

# *In Brief*

## **A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE 2020 SPRING LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

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Following on the heels of a year in which Governor Pritzker signed 635 bills, the Illinois General Assembly launches this week into what promises to be another busy spring legislative session. We are already tracking dozens of bills and will provide updates as new legislation is passed and signed in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, here are a few highlights of significant issues that we expect the legislature to address this spring.

### ***Student Seclusion and Physical Restraint***

On November 20, 2019, almost immediately after journalists reported on misuses of seclusion rooms in Illinois public schools, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) issued [emergency rules](#) to limit the use of these rooms and physical restraints. While we expect ISBE to continue developing more permanent regulations, statutory changes are likely on the way as well. Within days of the reporting and new emergency rules, legislators in both chambers had filed bills to ban the use of seclusion rooms with limited exceptions (SB 2315 and HB 3975). Another related bill was filed in January, focusing on uses of time outs and physical restraints for students with disabilities (SB 2323).

### ***Property Taxes and Government Consolidation***

As we recently summarized in a recent [Law Alert](#), a draft report created by the Property Tax Relief Task Force has recommended various changes to property tax systems in Illinois. While final recommendations have not yet been released, Governor Pritzker has indicated that his office will be pursuing some of the ideas in the draft report during the spring legislative session. Legislators have already introduced several bills targeting property taxes, including proposals for local government consolidation and changes to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). For example, members of both legislative chambers have filed bills to create a School District Efficiency

Commission to recommend district mergers that must be placed on general election ballots in the affected districts (HB 3053 and SB 1838). Other bills would make all school districts subject to the requirements of PTELL (HB 4093), change how the limiting rate is calculated for governments subject to PTELL (HB 4241), or create an additional property tax exemption for disabled seniors (HB 4004).

### ***College Athlete Compensation***

Legislators also filed bills in the fall that would require colleges not to limit their student-athletes' ability to earn compensation for the use of their names, images, or likenesses. Governor Pritzker has urged the General Assembly to pass legislation on this topic. We will be watching HB 3904 in particular, as it has already received substantial bipartisan support from legislators and passed the House in November. The House amended the bill to apply only to institutions offering baccalaureate degrees, but the Senate now has an opportunity to provide its own amendments.

### ***Ethics and Lobbying Reform***

In the wake of a federal investigation resulting in criminal charges against both state and local elected officials, the Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform began meeting last month to develop new legislative recommendations. Among other issues, the Commission is considering greater restrictions on public officials holding multiple elected offices and on state lawmakers lobbying other levels of government. The Commission's final report is due by March 31, but legislators have already started filing relevant bills.

Keep an eye out for more publications as we keep up with legislative action in the coming months. Contact your Robbins Schwartz attorney with your questions about these bills and what they may mean for you.