## Capitol Recap: \$15 minimum wage is first major legislation of 101st

By Capitol News Illinois staff
Illinois Senate Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, a Maywood is ready to push ahead with a bill to increase the state's
minimum hourly wage from $\$ 8.25$ to $\$ 15$ over an undefined period of years.

The only rate structure mentioned at a Senate Labol
Committee hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 30, was a $\$ 1$ increase to the $\$ 8.25$ rate for each of the next six
years, then a 75-cent ncrease in the seventh year.
Lightford said the rate ould be phased in by 2025. Business interests also preferred a regional rollout of the tax increase. In costs of living areas have a higher than in more rural areas. Lightford said this
would be discussed but she was not sure it would be permissible per the Illinois

Senator Dave Koehler, a Peoria Democrat, raised the
idea of regional tax breaks for employers in lower cost-of-living areas to counteract the $\$ 15$ minimum wage
The committee heard testimony from
employers who said a $\$ 15$ minimum wage would be a job killer," and a nursing
home advocacy group prosed a measure to increase rate to Medicaid facilities as he wage increases

The Illinois Association of Park Districts, small business lobbyists and the Illi-
nois Restaurant Association nois Restaurant Association
all raised concerns that the hike could mean layoffs for
minimum wage workers as minim
well.

While the group agreed sion, the clock was ticking sion, the clock was ticking
for the interest groups to get eir preferred language in wants the bill on his desk address scheduled for Feb.

## CAPITOLNEWS

ILLINOIS
 SION:
from registering as a lobby payments as a lobbyist, for payments as a lobbyist, for
one year or the remainder of their term - whichever is longer.
GOP Rep. David McSweeney of Barrington
Hills put forth a bill to end Hills put forth a bill to end
to lawmaker pensions for new members after Nov. 3 2020.
House assignments have not been
handed out, McSweeney's McDermed's bills are stuck in the powerful, Democrat controlled House Rules Committee. McDermed said it's possible her bill never
makes it out of the commit

## REDISTRICTING

 PROPOSAL: second consecutive legislation, CHANGE Illinois isproposing a constitutional amendment that would change how the state's political boundaries are drawn.

The coalition of interest groups has been working since 2012 to change Illinois' redistricting process, which occurs every 10 years, after each U.S
Census. The next redistrict Census. The next redistrict ing period will be in 2022. CHANGE Illinois proposes no longer allowing the General Assembly and gov ernor to decide the bound-
aries of districts. Instead aries of districts. Instead,
those decisions would be those decisions would be
made by a commission that "demographically, political "demographically, political ly and geographically"
resents the prairie state. The group's twin meas ures, sponsored by Sen field) and Rep. Ryan Spain

Manar, of Bunker Hill, an Chicago Democrats Sen Heather Steans and Rep
Kelly Cassidy hosted Kelly Cassidy hosted Springfield town hall to dis
cuss the legalization cuss the legalization
cannabis
recreationally cannabis recreationally
Gov. J.B. Pritzker has sai Gov. J.B. Pritzker has said
he would embrace such proposal. ADERS? Tom Demmer Republican, has filed a bil to limit terms for legislativ leaders - such as powerfu House Speaker Mike Madi gan - in the General Assem bly.

Demmer filed a
mendment to the Illino Constitution on Thursday Jan. 31, to limit the numbe of years any lawmake could serve as speaker of th House of Representatives president of the Senate minority leader of the Hous or minority leader of the Senate.

Per the amendment, leg islative leaders would b limited to serving for a tota of eight years in any on position and 12 years com bined in two or more posi tions.
Spe Speaker Madigan is the
longest-serving state hous longest-serving state house
speaker in U.S. history speaker in U.S. history an
was first elected in 1983 The powerful Hous Rules Committee headed by one of Madigan's main lieu
tenants - Rep. Greg Harri tenants - Rep. Greg Harris
(D-Chicago) - controls the flow of any bill filed in the flow of any bill filed in the House and would have th
power to prevent its com power to preve
mittee hearing.

> ittee hearing. Capitol News Illinois i nonnrofit news servic a nonprofit news servic operated by the Illinoi
Press Foundation vides coverage of state gov ernment to newspape throughout Illinois. Th
mission of Capitol New Illinois is to provide credi ble and unbiased coverag of state government to the more than 400 daily an weekly newspapers that ar members of the
Press Association.

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## Do yair friends tell you that you take great photos?

Submit a photo to The Tuscola Journal

JoURNAL
Tips for a nore successfull photo submission: - The quality or "resolution" of the
picture is important if if th't too low,
your picture may look blurry or
pixelated in print.

- To get the best quality, start off
with the 'largest' downloaded


WE WELCOME COMMUNITY PHOTOS!

Required Information:

Identification of
people in the photo


## (1) ReAL Life Wellness <br> By Dr. Bill Hemmer <br> not that rim aware of

Last week I started to talk
bout awareness. You might about awareness. You might be asking yourself what awareness has to do with your health and ability EVERYTHING! Here's what I mean.

Years ago, nobody knew what trans fat was. Today must list the amount of trans fat it contains. Why? Because we have become aware that trans fats are very bad for you
and you should eliminate and you should eliminate
these fats from your diet. Another good example is the FDA food pyramid. The old food pyramid was designed using the best knowledge available at the time. Now new knowledge has become
available and we have become aware that we must self and create more personal
power. This will lead to a

## Tuscola student events this week this week

Tuesday, Feb. 5
$\bullet$ EP volleyball at Arcola-6 p.m.
The funny thing about your awareness level is it changes all the time. How aware of your surroundings are you when you are watch-
ing your favorite TV show? ing your favorite TV show? Can a bomb go off and you
barely know what has hapbarely know what has happened. And then there are other times when you can
hear a pin drop in the next room. This is due to the different levels of awareness ou have available to you. So, this brings me back
my original question. What do awareness levels have to do with your health and ability to change? The more aware you are the more power you can create and the healthier you can become.
This means your job is to This means your job is to become more aware of your-
change in your awarenes level and you will become increasing healthy. Mos people don't even realize you have awareness levels and now you're telling me that can change them! Oh, yea
right! So how are you sup right! So how are
posed to do that?

Throughout the research I have done over the last 30 awareness levels many times But to tell you the truth, didn't realize how importan awareness levels were until started to work on my own increased, I then realized how important they were to tak goals.
So, I bet you're wonder
ing what awareness leve
you're at, aren't you? Well answer in an article format But over the next couple of weeks I'll describe the mo common awareness level
and the steps you need to tak to go to the next level. But for
the to go to the next level. But
now, I'll give you hint...Knowledge is Power

- HS boys' basketball at Decatur vs St. Tourney

Wednesday, Feb. 6
$\bullet$ HS girls' basketball Regional at Pana vs. Shootout
ALAH-7:30 p.m.

- EP Boys' Basketball Award Night-5:30 Monday, Feb. 11
p.m. HS boys' and girls' track at Uni High

Indoor \#1-7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 7

- EP volleyball at Okaw Valley-6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 8
Third Quarter Mid-Term
day, Feb. Tourney - FFA Alumni Chili Supper/Pie Auction a Community Building-5 p.m. Shootout Freshman boys' basketball at Unity - Fre EP volleyball at JHOC tournament at home

Tuesday, Feb. 12

- FCCLA Week
- EP volleyball at JHOC tournament

