



## **Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association's "News Under the Dome"**



### **Calendar Info**

- IFCA Online Annual Meeting  
Jan 20, 2021  
[https://www.ifca.com/Convention\\_2021](https://www.ifca.com/Convention_2021)
- 2021 MAGIE Show, Aug 25-26, 2021.

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If you have any question regarding legislation, Please contact KJ Johnson at [KJ@IFCA.COM](mailto:KJ@IFCA.COM) or 217-369-1669

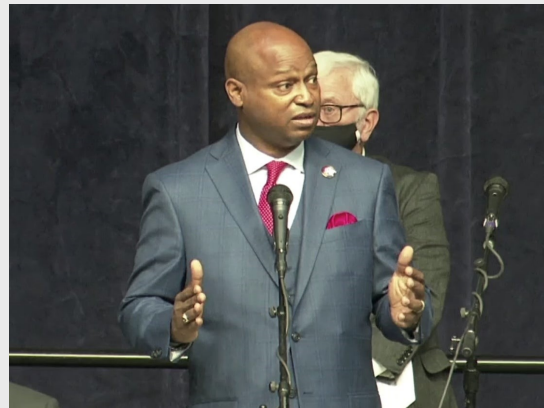
### **Chris Welch Elected New Speaker of the Illinois House**

For the first time in nearly 40 years, there's a new Democrat in charge of the Illinois House and he's made history.

West suburban State Representative Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D-Hillside) outlasted five other candidates, including Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan, to become the new Speaker of the Illinois House.

Welch is the first Black person to become Speaker.

Speaker Welch is 49-years old and has been in the legislature since 2013. He was only 11-years old when Mike Madigan first became House Speaker, and now he takes over the top House leadership post from Madigan.



### **McConchie Officially Elevated as GOP Leader in the Senate**

Senator Dan McConchie also began his first day as Senate Republican Leader. Leader McConchie has served in the upper chamber since 2016 and will replace Senator Bill Brady, who announced his retirement. He is Senator of the 26th Legislative District located in northwest suburban Chicago.

Senate President Don Harmon will remain in his current role.

State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris) has officially been chosen to serve on Leader McConchie's Senate Republican Leadership Team as Deputy Leader. Senator Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington) will serve as the Republican Caucus Chair.



## **Legislation that Moved in Lame Duck Session**

No one had a bigger lame duck session than the Legislative Black Caucus. The 101st General Assembly wrapped up Wednesday morning with the Black Caucus passing many pieces of legislation after long hours of debate.

Lawmakers met through Tuesday night into early Wednesday morning with short breaks to pass sweeping reforms championed by the Black Caucus.

The Black Caucus agenda was the highlight of the session after it pledged to pass four series of reforms on criminal justice, education, economic opportunity and health care. They were successful in passing three of their four pillars. The health care package died after senators failed to call it for a vote before the clock struck noon, ending the session.

Here is a look at some of the legislation discussed over the last week:

### **Senate Bill 1792: Cannabis/Farming/Payday Loans.**

This bill passed out of both the House by a vote of 110-0-2 and the Senate by a vote of 35-9. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study and use the data collected to determine economic and other disparities associated with farm ownership and farm operations in this State. This legislation also makes payday loans restrictions. IFCA has reached out to IDOA on what information the legislation is looking for. IDOA is still looking over this legislation.

### **House Bill 3653: Black Caucus Criminal Justice Reform**

The Black Caucus pursued criminal justice reform in the wake of George Floyd death in early 2020. The bill covers decertification of police officers, eliminates cash bail, requires all Illinois police officers to wear body cameras, reforms qualified immunity, addresses the use of force, and outlines training requirements for officers. Unlike previous versions of the bill, it does not eliminate collective bargaining rights and qualified immunity statutes that concerned police unions.



Law enforcement groups and Republicans remained in strong opposition to the over 700-page bill. Opponents said the bill would make Illinois unsafe, make it more difficult for police to do their job, and was passed hastily without proper consultation from law enforcement representatives. The bill was introduced around 3 a.m. Wednesday in the Senate and passed later that morning in the House with the minimum number of votes needed by a 60-50 vote.

### **Senate Bill 558: Black Caucus Health Care Pillar**

State Rep. Camille Lilly, D-Chicago, argued health care is a right and lawmakers need to do more to provide access to health care in minority communities. It specifically addresses the impact of COVID-19 on people of color and will allow lawmakers to have racial impact notes on their legislation.

Republicans raised concerns about the cost of the legislation. A fiscal note on the bill said one piece of the plan that goes toward a community health care worker program would cost between \$960 million and \$2.88 billion.

Despite passing the House, the Illinois State Senate did not take up the bill.

### **House Bill 2170: Black Caucus Education Pillar**

The bill passed along party-line votes in the House and Senate. Legislative Black Caucus members hope it will make it easier for poor and minority students to meet K-12 graduation requirements and be ready for college. It establishes new graduation standards and amends financial aid funds for students to alleviate the burden on some universities providing state financial assistance.

### **Senate Bill 54: Home Liquor Sales and Delivery**

The legislation allows alcohol to be purchased from and delivered to a person's home, including by third party delivery services. It does ensure the purchaser is verified to be 21 years old as well. It passed with strong bipartisan support in both chambers.

### **Senate Bill 1199: Illinois Business Groups Raise Concerns Over decoupling proposal**

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's attempt to eliminate tax benefits for business losses through the CARES Act failed, but some are worried he may try again in the next legislative session.

The governor was hoping to "decouple" the state tax code from a recent federal change to lower tax liabilities to businesses suffering during the pandemic, saying it would save the state \$500 million during a budget crisis.

"That would essentially deprive Illinois of revenues that it otherwise should get and it's literally a technical fix," Pritzker said.

The state budget is \$4 billion out of balance. The governor revised the gap after voters rejected the graduated income tax amendment in November. Pritzker's budget was banking on the passage of the amendment and on the federal government sending direct payments to state coffers, both of which never materialized.

The decoupling bill only received 50 votes early Wednesday, but needed 60 to pass.