



# Senate Floor Reports

---

## Bills that passed the Senate March 13, 2019

### **First Responder Burial Benefit (SB 1480):**

Increase the maximum burial benefit to be paid to the surviving spouse or estate of a law-enforcement officer or fireman who is killed in the line of duty from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

### **Indigent Waivers in Civil Cases (SB 1504):**

Amends the Code of Civil Procedure to remove the requirement that if an attorney files an appearance on behalf of a client who has received an indigent waiver of fees, costs and charges, the attorney must pay all fees, costs and charges unless the attorney is representing the client through a civil legal services provider, as part of a court sponsored pro bono program or under a limited scope appearance.

**Adult Guardianship (SB 1518):** Amends the Probate Act to make a number of changes for adult guardianships. Authorizes separate guardianships of the person and of their estate, and co-guardianships. Requires the court to approve the fees to be paid to a guardian and establishes a process to transfer guardianships from an outgoing to an incoming public guardian. Creates a form for notification of the ward of the right to seek revocation or modification of the guardianship.

### **Public Aid Technical Clarification (SB 1573):**

Makes a technical clarification to the Public Aid Code.

### **Veteran Homestead Exemption Application**

**Continuation (SB 1579):** Requires that if, during the process of applying for a disabled veteran homestead exemption, the veteran passes away, the application process shall continue for the surviving spouse. Stipulates that the homestead exemption shall carryover to the

surviving spouse so long as they meet eligibility requirements.

### **Chicago Teacher Re-Employment (SB 1584):**

Allows a retired Chicago teacher to return to the workplace and teach up to 120 days without losing pension benefits, so long as they do not accept gross compensation for the school year of more than \$30,000.

**Mortgage Release Update (SB 1657):** Allows authorized grantors, heirs, assignees or legal representatives to receive a release of a mortgage deed or trust. Stipulates that failure for the mortgagee to send the release or deed within 30 days can result in a \$200 liability to the aggrieved party. Makes other clarifying changes.

### **Senior Homestead Income Limitation Amount**

**(SB 1689):** Provides that for the 2019 tax year, the minimum income limitation under the senior citizens assessment freeze homestead exemption is \$75,000 for counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants. Provides that for the 2020 tax year and thereafter, the maximum income limitation under the senior citizens assessment freeze homestead exemption is \$75,000 for all counties (currently, \$65,000).

**HRSRB Reform (SB 1739):** Allows the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to elect a Vice Chair, clarifies that the Board is allowed to issue advisory opinions as it currently does, and also clarifies that applicants will get access to staff findings or written reviews.

### **Statements of Economic Interest (SB 1784):**

Amends the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act to clarify which candidates must file a statement of economic interest with the Secretary of State

or their county clerk. Ethics officers who file with the Secretary of state may require employees to file his or her statement of economic interest electronically via an Internet-based system.

**Secure Choice Savings Program Update (SB 1787):** Amends the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program to allow its board to enter into agreements with other governmental agencies, including other states to allow residents of other states to participate in the program. States that the board shall audit the program during the fiscal year and submit that audit to the Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer and the General Assembly by January of the following year.

**Child Welfare Workforce for Children and Families Task Force (SB 1797):** Amends the Strengthening of Child Welfare Workforce for Children and Families Act to add to people who each serve as a chief executive officer of a private sector child welfare provider. Requires

DCFS to provide administrative support instead of the Children and Family Research Center of U of I Champaign. Extends the sunset of the task force from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2022.

**Statement of Economic Interest Revamp (SB 1827):** Amends the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act to revamp the statement of economic interest section, allowing statements to be filed electronically with either the Secretary of State, or the county clerk, as appropriate. The electronic filing system will allow ethics officers to review and certify that they have reviewed the statement prior to filing. Clarifies that candidates for Supreme Court Judge, appellate court judge, or circuit court judge may not use the Internet to file their statement of economic interests.

**Contraceptive, Baby Care and Hygiene Product Sales Tax Reductions (SB 1858):** Lowers the sales tax for condoms, incontinence products, diapers and baby wipes from 6.25 to 1 percent.