



# Senate Floor Reports

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## Bills that passed the Senate May 18, 2018

**Telehealth Act Expansion (HB 5070):** Expands the definition of “health care professional” in the Telehealth Act to permit dentists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physical therapists, clinical social workers, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing-instrument dispensers to provide telehealth care to patients within the scope of their practices.

### **Community Behavioral Health Care**

**Professional Loan Repayment Program Act (HB 5109):** Beginning on July 1, 2019, creates the Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program Act. Creates the Community Behavioral Health Care Professional Loan Repayment Program to be administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Provides that the program shall provide loan assistance, subject to appropriation, to eligible mental health and substance use professionals practicing in a community mental health center in an underserved or rural federally designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. Provides that the Commission shall award a grant to each qualified applicant for a maximum of four years; specifies grant amounts and eligibility requirements. Requires the recipient to complete a separate 12-month period working in a community mental health center in an underserved or rural federally designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Area for each grant awarded.

**Social Worker License (HB 5110):** Amends the Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act, the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Act, and the Professional Counselor and Clinical Professional Counselor Licensing and Practice Act. This requires the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue a license as a clinical social worker, social worker,

professional counselor, or clinical professional counselor not more than 60 days after a completed application is received by the Department.

**Task Force on Behavior Health Education Center (HB 5111):** Creates the Behavioral Health Education Center Task Force to study the possibility of creating a Behavioral Health Education Center.

**Dissolving DuPage County Election Commission (HB 5123):** Amends the Election Code so that a county board in a county in which there is no city, village, or incorporated town with a board of election commissioners that has established a county board of election commissioners may, by ordinance or resolution, dissolve the county board of election commissioners and transfer its functions to the county clerk. The purpose of the bill is to give DuPage county statutory authority to dissolve the DuPage County Election Commission.

**Personnel Code Partial Exemption (HB 5153):** Removes a sunset date which would end the direct hire policy at the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (IVSI) for teaching positions on Aug. 30, 2019.

**Paraprofessional Fee (HB 5196):** Lowers the license renewal fee for paraprofessionals to \$25 (currently, it is \$50).

**Youth Budget Commission (HB 5202):** Creates the Youth Budget Commission with the goal of producing an annual youth budget scan, and the Commission is subject to appropriations.

**Intercity Rail Services (HB 5206):** Allows the Illinois Department of Transportation to enter



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into agreements with any state, state agency, or units of local government (currently any neighboring state) for the purpose of leasing any locomotive, passenger rail cars, and other rolling stock equipment or accessories. Funds gained would be placed in an escrow account for future rail costs.

**Real Estate Reforms (HB 5210):** Amends the Real Estate License Act to eliminate Branch Office licenses. Clarifies that a licensee may establish a limited liability company for purposes of receiving licensee compensation, allowing real estate licensees more flexibility in selecting a business entity that fits their needs. Updates the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's disciplinary process related to the required notices that must be provided to the Appraisal Board. Changes the Auction License Act, the Home Inspector License Act, and the Real Estate Appraiser Licensing Act of 2002 to push back continuing education deadlines to allow the Department to conduct audits of CE completion prior to the license renewal period. Creates a basic standard requiring individuals with an ownership interest in a brokerage to obtain a license to engage in licensed activity.

**Insurance Merger (HB 5251):** Creates a section regarding the merger of Illinois Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Guaranty Association and the Illinois Life and Health Insurance Company Guaranty Association.