



ILHIC

Veto Session Call Notes

- **2021 Legislative Veto Session-** It has been a jammed packed veto session for the Illinois General Assembly. The earlier idea that leadership expressed that this was going to be a quiet and quick session was sorely mistaken. The first week of Veto was in fact quiet, while this week was anything but. Luckily, ILHIC's only cleanup bill was one of the few non-controversial bills. The legislators here are tackling some controversial votes. Legislators are passing a narrowing of the Healthcare Right of Conscience Act (which had to head back to the Senate.) The House amended the bill to repeal the immediate effective date because the Democrats could not obtain the required number of votes. The General Assembly also took up the repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion Act, as well as Congressional Maps, electric vehicle bills, gaming bills, licensing midwives, just to name a few.
 - **ILHIC's only piece of legislation, SA #2 to HB1976**, corrects the omission and continues to allow accident and health insurance companies to sell travel insurance policies and brings the State into FULL alignment with the NAIC Model Travel Insurance Law. Representative DeLuca transferred sponsorship from Representative Moeller in the House and was carried by Senator Fine in the Senate. This bill sailed through the Senate and House. The bill now heads to the Governor's office for a signature.
- **Future Legislative Updates**
 - **Group Life Continuation of Coverage SB 1876-** The IL DOI has confirmed that they support the language ILHIC put forth, and believes it sufficiently addresses their concern that the new law unintentionally creates a potential gap in coverage for those active employees currently receiving benefits under the preceding policy. ILHIC intends to run the legislation in the Spring 2022 legislative session.
 - **HB 4175 Illinois Health Benefits Exchange Law- Representative Jones-** HB 4175 is one of the first proposals we have seen since the Feasibility Study was published. The bill establishes the authority to create the infrastructure of a state-based exchange, as well as pose arbitrary insurance assessments for each platform the State will operate within. The majority of the language was taken from New Jersey. However, HB 4175 states that the exchange law would only be applicable for individual coverage, which would not be allowed on any exchange platform. This piece of legislation was not vetted by industry or any agency closely working with the Illinois Healthcare Affordability Feasibility Study. While this bill likely won't advance, this filing will and has created a heightened interest in moving

forward on policies stated in the study. House Staff is speaking with ILHIC next week for next steps.

- **HB 295 Prepaid Funeral/ Burial – Representative Manley/ Representative Feigenholtz-** attempted to tackle a complicated policy issue that at its core would have allowed individuals to exempt assets associated with a whole life policy to qualify for Medicaid by irrevocably assigning those assets over to a funeral home to cover funeral and burial expenses for that beneficiary. Medicaid eligibility currently sets a \$2,000 asset limitation, but life insurance policies used to fund a funeral and burial contract are exempt from these asset limitations. Discussions stalled when the bill moved to the Senate after the Department of Healthcare and Family Services asked for additional time to determine whether a state plan amendment would be needed to allow this exemption in the first place. There were also ongoing concerns about irrevocably assigning these benefits over to a funeral home to distribute rather than a trust. The bill remains in the Senate and further negotiations with stakeholders. Those conversations are likely to begin again soon.

- **Remaining Matters**
 - **PNA- Insurance Q-** ILHIC was informed by Staff that during a Republican Caucus a member had asked if there are specific insurance confidentiality provisions for minors if the Parental Notification of Abortion Law is repealed. While there are confidential statutory provisions in the Public Aid Code, there is no existence of such language in the Insurance Code. ILHIC mentioned that there will likely be a conversation in the future.
 - **Director of Insurance-** The Director was confirmed this week. ILHIC was able to connect with her while she was in Springfield. She will return from maternity leave soon and is ready and willing to sit down with ILHIC to walk through our list of regulatory questions and concerns.
 - **2022 Spring (Winter) Session-** The House and Senate released its schedule for 2022 regular session. The session timeline has a start date on January fourth and concludes on April 8th. Legislators might have to come back in May to finalize the budget. However, both houses wish to conclude other matters by April 8th in order to distance themselves as well as work on their campaigns. ILHIC will post the schedules to our member website as well as email the PDFs to members when they become available. (We are still waiting for the PDF publication of the Senate.)