

In 2015, the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing and ANA-Illinois came together and founded the Illinois Nurses Grassroots Coalition. The aim of this coalition is stated on the Advocacy Portal utilized by all nurses in Illinois.

*Nursing is the largest licensed professional group in the State, with hundreds of nurses living in each of the 59 Senate Districts in Illinois. Nursing is the most trusted profession and has held that title for many years.*

*It is now time to take advantage of the TRUST by making nursing's voice heard in each and every part of the State!*

**The Plan:** *Involve all nursing organizations, get input from nurses across the State and deepen our ties with our legislators.*

**The Purpose:** *To coordinate working together to create one voice of nursing, supporting priorities, while at the same time, maintaining separate identity.*

We are proud of this collaboration and believe it makes us stronger as a profession and as individual associations. It takes a village, as they say, and that is true for changing policy in Springfield. This report is designed to inform the nurses of Illinois of the vital work done by RNs and APRNs within our coalition so let us not forget the nurse volunteers who have worked tirelessly to advocate for our mission. Our work in Springfield is a team effort with respective boards, committees, and member involvement.

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These committees focus on the legislative proposals themselves. The committee members are charged with the review of legislative proposals being introduced in the General Assembly, assessing each for "support" or "non-support." The political platform of ANA-Illinois or ISAPN respectively, which is voted on by the membership of each organization but does not address every possible legislative situation. It is these bills that must be reviewed by the committee for a position recommendation. A quick turnaround of comments is essential for the committee to function effectively. The committee members also identify those who support the association's legislative priorities/platform and determine whether that support will be either monetary or use other resources such as campaign support or a letter-writing campaign.

Every member is needed for an effective grassroots effort. Every member is encouraged to establish and build relationships with their state legislators – THIS IS NOT THE SOLE ROLE of our lobbyist(s). Having a lobbyist to monitor legislation and communicate/lobby legislators in Springfield does not replace the vital hometown connection of a nurse as the constituent in the legislator's district. To be successful, the Illinois Nurses Grassroots Coalition efforts must be replicated by RNs & APRNS across the State, touching virtually every legislator and building these vital constituents to legislator relationships. It takes both "Springfield and hometown connections" for a strong voice in Springfield.

#### **ANA-Illinois Legislative Platform foci**

Access to Quality Care  
Funding Nursing Education & Research  
Financing Health Care  
Advancing the Profession of Nursing  
Public Health  
Human Rights  
Disaster and Pandemic Preparedness

#### **Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing Legislative Platform foci**

Promote the Profession of Advanced Practice Registered Nursing  
Access to Health Services  
Reimbursement  
Education and Research  
Human Rights

We ask that all members of ISAPN and ANA-Illinois join us in the Spring of 2023 for Nurses Day at the Capitol.

## "End of Session" Legislative Report

There were 2,673 bills introduced in this abbreviated session. On behalf of nursing, we tracked 94 House bills/resolutions and 58 Senate bills/resolutions, some of which did not see any action.

The abbreviated legislative session was scheduled to adjourn on April 8th. They almost made it!! Instead, the legislators survived a 20-hour marathon prior to passing the State budget and adjourning in the early hours of April 9th; the Senate after 3 AM, the House after 6 AM!

During weeks, the legislators were in session many legislative proposals passed both chambers and will be sent to the Governor for signature before becoming law. The final action was passage of the State budget. After the many hours of debate they passed, and was subsequently signed, a \$46.5 billion-dollar balanced budget.

There are two pots of money from which dollars can be appropriated for nursing. The first is the Nursing Dedicated and Professional Fund. Money from licensure renewal fees, fines, investments, etc., are deposited into the Fund and used to administer the work of the Department of Professional Regulation in regulating the nursing profession. Money remaining after the administrative costs remains in the Fund and used for the profession for scholarships, funding for the Nursing Center for Nursing Workforce, and whatever the General Assembly appropriates. The second fund is the General Revenue Fund, which is money received from taxes, fines, etc. to 'run the state'. It is this fund the legislators are tasked to appropriate each year to provide services to the people of Illinois.

How did nursing fare?

From the Nursing Dedicated and Professional Fund:

1. The Nurse Practice Act states that each year \$2 million dollars shall be transferred to the Department of Public Health for nursing scholarships. That amount was doubled to **\$4 million dollars**, BUT the scholarship was transferred from Public Health to ISAC (Illinois Student Assistance Commission). No reason given as to why.
2. The Nursing Workforce Center: **\$500,000**. The Center has received no increase in the budget since its inception in 2006.
3. Nurse licensure fees waived this year. Nursing licensure fees bring in over \$17 million dollars each licensure cycle. The money to regulate the profession does not cost that much, so the money in the fund grows. For this year money in the Fund will be transferred to the Department for administrative purposes to make up for loss of revenue due to waiving the fees.

From the General Revenue Fund:

1. ISAC received:
  - a. Nurse educator loan forgiveness; **\$500,000**, an increase of \$236,000.
2. Illinois State Board of Higher Education received
  - a. Nurse Educator Fellowship Grants: **\$400,000**, an increase of over twice the previously budgeted amount. This grant is \$10,000 for each awardee and focused on faculty retention.
  - b. Nurse Capacity Grants: **\$750,000**, a \$377,000 increase. These grants are for nursing schools to increase capacity.
3. Illinois Nursing Foundation: **\$25,000**. Recall this money is based on license plate sales. No increase over previous years.

Below is a snapshot of many of the bills that were followed. Not only did we support many bills that passed both chambers, but we were also successful in amending many that needed tweaks such as defining nursing and adding APRNs to language that did not initially include them as a provider option. To read and review any of the bills listed, please visit [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).

The bills marked with a \* have passed both the House and Senate and will be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto.

**HB1464** Amends the Nurse Practice Act to protect RNs and APRN licenses by saying the Department may not discipline or otherwise affect a nurse's license in Illinois even if another state revokes, or otherwise disciplines, the license due to providing healthcare or procedures relating to abortions. This bill also amends the Medical Practice Act and the same protections. This bill passed out of the House but did not move forward in the Senate.

**HB4269** Nurse Licensure Compact, unfortunately after much frustration and disappointment, the Compact did not move forward yet again. This bill was not called in committee for a vote, despite having many legislators supporting this bill and 723 slips of support for HB4269. We will continue our discussions on how to mitigate the opposition so that we can pass the Compact in Illinois another time.

\***HB4338** added APRNs to those who can prescribe: the bill requires insurance coverage for prescription prenatal vitamins when prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under the Nurse Practice Act. Having passed both chambers, the bill will soon be sent to the Governor for signature.

**HB4427** introduced by Rep Yednock, this bill would have reinstated the ability for a new graduate RN who has not yet passed the NCLEX to practice as a 'licensed pending RN'. This bill was returned to rules committee and did not pass.

\***HB4430** passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor for signature, this bill grants pharmacists the authority to dispense HIV preventative drugs under a physician or public health standing order.

**HB4478/SB1990**, neither bill moved this session. The language in both HB4478 and SB1990 mirrored each other. The bill attempted to change the nursing delegation changes that had been made and agreed to by 26 nursing organizations that voted to support, in the 2017 Nurse Practice Act Sunset language that passed unanimously out of both chambers and was signed into law in 2018.

\***HB4589** creates the Division on Men's Health in IDPH. Passed both chambers – next step to the Governor for signature.

\*Athletic trainer bill, **HB4629**: An amendment added in the House was drafted incorrectly allowing APRNs with a WCA to refer patients to an athletic trainer. The bill sponsor has agreed to a Senate Amendment making the change to an APRN licensed by the Nurse Practice Act. This bill passed out of both chambers.

\*Equity in Health Care Act, **HB4645**: the underlying bill requires IDPH to establish scholarships/loans for equity in healthcare. Initially, as an oversight, nursing was not included in the bill – after conversations with the sponsor, the bill was amended to add nursing. LPNs, RNs, and APRNs are potential recipients for the loans/scholarships. The bill passed both chambers.

**HB4654**, this bill would have required 5 hours of CE in cultural competency. ANA-Illinois actively worked against this bill's passage, ultimately, this bill did not move forward this session.

\***HB5012**; amends the Birthing Center Act to allow Licensed Certified Professional Midwives to provide services. Lobbyists worked with the bill sponsors to amend this bill as originally the language allowed for Certified Nurse Midwife and Licensed Certified Professional Midwife to be used interchangeably. After amending, nursing supported this bill which passed both chambers and will soon be sent to the Governor for signature.

**HB5048** the bill states that those facilities licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act must offer to provide POLST-appropriate residents or their representatives an opportunity to execute the Department of Public Health Uniform POLST form within specified time periods. This bill passed out of the House but was held in the Senate.

**HB5051** this bill would allow medication aides in long term care. It did not see any movement, nor did similar bill, HB1806, this session.

**HB5601** requested \$250,000 for a School Nurse Capacity Study, unfortunately, the requested ESSER funds were not available to be allocated. In short order, **\*HR817** was drafted. This House Resolution urges ISBE to work with IASN to complete a study to gather more in-depth data that can be utilized to develop a model for healthcare services provided in schools that can address specific community needs. The resolution urges ISBE to report the findings to the Illinois General Assembly by January 10, 2023. This resolution was introduced April 5 and passed on the last scheduled day of session, April 8.

**SB670** Senator Glowiak-Hilton, this bill would require IDFPR to process a license within 4-weeks of receiving an application with no deficiencies. SB670 passed out of the senate but did not move forward in the House.

**\*SB2535** this bill states that all prescribers must tell patients that opioids are addictive and offer to provide an opioid antagonist. This bill passed both chambers and will be sent to the Governor for signature.

**\*SB3011** a technical change was made from the surgical smoke evacuation bill from last year. This bill passed out of both chambers.

**\*SB3017** Healthcare Provider Workforce Act, this initiative would provide loans to those working in underserved areas. This bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor for signature.

**\*SB3166** this bill requires that hospitals supply information about substance use and treatment to all new employees. This bill as passed, was negotiated, and amended due to nursing's initial opposition, with the amendment, nursing changed the position to support. This bill has been sent to the Governor for signature.

**SB3196** would have allowed an APRN practicing in a hospital, hospital affiliate or an ASTC to administer radiation through fluoroscopy. Unfortunately, this bill did not move out of committee this spring.

**SB3214** provides that a licensed dentist must hold and appropriate permit in order to perform dentistry while a nurse anesthetist administers conscious sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia (rather than conscious sedation). Provides that a certified registered nurse anesthetist who provides anesthesia services in a dental office shall enter into a written collaborative agreement with the operating dentist performing the procedure. This bill did not move this session.

**\*SB3617** this bill was an overall behavioral health omnibus bill. Throughout its course, it was amended several times. One of its final amendments included giving APRNs who are certified in MH/psych the authority to provide services in SMURF facilities. This bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.

**SB3775** and **HB4658** were bills introduced by long term care earlier in the year because of the recent, sharp incline of costs incurred by LTC facilities to obtain nurses from nurse staffing agencies. The final bill became **\*HB4666** and did not cap nursing wages. These revisions to the act, which were ultimately supported by ANA-Illinois, encompassed many changes including the prohibition of non-compete covenants, requiring staffing agencies to report certain information, and requires that 100 percent of the hourly rate negotiated with the nurses goes to the nurses.

**\*SB3682** this bill creates The Reducing Cervical Cancer and Saving Lives Act. As initially drafted, this bill did not include APRNs, we were able to work with the bill sponsor to ensure APRNs were added the language. This bill passed both chambers.

**SB3920** opposed by nursing, SB3920 would have required all prescription medication be listed in the PMP. This bill did not move out of committee this session.

**SB4004** establishes a program in long term care facilities that would all for the establishment of a CNA intern. The language stated that the CNA intern would be supervised by an APRN or RN and provided for specifics in the scope of practice. While this bill did not ultimately move forward this session, many negotiations were taking place until the final days of session. Nursing supported the general concept but needed to see final language before taking a position on the bill.

An additional highlight of spring session, the Senate Health Committee held a Nursing Shortage subject matter only hearing. While hours, if not days, could have been spent discussing the topic, there was only a small window of time to present testimony. Sue Clark, lobbyist, introduced the ANA-Illinois panel of speakers: Susan Swart, Executive Director, Glenda Morris Burnett, speaking for higher education, and Gloria E Barrera, speaking on behalf of the school nurses. While the testimony was brief, we know that the legislators were listening closely to the presentations.

It was, and continues to be, a pleasure to represent the interests of nursing at the Capitol in Illinois. Work will continue throughout the summer and fall as we continue conversations with legislators and stakeholders on the bills noted above as well as coming legislative measures. We appreciate the grassroots action and your quick response to our calls to action.

*Capitol Edge Consulting, LLC is a women owned and operated firm with a combined total of 40 years of experience. Certified as a Women Business Enterprise (WBE) through the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) in Illinois, Capitol Edge Consulting knows how to get your issues in front of the right decision makers in Springfield and Chicago.*

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