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Reflecting on the Pool

By David Larson

What does the pool mean to Belvidere? For generations, a hot summer day attracted a large portion of Belvidere's youth to the local park pool. Located in Belvidere Park, William Grady Pool played a major role in the summers of Belvidere's youth (see bottom picture). Those who passed through the pool's doors witnessed an innumerable amount of important experiences without even realizing it. First jobs, first times learning to swim, first friendships, even first sunburns. It is undeniable that the park pool was the place to be in the summertime--and it's been this way for a while. That is its history as we remember it.

The picture above is the Kiwanis' Swim Team, which was very popular in the 1960s at the Belvidere pool.

It was a time when The Redwood Rumpus Room was hosting bands, some of which were nationally known, and life as a youth in Belvidere was inspiring.

As a few older residents may remember, there was a point on Belvidere's timeline where there was no local swimming pool to hide from the heat, except to swim in the river. It wasn't until October 5, 1938, that a swimming pool project was approved for construction. Nearly three years later, a final product was in place—the Belvidere swimming pool.

In the 1930s, a Community Planning Committee acted as a taxpayer watchdog organization, composed of representatives from virtually every important group or club in Belvidere. The committee advocated for the pool project because Marshall Beach had been closed, due to pollution in the river.

The Kishwaukee River in those days was virtually a drainage ditch that ran through Belvidere. Raw sewage and industrial sludge were dumped into the river. Yet, river swimming



Swimming Pool Belvidere Park

Oct. 5, 1938 A stamp of approval for the swimming pool project. Wed., Aug. 2, 1939, Walls for the pool and bath house were 70 percent finished. Saturday June 14, 1941 Open House. Wednesday July 9, 1941 Formal opening and dedication of facilities. Photo May 1941



Continued on Page 2

The L-Shaped pool in the 1980's

What To Know About Illinois' Assault Weapons Ban

Which guns are banned, how to file disclosures and what happens next

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Gun owners face a Jan. 1 deadline to register their assault weapons with the state under Illinois' assault weapons law.

But between lawsuits and ongoing policymaking, the exact guns, accessories and ammunition covered under the Protect Illinois Communities Act remain unclear to many gun rights advocates, who point out that the ban includes some of the most popular models in the country.


The assault weapons ban went into effect when Gov. JB Pritzker signed it in January 2023, immediately prohibiting the sale in Illinois of a long list of weapons and attachments. But Illinoisans who own assault weapons – a term that is itself contentious among gun advocates – can keep them, so long as they purchased them before the law went into effect and register them with the Illinois State Police before the end of this year.

At the end of November, with four weeks before the deadline, nearly 4,900 individuals had filed disclosures with ISP. Owners of now-banned firearms, accessories and ammunition face criminal penalties if they fail to file that disclosure paperwork.



OBITUARIES

- Barbara Bashaw, 85, Harvard, December 6
- Robert Kerton, 88, Harvard, December 4
- Jessie Lawton, 93, Belvidere, November 29
- Corine Popp, 64, Poplar Grove, December 3
- Kathleen Schrack, 75, Belvidere, December 3
- Helen Schwedersky, 100, Formerly of Belvidere, Dec. 8
- Kathleen Sullivan, 65, Belvidere, November 30
- George York Jr., 78, Harvard, December 8



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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.

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Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.

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Which guns and accessories are affected?

Illinois' assault weapons ban is wide-ranging and affects a variety of firearms and accessories, most notably weapons based on the design of the AR-15.

The law classifies more than 170 different models of firearm as assault weapons. The statute also lists several general types of weapons under its definition of assault weapon, including AK-type and AR-15-type rifles. It also lists AK-type, AR-type, MAC-type, Thompson-type and Uzi-type pistols. The act restricts IZHMASH Saiga 12-type shotguns. Rifles that shoot .50 caliber rounds are also regulated by the act.

List of guns

But much of the confusion surrounding the law centers on the fact that it also restricts features that would classify an otherwise acceptable gun as an "assault weapon." These include thumbhole, folding, telescoping and detachable stocks, pistol grips on rifles, flash suppressors, grenade launchers, barrel shrouds that allow users to hold the barrel without being burned, and the capacity to accept ammunition belts.

Accessories that would give an otherwise unregulated firearm one or more of these features are regulated as "assault weapon attachments," and they also require a disclosure with state police.

Pistols are also restricted if they have a threaded barrel, a second grip, the capacity to accept magazines outside of the grip and shoulder stocks.

Revolving cylinder shotguns are restricted as well as semiautomatic shotguns that have the capacity to accept a detachable magazine or a fixed magazine with more than five rounds.

Importantly, any firearm that has been modified with aftermarket accessories to achieve the same effect as the state's definition of "assault weapon" would still fall under the ban. This means that a collection of parts that could convert a firearm into an assault weapon – for example, an unregulated pistol and conversion kit – would be considered an assault weapon, even if the kit is unassembled.

The law also bans .50 caliber BMG rounds. While common, these are not the only type of .50 caliber ammunition. Owners of this type of ammunition must file a disclosure with state police.

Ammunition feeding devices are also regulated by the act, but in a slightly less strict fashion than weapons. The law bans "large capacity" magazines, which it defines as being 15 or more rounds for pistols and 10 or more rounds for rifles. While banned, owners of large capacity magazines do not need to file a disclosure.

People required to file this paperwork, called an "endorsement affidavit," can do so at the state police Firearms Services Bureau website. This is the same online portal used for concealed carry licenses and Firearm Owners Identification cards. These affidavits must be submitted electronically and submitting false information would be considered perjury.

These online disclosures require the maker, model, serial number and caliber of the gun. For accessories, a description and part number are required. A date of purchase is required if that information is available.

If a gun owner moves to Illinois from a state where they legally owned firearms or accessories banned under Illinois' law, they must file an endorsement affidavit with the state police within 60 days of moving to Illinois.

This applies to owners of assault weapon attachments, even if they do not own an assault weapon. Local law enforcement agencies and the state police are responsible for enforcing the

assault weapons ban in the same manner they currently enforce other regulations, such as the rules around FOID cards.

Penalties for violating the law vary. Carrying or possessing an assault weapon is a Class A misdemeanor. This is generally punishable by up to a year in jail or a fine of up to \$2,500. Manufacturing, selling, delivering and purchasing those weapons, however, is a Class 3 felony. These are generally punishable with five to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$25,000.

A second or subsequent possession charge is considered a Class 2 felony, which is generally punishable by three to seven years in prison and a fine of up to \$25,000.

Manufacturing, possessing, selling or importing assault weapon accessories and kits is also considered a Class 2 felony. Specific cases may vary in their sentencing.

While the law bans the sale and possession of large-capacity magazines, owners do not need to file a disclosure if they had these magazines prior to Jan. 10, 2023.

For a brief period of six days this spring, an injunction temporarily halted enforcement of the assault weapons ban. Anyone who purchased a regulated weapon after Jan. 10, 2023, including during that window, is in violation of the law.

How many banned guns are there in Illinois?

As of Dec. 4, nearly 4,900 people had filed disclosures in accordance with the state's assault weapons ban. They collectively filed about 9,300 weapons disclosures, about 4,800 accessory disclosures and 87 ammunition disclosures.

Estimating how many people own the types of guns outlined by the state's assault weapons ban is nearly impossible, due to limited data collection requirements and inconsistent definitions of terms like "assault weapon" and "AR-15-style rifle."

That said, some estimates do exist.

A survey conducted by Ipsos, a large market research firm, found that last year, one in five gun owners in the United States owned an AR-15 or similar gun. Estimates for gun ownership more broadly in Illinois vary, with research suggesting between 25 and 30 percent of the households in the state own a gun. Older data suggests closer to 20 percent.

Taken together, those statistics suggest that around hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans will be impacted by the state's assault weapons ban.

Despite this uncertainty, the prevalence of these guns is one of the issues at the heart of the ongoing legal battle over the constitutionality of the law.

Arguments in the federal cases that could invalidate or uphold the law have repeatedly turned to whether the guns are in "common use." Under recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings, guns in common use are generally protected under Second Amendment's right to bear arms.

State officials still settling rules, implementation

As with many state laws, Illinois' assault weapons ban has been the subject of administrative rulemaking, the process whereby the state agency responsible for implementing the law lays out the rules by which it will do so.

The state police have proposed rules that are now under consideration by an oversight committee of lawmakers. The rulemaking on the subject has been closely watched and has spun off into a series of dedicated hearings hosted by ISP to gather public input on how to execute the law.

Assault Weapons from page 2

Read more: State police still drafting assault weapons registration rules as deadline nears

One of the central issues at the heart of these hearings has been how precisely ISP will interpret some of the vaguer aspects of the law. This includes a final decision about exactly which items must be registered.

The law is also the subject of ongoing litigation. Several federal cases challenging the constitutionality of the law could be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Earlier this month, a three-judge panel on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a 2-1 opinion allowing the law to remain in effect while the cases continue.

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As Deadline Looms, Assault Weapons Registration Rules Still Unresolved

Lawmakers continue questioning rules as case appears headed to U.S. Supreme Court

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Firearm owners in Illinois will have to wait at least another month before knowing exactly what items they must register with the Illinois State Police under the state’s assault weapons ban, even as the deadline for submitting those registrations is less than three weeks away.

The General Assembly’s Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, or JCAR – a bipartisan group that has oversight authority of state agency rulemaking – declined again Tuesday to take action on a proposed set of final rules, saying instead it will consider the matter again at its next meeting Jan. 16 in Springfield.

“Obviously, there’ve been a lot of questions placed on the record today. Some have been answered; some will require some further research and reporting back to the committee,” JCAR co-chair Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, said at the end of a lengthy discussion over the proposed rules.

Also on Tuesday, however, a federal judge in East St. Louis was asked to block the registration process entirely. And one of the plaintiffs in a series of lawsuits challenging the assault weapons ban said it is preparing to take its case the U.S. Supreme Court to review the law.

At issue is a provision of the state’s assault weapons ban, formally known as the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which lawmakers passed, and Gov. JB Pritzker signed into law in January.

That law bans the purchase, sale, possession or manufacture of a long list of firearms that it defines as “assault weapons,” along with large-capacity magazines, certain kinds of firearm attachments and certain types of ammunition.

Lawmakers passed the ban in January in response to a long series of mass shootings around the country, most notably one at an

Independence Day parade in Highland Park in 2022 that left seven people dead and scores more injured or traumatized.

One provision of that law, however, allows people who already owned banned items before the law took effect to keep them, provided they file affidavits with the Illinois State Police to disclose that they own those items and receive an endorsement on their Firearm Owners Identification card.

The law directed ISP to adopt administrative rules for the registration process. Although ISP has not yet implemented permanent rules, it did publish temporary emergency rules that have been in place since Oct. 1.

One reason for the delay, ISP’s acting chief legal counsel Suzanne Bond told lawmakers Tuesday, was the flurry of lawsuits in both state and federal courts that have been filed challenging the law. In one of those lawsuits, a federal judge in East St. Louis issued a temporary injunction blocking enforcement of the law, an order that was later overturned by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

“That also meant that we were not in a position to file emergency rules until those issues had been resolved,” Bond said Tuesday. “And so by the time that those issues were resolved, we needed to exercise the authority the legislature had given us to file both emergency rules and proposed rules.”

Under Illinois law, state agencies can act unilaterally under certain circumstances to adopt emergency rules, but those rules can only remain in effect for 150 days. After that, they must either be replaced by permanent rules or allowed to expire.

But the emergency rules on weapons registration prompted strong resistance from gun rights advocates as well as confusion over the fine details about which items are covered by the requirement and what items are exempt.

After an initial review of the proposed rules by JCAR in October, ISP agreed to hold a series of additional public hearings to get feedback. Those hearings, Bond said, resulted in numerous changes to the proposed rules.

“We received hundreds of comments, as you might imagine, in response to the three public hearings that we held,” she said. “Predominantly many of the changes that we made were to flesh out additional definitions with respect to some of the exemptions to further explain our understanding of those exemptions and how they were to be applied within our statutory authority.”

But at Tuesday’s JCAR hearing, Republican lawmakers continued asking questions about how the rules would be implemented, including about what ISP would do with the data it collects from people who register their weapons if the law is eventually declared unconstitutional.

“I believe we will be looking to the court to guide us on what they want us to do with that information,” Bond said. “I would hope that that wouldn’t have to come from the legislature. We would hope that in in deciding this litigation, the courts would direct the state police on what to do with that data.”

Although a judge in the Southern District

of Illinois ruled in April that the assault weapons ban was likely unconstitutional under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, two different federal judges in the Northern District reached the opposite conclusion in separate challenges. That resulted in all three cases being consolidated before the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a 2-1 ruling in November, the 7th Circuit upheld the law, but one of the lead plaintiffs in the challenges, the National Association for Gun Rights, requested an “en banc” review of that decision by all 14 judges on the appellate court. Meanwhile, that group also filed motions with the 7th Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court asking again for a restraining order blocking enforcement of the law pending that appeal.

On Monday, the 7th Circuit denied the request for an en banc rehearing, paving the way for the gun rights group to request a final review of the law by the Supreme Court.

Hannah Hill, executive director of the association’s legal arm, the National Foundation for Gun Rights, said in an email Tuesday that the group would file what’s known as a “writ of certiorari” to request a Supreme Court review within the next 90 days.

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Pool*from page 1*

was common, particularly at the Park District's Marshall Beach at Lawrenceville Road and Lincoln Avenue. Fortunately, the river is not as polluted as it once was. We can thank the EPA and IPA for that.

The cost of the pool project was \$70,000. The WPA grant covered \$50,000. Using today's dollars, \$70,000 would be approximately \$1.5 million. It took the WPA two full years to build the pool. In the summer of 1940, running behind schedule, 75 additional workers were pulled from WPA road projects in rural Boone County to speed it up.

The WPA (known officially as the Works Progress Administration, President Roosevelt's New Deal program) had many projects in Boone County. It built roads and bridges, the Community Building in Belvidere, and the tennis courts in addition too the Belvidere Park pool. Other than these nothing much was built in Belvidere since before WWI until strip retail development sprung up near the beginning of the 21st Century. The WPA employed many out-of-work, local people. It provided day care and festival events. The WPA was a culture of employment, sponsored and funded by the Federal Government. It was much maligned at the time as "Socialistic" by the local Republican Party, which was gaining strength in Boone County.

The Belvidere Park Pool opened to swimmers only months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The pool was officially opened to the public on July 9, 1941. To add an additional celebration on the day of the opening, the pool hosted a Miss Belvidere pageant. Thousands came to witness the contests as beauties from across the area demonstrated the "grace and glamour" of being a woman. At the end of the night, it was Miss Billie Higgins that went home with first place -- and for Miss Marjorie Arthur, the title of Miss Belvidere Jr.. Miss Higgins was not the only town royalty to come from the Belvidere swimming pool. Miss America 1969, Judy Ford, worked as a lifeguard and taught swimming lessons there in the 1960s and is in the swim team photo on the front page.

The pressing need for updating the pool brought about further development. In 1979, 38 years after opening, an expansion of the pool, a new children's pool, and a snack bar were built within the pool's fences. The changing and bathing areas were redone. The log cabin outside the building, which was once the original snack stand, has since been removed. Gradually, that pool deteriorated into the one that, 43 years later has failed to hold water. Demolition has been completed, with no clear plan to replace the pool. The *Journal* cannot imagine a Belvidere without a public swimming pool. This foundation of community recreation has withstood the course of time until now. Places such as these bring people together and make an identity of living in Belvidere. As times are changing, technology has changed rapidly. Despite the many benefits that come with this, a major drawback comes from the fact that we, as a society, are becoming increasingly less personal or social than ever before. What once connected us digital space has separated us. Many people don't associate with their neighbors, let alone people they meet on the streets in the center of town. Smaller-scale places—such as a local public pool—have proved to bring communities together. A community that learns to work together can create quality of life.

Shooting Update**Press Release**

On 12/08/2023 at 3:00 p.m. the Belvidere Police Department received a tip from a witness who was able to provide a description of the shooter. Detectives were able to develop a suspect and arrested a 17-year-old juvenile.

Belvidere Detectives presented their investigation to the Boone County State's Attorney's Office who authorized charges of Aggravated Battery with a Firearm (1 count), Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm (3 counts), and Reckless Discharge of a Firearm (3 counts).

The juvenile was processed and lodged into the Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center.

The Belvidere Police Department wants to thank the community for their help with this investigation.

The investigation is on-going and additional arrests and charges are possible.

On 12/7/2023 at approximately 4:45 p.m. the Belvidere Police Department responded to the 100 block of E. 4th Street for a report of shots fired.

On arrival Witnesses reported to police that they heard multiple gun shots and then a small black SUV left the scene at a high rate of speed toward S. State Street.

The Belvidere Police Department was notified when an 18-year-old male had shown up in the emergency room of Swedish American Hospital with a gunshot wound.

Belvidere Police Detectives were notified and responded to the hospital where they began their investigation.

The Belvidere Police Department is asking for the community's help by providing any additional information or security footage from the area.

Preliminary information indicates that this was a targeted incident.

The Belvidere Police Department encourages anyone with information pertaining to this shooting to contact the Belvidere Police Department at 815-544-2135 or to provide information anonymously, contact Boone County Crime Stoppers at 815-547-7867 or online at boonecountycrimestoppers.com. Information leading to an arrest can be subject to a cash reward of up to \$1000.00.

After Pushing for Law Targeting 'Crisis Pregnancy Centers,' Attorney General Backs Off Legal Fight

Bill sponsor calls Kwame Raoul's decision 'heartbreaking' and a 'gut punch' to women

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

A little over six months after pushing Democrats in the General Assembly to pass a law targeted at limited services pregnancy centers, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul has agreed in a legal filing to stop the state's enforcement of it.

Raoul's decision to permanently halt enforcement of the law came in an agreed order that effectively ends a lawsuit filed by anti-abortion groups within an hour of Gov. JB Pritzker signing the bill into law this summer. The order still needs approval from a federal judge in Rockford who previously called the law "both stupid and very likely unconstitutional" when

granting a preliminary injunction against the law a week after it was signed.

The anti-abortion groups behind the lawsuit quickly claimed victory this week.

"This law is just one of a number of illegal new laws enacted across the country that restrict pro-life speech," Thomas More Society executive vice president and head of litigation Peter Breen said in a statement. "We hope this permanent injunction, with full attorney's fees, serves as a warning to other states that would seek to follow Illinois and try to silence pro-life viewpoints."

The law, passed during the final days of the General Assembly's spring legislative session, expanded Illinois' longstanding Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act to specifically include limited services pregnancy centers, often referred to as "crisis pregnancy centers." Those facilities advertise services like ultrasounds and material help such as baby formula, diapers and parenting classes, but also aim to deter women from having abortions.

Abortion rights advocates claim CPCs often employ aggressive tactics to confuse those seeking abortion care and ultimately talk them out of terminating their pregnancies by means including directing them to their facilities instead of the actual clinics the abortion-seekers were hoping to find. Under the law, a judge or jury could award up to \$50,000 in civil penalties for each act of fraud or deception proven in court.

Judge Iain Johnston in the Northern District of Illinois sided with CPCs in early August, temporarily blocking the law on First Amendment grounds.

The day the bill was signed in late July, Raoul told reporters he was "confident" the law would be upheld in court, saying crisis pregnancy centers are "not free to lie to people and to use deceptive practices."

Raoul has often recounted his visit to an abortion clinic where his driver was stopped by CPC volunteers who carried clipboards and attempted to divert him from going into the facility, instead saying they needed to check him in first.

"There's nothing in the First Amendment that protects that type of action," he said in July.

Though he and his surrogates had insisted this spring that the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act needed an expansion to explicitly name CPCs in the same way the law names other businesses like car dealers, Raoul on Monday indicated he'd use the existing law to sue CPCs if needed.

He said the agreed order "in no way affects my ongoing work protecting women's rights to access the full range of reproductive health services."

At a news conference Tuesday, Pritzker said he agreed that the existing state law "will do what's necessary to keep organizations like the crisis pregnancy centers from providing misinformation, disinformation and allow people to sue under that act."

But House sponsor Terra Costa Howard said Raoul's decision to "back off" from the legal fight over the law is a "gut punch" to women in Illinois and beyond, especially after Monday's ruling from the Texas Supreme Court that denied a woman the opportunity to end her medically unviable pregnancy in order to "preserve her own health and fertility."

"As the House sponsor of this bill, I am heartbroken by the decision to back down on our promise to Illinois women that these deceptive centers and their staffs will face legal consequences if they tell lies or conceal important health information from the patients

Continued on Page 5

CPC

from page 4

who walk through their doors,” Costa Howard said in a statement Tuesday. “This settlement undoes so much hard work by so many advocates, organizations, and legislators, who stood together against the pressure tactics of these forced birth extremists.”

Costa Howard defeated the Thomas More Society’s Breen, a former suburban GOP lawmaker, in both 2018 and 2020, in races that centered largely on abortion rights.

Read more: ‘Crisis pregnancy centers’ could face legal action under measure poised for Pritzker’s signature

Judge Johnston is also overseeing a related challenge to a 2016 law stipulating that, if requested by a patient, providers who don’t perform abortions must refer, transfer to, or give patients written information about providers who do. The law is a change to Illinois’ 1970s-era Health Care Right of Conscience Act – a statute passed in the wake of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision – aimed at shielding health care providers from liability if they have religious objections to abortion.

Johnston heard a bench trial on the law in September, just weeks after issuing his preliminary injunction in the CPC fraud law case. The two intersect in myriad ways, and the practices of CPCs were discussed at length in the September trial. But nearly three months later, Johnston is still waiting on final post-trial motions and weighing arguments from both sides.

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Pritzker Signs Measure Allowing New Small-Scale Nuclear Technology In Illinois

It takes effect in June 2024, but any new construction would take several years

*By Jerry Nowicki & Andrew Adams
Capitol News Illinois*

Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday signed into law a measure that will allow for the limited development of new nuclear power generation technology in the state.

The measure, House Bill 2473, does not allow new large-scale power generation facilities like the six plants that are already operational in the state, but rather allows for new smaller-scale emergent technology.

Since 1987, the state has had a moratorium on any new nuclear power construction until the federal government designates a long-term disposal site for nuclear waste — something that has never occurred. The new law will take effect on June 1, 2024, but because permitting nuclear energy takes many years at the federal level, the earliest a nuclear project could be brought online in Illinois would be in the 2030s.

HB 2473 creates a regulatory structure for the construction of small modular nuclear reactors,

or SMRs. The bill limits the nameplate capacity of such reactors to 300 megawatts, about one-third the size of the smallest of the six existing nuclear power plants in Illinois. It also requires the state to perform a study that will inform rules for regulating SMRs, which must be adopted by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency by January 2026.

The bill’s proponents say it’s a necessary step as Illinois tries to end its reliance on carbon-emitting power sources over the next two decades. But its opponents say it distracts from Illinois’ efforts to deploy 100 percent renewable energy production and is an endorsement of unproven technology.

The bill passed with bipartisan support in the Senate, 44-7, and the House, 98-8, on the final day of the fall veto session last month. The opposition came exclusively from Democrats. Pritzker vetoed an earlier version of the measure but helped usher the compromise through the legislature.

The bill’s sponsors said after its passage that it has the potential to bolster Illinois’ electric grid reliability as the state’s energy mix becomes increasingly reliant on intermittent technologies such as wind and solar.

Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, sponsored the bill in the Senate, while Rep. Lance Yednock, D-Ottawa, was its House sponsor. Rezin noted last month that she is particularly interested in the potential for SMRs to be developed at the sites of former coal plants, avoiding the need to build new transmission lines, although that process could take many years.

David Kraft, an outspoken critic of nuclear energy and head of the Chicago-based advocacy group Nuclear Energy Information Service, testified against the measure at several points during the legislative process.

Kraft said he was concerned about the lack of existing SMR installations and the unproven nature of the technology. While some nuclear reactors of this scale exist in other countries, no commercial SMRs have ever been built in the United States.

Counting Illinois, 11 states currently have some level of nuclear construction bans on the books. Since 2016, five other states have either repealed or weakened their bans. Several of the states that have lifted their bans have done so to pave the way for SMR technology.

But the biggest U.S. player in that industry has seen several recent setbacks.

In November, NuScale Power – the only company with a federally approved SMR design – announced that it was canceling its highly watched “Carbon Free Power Project” in Utah, which would have been the first commercial project with a NuScale reactor. Still, its leaders say the company will continue with its other projects, which are at varying steps of regulation and planning.

Rezin told Capitol News Illinois last month she hopes Illinois’ and other states’ moves to reverse their construction bans will encourage nuclear energy development in the U.S.

Pritzker did not issue a statement but signed the bill along with 15 others that were sent to his desk

following November’s fall veto session. That included a measure a that would require the state to purchase exclusively “zero-emission vehicles,” such as electric vehicles, after Jan. 1, 2030.

Senate Bill 1769

excludes law enforcement vehicles and vehicles purchased by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of a program that provides buses to some mass transit systems.

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Secretary of State Helps Launch First-Of-Its-Kind State ID Program For Inmates Exiting Cook County Jail

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart says pilot program is 15 years in the making

*By Hannah Meisel & Beth Hundsdorfer
Capitol News Illinois*

Certain detainees leaving Cook County jail will now be given a state ID card upon release in a new pilot program announced Monday by Sheriff Tom Dart and Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias.

Inmates released from Illinois prisons have been receiving state IDs at no charge since late 2020 when state leaders launched a pilot program, which was subsequently expanded statewide and codified into state law earlier this year. But doing the same with detainees in county jails has proved much more difficult. Prison inmates have more stable and predictable release dates, but jail detainees may stay for as long as years while awaiting trial, or as short as just a few hours.

Regardless of how long a detainee stays in jail, however, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said a state ID has consistently been at the “top of the list” of needs that inmates reported to jail officials upon intake “because it unlocks everything else.”

“I cannot tell you the number of times when we’ve talked to an employer ready to hire this person — a well-paying job that will clearly steer them in a different direction,” Dart said at a

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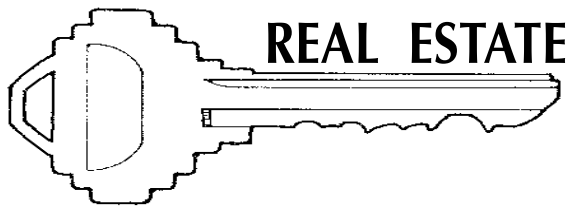
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 Phone Number: 779-500-9693
 Robert B. Huisel, 726 Columbia Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008

I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: December 11, 2023
 Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
 Published in Boone County Journal 12/14, 12/21, 12/28 - P

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 ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 No. DBA4179 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RESTAURANT business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of PANDA GARDEN that its location is or will be 13522 JULIE DR., POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.
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 Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
 Published in Boone County Journal 12/14, 21, 28 - P



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC; Plaintiff,
vs. 22 FC 7
EUGENE KOZIN; JOANNA KROL; LANDMARK
CROSSINGS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION; Defendants,
NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
 Commonly known as 1904 SAWYER RD., BELVIDERE, IL 61008.
 P.I.N. 05-22-276-025.
 The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.
 Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.
 The property will NOT be open for inspection.
 For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. 22-00354 SL
 I3234904
 Published in The Boone County Journal Dec. 14, 21, 28 PNN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
 THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC. Plaintiff,
-v.- 2023 FC 47
SUSEN MASEK et al Defendant
NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 8, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 4, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C, 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
 Commonly known as 124 BULLARD ST, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065
 Property Index No. 04-19-102-018
 The real estate is improved with a residence.
 Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
 Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
 The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
 If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
 IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
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 For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
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 One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
 You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
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 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
 630-794-5300
 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
 Attorney File No. 14-23-03624
 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
 Case Number: 2023 FC 47
 TJSC#: 43-3236
 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
 Case # 2023 FC 47
 I3234092
 Published in The Boone County Journal Dec 7, 14, 21, 2023 PNN

ID *from page 5*
 Monday morning news conference. "And (they) say, 'You know, Tom, everything's great. This is good to go. Can you get us the ID?' And then there's the long pause. There is no (ID). We don't have it."

Beyond getting a job, Dart said not having proper identification can also prevent formerly incarcerated people from getting housing, transportation or social services – the lack of which can significantly increase the likelihood of a detainee reoffending.

"Equipping them with valid identification will help these individuals with basic tasks, like locating housing, securing a job, opening a bank account, and enrolling and assistance programs and obtaining reliable transportation," Giannoulas said Monday. "Fulfilling these basic needs reduces recidivism, saves taxpayer money and makes all our communities stronger."

Giannoulas acknowledged the paperwork – including birth certificates and social security cards – necessary to get a state ID are already difficult and costly to obtain if they've been lost, and said "entrenched disparities" have historically made the task more difficult for people of color even without the added challenge of incarceration.

Sodiqa Williams, senior vice president of reentry services at the Chicago-based Safer Foundation, said formerly incarcerated people can "lose hope" when running into repeated hurdles after release from jail or prison.

"Every day matters when a person is released," she said. "Whether it's taking care of their kids, having their housing, losing their job, it is very important. Time is of the essence."

Although other states beyond Illinois have launched similar programs for inmates leaving prisons and lawmakers have tried to create a similar program for jails statewide, the Cook County jail ID pilot program is the first of its kind in the nation, Dart said. While not all detainees lack a state ID or license at the time of their arrest, it may have expired while they've been in jail or been held for evidence, he said.

The Cook County jail pilot program began Monday with inmates in the county's electronic monitoring program, as Dart said the jail has "better data" on that population, as well as the support from probation officers who are charged with keeping track of former detainees upon release.

Dart said he's been pushing for access to state IDs for detainees upon release for 15 years. Asked Monday why the request hasn't gone anywhere before this year, Giannoulas – who was elected to the office last year after former Secretary of State Jesse White's 24-year tenure – demurred.

"Let's just say it was not the sheriff's office or the sheriff," he said. "So I'm not here to point fingers in the past. We're here today. The sheriff reached out to us early on in the administration and we found ways to work together and to make sure that this pilot program runs as smoothly as possible."

In two Metro East counties, sheriff's department

officials said while their populations were smaller, detainees released from their facilities face some of the same barriers.

In Madison County, Sheriff Jeff Connor said detainees without identification is not a widespread issue there, but he welcomed any effort to eliminate barriers to former detainees' access to jobs and services.

"I don't see a downside to it," Connor said.

In St. Clair County, detainees who enter county jail with cash receive a check for that amount when they are discharged, said Sgt. James Hendricks, a spokesperson for the department, but banks can refuse to cash those checks without proper identification. In response, the sheriff's department started issuing debit cards for one-time use. The fee for that service is covered by commissary profits.

Hendricks said the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department would welcome efforts to expand the ID program downstate.

Scott Burnham, a spokesperson for Giannoulas, pointed to the existing program in state prisons as an example of how the new jail initiative might expand.

"So far this year, we have issued around 900 state IDs," Burnham said.

A few months ago, the agency started a program with state-run juvenile facilities to obtain identification for the youth who are released.

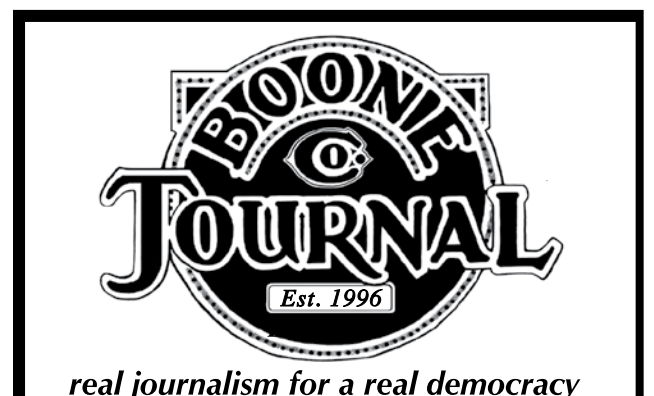
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Foster Statement on Republicans' Sham Impeachment Inquiry

Today, Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) released the following statement on House Republicans' sham impeachment inquiry:

"Instead of addressing the international crises in Ukraine and the Middle East, Republicans chose to waste Congress's time today on a bogus and illegitimate impeachment inquiry based on zero evidence. The American people sent us here to confront the challenges we face as a nation and as a world – not to chase conspiracy theories or placate the MAGA base and their twice-impeached leader."

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