

Efforts of the General Assembly to Pass a Budget

Over the past two weeks, the Governor has had an opportunity to protect State workers' pay by enacting a budget to cover payroll for FY 17. The proposal introduced by Rep. Sue Scherer would fund the cost of State workers' pay. However, in a message to State workers, the Governor made it clear he will veto that bill. Instead, he prefers to enact a bill filed by Rep. Avery Bourne that would give him unlimited, permanent spending authority and give his Office of Management and Budget total oversight of the salaries of other constitutional officers' employees.

HB 1798	Appropriates line items for the costs of State workers' pay
HB 2803	(1) Gives the Governor unlimited, permanent spending authority for State workers' pay, and (2) requires the Governor's Office of Management and Budget to approve State workers' pay for other constitutional officers

Article VIII, Section 2 of the Illinois Constitution provides:

“The Governor shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly, at a time prescribed by law, a State budget for the ensuing fiscal year.”

Since taking office in 2015, the Governor has deliberately snubbed his constitutional duty to present a balanced State budget, choosing instead to create an economic and political crisis intended to collapse Illinois government. Despite the Governor's unwillingness to introduce a budget or work with the General Assembly to approve a budget, the Democratic majority of the Illinois General Assembly has tried on numerous occasions to enact a budget. Since July 2015, the General Assembly has passed 28 budget bills, of which only 6 were signed by the Governor and the remainder were vetoed. If the Governor wanted to avoid operating without a budget and continue to pay State employees, he could have used his constitutional authority to reduce a line item or veto a line item, while allowing the remainder of those budget bills to become law.

The following budget bills became law:

HB 3763 (PA 99-5)	Portion of Elementary and Secondary Education appropriations for FY 16, including General State Aid, mandated categorical grant lines, early childhood education block grant, federal funds appropriations, and pension costs
HB 4166 (PA 99-7)	FY 16 Capital appropriations (excluding line item vetoes)
SB 2042 (PA 99-409)	FY 16 Federal Funds
SB 2039 (PA 99-491)	FY 16 appropriations for various purposes, including local government grants, agency operations, and non-GRF Appropriations for Constitutional Officers
SB 2059 (PA 99-502)	FY 16 limited appropriations for public universities and community colleges
SB 2047 (PA 99-524)	“Stop Gap Budget” – includes limited appropriations for FY 16 and FY 17

The Governor vetoed the following FY 16 budget bills:

HB 4146	Higher Ed - MAP
HB 4147	Higher Ed - BHE; U of I; SIU
HB 4148	Higher Ed – ISAC (w/out MAP); EIU; WIU; ISU; NIU
HB 4151	K-12 Operations
HB 4153	Public Safety - Appellate Defender; Appellate Prosecutor; Capital Development Board; Corrections; Sex Offender Management Board
HB 4154	Public Safety - Criminal Justice Information Authority; Illinois Emergency Management Agency
HB 4158	General Services - CMS; Ag; Arts Council; Civil Service; ICC; Drycleaner; DES; EPA; DFPR; Gaming Board; Independent Tax Tribunal
HB 4159	General Services - Governor; Lt. Governor; Attorney General; Auditor General; Comptroller; G.A.; Legislative Support; Sec. of State; Treasurer; Supplemental
HB 4160	General Services - DCEO; ALPLM; Insurance; Labor Relations; Lottery; DNR; HPA
HB 4165	Human Services -Veterans' Affairs; Department of Human Services; Department of Healthcare & Family Services

SB 2029	Higher Ed - ICCB; NEIU; CSU; GSU
SB 2030	Higher Ed - SUCSS; SURS; CIP
SB 2031	Public Safety - State Fire Marshal; Judicial Inquiry Board; Juvenile Justice; Labor
SB 2032	Public Safety - LETSB; Metro Pier; Military Affairs; IL Power; Prisoner Review Board; SWIDA; Sports Facilities; State Police; State Police Merit Board
SB 2033	Public Safety - Transportation; Workers' Compensation; SERS
SB 2034	General Services - Revenue; Exec. Ethics; Exec. Inspector Gen.; Procurement Policy Bd.; PTAB; Racing
SB 2035	General Services - GOMB; Court of Claims; Elections; Supreme Ct.; Supreme Ct. HPS; SERS ops; GARS; JRS
SB 2036	Human Services - Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Guardianship and Advocacy Commission; Department of Human Rights; Human Rights Commission; Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
SB 2037	Human Services -Department of Public Health; Department of Children & Family Services; Department on Aging
SB 2040	One month budget for July 2015
SB 2043	Higher Education programs
SB 2046	Human Services

The following passed the House but not the Senate:

HB 2990	One-month budget intended to authorize limited spending in July 2015 (FY 16)
HB 4232	FY 16 Capital projects (school construction)
SB 2048	FY 17 Budget, excluding court-authorized spending
SB 2051	FY 17 limited appropriations for social services and higher education

The following passed the Senate but not the House:

SB 2049	FY 16 Capital appropriations (school construction)
SB 3412	FY 16 Supplemental for a federal grant fund