



Legislative Update February 1, 2018

The Illinois General Assembly convened this week for the start of the spring 2018 legislative session. Lawmakers met in joint session on Wednesday, January 31st as Governor Bruce Rauner delivered his State of the State Address. The speech provided the governor an opportunity to articulate his gubernatorial accomplishments and legislative priorities for the coming year. The speech was positive in nature and spoke of bipartisanship, the strengths of Illinois and the future of our state.

The Governor's address outlined goals he hopes to accomplish this session including; term limits, property tax relief, tax reduction and pension reform. He also spoke about the need for lawmakers to focus and work together on job creation and economic development. Governor Rauner also vowed to present a balanced budget during his upcoming budget address on February 14th; which was received with mock applause from Democrats who believe Governor Rauner has never presented a balanced budget to the General Assembly.

The speech was criticized by Democrats for lacking substance and specifics on how Governor Rauner intends to meet his legislative goals. Speaker Madigan accused the Governor for blaming others for the continued setbacks to our state instead of being the leader he was elected to be. Rauner's Republican challenger in the upcoming primary, Rep. Jeanne Ives, criticized Governor Rauner's ability to achieve bipartisanship and referenced the divide he created within the Republican Party last fall by signing legislation that expanded abortion coverage. Many political insiders are eager for Governor Rauner to unveil his proposed budget in a few weeks. Some are already preparing for another budget impasse and a legislatively difficult year. In short, the mood in Springfield remains the same – a bit dismal with continued dysfunction expected.

The bill introduction process has begun and IMSCA staff is reviewing each bill to identify those of interest to the subcontracting industry. In addition, IMSCA will continue our efforts seeking retainage reform this legislative session. IMSCA plans to introduce legislation capping retainage at 5% for private construction projects. Our effort will undoubtedly be met with strong opposition from the Illinois REALTORS® and the Illinois Bankers Association. In response to this, I can't stress enough the importance for every IMSCA member to contact your elected officials and let them know retainage reform is

important to you as a contractor in Illinois. As soon as our bill is introduced, IMSCA staff will report the bill number to all of our members and will keep you updated on the status of our legislation as the 2018 legislative session progresses.

As a reminder, **please mark your calendar for IMSCA's upcoming Lobby Day on Tuesday, April 24th at The State House Inn located at 101 East Adams Street in **Springfield**.** Lobby Day will be held immediately following IMSCA's quarterly board and membership meeting beginning at 11:00 a.m. IMSCA staff encourages you to invite your colleagues to attend this important day to discuss issues important to our industry and your business.

IMSCA staff looks forward to representing the Illinois sub-contracting industry in Springfield this session. We are confident that by working alongside our members IMSCA will have another legislatively successful year.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Newbold by calling 217.523.4361.