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

**Submitted by Cara Forster & Carmen Howard, co-chairs**

**Covering: August 25, 2023 through May 17, 2024**

**1. Committee Members/Co-Chairs:** Carmen Howard & Cara Forster

Legislative Update posts were made monthly by the co-chairs.

**2. Illinois Updates**

New Laws

* Links to listings of new laws and revised laws going into effect in January 2024 were shared.
  + Changes To Illinois Laws As Of Jan. 1 (Block Club Chicago): <https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/01/01/changes-to-illinois-laws-as-of-january-1/>
  + New Illinois laws 2024: Full list of laws in effect on Jan. 1 (ABC 7 Chicago): <https://abc7chicago.com/new-illinois-laws-2024-full-list-pritzker/14184011/>
  + What Illinois laws take effect January 1, 2024? (Illinois Legal Aid Online): <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/what-illinois-laws-take-effect-january-1-2024>

Bills and Other Legislative Items

* House Bill 4239 – INSTITUTIONAL RACISM IN MED ED – Amends the Medical School Curriculum Act. Provides that, for medical students who, on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act, matriculate into a medical school that is subject to the Act, the minimum required curriculum shall also include a medical humanities course that covers, among other things, the effects of institutional racism on medical education, medical research, and medical care in the United States. – Filed 11/28/2023. <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB4239/2023>
  + Update: Referred to Rules Committee on 01/16/2024.
* Senate Bill 78 – DHS-OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES – Amends the Substance Use Disorder Act. Requires the Department of Human Services to (i) establish a new intervention license category entitled “OPS Harm Reduction Services”, (ii) establish standards for entities to become licensed under the OPS Harm Reduction Services category, and (iii) create a licensing application process. Provides that, notwithstanding any other law, ordinance, or regulation, any entity licensed as an OPS Harm Reduction Services provider may operate an overdose prevention site as authorized by the Department. Requires the Department to make a determination as to whether to approve an entity’s application for an OPS Harm Reduction Services license within 4 weeks after the date upon which the entity submitted its application to the Department. Requires the Department to help educate local communities and public and private entities about overdose prevention sites and the evidence regarding the benefits of overdose prevention sites. Requires entities approved to operate an overdose prevention site to, at a minimum, provide a hygienic space where participants may consume pre-obtained substances, maintain a supply of naloxone and oxygen on-site, employ staff trained to administer first aid to participants who are experiencing an overdose, provide secure hypodermic needle and syringe disposal services, encourage drug checking or the use of fentanyl test strips, and other services. Requires licensed entities to submit a report to the Department on the number of participants who have received or are receiving services at the overdose prevention site and other matters. Grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to specified persons. Preempts home rule powers. – Currently adding co-sponsors <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB0078/2023>
  + Update: Still adding co-sponsors as of 05/17/2024
* Senate Bill 3511 – SCHOOL-INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS - “Creates the Let America Read Act. Provides that an entity or an entity’s staff with oversight over the books, instructional materials, or curriculum used in a public school may not refuse to approve or prohibit the use of books, instructional materials, or a curriculum, including, but not limited to, memoirs, autobiographies, and biographies, based upon the depiction of matters of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual and reproductive health, gender identity, religion, or human rights activism. Provides that these provisions do not restrict an entity with oversight over the books, instructional materials, or curriculum used in a public school from imposing limitations on the access to books, instructional materials, or a curriculum based upon the age and developmental level of the students who will have access. Amends the School Code to set forth a penalty for a school district that violates the Act.” <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB3511/2023>
  + Update: Still adding co-sponsors as of 05/14/2024
* Senate Bill 3529 – REPEAL PERTUSSIS VACCINE ACT - “Amends the Pertussis Vaccine Act. Repeals provisions relating to creation of public pamphlets explaining the benefits and possible adverse reactions to immunizations for pertussis, providing the pamphlet and other information to parents or guardians of a newborn child, and immunity from liability relating to providing the pamphlet and other information to parents or guardians of a newborn child.” <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB3529/2023>
  + Update: Passed the Senate on 04/12/2024; Third Reading in the House/Final Action Deadline Extended to 05/24/2024
* Senate Bill 3563 – LIBRARY-BOND PERCENTAGE - “Amends the Illinois Local Library Act. Provides that the bond of a library treasurer or custodian of the moneys paid over to a library board shall not be less than 10% (rather than 50%) of the total funds received by the library in the last fiscal year or the treasurer or custodian of the moneys paid over to a library board may provide insurance coverage for negligent and intentional acts by library officials and employees that could result in the loss of library funds in an amount at least equal to 10% (rather than 50%) of the average amount of the library’s operating fund from the prior 3 fiscal years. Makes similar changes in the Illinois Library System Act and the Public Library District Act of 1991 relating to treasurer bonds. Effective immediately. <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB3563/2023>
  + Update: Passed the Senate on 04/12/2024; Second Reading - Short Debate in the House on 05/16/2024
* House Bill 4567 - CRIM CD-THREATS-LIBRARY - Edits the Criminal Code. This bill has now gone through the Judicial – Criminal Committee with a “Do Pass” and has been scheduled for its “2nd Reading – Short Debate”. Among other changes, this bill “Includes in offense of threatening a public official or human service provider, threatening a library employee. Provides that the threat to a public official, human service provider, or library employee includes a threat made electronically or via social media. Defines ‘library employee’.” <https://legiscan.com/IL/text/HB4567/2023>
  + Update: Third Reading in the House/Final Action Deadline Extended to 05/24/2024; Referred to Judiciary - Criminal Committee on 05/20/2024

News & Resources

Posted in November 2023:

* There has been a lot of activity in the Illinois legislature this week as they prepared for adjournment of the session. Most of the activity was in the form of Resolutions to acknowledge people and awards around the state. To see a list of activity, check [Legiscan](https://legiscan.com/IL/legislation).
* During the break between sessions, the Illinois Library Association invites you to meet with legislators at one of 7 meet-ups to be held in late November and December. **Registration is required by November 24th.** To see a list of the meet-ups and register, visit [here](https://www.ila.org/events/legislative-meetups).

Posted in December 2023:

* This is a reminder to take a look at [Legiscan](https://legiscan.com/) where you can track bills and resolutions through the legislative process. A couple of Illinois items of interest are:

Posted in February 2024:

* The Illinois Library Association is currently monitoring several bills moving through the state legislature. Visit<https://www.ila.org/advocacy/illinois-legislative-issues/legislative-issues/bill-monitoring> to see the full list.
* There are also some general medical legislative items that we may see at the reference desk:
  + <https://khqa.com/newsletter-daily/bill-introduced-to-legalize-psilocybin-in-illinois-to-treat-mental-health>
  + <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2024/2/9/24066104/illinois-right-to-die-legislation-general-assembly>
  + <https://news.wttw.com/2024/02/12/insurers-would-be-required-cover-expanded-infertility-care-under-proposed-illinois-laws>

Posted in March 2024:

* It is a busy time of year for the Illinois legislature. See everything they are working on [here](https://legiscan.com/IL/legislation).

**3. Federal Updates**

New Laws

Posted in April 2024

* The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief ([PEPFAR](https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-u-s-presidents-emergency-plan-for-aids-relief-pepfar/), the U.S. government's global HIV response) was recently re-authorized for the 4th time, extending its funding until March 25, 2025. This comes after opposition (for a plan that historically has had strong bipartisan support) raised concerns that PEPFAR was promoting abortion rights. Eventually the plan was able to pass without any of modifications that were demanded (e.g., [the Mexico City Policy](https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/mexico-city-policy-explainer/)). More information is available [here](https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/pepfars-short-term-reauthorization-sets-an-uncertain-course-for-its-long-term-future/)

Posted in November 2024

* On October 30, 2023, President Biden issued an [Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/10/30/executive-order-on-the-safe-secure-and-trustworthy-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence/), in an effort to govern the creation and use of AI. Read the [White House issued fact-sheet](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/30/fact-sheet-president-biden-issues-executive-order-on-safe-secure-and-trustworthy-artificial-intelligence/) for a plain speech overview of the Executive Order and its desired impacts.
  + Interested in how this relates to Healthcare and Health Science Libraries? Here are some suggested readings:
* [EPIC - Summary: What Does Biden's Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence Actually Say?](https://epic.org/summary-what-does-bidens-executive-order-on-artificial-intelligence-actually-say/)
* [KFF Health News - Biden Uses Executive Order To Push For AI Health Care Standards](https://kffhealthnews.org/morning-breakout/president-uses-executive-order-to-push-for-ai-health-care-standards/)
* [AAMC - President Biden Issues Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence](https://www.aamc.org/advocacy-policy/washington-highlights/president-biden-issues-executive-order-artificial-intelligence)

Bills and Other Legislative Items

Posted in September 2023

* The ["Life.gov Act"](https://legiscan.com/US/text/HB5406/2023) was proposed on September 12. If passed, it will require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to "establish a clearinghouse of zip-code based information to expecting mothers".

Posted in December 2023

* On November 28, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Education issued a [joint-policy statement](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/28/biden-harris-administration-announces-updated-resource-support-inclusion-children-disabilities-early-childhood-programs.html) that reaffirms support for the inclusion of children with disabilities in early childhood programs. For a local perspective, [page 17](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ecd/policy-statement-on-inclusion.pdf) highlights some of the initiatives that Illinois has previously undertaken to support this inclusion.

Posted in January 2024

* *Health Insurance:* [Listen (or read the transcript) to the AMA's podcast coverage](https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/prior-authorization/federal-legislation-lift-burden-prior-authorization-rep) of a new Federal bill, the GOLD Card Act of 2023, that is intended to "fix" prior authorization.

Posted in March 2024

* Oral arguments for the US Supreme Court case, [*Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA*](https://adfmedialegalfiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/AllianceForHippocraticMedicineComplaint.pdf), begin on [March 26, 2024](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2024/02/09/1230175305/abortion-pill-mifepristone-retraction-supreme-court). This case focuses on the drug Mifepristone (famously an abortion pill), and could dramatically limit access to reproductive healthcare in the United States.
* [The social media platform TikTok has also come under seige](https://www.cnn.com/2024/03/17/politics/tiktok-ban-representatives-who-use-the-app/index.html). The House voted (352-65) in favor of a bill intended to force the sale of TikTok to the US, ostensibly to protect user data. However, as the US cannot force a sale from foreign entities, this will likely lead to a TikTok ban if the legislation is enacted. Opponents have raised questions of a lack of data regulation for US-owned companies, Congressional stock holdings in Meta and other TikTok rivals, censorship of news coverage of the Palestinian genocide, etc.

Posted in April 2024

* The U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) is jointly considering 2 cases (about the fishing industry.....bear with me here) that could weaken regulations on patient and consumer protections. The key component of the cases is the Chevron Doctrine, a fail safe that says when a policy/law is ambiguous, the federal courts can make an interpretation and companies must adhere to that interpretation. Businesses feel that this leads to governmental overstepping, but many fear that the removal of the Chevron Doctrine could be detrimental for patient and consumer protections. More background is available [here](https://www.kff.org/private-insurance/issue-brief/upcoming-scotus-case-could-weaken-impact-regulation-key-patient-consumer-protections/).

News & Resources

Posted in September 2023

* The United States Copyright Office is seeking public comments on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and copyright law to help them determine what legislative or regulatory steps are warranted. New comments are accepted until Wednesday, October 18. You can post and view comments on the [Federal Register](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/30/2023-18624/artificial-intelligence-and-copyright).

Posted in October 2023

* Several pending Supreme Court cases could negatively impact healthcare and scientific progress. In particular, they could restrict access to abortions, limit funds for preventative care, and hinder the ability to update policies according to new research.
  + <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/10/05/supreme-court-cases-health-care-00119996>

Posted in December 2023

* In October, the White House published the ["Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights: Making Automated Systems Work for the American People"](https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/ai-bill-of-rights/). This is NOT a legal document, but is a strong indicator of which elements of artificial intelligence will be prioritized for policy making.
* Do you work with clinicians and/or in a hospital setting? Biden just released a [fact sheet of 30 actions that are intended to address supply chain issues affecting the nation.](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/11/27/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-new-actions-to-strengthen-americas-supply-chains-lower-costs-for-families-and-secure-key-sectors/) These have not yet been litigated, but you can expect to see them addressed in the near future! Some of these actions are intended to develop a national supply-chain data-sharing platform, mitigate drug shortages, and strengthen our international alliances.

Posted in January 2024

* *Abortion:*[The Supreme Court will take another case related to abortion this term.](https://rollcall.com/2024/01/05/supreme-court-allows-idaho-to-enforce-abortion-ban/) While the case is pending, they have temporarily allowed the state of Iowa to ban abortions in hospital emergency rooms.

Posted in March 2024

* Although Artificial Intelligence has received Federal scrutiny, states are pulling ahead in the effort to legislate the use/misuse of AI. Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Law Firm, Husch Blackwell, has [assembled and summarized most of the proposed bills](https://www.bytebacklaw.com/2024/03/ai-legislation-update-march-6-2024/). For more insights into the need for federal input, read their February analysis: https://www.huschblackwell.com/newsandinsights/will-federal-initiatives-stave-off-disparate-state-level-regulation-of-artificial-intelligence
* Book Bans have reached a record number across the country. The [ALA's March 14th report](https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2024/03/american-library-association-reports-record-number-unique-book-titles) shares details of these censorship initiatives and legislation.