program Act regarding programs and other matters. Amends the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act in relation to the Health Facilities and Services Review Board, facility closure, and other matters. Creates the Medicaid Technical Assistance Act. Repeals, adds, and changes other provisions. Effective immediately.” (<https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB0158/2021>)  
    
  Update: House Bill 158 was signed into law in April as [Public Act 102-0004 – HEALTH CARE & HUMAN SERVICES](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flegiscan.com%2FIL%2Ftext%2FHB0158%2F2021&data=04%7C01%7Cchoward4%40uic.edu%7Cd8bc4ca23cde478a20a808d92ac03ead%7Ce202cd477a564baa99e3e3b71a7c77dd%7C0%7C0%7C637587829256223144%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=onRDN5CRf8ZqZNaBtOM0juV7AuxA63Wt6G%2B6ugKoSUg%3D&reserved=0).  Ruby Mendenhall answers questions and provides highlights from the act in this [brief interview](https://news.illinois.edu/view/6367/156525491).  Mendenhall is a University of Illinois professor of African American studies and sociology and the assistant dean for diversity and democratization of health innovation at the Carle Illinois College of Medicine.
* Senate Bill 4207 and House Bill 5867 – Senate Assistant Majority Leader Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, and state House Assistant Majority Leader Fred Crespo, D-Hoffman Estates, have filed bills in the House and Senate requiring that Managed Care Organizations return unused funds to the state for redistribution (SB4207 and [HB5867](https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB5867/2019).)  Koehler and Crespo state that this need for a redistribution of funds is in response to lower use of elective and outpatient services and an increase in COVID-19 related expenses.  [Read a Capital Fax posting with an MCO response](https://capitolfax.com/2020/12/10/its-just-a-bill-231/). (<https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB5867/2019>)

**News items**

* [Regarding Employer COVID-19 Vaccination and Return-to-Work Issues](https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=3fea8bc6-f387-46b4-8e96-71b7f6312a8a), covers many questions that employers may have and specifically mentions proposed legislation in Illinois. [Lexology]
* [Illinois lawmakers look to address state’s mental health care needs](https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/politics/government/2021/03/13/lawmakers-discuss-new-crisis-born-covid-19-pandemic/4680539001/) [State Journal-Register]
* [Illinois House adopts new rules under Welch](https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/2021/02/10/illinois-house-adopts-new-covid-19-rules-republican-chris-welch/6707342002/) [State Journal-Register]
* 3 New Laws to Know in 2021 [WTTW – PBS]
* Update on the Graduated Income Tax Failure and the Illinois Budget
  + [Illinois Budget Forecast (Peoria Journal Star Nov 16)](https://www.pjstar.com/story/news/2020/11/17/illinois-budget-forecast-ballooning-deficits-and-backlogged-bills/114967824/)
  + [Commentary from Ralph Martire at the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (Dec 8th)](https://www.sj-r.com/story/opinion/2020/12/08/illinois-fair-tax-proposal-doomed-fallacies-advocate-says/6496097002/)
  + [Opinion article by Samuel D. Brunson (Nov 10th)](https://chicago.suntimes.com/2020/11/10/21558808/how-to-make-income-taxes-more-fair-in-illinois-even-after-the-demise-of-the-fair-tax)

**From the Illinois Library Association (ILA)**

* Announcements were made regarding the ILA Legislative Meet-ups.
* The Illinois Library Association has gathered together the information you need regarding [American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Illinois libraries](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ila.org%2Fadvocacy%2Fcovid-19-resources%2Farpa-funding-for-illinois-libraries&data=04%7C01%7Cchoward4%40uic.edu%7Cd8bc4ca23cde478a20a808d92ac03ead%7Ce202cd477a564baa99e3e3b71a7c77dd%7C0%7C0%7C637587829256223144%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=osmnDeWAqHd7hUFvC2ykT%2FG%2BwIXI8keqgfqjD7vvJeI%3D&reserved=0).
* Vaccine Eligibility and Library Staff – The Illinois Library Association (ILA) has been working to help library workers request vaccine eligibility.  For more information and to see the status in several counties, [visit the ILA Vaccine Eligibility page](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ila.org%2Fadvocacy%2Fcovid-19-resources%2Fvaccine-eligibility-for-libraries-in-ill&data=04%7C01%7Cchoward4%40uic.edu%7Cb75756a2eaa54388ffef08d8cd160ea0%7Ce202cd477a564baa99e3e3b71a7c77dd%7C0%7C0%7C637484841928385526%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=t%2B10Los0VpRcSk1%2BNkVEewIvohHWfuQhORZ9%2B16d4go%3D&reserved=0).
* Broadband Advisory Council – [See the ILA’s legislative update for links to news and opportunities related to broadband access in Illinois.](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ila.org%2Fnews%2F1305%2Flegislative-update-february-4-2021&data=04%7C01%7Cchoward4%40uic.edu%7Cb75756a2eaa54388ffef08d8cd160ea0%7Ce202cd477a564baa99e3e3b71a7c77dd%7C0%7C0%7C637484841928385526%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9bu5cfWRnVnytPA01NpzeOr9ZkhVN1S2G547kf4QTDE%3D&reserved=0)
* This reminder was posted “The [Illinois Library Association Advocacy page](https://www.ila.org/advocacy) is a great resource for both Illinois and federal legislative issues.”
* Posted items from the ILA Alert when appropriate.

**Other Items**

* Looking for a podcast to keep you up to date on the latest legislative issues in Illinois?  [Try State Week from NPR Illinois](https://www.nprillinois.org/programs/state-week). – posted 4/20/2021
* Our Illinois legislators are back at work, and there are many bills and amendments being proposed right now.  They are looking at everything from amending the Election Code to creating a Vegetable Garden Protection Act. For a listing and a summary, visit <https://legiscan.com/IL/legislation>. – posted 3/16/2021

1. Federal Updates

**Call for action**

* Ask your reps to support [Build America’s Libraries Act](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/buildlibraries) [ALA, 4/21]

**Bills passed**

* [H.R.133 – Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/133) [Public Law No. 116-260, 12/27/20]  
  FY21 funding for relevant agencies are:
* $463,787,000 allocated to the National Library of Medicine (up from $456.9 million in FY20)
* $338,000,000 allocated to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (level with FY20 funding)
* $257,000,000 allocated to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (an increase from $252 million in FY20)
* $59,563,000 to the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (an increase from $58.6 million in FY20)

Funding for other institutes of the NIH and health care agencies appear on pp. 392-400. COVID relief details are under Subtitle B–COVID-related Tax Relief Act of 2020 beginning on p. 783. The No Surprises Act to prevent surprise medical bills, [p. 1576+](https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr133/BILLS-116hr133enr.pdf).

* [H.R.4704 – Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4704) [Public Law No. 116-339, 1/13/21]

Directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award competitive, merit-reviewed grants to institutions of higher education (or their consortia) to support multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

* [H.R.3153 – EFFORT (Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment) Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3153) [Public Law No. 116-335, 1/13/21]

Directs the National Science Foundation to support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on the science of opioid addiction.

* [H.R.1418 – Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act of 2020](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1418) [Public Law No. 116-327, 1/13/21]

Declares that nothing in the McCarran-Ferguson Act modifies, impairs, or supersedes the operation of antitrust laws with respect to the business of health insurance, including the business of dental insurance.

* [H.R.1319 — American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319) [Public Law No. 117-2, 3/11/21]

Provides funding and provisions related to COVID-19 relief.

* [S.937 COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/937) [Public Law No. 117-3, 5/20/21]

To facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes. DOJ and the Department of Health and Human Services must issue guidance aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic.

* [H.R.941 TRANSPLANT Act of 2021](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/941) [Public Law No. 117-15, 5/26/21]

To reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

**Bills to watch**

* [H.B.9009 Literature Selection Technical Review Committee Reform Act of 2020](https://legiscan.com/US/bill/HB9009/2019) [Introduced 12/17/20] Update: Died in committee  
  To amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the transparency of the process of the National Library of Medicine in listing and delisting journals in MEDLINE (or any other current or successor databases or indices), and for other purposes.
* [SB198](https://legiscan.com/US/bill/SB198/2021) To require the FCC to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps. [Introduced 2/3/21]
* [HB870](https://legiscan.com/US/bill/HB870/2021)/[SB279](https://legiscan.com/US/bill/SB279/2021) To require the FCC to update the national broadband plan, and for other purposes. [Introduced 2/5 and 2/8/21]
* [Black maternal health omnibus package introduced by Democratic lawmakers](https://thehill.com/homenews/house/537810-black-maternal-health-omnibus-package-introduced-by-democratic-lawmakers) [The Hill, 2/8/21]
* [HB3149](https://legiscan.com/US/bill/HB3149/2021) To expand access to health care services for immigrants by removing legal and policy barriers to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes. [Introduced 5/12/21]

**MLA news**

* [ALA Condemns Violence on Capitol Hill, Calls for Advocacy](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ala-condemns-violence-on-capitol-hill-calls-for-advocacy/) [American Libraries, 1/7/21]

MLA affirmed ALA’s statement in an email sent Jan. 12, 2021.

* [MLA signs onto CHLA ABSC statement on the importance of hospital libraries](https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1122&&blogaid=3493" \o "Original URL: https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1122&&blogaid=3493. Click or tap if you trust this link." \t "_blank) [MLAConnect, 6/1/2021]

“This statement outlines the role hospital libraries play in the provision of evidence-based health care, and our concern and disappointment regarding the continued decommissioning, closure, underfunding, and understaffing of hospital libraries. The statement will be sent to politicians, hospital leaders, professional associations and others, as well as shared to the CHLA/ABSC [The Canadian Health Libraries Association/Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada] social media and website.”

**Other news items**

* [Trump Administration Finalizes Rule Requiring Health Insurers to Disclose Price and Cost-Sharing Information](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/10/29/trump-administration-finalizes-rule-requiring-health-insurers-disclose-price-and-cost-sharing.html) [HHS.gov, 10/29/20]

“…more than 200 million Americans with private-sector insurance (both individual-market and employer-based) will have access to a list of real-time price information, including cost-sharing, enabling them to know how much care will cost them before going in for treatment.”

* [A new mandate [Plan S] highlights costs, benefits of making all scientific articles free to read](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/01/new-mandate-highlights-costs-benefits-making-all-scientific-articles-free-read) [*Science*, 1/1/2021]  
  “Despite … signs of momentum, some publishing specialists say Plan S and other open-access measures could be financially stressful and ultimately unsustainable for publishers and the research institutions and authors who foot the bill.”
* [Democrats aim to move health care agenda despite slim majorities](https://www.rollcall.com/2021/01/07/democrats-aim-to-move-health-care-agenda-despite-slim-majorities/) [Roll Call, 1/7/21]

COVID-19 aid, health insurance, and prescription drug issues are priorities.

* [Health groups’ push to end donations may lack political punch](https://www.rollcall.com/2021/01/21/health-groups-push-to-end-donations-may-lack-political-punch/) [Roll Call, 1/21/21]

Trade groups stop donations to Republicans who voted against certifying election results.

* [Biden changes health coverage, women’s health funding policies](https://www.rollcall.com/2021/01/28/biden-to-change-health-coverage-womens-health-funding-policies/) [Roll Call, 1/28/21]

“expanding access to reproductive health care and … supporting enrollment in the individual insurance market and Medicaid.”

* [Death of EPA’s controversial ‘censored science’ rule delights researchers](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/02/death-epa-s-controversial-censored-science-rule-delights-researchers) [Science, 2/3/21]

“…would have allowed EPA to ignore or downplay data from human health studies resting on confidential medical information that is difficult to make public” for regulating toxins in air and water pollution, workplace chemicals, and cigarette smoke.

* [Pandemic Aid Package Includes Relief from High Premiums](https://khn.org/news/article/aca-subsidies-pandemic-aid-package-includes-relief-from-high-premiums/) [Kaiser Health News, 3/9/21]

The just-passed COVID relief bill has “strengthen[ed] the Affordable Care Act with some of the most significant changes to insurance affordability in more than a decade.” The temporary changes pave the way for the possibility of a permanent revision of the ACA.

* [What the American Rescue Plan Act Means for Libraries](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/what-american-rescue-plan-act-means-for-libraries/) [American Libraries, 3/12/21]

“Act provides historic levels of new funding for IMLS, E-Rate, and other programs.”

* [HHS data highlights negative effects of work requirements](https://www.rollcall.com/2021/03/11/hhs-data-highlights-negative-effects-of-work-requirements/) [Roll Call, 3/11/21]

“…efforts by states to seek work requirements or capped funding result in reduced enrollment and access to care.”

* [Biden’s first budget request goes big on science](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/04/biden-s-first-budget-request-goes-big-science) [Science, 4/9/2021]
* The National Institutes of Health (NIH) would grow by $9 billion, to $51 billion. That total includes $6.5 billion for a new entity, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Health (ARPA-H), that would initially focus on research into cancer and other diseases such as diabetes and Alzheimer’s.
* A $10 million NIH office funding research on climate change and human health would mushroom to $110 million. (A similar office at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] would also get a $100 million boost, to $110 million.) And Biden says he would double current spending on gun violence research at NIH and CDC, but provides no specific numbers.
* CDC would get a $1.6 billion increase to $8.7 billion, which the White House claims is “the largest budget authority increase [for the agency] in nearly two decades.”
* [A yearslong push to ban hair discrimination is gaining momentum](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/a-yearslong-push-to-ban-hair-discrimination-is-gaining-momentum) [PBS NewsHour, 3/30/21]

“Final legislation can vary slightly from state to state, but most CROWN Act bills forbid discrimination against certain hairstyles and textures within workplaces and schools.”

* [House reshapes approach to mental health and addiction](https://www.rollcall.com/2021/03/16/house-reshapes-approach-to-mental-health-and-addiction/) [Roll Call, 3/16/2021]

“…an effort to broaden the scope of legislative efforts beyond opioids to include all forms of addiction and mental health.”

* [US restores transgender health protections denied by Trump](https://apnews.com/article/health-care-transgender-sex-discrimination-77f297d88edb699322bf5de45a7ee4ff) [AP News, 5/10/21]

“…affirms that federal laws forbidding sex discrimination in health care also protect gay and transgender people.”

* [Genome researchers question security provisions in new U.S. Senate bill](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/06/genome-researchers-question-security-provisions-new-us-senate-bill) [Science, 6/14/21]

“…would require the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop new security protocols aimed at preventing the misuse of U.S.-funded genomic data by China and other nations.”

* [Supreme Court Declines to Overturn ACA — Again](https://khn.org/news/article/supreme-court-declines-to-overturn-aca-again/) [Kaiser Health News, 6/17/21]

“By a vote of 7-2…the justices did not even reach the merits of the case, ruling instead that the suing states and the individual plaintiffs, two self-employed Texans, lacked ‘standing’ to bring the case to court.”