



ANDREW CHESNEY

STATE SENATOR | 45TH DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor,

As we settle into 2025, my pledge to the people of the 45th District remains unchanged: I will never vote to raise your taxes.

This year I am filing bills that protect constitutional rights, increase government accountability and transparency, promote fiscal responsibility, heighten ethical standards for elected officials, and support our men and women in blue. I will also continue to push back against soft-on-crime, anti-family, and other liberal policies that threaten our democracy and stifle the conservative values that are vitally important in Northwest Illinois.



I want to reiterate what a pleasure it is to serve as your legislative voice in the Illinois Senate. I am in the process of finalizing this year's legislative agenda, and as I have done in the past, my bill filings will reflect the priorities and concerns that are brought to my attention by my constituents through surveys, emails, phone calls, and public meetings.

On the pages that follow, I will highlight several bills I co-sponsored in 2024 that became law on January 1. This document does not include a full list of new laws, but if you want to access the comprehensive list, please visit SenatorChesney.com, scroll to the "Quick Links" section at the bottom of the home page, and click on "New Laws, January 1, 2025."

My legislative office stands ready to assist you. If you need help navigating an issue involving a state agency or department, or if you would like to register an opinion on pending legislation, we are here to listen and serve you.

Sincerely,

State Senator Andrew Chesney
45TH District

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LOOKING OUT FOR TAXPAYERS



Over-taxation continues to drive people out of the State of Illinois and while much remains to be done to protect taxpayers, in the most recent General Assembly I was a co-sponsor of the following initiatives that are now laws:

Senate Bill 3455 (P.A. 103-1002) requires the Department of Revenue to conduct a study of the property tax system in Illinois.

Senate Bill 3567 (P.A. 103-1018) requires "Truth in Taxation" notices to be posted on or near the top of the unit of government's website homepage or on a page accessible through a direct link from the homepage and that the notice is posted for a minimum of 30 days.

Illinoisans pay some of the highest taxes in the country, and as your Senator, my pledge to you is that I will never vote in support of any measure that raises your taxes.

SUPPORTING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

In my opinion, we can never do enough to support our men and women in blue and other first responders. I was the leading Republican sponsor recently of the following new law:

HB 4460 (P.A. 103-0818) requires state, county, and local insurance plans for police officers, firefighters, and employees of the State Police to provide coverage for joint mental health therapy for employees and their spouses.

HELPING WORKING FAMILIES

Working families face a variety of challenges, not the least of which is childcare for younger children. Last year, I was pleased to co-sponsor a new law that addresses a growing issue with daycare needs for families that work non-traditional hours and lack access to qualified daycare.

Senate Bill 3207 (PA 101-0952) allows daycare centers to operate on a 24-hour basis to accommodate shift workers.

UPDATES FOR DRIVERS AND MOTORISTS



Several bills were signed into law in 2024 that benefit drivers/motorists. Apart from SB 275, which doesn't take effect until January 1, 2027, all of these new laws took effect on January 1 of this year. I was proud to co-sponsor the following new laws:

House Bill 4592 (P.A. 103-0824) allows Illinois residents to obtain mobile identification cards and driver's licenses through the Secretary of State.

Senate Bill 2740 (P.A. 103-0916) requires condominium associations to make reasonable accommodations for accessible parking spaces for drivers with disabilities.

Senate Bill 275 (P.A. 103-0872) provides for an eight-year driver's license; the licenses must be available no later than January 1, 2027.

House Bill 5370 (P.A. 103-0711) strengthens Scott's Law (change lanes and move over when approaching an accident or emergency scene where first responder vehicles are present) by clarifying that drivers who cannot change lanes due to traffic conditions should reduce their speed.

PROTECTING VICTIMS OF CRIME

The General Assembly took strides in the most recent General Assembly to increase protections for crime victims. I was happy to co-sponsor the following new laws:

Senate Bill 2683 (P.A. 103-0760) expands stalking protections by prohibiting the use of electronic tracking systems without consent.

House Bill 4623 (PA 103-0825) clarifies that Illinois' child pornography laws apply to images and videos created by artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

HEALTHCARE/INSURANCE IMPROVEMENTS

Over the last year, I supported several bills that help curb costs in the areas of healthcare and insurance. I am particularly proud of my leadership on a new law that will save lives.

Those with a family history of cancer will benefit from a new law I co-sponsored that requires insurance companies to cover tests that are key to early detection.

Senate Bill 2697 (P.A. 103-0914) mandates coverage for clinical genetic testing and evidence-based cancer imaging under group health insurance plans, capping cost-sharing at a maximum of \$50 for related services when cost-sharing isn't already prohibited under federal law.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

During the most recent session year, I was proud to support several new laws that benefit our veterans and their families. In addition to supporting initiatives that help military families access survivor benefits, provide veterans with easy-to-access information about free veterans' benefits and services, and protect them against predatory practices, I was proud to co-sponsor the following new law:

Senate Bill 2751 (P.A. 103-0621) waives building permit fees for home modifications needed to accommodate disabled veterans.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR HUNTERS/SPORTSMEN

In a state known for attacks on the Second Amendment, in 2024 I was the leading Republican sponsor of a new law that allows wild turkey hunters to use smaller gauge shotguns for their sport. The passage of this legislation addresses a steady decline in hunting by younger people and opens new avenues for participation by smaller-framed people, the disabled, seniors, or others who are sensitive to the recoil experienced by a 20-gauge or larger shotgun.

Senate Bill 2767 (P.A. 103-0622) amends the Wildlife Code to reduce the minimum shotgun gauge allowed for taking wild turkey from 20 gauge to .410 bore.

HELPING THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY AND FARMERS



I am proud to represent the thousands of farmers who live and work in the 45th District on the Senate Agriculture Committee. In addition to vetting several bills that benefit the agriculture industry and farmers, in the most recent General Assembly, I was proud to co-sponsor the following bills that are now law in Illinois:

Senate Bill 3077 (P.A. 103-0772) requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and administer a Local Food Infrastructure Grant Program to enhance local food processing, aggregation, and distribution within the State through the award of annual grants.

Senate Bill 3219 (P.A. 103-0957) allows the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to award grants for equipment upgrades for farmer-owned grocery stores.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR EDUCATION AND STUDENTS



College is expensive, and I was happy to co-sponsor a few initiatives recently that help students and families make higher education decisions and retain funds dedicated to college costs:

Senate Bill 2862 (P.A. 103-0633) requires the Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to annually compile a list of the most in-demand jobs in Illinois, along with the starting salary, the median salary, and the typical education level for those jobs. IBHE shall publish this information on its website.

Senate Bill 3133 (P.A. 103-0778) allows parents with 529 college savings plans to utilize unused or leftover college or trade school funds by adding them to a retirement account.

WORKING FOR YOU

As your State Senator in Springfield, it is my honor to act as the liaison between the residents of the 45th District and the Illinois legislature. In this role, my job is to bring the priorities and opinions of the 45th District to the Capitol so our communities have a voice in state policymaking.

Through my local legislative office, my highly trained constituent services staff is available to help you navigate state agencies and departments. They can often help cut through some of the red tape and help find solutions. Just a few areas where they can provide assistance include:

- Unemployment claims
- FOID & Concealed Carry delays
- Senior services
- Voter registration
- Notary
- State funding/grant submission
- Taxation issues
- State licensing
- Aid agency referrals
- Commemoration and recognitions
- Medicaid