House Legislation

HB 107 Community Bank of IL Act – Sponsored by Rep. Mary Flowers

Creates a state run community bank of IL that would include lending to small businesses and farmers among others.

- Analyzing
- Status: Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading

HB 133 Food Labeling – Seafood – Sponsored by Rep. Andre Thapedi

Provides that any label of fresh, frozen, or processed fish or shellfish, wild or farm raised, offered for sale at wholesale or retail shall clearly identify (1) the species of fish or shellfish by its common name, (2) whether the fish or shellfish was farm raised or wild caught, and (3) whether the fish or shellfish was caught domestically or imported. Provides that a retail food facility that sells or offers for sale any fresh, frozen, or processed fish or shellfish, wild or farm raised, may not knowingly misidentify or misbrand (1) the country of origin of the fish or shellfish or (2) whether the fish or shellfish was farm raised or wild caught.

- Support
- Status: Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading

HB 208 Designation of Pumpkin Pie as the State Pie – Rep. Keith Sommer

Amends the State Designations Act. Designates pumpkin pie as the official State pie of the State of Illinois.

- Support
- Status: Passed the House, Place on House Calendar Order of 1st Reading

HB 325 Reduced LLC Fee Schedule – Rep. Carol Sente

Amends the Limited Liability Company Act. Reduces some fees in the fee schedule for limited liability companies filing documents with the Secretary of State to match the fees for similar documents in the fee schedule for corporations. Effective immediately.

Amends the Illinois Estate and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Act. Provides that no tax shall be imposed under the Act for persons dying on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act or for transfers made on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Effective immediately.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

HB 434 Estate Tax Repeal – Rep Ed Sullivan
Amends the Illinois Estate and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Act. Provides that no tax shall be imposed under the Act for persons dying on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act or for transfers made on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Effective immediately.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

HB 437 Composting Drop-off Sites – Rep Barbara Wheeler
Provides that the Environmental Protection Agency may approve the operation of one-day household composting collection events. Establishes requirements for the compost collection events. Requests for approval shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Agency. Provides that the Agency shall establish a pilot program to permit the operation of no more than 3 permanent drop-off sites for household organic waste collection. Establishes requirements for the permanent drop-off sites.

- Support
- Status: Passed the House, 105-0-0

Provides that a taxing district may create a land bank by the adoption of an ordinance or resolution. Establishes requirements for the creation of a land bank and a land bank's board of directors and staff. Establishes various powers and duties of a land bank. Provides that the provisions of the Act shall not apply to any land bank in effect before the effective date of the Act.
HB 2486 Cottage Food Expansion – Rep. Mike Tryon

Provides that a home kitchen operation does not include a person who produces or packages non-potentially hazardous baked goods for sale by a religious, charitable, or nonprofit organization for fundraising purposes. Adds additional requirements in order to qualify as a home kitchen operation. Makes changes concerning the jurisdiction of the local governing body over home kitchen operations. Defines a term. Removes a provision prohibiting certain types of jams and jellies from cottage food operations. Increases the gross receipt threshold of exempt food from $25,000 to $36,000. Allows the Department to adopt rules to implement the requirements of the amendatory Act by creating an expanded products list.


Provides that seed libraries shall be exempt from all licensing, testing, labeling, and other requirements of the Act. Effective immediately.

HB 2527 Composting Income Tax Credit – Rep. Mike Tryon

Provides that, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, each taxpayer is entitled to a credit in an amount equal to 50% of the costs incurred by the taxpayer during the taxable year under a contract with a commercial composting facility for the purpose of collecting the taxpayer's compostable garbage, landscape waste, and unused food, separate from the traditional garbage, for transportation to the facility for composting. Provides that the credit may not exceed $2,000 per taxpayer in any taxable year.

HB 2667 HEAL Act – Sugary Sweeten Beverage Tax – Rep Robyn Gabel
Creates the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Act. Imposes a tax on distributors of bottled sugar-sweetened beverages, syrups, or powders at the rate of $0.01 per ounce of bottled sugar-sweetened beverages sold or offered for sale to a retailer for sale in the State to a consumer. Requires those distributors to obtain permits. Provides that 2% of the moneys shall be deposited into the Tax Compliance and Administration Fund for the administrative costs of the Department of Revenue, and 98% of the moneys shall be deposited into the Illinois Wellness Fund to be used for wellness programs and for expanded obesity prevention and treatment services for Medicaid beneficiaries. Creates an Advisory Council to govern the distribution of Illinois Wellness Fund moneys.

- Neutral
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

**HB 2690 – Raw Milks Sales at Retail – Rep Peter Breen**

Permits the sale and distribution of any milk or milk product for human use or consumption only if such milk or milk product has been produced and processed in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Public Health. Requires the Department to adopt rules for the production and processing of unpasteurized milk or milk product. Provides that a seller or distributor is not liable for any injury caused to another person by that person's consumption of unpasteurized milk or milk product if that product has been produced and processed in accordance with the Department's rules.

- Support as amended
- Status: Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading

**HB 2702 – IL Finance Authority Raise Ag Guarantee Limit – Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer**

Amends the Illinois Finance Authority Act. In Sections concerning State guarantees for loans to farmers, provides that the total amount of the guarantees shall not exceed $2,000,000 per farmer (instead of $500,000). Provides that guarantees may be made if the farmer's net worth does not exceed $2,000,000 (instead of $500,000). In a Section concerning guarantees for existing debt, provides that the Illinois Agricultural Loan Guarantee Fund shall guarantee receipt of payment of 90% (instead of 85%) of the principal and interest owed on the State Guarantee Loan by the farmer to the guarantee holder. Effective immediately.

- Oppose
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

**HB 3078 – Ag Sales Tax Exemption Expansion – Rep. Raymond Poe**
Amends the Use Tax Act, Service Use Tax Act, Service Occupation Tax Act, and Retailers' Occupation Tax Act. Provides that farm machinery also includes machinery utilized in the clearing and preparing of land for production agriculture.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

**HB 3164 - Agriculture Rules Fertilizers and Constitutional Limits – Rep Costello**

Amends the Illinois Fertilizer Act of 1961. Provides that rules under the Act must be "within constitutional limitations".

- Neutral
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)


Amends the Illinois Commercial Feed Act of 1961. Removes a requirement that each commercial feed shall be registered before being distributed in this State. Provides that, to facilitate continued access to markets for feed and feed ingredients, the Director may inspect, audit, or certify commercial feed manufacturer or distributor facilities at the request of the manufacturer or distributor and issue certificates of export from the State. Establishes new requirements for labeling and authorizes the Director to perform label review. Makes changes concerning inspections and fees. Establishes new prohibitions under the Act. Establishes new criteria to consider commercial feed as adulterated. Alphabetizes definitions. Defines "labeling", "pet", "quantity statement", and "raw milk". Makes other changes. Effective January 1, 2016.

- Neutral
- Status: Tabled

**HB3340 – Farmers Markets SNAP Incentive – Rep. Mike Tryon**

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a Healthy Local Food Incentives Program to double the purchasing power of Illinois residents with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Creates the Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund as a special fund in the State treasury for the purpose of implementing the Program. Provides that subject to appropriations, the Department shall make an annual grant of $1,000,000 from the Fund to a qualified Illinois non-profit organization or agency, which shall be distributed to participating Illinois farmers markets for the purpose of providing matching dollar incentives (up to a specified amount) for the dollar value of SNAP or WIC benefits spent on SNAP or WIC eligible food products at participating Illinois farmers markets and producer-to-consumer venues. Provides that the qualified non-profit organization shall have a demonstrated track record of (i) building a statewide
network; (ii) designing and implementing successful healthy food incentive programs that connect SNAP recipients with local producers; (iii) implementing funds distribution and reporting processes; and other requirements. Provides that at least 60% of the monies deposited into the Fund shall be distributed to participating Illinois farmers markets for healthy local food incentives and program implementation; and that a maximum of 40% of the monies deposited into the Fund shall be used for statewide program development and other purposes. Requires the non-profit organization or agency to submit a progress report to the Department with certain information, including the impact of the Program on increasing the quantity of fresh fruits and vegetables consumed by SNAP and WIC families, as determined by customer surveys.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

**HB3454 – Bake Sale Exemption – Rep. Charles Meier**

Provides that neither the Department of Public Health nor the health department of a unit of local government may regulate the selling of food that is brought to a bake sale sponsored by a group of individuals or a religious, charitable, or nonprofit organization by individuals attending the bake sale for consumption at the bake sale. Prohibits a business establishment dealing in the sale of food items from sponsoring a bake sale. Provides that no fee may be charged for admission to a bake sale exempt from regulation under the amendatory Act. Defines “bake sale”.

- Neutral
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)


Provides that in an effort to control the epidemic of childhood obesity, the Secretary of Human Services may seek a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to allow the State to specify certain foods that may and may not be purchased in Illinois with the benefits funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Requires the Secretary to consult with members of the General Assembly in developing the waiver and to obtain approval from the General Assembly before implementing the waiver.

- Neutral
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

**HB 3769 – Ag Public Directories – Rep. Sue Scherer**

Amends the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act. Provides that the Department of Agriculture shall create and maintain 2 public directories for the purpose of facilitating the purchase of local farm or food products. Provides that the Farmers’ Public Directory shall include information necessary for farmers to identify and contact purchasing agents. Provides that the Purchasers’ Public Directory shall include information
necessary for purchasers to identify and contact qualified farmers and distributors. Authorizes the Department to adopt rules necessary to implement this program.

- Neutral
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

**HB 3815 – Pesticide License Fee Increases – Rep David Reis**

Amends the Illinois Pesticide Act. Provides that a licensed commercial applicator shall maintain throughout the licensure period evidence of financial responsibility protecting persons who may suffer personal injury or property damage or both as a result of the pesticide operation of the applicant. Makes changes to license and registration fees. Makes changes to the license and registration terms.

- Neutral
- Status: placed on calendar order of 2nd Reading


Creates the Illinois Cooperative Act. Repeals the Co-operative Act. Provides for the organization, operation, and regulation of cooperatives. Provides that cooperatives are not-for-profit entities. Sets forth requirements for articles of incorporation, amendments, number of incorporators, and voting rights. Provides for regulation by the Secretary of State. Sets forth requirements for directors. Defines terms. Provides for liquidation, consolidation, and dissolution of cooperatives.

- Support
- Status: placed on calendar order of 2nd Reading

**HB 3899 – Exotic Animal Meat Processing – Rep David Reis**

Provides that exotic wild animals, or any parts thereof, may be held, possessed, sold or otherwise dealt with by licensed meat processors or meat processing facilities. Makes conforming changes.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

**HB 3900 – Income Tax Credit: Farm Machinery – Rep John Anthony**

Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Creates an income tax credit for the purchase of qualified farm equipment in an amount equal to 10% of the purchase price of the farm equipment. Effective immediately.

Amends the State Finance Act. Creates the Grow Illinois Jobs Fund. Amends the Liquor Control Act of 1934. Provides that, beginning on January 1, 2016, of the proceeds from the tax imposed under the Act on wine other than cider containing less than 7% alcohol per volume, 2 cents per gallon shall be deposited into the Grow Illinois Jobs Fund. Provides that the moneys in the Fund shall be equally distributed between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the specific purpose of developing and promoting the grape and wine industry in Illinois. Effective immediately.

HB 3903 – Income Tax Credit Hiring a Beginning Farmer (Custom Farming) – Rep. Avery Bourne

Creates a credit for each person who hires a beginning farmer to do agricultural contract work for the production of crops or livestock in Illinois during the taxable year pursuant to a custom farming contract. Provides that the amount of the credit shall be 7% of the amount actually paid to the beginning farmer under the contract during the taxable year, except that, if the beginning farmer is a veteran, then, during the first taxable year of the contract, the amount of the credit shall be increased to 8% of the amount actually paid to that beginning farmer. Provides that the credit is exempt from the Act’s automatic sunset provision.


Provides that the Authority is authorized to issue State guarantees to lenders for loans to small family farm operations, operators of community-supported agriculture, and beginning farmers. Provides that those guarantees (i) shall not exceed $35,000 per qualified applicant, (ii) shall be set up on a payment schedule not to exceed 7 years, except that annual operating loans must be repaid within 12 months after the agricultural commodities are sold, and (iii) shall be subject to annual review and renewal by the lender and the Authority. Provides that the Illinois Agricultural Loan Guarantee Fund and the Illinois Farmer and Agribusiness Loan Guarantee Fund may be used to secure those guarantees.

Creates a deduction, beginning with taxable years ending on or after December 31, 2015 and ending with taxable years ending on or before December 31, 2019, in an amount equal to 5% of the first $1,000,000 of retail sales by the taxpayer during the taxable year of Illinois agricultural products certified by the Illinois Department of Agriculture under the "Illinois Product" label program.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to the rules committee (dead)

Senate Legislation

SB 46 Food Handling Regulations – Sponsored by Senator Iris Martinez

Provides that any individual seeking a food service sanitation manager certificate or a food service sanitation manager instructor certificate must receive a passing score on the examination set by the certification exam provider accredited under standards developed and adopted by the Conference for Food Protection or its successor organization (rather than a score of at least 75% on the examination).

- Neutral
- Status: Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading

SB 680 LLC Fee Reductions – Senator Heather Steans

Reduces the fee collected by the Secretary of State for the filing of articles of organization, applications for admission, and restated articles of organization from $500 to $39 and reduces those fees in connection with a limited liability company with ability to establish series from $750 to $59. Effective immediately.

- Support
- Status: Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading
SB 681 Exotic Weeds/Invasive Species – Senator Daniel Biss (Rep. Brandon Phelps)

Amends the Illinois Exotic Weed Act. Adds exotic bush honeysuckles (Lonicera maackii, Lonicera tatarica, Lonicera morrowii, and Lonicera fragrantissima), exotic olives (Elaeagnus umbellata, Elaeagnus pungens, Elaeagnus angustifolia), salt cedar (all members of the Tamarix genus), poison hemlock (Conium maculatum), giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum), Oriental bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus), and lesser celandine (Ficaria verna), teasel (all members of the Dipsacus genus), and Japanese, giant, and Bohemian knotweed (Fallopia japonica, syn. Polygonum cuspidatum; Fallopia sachalinensis; and Fallopia x bohemica, resp.) to designated exotic weeds.

- Neutral
- Status: Passed the Senate 58-0-0, Assigned to the House Agriculture Committee

SB 708 Microloan Program Act – Senator Dan Kotowski

Creates the Microloan Program Act. Provides that the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity may (i) make grants to eligible intermediaries for the purpose of making short-term, fixed interest rate microloans to small business concerns, (ii) make grants to these intermediaries for the purpose of providing intensive marketing, management, and technical assistance to small business concerns that are borrowers under the Act, (iii) issue grants to administer a training program to train intermediaries in the knowledge, skills, and understanding of microlending necessary to operate successful microloan programs.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to Assignments Committee (dead)

SB 734 Genetically Engineered Food Labeling – Senator David Koehler

Creates the Genetically Engineered Food Labeling Act. Provides that beginning on the effective date of the Act, any food offered for retail sale in this State is misbranded if it is entirely or partially produced with genetic engineering and that fact is not disclosed in a certain manner. Provides that the Act shall not be construed to require either the listing or identification of any ingredient or ingredients that were genetically engineered, nor that the term "genetically engineered" be placed immediately preceding any common name or primary product descriptor of a food.

- Support
- Postponed
SB 790 Composting Drop-off Sites – Senator Melinda Bush

Provides that the Environmental Protection Agency may approve the operation of one-day household composting collection events. Establishes requirements for the compost collection events. Requests for approval shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Agency. Provides that the Agency shall establish a pilot program to permit the operation of no more than 3 permanent drop-off sites for household organic waste collection. Establishes requirements for the permanent drop-off sites.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to Assignments Committee (dead)

SB 800 Designation of Sweet Corn as the State Vegetable – Senator Sam McCann

Amends the State Designations Act. Designates sweet corn as the official State vegetable of the State of Illinois. Effective immediately.

- Neutral
- Status: Place on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading


Amends the County Cooperative Extension Law. Provides that the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Illinois may (was shall) establish a Rural Transition program.

- Analyzing
- Status: Passed Senate, Assigned to Rules Committee

SB 1584 HEAL Act – Sugary Sweeten Beverage Tax – Senator Mattie Hunter

Imposes a tax on distributors of bottled sugar-sweetened beverages, syrups, or powders at the rate of $0.01 per ounce of bottled sugar-sweetened beverages sold or offered for sale to a retailer for sale in the State to a consumer. Requires those distributors to obtain permits. Provides that 2% of the moneys shall be deposited into the Tax Compliance and Administration Fund for the administrative costs of the Department of Revenue, and 98% of the moneys shall be deposited into the Illinois Wellness Fund to be used for wellness programs and for expanded obesity prevention and treatment services for Medicaid beneficiaries. Creates an Advisory Council to govern the distribution of Illinois Wellness Fund moneys. Effective July 1, 2015.

- Neutral
- Status: Referred to Assignments Committee
SB 1731 Agriculture Rules, Fertilizers and Constitutional Limits – Senator Dale Righter

Amends the Illinois Fertilizer Act of 1961. Provides that rules under the Act must be "within constitutional limitations".

- Neutral
- Status: Referred to Assignments Committee

SB 1742 License Plates for Pollinator Habitat – Senator Melinda Bush

Creates the Roadside Monarch Habitat Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code to provide for the issuance of Monarch plates. Provides that the applicant shall pay an additional fee of $40 for original issuance of the plates, of which $25 shall be deposited into the Roadside Monarch Habitat Fund and $15 shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund. Provides that an additional fee of $27 shall be charged for each renewal, of which $25 shall be deposited into the Roadside Monarch Habitat Fund and $2 shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund. Provides that money in the Roadside Monarch Habitat Fund shall be paid as grants to fund roadside monarch and other pollinator habitat development, enhancement, and restoration projects in this State. Effective immediately.

- Support
- Status: Re-referred to Assignments Committee (dead)

SB 1799 Commercial Feed Act – Senator John Sullivan

Removes a requirement that each commercial feed shall be registered before being distributed in this State. Provides that, to facilitate continued access to markets for feed and feed ingredients, the Director may inspect, audit, or certify commercial feed manufacturer or distributor facilities at the request of the manufacturer or distributor and issue certificates of export from the State. Establishes new requirements for labeling and authorizes the Director to perform label review. Makes changes concerning inspections and fees. Establishes new prohibitions under the Act. Establishes new criteria to consider commercial feed as adulterated. Alphabetizes definitions. Defines "labeling", "pet", "quantity statement", and "raw milk". Makes other changes. Effective January 1, 2016.

- Neutral
- Status: Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading