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FREE

District 100 Eyes \$70 Million More In School Upgrades, Public to Weigh In

Sofi Zeman

Contributing writer

Last month, Belvidere District 100 school board members opened the door to a second series of renovations to districtwide campuses and facilities, estimated to cost at least an additional \$70 million in public funds.

During their August meeting, board members approved a list of improvements as part of the second wave of incoming updates to be seen across District 100 schools. The second phase, which will begin with \$70 million in renovations but could increase to a tune of \$100,000, follows a first phase consisting of roughly \$50,000 in projects.

Altogether, the first two phases in the district's long-term plan to get aging campuses up to 21st Century standards could cost up to \$150 million. The Facilities Master Plan, born of a committee created to better understand ongoing needs among campuses, has been in the making since 2022.

Several of the projects include priority infrastructure updates, such as improving HVAC, old and damaged roofs and mechanical and electrical upgrades. The district's recent decision to close Perry Elementary School, as well as plans to eventually build a center for early childhood programming, came out of research and public surveys and cost analyses conducted by the district with contracted partners.

Projects under Phase 1, approved last year, are actively underway. These include HVAC, roofing, infrastructure and design components that currently present accessibility and code compliance concerns. Bidding and construction for the Phase 1 projects will remain ongoing through Fall 2027, according to the district.

In this new, second phase, board members approved an initial list of projects, prioritizing additional infrastructure upgrades and maintenance at some of the district's older campuses, such as Washington Academy, South Middle School and Belvidere High School.

Potentially using funding from a mix of sales tax bonds and health life safety bonds, the district plans to outline design plans for Phase 2 during the Fall 2026 semester and begin implementing construction and repairs in the spring or summer of 2027 through 2029.

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Daytripping Madison's Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Charles Herbst

Madison's Olbrich Botanical Gardens is a delightful place to visit any time of year. When the weather is inclement, the attached Bolz Con-

servatory is a refuge. One of the most stunning sights at Olbrich is to see the Thai Pavilion surrounded by a blanket of snow in bright sunshine. Special events are held throughout the year, including plant sales and exhibits outdoors and in the indoor pavilion. Each year, Olbrich Gardens donates over 1000 pounds of produce from their vegetable gardens to local food pantries.

Both Olbrich Botanical Gardens' 16 acres of outdoor gardens and the pyramid-shaped Bolz Conservatory are located in Madison's Olbrich Park. There are 1500 species of plants in the outdoor gardens and 850 in the conservatory.

Olbrich Gardens and the surrounding Olbrich Park are named after Michael B. Olbrich. Olbrich was born locally in Chemung, Illinois and was a Madison attorney. (Many members of the Olbrich family still live in the Harvard and Chemung vicinity.) Olbrich was concerned that Madison's east

side was industrializing, and that residential areas on that side of the city were lacking open space. He envisioned a sweeping park and flower gardens on the northeast shore of Lake Monona.

In 1921, Olbrich donated the land, which included 3,500 feet of Lake Monona shoreline to the City of Madison for a park and flower garden. Olbrich died in 1929 at the age of 48, and Madison named the park in his honor. Olbrich Gardens opened in 1952.

Olbrich Gardens is famous for its Royal Thai Pavilion. It is a gift of the King of Thailand in 2001 to the University of Wisconsin—Madison in recognition of Thai students who attend UW and the Thailand-UW relationship. The gold leaf treatment and Thai royal seal make the pavilion unique.

Visiting the Bolz Conservatory, it is easy to find something surprising in a tropical, intense rain forest with multi-level walkways. While there, I saw bananas, cacao and coffee trees in bloom. (Hot chocolate, anyone?) Also in bloom were orchids and calamondin oranges. There were also many spices, including cinnamon.

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Thai Garden



Cacao

District 100

from page 1

Health life safety bonds are used to finance state-mandated projects that protect the health, life and safety of students. Some projects that have student safety implications could be paid for using those bonds.

Other projects, like a new school building or repairing athletic facilities, would have to get paid through different funds — like working cash fund bonds or sales tax bonds.

If the school district wants to use working cash

Quidnunc



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Marie Dinsmore, 63, Belvidere, September 5
Joann Dobosz, 81, Harvard, September 10
Karen Kraft, 72, Poplar Grove, September 9
Rodney Poppe, 94, Marengo, September 4
Mary Rahorn, 92, Belvidere, September 2



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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.
Letters. Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.

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fund bonds to pay for the project, it will need to implement a 30-day period where residents have the option to petition if they don't want the district to take out the debt. According to the district, that petition would require 10% of the voters in the district to sign the petition during the 30-day period.

If a valid petition is submitted, a referendum would be held on the question at an upcoming election.

District residents have the option to weigh in with their thoughts on issuing those bonds during an upcoming public meeting. The board is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on September 21 at the District 100 Central Office, 1201 Fifth Avenue.

After that hearing, the board is scheduled to consider whether to approve those bonds during an upcoming October public meeting.

Olbrich

from page 1

Near the center of the Gardens near the Great Lawn is the Tower Garden, which features several fountains. Historically, the Gardens were home to a hybrid tea rose garden. In 2016, the decision was made to remove the rose garden because of the need for regular pesticide spraying and the harm that pesticides cause natural pollinators. A goal of the garden is to manage the facility in a more natural, environmentally friendly way. Two Monarch butterflies tagged at Olbrich have been found in Mexico.

One of the original gardens is the Sunken Garden, which has a view of Lake Monona. The Great Lawn and the Event Garden provide space for concerts and other programs that the garden sponsors. The Birch Walk and adjacent Starkweather Creek Shade Garden followed by the Woodland Garden provide the setting for a leisurely stroll. A Rain Garden and Gravel Garden provides a different twist.

Over time, new gardens and structures have been added, with the most dramatic being the Bolz Conservatory in 1991 and the Thai Garden east of Starkweather Creek in 2002. A dedicated educational space, the Frautschi Family Learning Center, and new greenhouses were built in 2020.

Olbrich has over a dozen sculptures throughout the garden. These include lions and elephants in the Thai Garden and other garden-related sculptures.

Most recently, Olbrich Gardens plans to once again expand and renovate. Essentially, the area near the Thai Pavilion east of Starkweather Creek will be developed. The Bolz Conservatory will



Bolz Conservatory

also be updated. The goal is to construct new facilities without impairing the visitor experience. Once the expansion is completed, the Gardens will feature another bridge over Starkweather Creek and multiple entrances to the gardens in order to better tie the facility to the rest of Olbrich Park and improve access to the nearby Garver Feed Mill.

Olbrich Gardens is located at 3330 Atwood Avenue on the northeastern shore of Lake Monona, just east of the isthmus. It is open daily from 10AM through 6PM from April to September, and 10AM until 4PM the rest of the year. Admission to the gardens and parking is free. There is a direct Madison bus (Route C) from both University Hospital and the State Capitol. There is a modest \$6.00 admission charge for the Bolz Conservatory. Admission to Bolz Conservatory is free on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The Gardens are operated by a public-private partnership between the City of Madison Parks Division and the Olbrich Botanical Society. Website: Olbrich.org.



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Legislative Inspector General Michael McCuskey Resigns Amid Criticism

Recent ethics investigations raised questions about office's professionalism

Ben Szalinski & Jerry Nowicki
Capitol News Illinois

Illinois' legislature will once again soon find itself without a legislative inspector general.

Michael McCuskey will resign that watchdog post amid criticism about his ability to handle investigations. It's the latest twist for a post that McCuskey's two immediate predecessors described as "broken" and a "paper tiger." Prior to that, the LIG's office sat vacant for three years.

State Rep. Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, chair of the Legislative Ethics Commission that will search for a replacement, declined to comment beyond a notice of vacancy released by the bipartisan, bicameral commission, which does not publicly disclose when they meet or what gets discussed.

"The Commission considers the Legislative Inspector General to be a vital position that should be filled as expeditiously as possible to ensure the integrity of the Office and to preserve the citizens' trust in the functions and operations of the legislative branch of government for which the LIG has jurisdiction," Keicher said in that statement.

The LEC announced Tuesday they were notified on Aug. 31 that McCuskey's position was going to become vacant and they were searching for a replacement. McCuskey, a former federal judge, told Capitol News Illinois his resignation will take effect Sept. 30. He added, however, that the LEC had "not yet accepted" his resignation as of Tuesday afternoon, "but they know that I have offered it."

Pressure from lawmakers

Rep. Mary Beth Canty, D-Arlington Heights, chairs the House Democratic women's caucus and previously called on McCuskey to resign.

"LIG McCuskey's resignation is significant, but it does not end the culture of harassment that has persisted in Springfield for far too long," Canty said in a statement Tuesday. "We must strengthen the laws that guard against harassment, build a process that survivors can trust, and show the leadership required to earn the public's confidence. The work is not finished."

McCuskey's Aug. 31 resignation announcement came just days after a damning *Chicago Tribune* report about a lobbyist he interviewed as part of the investigation into former Rep. Harry Benton. The lobbyist sent a letter to the General Assembly's four caucus leaders saying McCuskey "violated the confidence of other victims and me."

McCuskey ultimately found Benton engaged in "a pattern and practice of inappropriate sexual conduct," but it was the nature of his investigations that drew criticism.

That same lobbyist also sent a letter to the LEC on July 29 saying McCuskey's final report to the commission regarding Benton contained six inaccuracies.

"It is likely that these errors stem from the fact that LIG McCuskey did not record our one-on-one

interview or take contemporaneous notes," the lobbyist wrote in July.

'Highly inappropriate' commentary

In another letter detailed in the *Tribune's* report, the lobbyist explained four interactions with McCuskey that she deemed problematic. She said McCuskey shared confidential information, including the names of other victims, with her, and took other actions that led her to question McCuskey's professional judgement.

During an interview with McCuskey on May 12 about allegations against Benton, the lobbyist said the LIG made his own comments about the lobbyist's physical appearance.

"LIG McCuskey interrupted the interview to ask me if I knew that I did not look as old as I am," the lobbyist said. "He told me that I look very young, that his son was 32, that he is well aware of what 30-year-olds look like, and I look like his son's friends. I found this commentary on my physical appearance highly inappropriate and concerning."

The lobbyist said she also learned that McCuskey left a voicemail with her 81-year-old mom in Michigan seeking information for his investigation into Benton.

In follow-up phone calls on June 1 and June 5, the lobbyist said McCuskey disclosed more private information about other people involved in the Benton investigation.

Later in July, McCuskey contacted the lobbyist to get her approval to release information to the LEC. During that phone call, the lobbyist said she corrected McCuskey about a statement by Benton that was going to be attributed to her, but McCuskey responded by saying "that doesn't matter."

"I was shocked and disturbed when I got the report and there were claims included that were completely made up," the lobbyist said in the letter obtained by the *Tribune*.

McCuskey disputed that characterization in a follow-up statement included with Benton's report.

"There are no inaccuracies in my founded summary report. I stand by it completely," McCuskey said.

"My judgements have never been attacked by an individual doubting my credibility!"

McCuskey also raised more questions for lawmakers when he discussed Benton's investigation in detail on a Springfield radio show.

The LIG and ethics reform

Whether it's been filled or not, the legislative inspector general's office has been a lightning rod in recent years.

The post sat vacant through much of 2014 into 2017, when ex-House Speaker Michael Madigan's office became embroiled in a sexual harassment and workplace culture scandal. In that span, more

than two dozen complaints were made to the office but not investigated.

In 2017, former federal prosecutor Julie Porter took the job on an interim basis, ultimately becoming a critic of the office and calling it "broken." She was succeeded full-time by Carol Pope, a retired appellate court judge and state's attorney.

Pope held the job from 2019 until resigning in January 2022, criticizing the office as a "paper tiger" and saying lawmakers "demonstrated true ethics reform is not a priority" through their inaction in strengthening the office that year.

The law passed at the time stopped lawmakers from lobbying on behalf of municipalities, strengthened financial disclosure requirements and created "revolving door" prohibitions on lawmakers immediately becoming lobbyists.

While it gave the LIG independent authority to launch investigations after a formal complaint is filed, it also restricted those investigations to matters that arise out of government service, not to outside employment.

"The public has had it up to their eyebrows with public corruption, and when I came to this job, I really felt like by appointing somebody with my background, if I had the ability to do the job in the right way, it would...improve the public's view of the legislature," Pope told NPR Illinois at the time. "But I just don't feel like I've been able to do that at all. It's just time to move along."

Strengthening the office?

Republicans on multiple occasions have called for ethics reforms, including strengthening the LIG's office.

"As the internal watchdog of the legislative branch, the LIG must have the tools and authority to be effective," House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said in a statement. "The legislature should move quickly to strengthen anti-corruption safeguards and increase the jurisdiction and authority of the office of the LIG. House Republicans have legislation ready that should be taken up during the veto session."

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Capitol Renovations 'A Few Months Behind,' Set To Wrap Up This Winter

Architect of the Capitol Andrea Aggertt says the project will be within the \$350M budget

Brenden Moore Capitol News Illinois

Nearly five years after construction crews started moving dirt on the \$350 million renovation of the Illinois State Capitol's north wing, there are finally glimmers of light at the end of the tunnel.

The massive project, which included a rehab of the Illinois Senate chamber, construction of a new underground parking garage and conference room and the creation of a new main entrance with enhanced security features, will wrap up "sometime this winter," Architect of the Capitol Andrea Aggertt told Capitol News Illinois in an interview this week.

"We are slightly behind," Aggertt said. "As with everything, it's almost like we're on an archeological site. You don't know what you're going to find until you get into it."

There's been progress: The Senate returned to its refurbished digs on schedule in January 2025. And the \$46 million, 435-space parking garage for legislators and staff opened this spring — more than two years later than anticipated. Under the updated timetable, the entire project will be complete about two years behind schedule.

Despite overruns on time, Aggertt said the project, funded by the Rebuild Illinois capital construction program, is "within that budget" and they "don't anticipate going over that."

'Surprises'

Labor shortages attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and a scarcity of specific materials necessary to renovate a 150-year-old building contributed to the slowdown, Aggertt said. Not to mention the weather. Multiple heavy rain events this summer set the construction timeline back another several weeks. And then there were several unanticipated "surprises" that Aggertt and her team were confronted with as construction progressed.

Among them: The discovery of wrought iron trusses that were apparently hidden behind walls for more than a century. Their presence was not even unearthed during the last major renovation of the north wing in the 1970s. But the trusses, it turns out, play a critical role supporting the Capitol's mansard roof.

So, they had to pivot, working around those structural components and reallocating floor plans while making sure they would be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"There have been things that we did not anticipate," Aggertt said. "We also had staff and members in offices all the way until the time we started construction. So that means our first chance to look behind walls that nobody had seen for 70 years was at that point, and that also led

to surprises that we had to overcome, which I'm proud to say that the group that we have working, the general contractors, the subcontractors, all the union tradesmen and women, have done a great job to complete that."

Most of the work inside the north wing is now complete, including the removal of mezzanines added in the 1960s and 1970s that subdivided floors with lofty ceilings. This will result in less office space in the Capitol but restore the building's original look.

Detailing work is done and new carpeting has been installed with furniture to be delivered to the refurbished north wing in the coming months, Aggertt said.

A casualty of this restoration? The Capitol office of former President Barack Obama, who served in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004. Aggertt said it would've been "impossible" to maintain that one space while gutting everything else around it.

"But I can say we've saved everything from it down to the carpet and the light fixture," Aggertt said. "So, if we want to build a replica someday, we documented everything."

What's left?

The renovations of the third through sixth floors is complete with construction still wrapping up on the first and second floors along with the new underground conference center and welcome center, Aggertt said.

Those passing, driving or walking by will notice that work has finally begun on the removal of the paved north drive. Its tear-up had been pushed to the back of the queue so construction crews could utilize it.

The drive once included parking spots for senators and staff and was a popular pick-up and drop-off location, first with horse-drawn carriages and later cars.

But in an era of heightened security threats, the drive allowed cars too close to the building and it will thus be replaced with a sidewalk that'll allow pedestrian access to the building from Second and Monroe streets.

Security enhancements were a key consideration in the details of the renovation.

The new north wing entrance, which will serve as the main gateway into the building, will feature an attached welcome center that will allow the Secretary of State's police to screen visitors before they enter the Capitol itself. There will be two security lines to better accommodate large groups and a dedicated drop-off lane for tour buses on Monroe Street.

The new space will include an information desk, a cafe, public restrooms and a room where visitors can start their tour of the building with an informational video.

"Our plan is that when groups do come into the Capitol building, there would hopefully be a video or two

that they can watch... about this construction, maybe the original construction" and "some of the more notable officials that have served in the Illinois State Capitol building," Aggertt said. "So I think that's a really cool way to also educate people about the history and something that we've never been able to offer before."

Like any building, the Capitol requires regular upkeep and maintenance, Aggertt said. Before this, the Capitol's west wing underwent a \$50 million renovation between 2011 and 2013.

Aggertt said there's no funding allocated yet for future work, but she said the building's east wing will need a refurbishment like the north wing within the next decade. They'll soon need to replace the roof of the Capitol dome, which hasn't had any major work done on it since the 1970s.

If there's anything she wants people to take away from the renovation, Aggertt said it's the "beauty of the original architecture."

"So, unfortunately, over the last several decades, mezzanines were added," and "walls were painted white," Aggertt said. "So we had the cool opportunity to take a deeper look at all those layers of paint and determine what was originally there. So everyone's going to be able to see that now."

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Sixty-One Organizations Will Receive \$3.5M In Local Food Grants

State program will serve 35 counties in effort to keep food local

Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Illinois will contribute over \$3.5 million to local food organizations in the state's latest attempt to bolster local food infrastructure.

The grants from the Department of Agriculture are part of a three-year-old program aimed at making it easier for local farmers to process and distribute food locally. In total, 61 organizations received grants, 16 of them in Cook County and the other 45 distributed among 34 other counties.

"These awards will help farmers, food businesses, and community partners expand their capacity and reach new markets," Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II said in a statement. "When we invest in local food infrastructure, we are creating economic opportunity for businesses while ensuring Illinois residents have greater access to fresh, locally grown foods."

Projects include collaborations

The latest distribution covers two fiscal years, 2025 and 2026. This round of projects ranged from a \$1,424 grant for air conditioning improvements to a \$205,000 collaboration to enhance growing and distribution capacity of six community-based farms on Chicago's South and West sides.

The latter is a partnership between the Chicago

Food Policy Action Council and NeighborSpace, a nonprofit urban land trust in Chicago.

In one of two Shelby County projects, Triple S Farms plans to construct an air-chilled mobile poultry processing unit that can be towed to small farms in the region to allow small farmers to process, chill, fabricate, package and freeze their own poultry. That machine would have a capacity of 300 to 400 chickens per day.

Outside of Cook, Kane and Union counties received the highest number of projects with four each.

In Union County, three projects pertain to cold storage, while Alto Vineyards plans to transition to stainless steel tanks to improve durability, efficiency, and safe fermentation and storage processes.

To date, the state has allocated over \$5 million to local food grants since the program's launch. Another \$2 million was included in the current-year budget, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Grant program details

The program offers grants of up to \$75,000 for an individual project and up to \$250,000 for collaborative projects.

To be eligible, applicants must meet administrative program rules, and must be an Illinois entity with fewer than 50 employees involved in the production, processing, or distribution of agricultural products.

Recipients are expected to match 25% of their award with a comparable investment unless the project is classified as "high need," meaning that it fills a critical infrastructure gap or serves underserved farmers and communities.

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Public Defense Reform Advances in Illinois By Hiring Statewide Public Defenders

Hiring process begins 3 years after cash bail abolition revealed significant shortages

Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Nearly three years ago, Illinois became the first state in the nation to fully abolish its cash bail system, an effort pushed by criminal justice reform advocates who argued that the ability for a person to post bond after an arrest does not equate with the danger he or she poses to the community.

The overhaul, one part of the SAFE-T Act lawmakers approved in early 2021, mandated an entirely new — and in many cases, much faster — process for arrestees to get in front of a judge for an initial hearing in order to quickly evaluate who should stay in jail and who should be released to wait for a next court date.

As a result, proponents argued, defendants charged with low-level crimes would no longer face life-altering consequences like losing their jobs, home or parental rights just because they were unable to afford bail, while those arrested for violent crimes like domestic battery wouldn't be able to buy their way out of jail.

continued on page 7

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LEGAL NOTICES

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THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE
OF ILLINOIS, for and on behalf of the People of the State of
Illinois, Plaintiff,
Parcel # 21920014TE
Job # R-92-005-13
v. Case # 2026ED2
CPG Investors, LLC; BMO Harris Bank, N.A.; US Small Business
Administration; St. Charles Bank and Trust Company;
Washington State Bank; Unknown Owners and Non-Record
Claimants, Defendants.

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Non-Record Claimants and Unknown Owners, defendants in
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Complaint in said Court in the Law Division thereof, for condemnation
pursuant to the eminent domain laws of the State of Illinois, of the
lands and premises in the Complaint situated in Boone County, State
of Illinois, to wit:

Owner CPG Investors, LLC
Route FAP 525 (US 20)
County Boone
Job No. R-92-019-20
Parcel No. 21920014TE
P.I.N. No. 05-32-300-026
Section (6,15,14) R&HBR
Station 80+19.80
Station 82+68.97

EASEMENT

That part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 32, Township 44
North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Boone
County, Illinois, with bearings and grid distances referenced
to the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System, East Zone NAD
83 (2011), with a combined factor of 0.99997273, described as
follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Southwest Quarter;
thence South 89 degrees 38 minutes 40 seconds West on the south
line of said Southwest Quarter, 46.19 feet to the Northeast corner
of the Northwest Quarter of Section 5 Township 43 North, Range
3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Boone County; thence
South 89 degrees 34 minutes 05 seconds West on the north line
of said Northwest Quarter, 203.81 feet; thence North 00 degrees
18 minutes 30 seconds East, 101.43 feet to the north right of way
line of US 20, being the south line of a tract of land described in
the Warranty Deed to 2009 Properties,
LLC as recorded on July 18, 2013, as Document Number
2013R05714 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, being the
Point of Beginning.

From said Point of Beginning: thence continuing North 00
degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds East on the west line of said 2009
Properties tract, 227.39 feet; thence North 89 degrees 00 minutes
36 seconds East, 40.56 feet; thence South 00 degrees 54 minutes
34 seconds East, 210.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 15 minutes
10 seconds East, 85.88 feet to an existing building; thence South
00 degrees 00 minutes 41 seconds East, along said building, 10.12
feet; thence North 89 degrees 23 minutes 21 seconds East, along
said building, 104.61 feet; thence North 71 degrees 29 minutes 25
seconds East, 15.27 feet to the east line of said 2009 Properties
tract; thence South 00 degrees 18 minutes 27 seconds West on
said east line, 13.19 feet to the north right of way line of US 20
and the south line of said 2009 Properties tract; thence South 89
degrees 34 minutes 05 seconds West on said north right of way
line and said south line of said 2009 Properties tract, 250.00 feet
to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.2841 acres, more or less
(area based on ground distances).

PIN:05-32-300-026; that summons was duly noticed out of the said
Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.
The said Complaint is for the ascertaining of the just compensation
to be paid to the owner: CPG Investors, LLC; BMO Harris Bank,
N.A.; US Small Business Administration; St. Charles Bank and
Trust Company; Washington State Bank; CAI Customs Alloys, Inc.;
Rockford Local Development Corporation; Unknown Owners and
Non-Record Claimants, Generally, for the fee taking and temporary
easement acquisitions to the above described real property sought to be
acquired for the purposes of widening a public highway.

Now, therefore, unless you the said above named defendants,
unknown owners and non-record claimants file your appearance in
the said suit, in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone
County, Law Division, Boone County Courthouse, Boone, Illinois on
or before October 9, 2026, an order or default may be entered against
you at any time after that day and judgement entered in accordance
with the prayer of said Complaint.

Dated: Boone, Illinois
Pamela Coduto
Clerk of the Circuit Courthouse
Date: July 8, 2026
Kwame Raoul, Attorney General,
Vincent D. Pinelli, Special Assistant Attorney General
Attorney for Plaintiff, 70 West Madison, Suite 4300, Chicago, IL
60602; Attorney No. 3122437
Published in The Boone County Journal Sept 1, 8, 15, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF
ILLINOIS, for and on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois,
Plaintiff,
v. Case # 2026ED1
Parcel # 205113016
205113016TE-A
205113016TE-B
Job # R-92-005-13
Nancy Gambino; The People of the State of Illinois, Department of
Labor; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.

JURY DEMAND
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is
hereby given to you, Non-Record Claimants and Unknown Owners,
defendants in the above entitled suit, that the above named plaintiff
has filed its Complaint in said Court in the Law Division thereof, for
condemnation pursuant to the eminent domain laws of the State of
Illinois, of the lands and premises in the Complaint situated in Boone
County, State of Illinois, to wit:

Owner Nancy Gambino
Route F.A.P. 517 (US Bus 20)
County Boone County
Job No. R-92-005-13
Parcel No. 20513016
P.I.N. No. 05-20-400-023
Section L-R-1
Station 102+28.71
Station 104+32.32

LAND
EXHIBIT A

That part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 20, Township
44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, Boone
County, State of Illinois, with bearings and grid distances
referenced to the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System, East
Zone NAD 83 (2011 ADJ), with a combined factor of 0.9999985,
described as follows:

Commencing at a found mag spike at the northeast corner
of said Southeast Quarter of Section 20 per Monument Record
recorded May 18, 2010, as Document Number 2010R03363 in
the Recorder's Office of Boone County; thence South 89 degrees
38 minutes 27 seconds West, on the north line of said Southeast
Quarter, measured along the north line thereof; thence South 00
degrees 53 minutes 21 seconds West, on said west line, 56.00 feet
to the existing southerly right of way line of US Business Route
20 as described in the Warranty Deed to the People of the State of
Illinois recorded March 14, 1994, as Document Number 94-2190,
in said Recorder's Office and the Point of Beginning.

From said Point of Beginning: thence North 89 degrees 43
minutes 48 seconds East, on nsaid southerly right of way line,
73.06 feet; thence South 81 degrees 44 minutes 22 seconds West,
on said southerly right of way line, 132.01 feet; thence South 89
degrees 43 minutes 46 seconds West, 187.32 feet; thence South
87 degrees 20 minutes 37 seconds West, 16.71 feet to said west
line of the East 861.00 feet ; thence North 00 degrees 53 minutes
21 seconds East, on said west line, 20.28 feet, to the Point of
Beginning, containing 0.0624 acre, more or less (area based on
ground distances).

Owner Nancy Gambino
Route F.A.P. 517 (US Bus Rte 20)
County Boone County
Job No. R-92-005-13
Parcel No. 20513016TE
P.I.N. No. 05-20-400-023
Section L-R-1
Station 102+45.00
Station 104+10.00

EASEMENT
EXHIBIT B

20513016TE-A
That part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 20, Township
44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, Boone
County, State of Illinois, with bearings and grid distances
referenced to the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System, East
Zone NAD 83 (2011 ADJ), with a combined factor of 0.9999985,
described as follows:

Commencing at a found mag spike at the northeast corner
of said Southeast Quarter of Section 20 per Monument Record
recorded May 18, 2010, as Document Number 2010R03363 in
the Recorder's Office of Boone County; thence South 89 degrees
38 minutes 27 seconds West, on the north line of said Southeast
Quarter, 820.96 feet, to a perpendicular line; thence South 00
degrees 21 minutes 33 seconds East, on said perpendicular line,
75.64 feet to the Point of Beginning.

From said Point of Beginning: thence South 00 degrees 16
minutes 14 seconds East, 5.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 43
minutes 46 seconds West, 25.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 16
minutes 14 seconds West, 5.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 43
minutes 46 seconds East, 25.00 feet to the Point of Beginning,
containing 0.0029 acre, more or less (area based on ground
distances).

20513016TE-B
That part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 20, Township
44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, Boone
County, State of Illinois, with bearings and grid distances
referenced to the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System, East
Zone NAD 83 (2011 ADJ), with a combined factor of 0.9999985,
described as follows:

Commencing at a found mag spike at the northeast corner
of said Southeast Quarter of Section 20 per Monument Record
recorded May 18, 2010, as Document Number 2010R03363 in
the Recorder's Office of Boone County; thence South 89 degrees
38 minutes 27 seconds West, on the north line of said Southeast
Quarter, 680.96 feet, to a perpendicular line; thence South 00

degrees 21 minutes 33 seconds East, on said perpendicular line,
75.86 feet to the Point of Beginning.
From said Point of Beginning: thence South 00 degrees 16
minutes 14 seconds East, 5.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 43
minutes 46 seconds West, 40.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 16
minutes 14 seconds West, 5.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 43
minutes 46 seconds East, 40.00 feet to the Point of Beginning,
containing 0.0046 acre, more or less (area based on ground
distances).

Said Parcels 20513016TE-A & B cntain a total of 0.0075 acre,
more or less (area based on ground distances).
PIN:05-20-400-023; that summons was duly noticed out of the said
Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.
The said Complaint is for the ascertaining of the just compensation to be
paid to the owner: Nancy Gambino; the People of the State of Illinois,
Department of Labor; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants,
Generally, for the fee taking and temporary easement acquisitions to
the above described real property sought to be acquired for the purpose
of widening a public highway.

Now, therefore, unless you the said above named defendants,
unknown owner and non-record claimants file your appearance in
the said suit, in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone
County, Law Division, Boone County Courthouse, Boone, Illinois on
or before October 9, 2026, an order or default may be entered against
you at any time after that day and judgement entered in accordance
with the prayer of said Complaint.

Dated: Boone, Illinois
Pamela Coduto
Clerk of the Circuit Courthouse
Date: July 8, 2026
Kwame Raoul, Attorney General,
Vincent D. Pinelli, Special Assistant Attorney General
Attorney for Plaintiff, 70 West Madison, Suite 4300, Chicago, IL
60602; Attorney No. 3122437
Published in The Boone County Journal Sept 1, 8, 15, 2026

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY

In the Interest of: Jordan Howell, A Minor
TO: Shurue Martin
Case Number 2026JA1

PUBLICATION NOTICE
ALL UNKNOWN FATHERS and TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
Take notice that on
5-18-26, Tricia L. Smith, Boone County State's Attorney,

filed a Petition for adjudication of wardship abuse and dependency
petition under the Illinois Juvenile Court Act in the Circuit Court of
Boone County, entitled "In the Interest of _Jordan Howell_, a Minor". A
hearing will be held on the following date(s), or as soon thereafter as
the cause(s) may be heard, at the Boone County Courthouse, located
at 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008: October 15, 2026 3:00 PM in
Courtroom 4

The Court may declare the Minor to be a ward of the court at the
above-listed hearing(s).

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO
TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE
MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO AP-
POINT A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO THE
MINOR' ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS
TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINA-
TION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT
OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOP-
TION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

Unless you appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices
or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the
filing of Amended Petition for Adjudication or a Petition to Terminate
Parental Rights.

Unless you appear at the hearing(s) and show cause against the
Petition, the allegations of the Petition may stand admitted as against
you and each of you, and an Order or Judgment entered.

Date: September 1, 2026
PAMELA CODUTO, CIRCUIT CLERK
By: Kristina Pearson
Deputy Clerk
Published in The Boone County Journal Sept 8, 15, 25, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LENORE NAPIER,
DECEASED. Case No. 2026PR44

CLAIM NOTICE AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS
Notice is given of the death of LENORE NAPIER of 929 Raffaello
Vw., Mount Holly, North Carolina. Letters of Office were issued on
August 25, 2026, to MARY NAPIER-GARCIA of 929 Raffaello View,
Mount Holly, NC, whose attorney is Robert C. Becker, Jr., 213 West
Main Street, Genoa, Illinois 60135.

Heirs, including WILLIAM V. NAPIER JR, address unknown,
within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission
any heir or legatee may file a petition with the court to require proof of
the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other
evidence. You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate
Act to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court
within 6 months after admission of the will to probate. Heirs against the
estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Boone
County Court House, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or
with the representatives, or both, on or before March 1, 2027, and any
claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with
the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the
attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless
an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a
petition to terminate under Section 28-4 of the Illinois Probate Act.

PAMELA CODUTO (Clerk of the Circuit Court)
Published in The Boone County Journal Sept 8, 15, 25, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the North Boone Fire Protection District #3 is accepting sealed bids for new SCBA Equipment. Beginning on September 15, 2026, bid packets and specifications may be obtained at the North Boone FPD #3 Administrative Office, 305 W. Grove Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 by appointment, Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. For an appointment or for further information, contact Administrative Chief/Treasurer Connie Scott at (815) 765-3366, press 1 and then 3.

Sealed Bids will be accepted at North Boone Fire Protection District #3 Administrative Office, 305 W. Grove Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 until the deadline of 9:00 A.M. on September 21, 2026. Bids will be publicly opened at North Boone Fire Protection District #3 Administrative Office, 305 W. Grove Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 at 7:00 P.M. on September 21, 2026. The Contract is scheduled to be awarded at the September 21, 2026, meeting of the Board of Trustees or soon thereafter.

The North Boone Fire Protection District #3 reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any formalities or technicalities of the Bid or to reject any non-responsive bid in the interest of the North Boone Fire Protection District #3.

Published in The Boone County Journal September 15, 2026

The Supervisor's Annual Financial Report for Spring Township and Road District is available for review. If you wish to obtain a copy contact Supervisor Ryan Kufalk at rkufalk@springtownship.com.

Published in The Boone County Journal September 15, 2026

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE

THE ESTATE OF: MARJORIE CERNOCH, Deceased
Case No.: 2026PR28

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Marjorie Cernoch. Letters of Office were issued on July 31, 2026 to Carrie Wagner of Caledonia, Illinois, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Sharon R. Rudy, 124 N. Water Street, #305, Rockford, Illinois 61107.

Claims against the estate must be filed on or before April 2, 2027, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 or with the estate's legal representative, or both.

A copy of any claim filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the legal representative and the attorney for the estate within ten days after it has been filed.

Carrie Wagner, Representative
DATED: 9/15/2026

By: Attorney Sharon R. Rudy
Attorney Sharon R. Rudy, P.C.
124 N. Water Street, #305
Rockford, IL 61107
(815) 962-1910
service@sharonrudylaw.com
Published in The Boone County Journal 15, 22, 29, 2026

WANTED TO BUY

I buy classic cars especially
convertibles 50/60s Impala/
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Carlo/ Cutlass/ Buick/ Caprice/
Chevelle / Mercedes/ etc.,
any condition
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OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY FORMER ORPHANAGE CONVERTED TO A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME 5747 S. PEEK HOME RD., POLO, IL (APPROX. ONE HOUR WEST OF CHICAGO'S WESTERN SUBURBS)

Built in 1930 and partially rehabbed, with plenty of opportunity for a purchaser to add their personalized finishes, this approx. 10,000 sq. ft., 17 bedroom mansion sits on 10 acres with an additional 10 acres available. With original millwork, two fireplaces, hay barn, mini barn with paddock, grain barn, 5-car detached and 2-car attached garage, all in an idyllic country setting.



**Previously Valued in Excess of \$2,250,000
Suggested Opening Bid \$975,000**

Open houses noon to 2 pm Tuesday, Sept. 29, Saturday, Oct. 10,
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Arguments to Halt Illinois' 'Medical Aid In Dying' Law Ahead Of Sept. 12 Start

*Disability rights advocates worry about
potential for coercion, want more state
oversight*

Hannah Meisel

Capitol News Illinois

Illinois is set to become the first Midwestern state to allow terminally ill adults to take life-ending medication prescribed by physicians when the law goes into effect Sept. 12.

But a federal judge is weighing whether to block the End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act, or EOLA, from its Sept. 12 operative date after hearing arguments Friday in a lawsuit that alleges EOLA discriminates against people with disabilities. The suit also claims the law runs afoul of federal law including the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Affordable Care Act.

Thomas Geoghegan, who represents the disability rights groups, physician and disabled Illinoisans who brought the case, told U.S. District Judge John Tharp that the law upends the millennia-old tradition of the Hippocratic oath, a pledge doctors make to "first do no harm." As a result, Geoghegan argued, EOLA will result in the "severe impairment" of the relationship a patient with disabilities has with his or her physician.

"It's our view, ultimately, this is authorizing a different standard of care," he said.

Disability rights advocates fiercely opposed the two-year effort to pass the law, warning that physician bias in perceived quality of life may make doctors more inclined to encourage life-ending treatment over other options for people with disabilities.

On Friday, Geoghegan contended this risk of coercion could be exacerbated by the reality of the American healthcare system, in which people with disabilities are often also poor or on public aid. Other countries that allow medical aid in dying, like Canada and some of Europe, have socialized medicine systems, he pointed out.

"It's a whole different bag in the United States," Geoghegan said. "Because you can go out into the street right now and run into someone who's a defendant in a medical debt case. A whole lot of Americans are uninsured or ... underinsured."

But the attorney defending EOLA on behalf of the state argued that the law contains a key stopgap: Physicians are only allowed to discuss lethal options with a terminally ill patient if the patient is the one who brings it up.

EOLA only applies to adults with less than six months to live — a prognosis that must be confirmed by two independent physicians. Patients must make the request for lethal medication both verbally and in writing, and doctors are required to inform them of alternate hospice care and pain control options.

Additionally, a patient requesting the medication must pass a mental evaluation by a physician to determine that they are mentally capable of making the decision and not facing undue influence. Patients must also be physically able to self-administer the

medication.

But Geoghegan argued that the law doesn't require enough state oversight to the doctors determining whether a patient is a candidate for "medical aid in dying," a term proponents of the law often use. Opponents, which also include religious groups like the Catholic Conference of Illinois, prefer to describe it as "assisted suicide." Because EOLA doesn't contain "an objective, state-engaged standard" for doctors to make those determinations, Geoghegan told the judge the law amounted to a violation of due process rights for people with disabilities.

Tharp asked Elizabeth Morris, a high-ranking litigator in Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office, to respond to Geoghegan's argument that EOLA lacks a "process to assess the validity and legitimacy of actions that might be taken under the statute."

continued on page 8

Public Defender

from page 5

But the September 2023 implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act revealed glaring disparities in resources afforded to public defenders across the state versus their prosecutorial counterparts in Illinois' 102 county state's attorney offices.

At the time, Illinois was one of only seven states at the time without any oversight mechanism for monitoring how effectively counties' court systems help defendants exercise their right to counsel for trial via the public defender's office, according to a 2021 study commissioned by the Illinois Supreme Court. Additionally, Illinois left funding for public defenders entirely up to counties instead of incorporating costs into the state budget.

The Pretrial Fairness Act requires more in-depth evidence and arguments during first appearance hearings than under the old bond system, where first appearance hearings often lasted just a few minutes while a judge set bail. Now detention hearings are required to take place within 72 hours of an arrest, meaning public defender services are often needed right away to review early evidence in cases.

But now after a two-year legislative process to create the Office of Statewide Public Defender, the Illinois Supreme Court is finally moving toward hiring for the position.

In an official job posting this week, the qualifications and duties of the statewide public defender are laid out, including the mandate to standardize county public defender practices, workloads and salary scales. Recruitment and retention for these jobs has been a difficult barrier, especially as rural areas have long faced attorney shortages more broadly.

The initial statewide public defender will serve a two-year term and receive a salary of \$218,400 — equal to that of Attorney General Kwame Raoul, an elected constitutional officer. The parity is required by the 2025 law creating the office, as is a raise for public defender employees across the state to compete with prosecutors employed by the state's attorney's office in the same county.

The application deadline is Oct. 9, and an appointed commission finalized earlier this year will review candidates and make a final decision in order for the statewide public defender to begin the job Jan. 1.

Illinois to Receive Up to \$768m in Meta Settlement Over Teen Social Media Addiction

Attorney General Kwame Raoul one of many state AGs who investigated, sued Meta

Hannah Meisel *Capitol News Illinois*

Illinois will receive up to \$768 million from a multi-state \$17.1 billion settlement with social media giant Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram — the culmination of a three-year legal battle brought by state attorneys general.

Nearly three dozen AGs, including Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, sued Meta in 2023 over teen social media addiction, following a two-year investigation into decisions made by company executives to encourage more engagement on its social media platforms. The lawsuits alleged engineers greenlit more addictive features like infinite scroll and autoplay despite internal company research showing the harms of compulsive social media use on teens' brains, in addition to misleading the public about the safety of its platforms.

"This is a monumental victory for online safety that will affect an entire generation of young people," Raoul said in a statement. "After decades of putting profits before the health and wellness of children, this landmark settlement requires Meta to put our children's safety and mental health at the forefront."

The settlement, announced Wednesday, abruptly ended what was supposed to be the first of several trials spawned by the AGs' litigation. Illinois was not one of the four states acting as plaintiffs in the federal trial kicked off last week in Oakland, California, in which Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg had been expected to take the witness stand.

Details of the settlement

Though the settlement still faces court approval, the \$17.1 billion agreed to is one of the largest state consumer protection settlements in history. Illinois will receive up to \$768 million over a 10-year period, which will be used for youth mental health and online safety training programs. In similar multi-state settlements with tobacco and opioid manufacturers, Illinois has used its share of settlement funds to stand up addiction recovery programs.

But the Meta settlement goes beyond money; the company agreed to strengthen its existing age verification systems for users in addition to a host of limitations for those between 13 and 18.

Meta debuted Instagram "teen accounts" nearly two years ago, which automatically placed privacy and content restrictions on users under 16 years, in addition to gentle reminders to get off the app after 60 minutes and a default "sleep mode," which silences notifications between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

However, age verification isn't iron-clad, and some limitations are easily turned off. Under the terms of the settlement, teens will have two-hour daily limits on Instagram and Facebook in addition to mandatory pauses after 15 minutes of continuous use, and again after 60 and 90 minutes.

The settlement will also supercharge "sleep mode" to a full-on nighttime block restricting teens' access to content feeds from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. Mut-

ed notifications will be extended from "sleep mode" into weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the school year.

Meta will also implement stronger safeguards to block teens from accessing content related to eating disorders, suicide and other self-harm, in addition to restricting teens from access to so-called "beauty filters" and "like" counts.

The settlement also dictates that for the first five years of the agreement, an independent auditor will review Meta's implementation of the changes and their effectiveness.

New Illinois law

Some of the settlement's terms were already signed into law in Illinois earlier this summer, though the Children's Social Media Safety Act isn't set to take effect until 2028. The new law, pushed by Gov. JB Pritzker this spring, prohibits social media platforms from sending notifications to minors between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

But Illinois' law also goes further, requiring social media platforms to confirm a user's age through the operating system of the device — like a smartphone — on which they are using the account. It also prohibits companies from using a minor's data to curate the content they are served on an app, a tactic deployed by nearly all social media platforms to make scrolling their feeds more addictive.

Under the law, violators face civil penalties of up to \$2,500 for each child for unintentional violations and up to \$7,500 per child for intentional violations.

State Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, D-Glenview, the lead House sponsor of the Children's Social Media Safety Act, said this week's settlement is "an important first step, but not the last, in holding social media companies accountable for the real-world harm that has been a feature of these platforms, not a bug."

She noted Meta's challenge to TikTok and YouTube baked into the settlement: Meta will hold back 30% of the settlement — about \$5.3 billion — that it will pay out only if the other two platforms also pay roughly \$5.3 billion each to fund youth online safety programs and implement their own limitations on teens. Those include restricted night modes, age verification measures and daily one-hour time limits. If TikTok and YouTube adopt those same time limits for teens, Meta will also halve its daily usage limit to an hour.

"Notably, even Meta now says other platforms like TikTok and YouTube should be held to the same standard — proof that these protections are necessary,

not optional, and that no company should be trusted to make that call on its own," Gong-Gershowitz told Capitol News Illinois.

Law

from page 7

"I would argue the act itself sets forth this very thorough process to slow things down and give doctors the opportunity to assess patients," Morris said, noting that doctors are trained to walk patients through informed consent, which she also said is "explicitly spelled out" in the law.

And because doctors are "responsible to the state" both to maintain their medical licenses and under medical malpractice law, Morris argued Illinois "has already put these guardrails in place."

Tharp said he would make a decision on whether to grant the preliminary injunction before the Sept. 12 effective date.

Another challenge is pending

In a separate challenge to EOLA filed last month by religiously affiliated healthcare systems and doctors, another federal judge in Chicago approved a temporary restraining order agreed to by all parties. The stipulated TRO exempts the plaintiffs from having to discuss lethal medication with patients until the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals decides a case concerning similar themes.

In that case, stemming from a 2016 law requiring that, if requested by the patient, providers who don't perform abortions must refer, transfer to or give patients written information about providers who do. A federal judge in Rockford issued a mixed ruling in the case last year, which the parties swiftly appealed. The appellate panel heard arguments this spring and could issue a ruling any time now.

Read more: 7 years after passage, Illinois' first in string of recent abortion protections gets day in court

Democratic lawmakers pushed EOLA through to passage in October and Gov. JB Pritzker signed it into law in December. The statute is also referred to as "Deb's Law," named for former social worker Deb Robertson, a Lombard resident living with an aggressive case of neuroendocrine carcinoma.

In her arguments Friday, Morris noted the multi-year effort by advocates to fill the "gap in end-of-life care" options in Illinois, asserting that the "public interest in denying the motion for preliminary injunction here is strong."

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