

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

November 2020

Hot Topics

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State Issues

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- o Executive Orders
- o Fall Veto Session

CUPAC & Political Advocacy

- o Election Results
- o CUPAC Still Seeking Corporate Donations From Credit Unions
- o Chapter Donations to CUPAC
- o GAC 2021 – 100% Virtual – Still 100% AMAZING!

Federal Update

Overview:

Congress is scheduled to convene after the elections in November. ICUL will continue to monitor several issues important to credit unions during the upcoming session including:

- Extension of the Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating
- Potential action on another economic stimulus bills with key focus on:

- o Extension of Troubled Debt Restructuring (TDR)/Central Liquidity Facility (CLF) provisions set to expire December 31,2020.
- o Language to streamline the PPP loan forgiveness process from HR 7777 for loans under \$150,000.
- o Appropriations bills including: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) funding.

Please stay alert for Legislative Action Calls as needed on these issues.

Virtual Hike At Home (HAH) visits a great success!

An in-person visit with legislators has long been an important element of the Illinois Credit Union League advocacy efforts. Engaging with policymakers to participate in the advocacy process on behalf of credit unions is valuable work for credit union members statewide. With the pandemic impact, this year was especially important to connect with lawmakers to share how credit unions are stepping up to help members and to discuss legislative issues important to the industry. Because of the pandemic restrictions, this year the hill visits looked a little bit different.

ICUL coordinated “virtual” HAH visits with all 18 Illinois Congressional Offices as well as a town hall meeting with US Senator Dick Durbin. The visits provided an opportunity for 64 unique individuals from 45 credit unions to share their experiences and provided examples of how they assisted members and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, including implementing “curbside” service. With the virtual format, legislators were able to hear from 32 credit union leaders and young professionals who had not previously participated in the GAC or Hike the Hill visits. Many thanks to everyone that participated in HAH!

A photo collage of video highlights from HAH can be found [here](#).

As a result of our HAH Advocacy efforts, progress has been made on two important issues that were discussed during the visits: obtaining co-sponsors for HR 7777 (streamlined PPP forgiveness process) and signors for the Dear Colleague letter that supports extending TDR/CLF provisions.

The CUNA News Now story (link below) highlights the efforts of Congressman Danny Davis to solicit support from members of Congress via a “Dear Colleague” letter to extend until December 2021 the TDR and CLF provisions from the CARES Act that are set to expire at the end of 2020. Of the 29 members of Congress that signed the letter-6 were from Illinois! The letter highlights the efforts that credit unions are making to help as many Americans as possible, underscoring that TDR and CLF extensions will aid in that economic support to credit union members. The [CUNA article](#) provides additional details.

2021 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda

ICUL initiated a number of pieces of legislation in the spring 2020 legislative session, with ideas generated through compliance questions and suggestions from credit unions that were approved by the Legislative Committee. These initiatives were formally filed in the beginning of 2020, the second year of the 101st General Assembly, but the COVID-19 pandemic halted all actions of the IGA from March 5-May 20. When the IGA reconvened, the session was limited primarily to the budget and COVID related bills. Accordingly, ICUL's legislative agenda has remained "on hold" until the spring session in 2021. ICUL'S Legislative Committee has approved carrying over the 2020 legislative agenda to 2021.

Legislative Initiatives to be Carried Over to 2021

Illinois Credit Union Act (ICUA) (HB 4887/SB 3346)

HB 4887/SB 3346 contained the League's 2020 initiative amending the ICUA. Among other provisions, it codified the agreement with IDFPR to establish a moratorium on the issuance of regulatory fee credits and assessment of regulatory fee escalations for fiscal years ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021. In light of the brevity of the special session, no final action was taken on HB 4887/SB3346. However, even without legislation, the Department has confirmed it will adhere to the moratorium, while we continue to discuss its regulatory fee methodology in the coming months. We have spoken with the legislative sponsors of the ICUA language and remain hopeful that the language may be acted upon in the Fall Veto session.

Other provisions in the League's 2020 initiative amending the ICUA will carry over to the session of the General Assembly commencing in January, 2021. Those provisions include: new language pertaining to associate directors; a repeal of the director compensation rulemaking requirement; an increase from 3% to 6% in CUSO loan and investment limits; language clarifying the use of brand references in a merger context; and a requirement that advisory board members of network credit unions sign and adhere to confidentiality agreements.

- **Amendments to the Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (HB 4813)** to bring relief to credit unions as holders of unclaimed property;
- **Amendment to the Illinois Conveyances Act (SB 3417)** to provide that electronic documents may be utilized with the same force and effect under the Act as traditional paper documents. This change will allow counties to accept electronically executed mortgages;
- **Amendment to the Personal Information Protection Act (SB 3896)** to require data users, such as merchants, to submit data breach reports to the Attorney General.

— **Amendment to the Illinois Use Tax Act (SB 2481)** ICUL will continue to support efforts by the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association to repeal the \$10,000 cap on trade-in sales tax credit in a vehicle sales transaction.

New Legislative Proposals for 2021

ICUL staff has developed new proposals to be included in the 2021 legislative agenda, as approved by the Legislative Committee. We plan to amend the Illinois Credit Union Act to: expand Section 16 authorizing service to the economically disadvantaged; amend Section 19 to allow for virtual meetings; and clarify the timeline for audits in Section 34. ICUL staff continues to urge credit unions to submit topics of interest for consideration for the 2021 legislative agenda.

Executive Orders

Throughout the COVID pandemic, ICUL staff has remained engaged in reviewing a myriad of Executive Orders stemming from the crisis. Most notably, ICUL was involved in discussions on E.O. 2020-14 authorizing remote online notarization; E.O. 2020-16 suspending vehicle repossessions; and E.O. 2020-25 suspending service of post judgment remedies.

ICUL authored a joint letter with the Illinois Bankers Association, Community Bankers Association of Illinois and Illinois Automobile Dealers Association urging Governor Pritzker to reconsider the moratorium on vehicle repossessions. Shortly thereafter, E.O. 2020-48 was issued, rescinding the previous suspension order and allowing repossessions to resume on August 23, 2020.

E.O. 2020-25 suspending service of post judgment remedies has continually been extended, currently in effect through November 14, but subject to further extension. ICUL has urged Governor Pritzker's administration to revisit the issuance of this Executive Order, and consider modifying future orders to allow wage garnishments to resume.

Adjournment/Fall Veto Session

The General Assembly is now adjourned until November 17 for the Fall Veto session. The Veto session is scheduled for November 17 through November 19 and December 1 through December 3. Note: Unless legislative events create a need, the WGN will not be published again until the fall legislative session in November.

 & Political Advocacy

CUPAC

General Election Support and Results

The CUPAC board met in September to review/approve contributions in the November 2020 general election. CUPAC provided 29 transfers totaling \$63,500 to twenty-five (25) candidates for the Illinois General Assembly and the four (4) leaders' political party committees. Twenty-one (21) candidates won and four (4) lost. Winning contributions to candidates totaled \$19,500 for an overall CUPAC batting average of 93.7%. Thank you to credit union activists throughout the state that helped elect pro-credit union candidates.

New legislators elected - The November general election resulted in the election of several new Illinois legislators, including: 6 Illinois State Senators, 16 Illinois State Representatives, and 2 (maybe 3) members of Congress.

CUPAC Seeking 2020 Credit Union Contributions-there is still time to donate!

CUPAC is asking state-chartered credit unions (federal credit unions are prohibited by law) & business partners to contribute to its annual corporate fundraising campaign. Monies raised will be used to help elect and re-elect legislators sympathetic to our cause.

As of 10/30/2020 [eighty-seven \(87\) state-chartered credit unions have contributed \\$204,151 to CUPAC's 2020 corporate campaign](#). The other 83 state-chartered credit unions have been asked to contribute their fair share. We truly appreciate all donations and hope more credit unions will recognize the importance. [Click for donor levels and additional information.](#)

Contact Pat Huffman for additional information on the corporate program or other ways you can contribute to CUPAC.

2021 ICUL Dues Invoice includes option for CUPAC Corporate Contribution

State-chartered credit unions have the opportunity to make their annual corporate donation to CUPAC at the same time ICUL dues are paid. To assist in determining a donation amount, a recommended contribution, based on asset size, is included on the invoice. Of course, contributions to CUPAC are accepted at any time of year. If your credit union would rather contribute mid-year, CUPAC will send a donation request at that time.

Chapter Competition & Yearly Goals

At the beginning of each year, chapters are asked to establish a goal (pledge) correlated to the amount of money they hope to raise for CUPAC. This year started out no different; until March. Chapter meetings, events and fundraising have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. CUPAC's Oct. 31 [chapter competition report](#) indicates the pre-pandemic pledges and the amount chapters have contributed to CUPAC as of 10.31.2020. Although many chapters didn't hold their annual fundraising events, others have found creative ways to fundraise and have indicated there will be a year-end donation to CUPAC. Any chapter funds available to CUPAC would be greatly appreciated. Please contribute prior to December 18 to ensure they are deposited prior to year's end.

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

GAC 2021 – 100% Virtual – Still 100% awesome!

The CUNA Governmental Affairs Conference (GAC) is the premier event for political impact in the credit union industry.

On March 2-4, 2021, the CUNA GAC will migrate to a premium interactive virtual platform, bringing together credit unions, leagues, thought leaders and policymakers for a dynamic online experience that recreates many of the features veteran GAC attendees have come to expect and love.

With 2021 shaping up to be one of the most consequential advocacy years in a generation, we have too much to fight for to sit this one out. It is imperative the new Congress, and potentially a new administration, understand the credit union difference.

The virtual GAC provides a great opportunity for those who have been unable to attend prior GACs. Previous GAC attendees will find the same quality programming, including:

- World-class speakers from business and politics
- Hill visits (virtual) with lawmakers – appointments arranged by the Illinois Credit Union League, over a period of a few weeks starting March 4.
- Breakout sessions related to: the economy, COVID aid, tax status preservation, regulatory relief and more
- “Exhibit Hall” to learn about credit union solutions
- Network with credit union leaders and businesses from across the country

Cost:

\$445 pp: 1-3 participants

\$295 pp: 4 or more people from same credit union

\$295 pp: credit unions under \$50M in assets

[Register directly with CUNA](#) (no separate ICUL registration for 2021) to join your voice with others from across the country to make your voice heard in Washington. For questions, visit the [FAQ page on the GAC website](#).

Better for Illinois Website

ICUL, in coordination with CUNA, launched the [Better For Illinois](#) website earlier this year. We encourage credit unions to request members upload videos or stories that explain how their financial lives have benefited from services received from their credit union. Legislators are directed to the website to see the difference credit unions can make for their constituents.

