

Health Science Librarians of Illinois Legislative Committee

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

Covering: May 18, 2024 through September 19, 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 bills that were voted into law in July 2024 and some media coverage.
 - Full listing: <https://legiscan.com/IL/legislation?status=passed>
 - Illinois clearing \$1B in medical debt and you may be eligible for relief (State Journal-Register) - <https://www.sjr.com/story/news/politics/state/2024/07/09/illinois-clearing-1b-in-medical-debt-and-you-may-be-eligible-for-relief/74325665007/>
 - Pritzker Signs Law Banning Health Insurance Companies' 'Predatory Tactics,' Including Step Therapy (usnews.com) - <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/illinois/articles/2024-07-10/pritzker-signs-law-banning-health-insurance-companies-predatory-tactics-including-step-therapy>
 - Gov. JB Pritzker signs Illinois birth equity initiative into law, celebrates Medicaid expansion (ABC7 Chicago) - <https://abc7chicago.com/post/gov-jb-pritzker-signs-illinois-birth-equity-initiative/15118221/>

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. No further action posted.
- 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: Referred to Assignments 5/22/2024; Added as Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Linda Holmes 6/13/2024
- House Bill 4823 – \$IDPH-LOCAL HEALTH PROT GRANTS – Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Public Health for local health protection grants for health protection programs. Status – Re-referred to Rules Committee. <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB4823/2023>.
 - Update: Adding co-sponsors as of 08/28/2024
- House Bill 5394 – SCH SAFETY DRILL-CARDIAC PLAN – “Amends the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act. Provides that no later than 30 days after the first day of each school year, the school board of each public elementary and secondary school in the State shall provide all teachers, administrators, and other school personnel, as determined by school officials, with information regarding emergency procedures and techniques, including, without limitation, the Heimlich maneuver, hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and use of the school district’s automated external defibrillator, and identify the cardiac emergency response team (instead of providing that the school board of each public elementary and secondary school in the State shall encourage all teachers and other school personnel to acquire, develop, and maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to properly administer life-saving techniques, including, without limitation, the Heimlich maneuver and rescue breathing). Makes related changes. Provides that the annual review shall include reviewing procedures regarding the school district’s cardiac emergency response plan. Amends the School Safety Drill Act. Provides that school districts and private schools shall develop a cardiac emergency response plan in place in accordance with guidelines set forth by either the American Heart Association or other nationally recognized, evidence-based standards that addresses the appropriate response to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while at a school or at a school-sponsored activity or event. Requires the plan to be distributed to all teachers, administrators, school support personnel, coaches, and other school staff identified by school administrators at each school. Sets forth what shall be included in the cardiac emergency response plan.” <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB5394/2023>
 - Update: Signed into law (Public Act 103-0608) on 7/1/2024. Effective 1/1/2025
- 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. No further action posted.
- 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. No further action posted.
- 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: Signed into law (Public Act 103-1010) on 8/9/2024. Effective 1/1/2025
- 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: Signed into law (Public Act 103-1016) on 8/9/2024. Effective 8/9/2024
- Senate Bill 3703 – NURSING STUDENT STIPEND PROG – Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall establish a nursing student stipend program to reimburse eligible applicants for the pre-licensure nursing program cost incurred during the previous academic year from a baccalaureate degree nursing program. Sets forth provisions concerning application for a stipend, the amount of the stipend, the pre-licensure nursing program cost, the distribution of funds, information on the stipend program, and rulemaking. Status – Re-referred to Assignments.
<https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB3703/2023>
 - Update: Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Sara Feigenholtz 8/15/2024
- House Resolution 779 – MENTAL HEALTH BILL OF RIGHTS – “Endorses certain principles as the Mental Health Bill of Rights in an effort to reinforce Illinois’ commitment to providing access to families seeking diagnosis and/or treatment of a mental or behavioral health concern.” – Assigned to the Mental Health & Addiction Committee on 05/20/2024 <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HR0779/2023>
 - Update: Rule 19(b) / Re-referred to Rules Committee 6/29/2024.

News & Resources

Posted in May 2024:

- The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is encouraging ILA members to submit legislative policy proposals to the ILA Public Policy Committee. For details on how to submit your ideas, please see the information on its [website](#) The submission deadline is August 1, 2024.

Posted in June 2024:

- The Illinois Library Association recently posted a summary of recent important library legislative news. You can see their update [here](#).

3. Federal Updates

Bills and Other Legislative Items

Posted in May 2024:

- The Biden Administration has issued a "Final Rule", entitled [HIPAA Privacy Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy](#). This rule modifies HIPAA in an effort to strengthen patient and provider protections with regards to lawful reproductive healthcare.

Posted in June 2024:

- In response to a lack of Federal legislation on Artificial Intelligence, senators introduced a bipartisan bill on June 11, 2024, the [Promoting Responsible Evaluation and Procurement to Advance Readiness for Enterprise-wide Deployment for Artificial Intelligence Act](#) ("PREPARED for AI Act"). Among other things, PREPARED for AI would provide a risk mitigation framework that would guide the adoption of A.I. tools into the government sphere.

States are not waiting on federal legislation however. Many have introduced and/or passed [their own legislation](#) to address issues like privacy, intellectual property, consumer protections, and security.

News & Resources

Posted in May 2024:

- The Supreme Court is deliberating on [Idaho and Moyle, et al. v. United States](#) after hearing oral arguments on April 24, 2024. The Idaho politicians who brought this case before the SCotUS hope to circumvent a federal statute -- the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) -- to arrest clinicians for providing pregnant patients with emergency medical care that could lead to a terminated fetus.

Posted in June 2024:

- On June 6, 2024, the US Supreme Court decided [Becerra v. San Carlos Apache Tribe and Becerra v. Northern Arapaho Tribe](#) (Nos. 23-250 and 23-253), holding that the Indian Health Service (IHS) must reimburse Native nations, bands, and tribes that run their own healthcare systems for costs associated with program income from Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers. This could provide billions of dollars in reimbursement of costs to support tribal healthcare programs."
- [A federal court on June 20, 2024](#) ruled the Health and Human Services Department lacks the authority under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act to prohibit providers from using third-party web tracking technologies on their websites in

certain situations. The judge argued that HHS was attempting to expand the protections of HIPAA to cover personal information that is not health related.

Posted in August 2024:

- The House Appropriations Committee has approved a proposed 15% cut to the only federal library funding agency. This budget will be presented to the full House before the end of the year, so now is the time to urge representatives to take a strong stance against it. [Tell Congress to stop the cuts to libraries!](#)
- As we get closer to the Presidential Election, it's important to stay aware of the promises and track records of the candidates.
 - KKF: [Compare the Candidates on Health Policy](#)
 - Ballotpedia: [Presidential candidates on the issues, 2024](#)
- Meanwhile, a current Supreme Court case, [Oklahoma v. Department of Health and Human Services](#), could dramatically affect Federal regulations on Medicare and Medicaid.