



**ILLINOIS
CHAMBER**

101st
General Assembly

2019-2020 **Legislative Ratings**

**STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

About the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Legislative Ratings

The ratings are based on legislators' votes on the key business legislation of the 101st General Assembly as determined by staff and the Illinois Chamber's Government Affairs Committee. The votes in the Senate and House are selected based on their impact on the business community.

None of the bills used in the report are weighted, as there were an adequate number of bills voted on during this General Assembly.

Legislators were given a positive mark (+) on their scorecard for bills in which they voted in favor with the Illinois Chamber and were given a negative mark (-) where they voted against the business community.

Legislators who voted Present (P), were absent (A) or took a 'no vote' (NV) on a bill supported by the Illinois Chamber were also given a negative mark (-) on their scorecard. Contrarily, legislators who voted present, were absent or took a 'no vote' on a bill in which the Illinois Chamber opposed, were not counted for or against in their final rating.

Legislators who were either not a member at the time of the vote or were excused from their absence (E) during the vote were not counted for or against their final score. Members who did not meet the required number of votes were not given a rating (NE).

In cases where more than one roll call was taken on a bill, the vote that best demonstrates support for employers' vital interests was chosen. If employers are to change the culture in Springfield, they must educate themselves on the record of their representatives and hold them accountable for it.

To view the breakdown of members of the House of Representatives, click [here](#).

To view the breakdown of members of the Senate, click [here](#).

The 2019-2020 Champions of Free Enterprise

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize legislators who have made special contributions to the defense of free enterprise, and the furtherance of economic opportunities for Illinoisans. Legislators with Illinois Chamber ratings averaging 85% or better over the previous two General Assemblies have demonstrated their commitment to legislation that frees the entrepreneurial spirit and qualify for the award. The Illinois Chamber would also like to thank several freshmen legislators who provided outstanding voting records in their first two years of office. Freshmen legislators serving in this General Assembly will be eligible for the Free Enterprise awards after the 102nd General Assembly. The Champions of Free Enterprise Awards are given biennially.

SENATE AWARD WINNERS

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady | Sen. Dan McConchie | Sen. Dave Syverson |
| Sen. Jason Barickman | Sen. Dale Righter | Sen. Jil Tracy |
| Sen. Dale Fowler | Sen. Chapin Rose | Sen. Chuck Weaver |
| | Sen. Paul Schimpf | |

Outstanding Freshman of the Year

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Sen. Donald DeWitte | Rep. Mike Murphy |
|---------------------|------------------|

House Award Winners

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| House Republican Leader Jim Durkin | Rep. Tom Demmer | Rep. Dave Severin |
| Rep. Thomas Bennett | Rep. Randy Frese | Rep. Allen Skillicorn |
| Rep. Avery Bourne | Rep. Norine Hammond | Rep. Keith Sommer |
| Rep. Dan Brady | Rep. Brad Halbrook | Rep. Joe Sosnowski |
| Rep. Terri Bryant | Rep. Margo McDermed | Rep. Ryan Spain |
| Rep. Tim Butler | Rep. Tony McCombie | Rep. Daniel Swanson |
| Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer | Rep. Charles Meier | Rep. Michael Unes |
| | Rep. Steven Reick | Rep. Keith Wheeler |

Legislation Used for the 101st General Assembly Legislative Ratings

[HB 156](#) (Flowers/Manar) - Prescription Drug Pricing Transparency Act

HB 156 creates the Prescription Drug Pricing Transparency Act. Requires health insurers to disclose certain rate and spending information concerning prescription drugs and certain prescription drug pricing information to the Department of Public Health. The Chamber opposed this bill and was able to help stop its passage.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 65-41-0

Senate Vote: NA

Outcome: Held in the Senate

[HB 345](#) (Lilly/Morrison)- Tobacco 21

HB 345 increased the legal purchasing age for tobacco products from 18 to 21. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 82-31-0

Senate Vote: 39-16-1

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0002

[HB 834](#) (Moeller/Castro) – Bans Wage History

HB 834 amends the Equal Pay Act of 2003 and provides that an employer may prohibit a human resources employee, supervisor, or other employee whose job responsibilities require or allow access to other employees' wage or salary information from disclosing that information without prior written consent from the employee whose information is sought or requested. In addition, this bill will limit employers' protections. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 86-28-0

Senate Vote: 41-14-0

Outcome: Public Act...101-0177

[HB 1633](#) (Hoffman/Hastings) – Criminal Damage to Critical Infrastructure

HB 1633 set stricter penalties for intentionally damaging critical infrastructure facilities such as power plants. While the bill passed the House with bipartisan support by a vote of 77-28 and was amended significantly to appease environmental groups concerns, it was not considered by the Senate. Significant misinformation was being spread and opponents were arguing against points that no longer applied with the amendment. The Chamber supported this bill.

Chamber Position: Support

House Vote: 77-28-3

Senate Vote: NA

Outcome: Held in the Senate

[HB 2174](#) (Willis/Jones) – Prescription Drug Mandates

HB 2174 started out as an expensive mandate on all health insurers operating in Illinois. It would have required insurance carriers to ensure that no fewer than 25% of certain plans offered apply a pre-deductible, flat-dollar copayment structure to prescription drugs. This language passed the House but was held in the Senate. This language was opposed by the Chamber. Later the bill was amended to a wholly unrelated measure which was signed into law. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 70-33-0

Senate Vote: N/A

Outcome: Bill shelved and replaced with unrelated language.

[HB 2233](#) (Thapedi/Mulroe) – Plaintiff Friendly Lawsuit Bill

HB 2233 amends the Code of Civil Procedure providing that within the discretion of the court, the jury may be asked (rather than required by the court and must be required on the request of any party) to find specially upon any material question or questions of fact submitted to the jury in writing. Any party may request special interrogatories. The result of this bill is to further tilt the scales of justice in favor of the plaintiff's bar. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 74-37-0

Senate Vote: 37-17-0

Outcome: Public Act...101-0184

[HB 2975](#) (Evans/Villivalam)- Restrictions on Mandatory Arbitration

HB 2975 sought to amend the Employment Contract Act to restrict employer rights. Specifically, an employer may not require as a condition or precondition of employment that an employee or person seeking employment waive, arbitrate, or otherwise diminish any future claim, right, or benefit to which the person would otherwise be entitled under State or federal law. This bill passed the House, passed in an amended form in the Senate, and then was held on concurrence in the House. The Chamber opposed this employer rights restriction bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 66-34-0

Senate Vote: 33-18-1

Outcome: Held in the House

[HB 3481](#) (Gabel/Ellman)- Kyoto Protocol

HB 3481 repeals the Kyoto Protocol Act. The bill will enable state agencies to regulate greenhouse gases. We believe that any attempt to regulate greenhouse gases should be a national approach. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 66-44-1

Senate Vote: 36-17-0

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0373

[SB 1](#) (Lightford/Guzzardi)- \$15 Minimum Wage

SB 1 was the first bill Gov. Pritzker signed into law. This law sets forth a \$15 an hour minimum wage by 2025. The first increase kicks in January 1, 2020 and increases until it reaches \$15 an hour. The bill also includes a small tax credit for small businesses. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 69-47-1

Senate Vote: 39-18-0

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0001

[SB 9](#) (Bennett/Ammons)- Regulates Coal Ash

SB 9 regulates coal ash and passed both Chambers. It is the product of much improvement, but work remains. Particularly how it will marry impending federal coal ash rules and liability issues for off-site

pollution. Without these changes, the risks to job losses and actual environmental harm are real. Opponents have offered language to mitigate these issues, but the Sponsors have been unwilling to amend the bill. A trailer bill may be explored over the summer. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 77-35-1

Senate Vote: 39-9-7

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0171

[SB 24 \(Link/Hoffman\)](#) – Two Man Train Crew

SB 24 mandates freight trains must have a two-person crew. The Chamber opposed the effort to create additional regulations on railroads operating in the state. Despite working against it throughout the spring session, the bill passed both chambers on mostly party lines. However, shortly after passage, the Federal Railroad Administration repealed a proposed rule that would have regulated the size the freight train crews and indicated the repeal was intended to preempt state laws regulating freight train crew sizes. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 77-36-1

Senate Vote: 35-19-0

Outcome: Public Act...101-0294

[SB 687 \(Hutchinson/Zalewski\)](#)- Progressive Income Tax Rates

SB 687 imposes graduated income tax rates effective January 2021, if the constitutional amendment authorizing graduated rates is approved by the voters. The bill would raise the top rate on individuals and corporations to 7.99% (10.49% for corporations with the 2.5% replacement tax), making Illinois' income tax burden one of the highest in the nation. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 67-48-0

Senate Vote: 36-22-0

Outcome: Public Act...101-0008

[SB 689 \(Hutchinson/Harris\)](#)- Omnibus Pro-business Reforms

SB 689 was part of 2019's budget deal and capital bill compromise. The Chamber supported this legislation as it contained many pro-business reforms including the reinstatement of the manufacturers

purchasing credit, phase-out elimination of the franchise tax, and the creation of the Blue-Collar Jobs Act. The Chamber supported this bill.

Chamber Position: Support

House Vote: 107-9-0

Senate Vote: 49-8-1

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0009

[SB 690 \(Link/Rita\)- Data Center Tax Credits](#)

SB 690 included language to create a sales tax incentive for new and existing data centers. Qualifying data centers must meet a capital investment in the previous 60 months and have 20 full time employees. There is also an income tax credit for data centers that locate in underserved areas. This language was a Chamber initiative and supported the passage of the bill.

Chamber Position: Support

House Vote: 87-27-0

Senate Vote: 46-10-2

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0031

[SB 1379 \(Harmon/Davis\) – Cook County Assessor’s Bill](#)

SB 1379 was an initiative of the Cook County Assessor's office to seek information from property owners with "income producing properties" remained in the House Rules committee and did not move forward. Along with other members of the business community we negotiated with the Assessor's office to try to improve what was deeply flawed legislation. We were successful in convincing the House not to move forward with the legislation because it remains flawed, even as amended in the course of our extensive negotiations with the Assessor. The Chamber provided substantive suggestions to make the bill better and held stakeholder negotiations at our Springfield office. We look forward to continuing to work on this issue with the Assessor and legislative sponsors. The Chamber opposed this bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: NA

Senate Vote: 36-16-1

Outcome: Held in the House

[SB 1407 \(Hastings/Walsh, Jr.\)](#) – **Forced Unionization at Refineries and Chemical Plants**

SB 1407 created the Illinois Hazardous Materials Workforce Training Act. It passed the Senate but did not pass the House. SB1407 would have required all construction and maintenance work at privately owned petroleum refineries, petrochemical facilities, and ethanol facilities within the state to be exclusively performed by members of certain trade unions. It was not considered in the House as part of Republican Leader Jim Durkin's requests in exchange for Republican votes on the remaining legislative issues at the end of session. Expect this issue to come back. The Chamber opposed the bill.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: NA

Senate Vote: 38-17-0

Outcome: Held in the House

[SB 1515 \(Hutchinson/Manley\)](#) – **Income Tax Calculation**

SB 1515 amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that, for purposes of being liable for income tax, compensation is paid in this State if some of the individual's service is performed within this State, the individual's service performed within this State is nonincidental to the individual's service performed without this State, and the individual's service is performed within this State for more than 30 working days during the tax year. The Chamber supported this bill.

Chamber Position: Support

House Vote: 109-0-0

Senate Vote: 57-0-0

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0585

[SB 1557 \(Steans/Villanueva\)](#)- **Recreational Marijuana Clarifications**

SB 1557 was a trailer bill for the recently enacted recreational marijuana law. It contained numbers clarifications from ownership to licensing to employer rights. The Chamber supported this legislation.

Chamber Position: Support

House Vote: 90-20-1

Senate Vote: 41-6-1

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0593

[SB 1591 \(Gillespie/Walker\)](#) – R&D Credit Under the Illinois Income Tax Act

SB 1591, originally our data center bill, The Chamber's Data Center initiative, was amended and the Data Center exemption language was replaced. As amended and passed by the General Assembly the bill amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that the research and development credit apply for taxable years ending prior to January 1, 2027 (currently, January 1, 2022). Creates an income tax credit for qualified education expenses incurred by an employer on behalf of a qualifying apprentice, subject to certain limitations. The Chamber supported this legislation.

Chamber Position: Support

House Vote: 114-0-0

Senate Vote: 57-0-0

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0207

[SB 1596 \(Sims, Jr./Hoffman\)](#) – Occupational Diseases Statute of Repose

SB 1596 provides that specified Sections limiting recovery do not apply to injuries or death resulting from an occupational disease as to which the recovery of compensation benefits under the Act would be precluded due to the operation of any period of repose or repose provision. As to any such injury or occupational disease, the employee, the employee's heirs, and any person having the standing under law to bring a civil action at law has the nonwaivable right to bring such an action against any employer or employers. The Illinois Chamber opposed this bill and requested a veto.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 70-40-1

Senate Vote: 41-16-1

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0006

[SB 1719 \(Castro/Welch\)](#) – New Private Right of Action Regarding Microphone Enabled Devices

SB 1719 would have created the Keep Internet Devices Safe Act. This bill sought to regulate microphone-enabled devices. Under this bill, these devices would have be able to be enabled until users provide explicit consent to turning on the microphone. The Chamber opposed this bill as it contained back-door private right of action on businesses.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: NA

Senate Vote: 39-14-0

Outcome: Held in the House

[SB 1939](#) (Sandoval/Hoffman)- Historical Capital Bill

SB 1939 was the long overdue capital bill that was championed by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. This bill was passed on a bipartisan basis along with some key pro-business reforms (see SB 689 above). The Chamber supported this bill.

Chamber Position: Support

House Vote: 83-29-1

Senate Vote: 48-9-1

Outcome: Public Act... 101-0032

[SJRC 1](#) (Harmon/Martwick)- Progressive Income Tax on the Ballot

SJRC 1 amended the Illinois Constitution to remove the flat tax with a graduated income tax for individuals AND corporations. In addition, this proposal would allow for the legislature to enact multiple income taxes (current constitution only allows for one). For example, legislators could create a new income tax on various industries and income (i.e. a tax on capital gains, a tax on hog farmers, or a tax on financial advisers). The Chamber opposed this resolution.

Chamber Position: Oppose

House Vote: 73-44-0

Senate Vote: 40-19-0

Outcome: Adopted by both Houses