



ILLINOIS SOCIETY FOR  
ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING



# LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY REPORT

**2023** |

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Prepared by Capitol Edge Consulting

In 2015, the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing and ANA-Illinois came together and founded the Illinois Nurses Grassroots Coalition. The aim of this coalition is stated on the Advocacy Portal utilized by all nurses in Illinois.

*Nursing is the largest licensed professional group in the State, with hundreds of nurses living in each of the 59 Senate Districts in Illinois. Nursing is the most trusted profession and has held that title for many years.*

*It is now time to take advantage of the TRUST by making nursing's voice heard in each and every part of the State!*

**The Plan:** *Involve all nursing organizations, get input from nurses across the State and deepen our ties with our legislators.*

**The Purpose:** *To coordinate working together to create one voice of nursing, supporting priorities, while at the same time, maintaining separate identity.*

We are proud of this collaboration and believe it strengthens us as a profession and as individual associations. It takes a village, as they say, and that is true for changing policy in Springfield. This report is designed to inform the nurses of Illinois of the vital work done by RNs and APRNs within our coalition, so let us not forget the nurse volunteers who have worked tirelessly to advocate for our mission. Our work in Springfield is a team effort with respective boards, committees, and member involvement.

#### **ANA-ILLINOIS BOARD MEMBERS**

**President,** Elizabeth Aquino PhD, RN

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**Secretary,** Beth Phelps DNP, APRN, FNP, ACNP

**Treasurer,** Jeannine Haberman DNP, MBA, RN, CNE

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**Director,** Zeh Wellington DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC

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**Membership Committee Chair**, Hannah Holmes MS, APRN, FNP-BC  
**Program Committee Chair**, Yvonne Tumbali DNP, APRN, APN-ACNP  
**CNM Rep**,  
**CNP Rep**, Amir W. Raad DNP, PMHNP-BC, RN  
**CNS Rep**, Christine Somberg MS, APRN, CNS, ACNS-BC, NE-BC  
**CRNA Rep**, Susan Krawczyk DNP, CRNA, APRN  
**Northwest (NW) Region Chair**, Tanya Munger DNP, FNP-BC, AP-PMN, CCHP  
**Northeast/North (NE/N) Region Chair**, Andrea Fuller APRN, FNP-BC  
**Northeast/South (NE/S) Region Chair**, Jenise Farano DNP(c), APRN-FPA, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC  
**West Central (WC) Region Chair**, Debra Myers APRN, FNP-BC  
**East Central (EC) Region Chair**, Wamaitha Sullivan DNP, APRN, FNP  
**South (S) Region Chair**, Melissa Bogle APRN, FNP-BC  
**Student Rep**, Lisa Fishback RN

#### **ANA-ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE/ NURSES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)**

##### **MEMBERS INCLUDE**

**Chair**, Colleen Morley DNP RN CCM CMAC CMCN ACM-RN  
Tamara Bland EdD MSN  
Simendea Clark DNP, RN  
Yolanda Coleman PhD, MS, RN, CEA-BC, FACHE  
Analia Elizalde MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, PEL-CSN  
Susana Gonzalez MSN, RN, CNML  
Jeannine Haberman DNP, RN, MBA, CNE  
Jameszetta James MJ, MSN, RN, ASC-BC, ACM-RN  
James Kerridge DNP, RN, NE-BC  
Monique Reed PhD, MS, RN  
Deb Savage MSN, BSN, RN  
Angela Villarreal MSN, RN, NE- BC  
Zeh Wellington DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC  
Lauren Wojtkowski BSN, RN, CEN

#### **ISAPN GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE/ISAPN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE**

**Chair**, Raechel Ferry-Rooney DNP, APRN, ANP-BC  
Julia Koklys DNP, APRN-FPA, FNP-BC  
Marie Lindsey FPA-APRN, CNP  
Linda Irle DNP, APRN  
Mary Sheehy DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC  
Julie Creaden DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC  
Ilesha Coleman-Nwagwu APRN  
Shammona Clark APRN-FPA, FNP-C, CNE, BNATP-e

These committees focus on the legislative proposals themselves. The committee members are charged with reviewing legislative proposals introduced in the General Assembly, assessing each for "support" or "non-support." The political platform of ANA-Illinois or ISAPN, respectively, is voted on by the membership of each organization but does not address every possible legislative situation. It is these bills that the committee must review for a position recommendation. A quick turnaround of comments is essential for the committee to function effectively. The committee members also identify those who support the association's legislative priorities/platform and determine whether that support will be either monetary or use other resources such as campaign support or a letter-writing campaign.

Every member is needed for an effective grassroots effort. Every member is encouraged to establish and build relationships with their state legislators – THIS IS NOT THE SOLE ROLE of our lobbyist(s). Having a lobbyist to monitor legislation and communicate/lobby legislators in Springfield does not replace the vital hometown connection of a nurse as the constituent in the legislator's district. To be successful, the Illinois Nurses Grassroots Coalition efforts must be replicated by RNs & APRNS across the State, touching virtually every legislator and building these vital constituents-to-legislator relationships. It takes both "Springfield and hometown connections" for a strong voice in Springfield.

#### **ANA-Illinois Legislative Platform foci**

- Access to Quality Care
- Funding Nursing Education & Research
- Financing Health Care
- Advancing the Profession of Nursing
- Public Health
- Human Rights
- Disaster and Pandemic Preparedness

#### **Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing Legislative Platform foci**

- Promote the Profession of Advanced Practice Registered Nursing
- Access to Health Services
- Reimbursement
- Education and Research
- Human Rights

We ask that all members of ISAPN and ANA-Illinois join us in the Spring of 2024 for Nurses Day at the Capitol.

## "End of Session" Legislative Report

2023 started with an expeditious lame duck session immediately followed by legislators being sworn into the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. This year brought new legislators, new minority leaders, and a refreshing sense of normalcy. After the swearing in, legislators got to work. With over 6,000 bills introduced, it was a busy and quick moving session.

Though the adjournment date had been scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>, legislators did not conclude final business until May 27<sup>th</sup>. While we know more work needs to be done, nursing saw success.

The Governor signed into law a \$50.6 billion budget. The budget process proved to be difficult this year with the COVID-19 coffers drying up, the unanticipated cost of the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults Program, and a projected decrease in revenue due. All of this along with the Governor's insistence to create a balanced budget put the budget process in a peculiar situation, especially with many novice GA members.

A large majority of groups looking for general revenue funds did not receive what they asked for. Below is a chart of how nursing fared. The 1<sup>st</sup> column is money appropriated in this year's budget (FY24), the 2<sup>nd</sup> column contains last year's budget appropriation (FY23), and the 3<sup>rd</sup> column is the difference.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Illinois Nursing Foundation</b>	\$35,000	\$25,000	+\$10,000
<b>Nurse Educator Fellowships</b>	\$800,000	\$400,000	+\$400,000
<b>Board of Higher Ed for Nursing School Competitive Grants</b>	\$1.5 million	\$750,000	+\$750,000
<b>ISAC - Nurse Educator Loan</b>	\$500,000	\$500,000	0
<b>From Dedicated Nurse Professional Fund (nursing scholarships) to ISAC</b>	\$4 million	\$4 million	0

Nursing received over \$1 million in additional funding for FY24.

\$1,714,800 was appropriated from the Nursing Dedicated and Professional Fund to the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for the establishment and operation of the Illinois Center for Nursing. That is over \$1 million increase from the previous year.

IDFPR received \$6,250,000 in general revenue funds and \$10,000,000 to implement a new licensing system.

The budget implementation package (BIMP) includes the Prepare for Illinois Futures Program. This program, once funded, will offer students comprehensive test preparation and professional licensure preparation – free of charge and at no cost to the students. The program is subject to appropriation through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. While this program is in the BIMP, it is not appropriated for this fiscal year.

### **Substantiative Bills:**

Below is a glimpse of bills that were tracked in the interest of nursing. Please note that Capitol Edge Consulting monitored, supported, and opposed well over a hundred bills on behalf of nursing. The following listed are only a snapshot. Not only did nursing support many bills that passed both chambers, but they were also successful in amending bills that needed tweaks and blocking bills that nursing opposed.

To read and review any of the bills listed, please visit [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). Please keep in mind that after a bill passes both chambers, legislators and staff have 30 days to send the bill to the Governor for signature. The Governor then has 60 days to sign or veto a bill before the bill automatically becomes law.

### **Nursing Priority Bills:**

#### **HB1615 - Nursing Workforce Survey**, Priority bill of ANA-Illinois

This bill requires a nursing workforce survey at the time of licensure renewal. The survey will obtain data to assess the supply and demand of nurses. The Governor signed this bill and is now PA103-0285.

#### **HB2374 - APRN Nurse Preceptor Tax Credit**, Initiated by ISAPN

This bill would create an income tax credit for each APRN licensed under the Nurse Practice Act who volunteers to serve as a preceptor for at least one student in an approved APN education program. The sponsor, Leader Manley, will continue pressing this issue during the veto session. Unfortunately, this bill did not pass.

#### **SB41 - Nurse Licensure Compact**, Priority bill of ANA-Illinois

Unfortunately after much frustration and disappointment, the Compact was not called in committee for a vote despite having support from legislators and organizations. Capitol Edge will continue our discussions on how to mitigate opposition and concerns. This bill did not move forward.

#### **SB199 - Benzodiazepine Prescribing**, Initiated by ISAPN

This bill removes the requirement that APRNs must have a consulting relationship with a physician when prescribing up to a 120-day supply of benzodiazepines. This bill was signed by the Governor on June 9<sup>th</sup> and is now PA103-0060.

### **SB1785 - Changes the Medical Practice Act**, Initiated by ISAPN

This bill aligns the Medical Practice with the Nurse Practice Act regarding collaborative agreements for APRNs. It passed both chambers unanimously and was signed by the Governor on June 30<sup>th</sup> – PA103-0228.

### **Snapshot of tracked bills that passed:**

#### **HB559, Health Care Workforce Reinforcement Act**

This bill, among other provisions, gives nurses and healthcare providers currently practicing with a temporary license the opportunity to become fully licensed in this state. This bill was critical as the pandemic officially ended on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2023 (now PA103-1) and had an immediate effective date.

#### **HB2350, Pap smears**

This bill provides that insurance providers must cover annual Pap smears for all insureds (rather than female). Nursing supported this bill. This bill was signed by the Governor and is PA103-0030.

#### **HB2450, Cultural competency continuing education**

This bill, originally HB2280/SB2427, was a hot topic this session. Nursing supports continuing education on issues important to health care, especially health equity. Relatedly, nursing also supports flexibility in continuing education (not necessarily mandated CEs). This bill addresses both and was signed by the Governor on August 11<sup>th</sup> and is now PA103-0531.

#### **HB2509, NCLEX exam remediation**

This bill was originally opposed by ANA-Illinois but was negotiated to become something ANA-Illinois could support. The bill temporarily pauses a nursing school's probation status and now requires IDFPR to use a 3-year average for passage rates instead of first-time test takers. The law also provides requirements for remediation, which must be available at no cost to the student. Although not perfect, this bill includes topics that will surely be discussed before the next sunset of the Nurse Practice Act 2027. The Governor signed this bill on August 11<sup>th</sup>, and it is now PA103-0533.

#### **HB3172, Sliding scale insulin**

This bill removes a provision prohibiting a person from being accepted for residency to an assisted living establishment if the person requires sliding scale insulin administration unless self-performed or administered by a licensed health care professional. Nursing monitored. This bill was signed by the Governor on Aug 4<sup>th</sup> and is now PA103-0444.

#### **HB3203, Preventing fentanyl exposure**

This bill provides that a pharmacist or retailer (rather than only a pharmacist) may sell fentanyl test strips over-the-counter to the public to test for the presence of fentanyl, a

fentanyl analog, or a drug adulterant within a controlled substance. Nursing monitored. This bill was signed by the Governor and is now PA103-0336 and is effective January 1, 2024.

### **HB3206, IDFPR electronic credentials**

Beginning July 1, 2024 the IDFPR will supplement paper-based certificates and licenses (rather than certificates, licenses, and authorities) with a digitally verified electronic credential. Nursing monitored. This bill has been signed by the Governor and is now PA103-0180.

### **HB3890, Hospital staffing rights**

This bill requires the nursing care committee to annually notify the hospital nursing staff of the staff's rights under provisions concerning nurse staffing. Makes other provisions regarding the notice. Nursing supported. The Governor signed this bill on June 30<sup>th</sup> and it is now PA103-0211.

### **SB218, Regarding physician assistants**

This bill allows PAs required to enter into a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician authorization to continue to practice for up to 90 days after the termination of a written collaborative agreement. Makes other provisions. Nursing monitored. This bill has been signed by the Governor and is now PA103-0065.

Snapshot of the bills that **did not pass** this session:

### **HB1003, Regarding school nurses**

The Chicago Board of Education would require the top 20% of the lowest performing schools in the school district, as determined by the Board, to employ a school nurse. Nursing supported. Unfortunately, this bill did not move out of committee.

### **HB1069, License pending RN**

This bill would have reinstated the ability for a graduate RN who has not yet passed the NCLEX to practice as a 'licensed pending RN'. Nursing supported. This bill did not move out of committee.

### **HB1572, Expedited license**

This bill would have allowed emergency powers for the IDFPR to issue licenses, including temporary licenses, to health care professionals on an expedited basis. Nursing supported. This bill did not move out of committee.

### **HB2895, CRNA scope of practice**

This bill, initiated by IANA, removes provisions requiring an anesthesiologist, a physician, a dentist, or a podiatric physician to participate through discussion of an agreement with the anesthesia plan and remain physically present and available on the premises during the delivery of anesthesia services provided by a CRNA. Makes other provisions. Nursing supported. This bill did not move out of committee.



**HB3338/SB2314, the Safe Patient Limits Act**

The bill sets provisions to the maximum number of patients that may be assigned to a RN in specified situations. A facility may assign fewer patients to a RN than the limits provided in Act. Nursing monitored. While the bills did not move this session, legislators are planning hearings over the summer on this topic.

**HB3739/SB1277, Nurse delegation**

These bills would revert nursing delegation changes made in the 2018 Nurse Practice Act Sunset language. Neither bill moved this session.

**SB1779, Med-aides in long-term care**

This bill would have created medication aides in long-term care facilities. The bill failed in committee with 6-6 vote.

It was and continues to be, a pleasure to represent the interests of nursing at the Capitol in Illinois. Capitol Edge's work continues with legislative and stakeholder conversations on past and upcoming nursing issues. We appreciate the grassroots action of nursing and your quick response to our calls to action. It continues to prove effective.

Thank you!

*Capitol Edge Consulting, LLC is a women-owned and operated firm with a combined total of 40 years of experience. Certified as a Women Business Enterprise (WBE) through the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) in Illinois, Capitol Edge Consulting knows how to get your issues in front of the right decision-makers in Springfield and Chicago.*

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