

Governor Signs More Than 60 Bills, Including Rental Fee Transparency, Driving Reforms

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Gov. JB Pritzker has signed more than 60 bills, including new laws addressing rental housing fees, public safety measures, and utility customer participation in rate cases.

Rental transparency
(House Bill 3564)

House Bill 3564 bans so-called “junk fees” charged by landlords and increases transparency in rental agreements.

The law, effective Jan. 1, prohibits landlords from charging fees or fines for lease modifications or renewals, eviction notices, after-hours maintenance requests, and routine maintenance in many standard situations.

Application and background check fees are capped at \$50 unless the actual cost of a third-party background check exceeds that amount. In those cases, landlords must pay the fee upfront and provide applicants a receipt showing the vendor cost within 14 days.

Landlords are also required to list all nonoptional fees on the first page of a lease. Ten-

ants are not required to pay any fee not included.

Violations are subject to civil liability.

Blue envelope program
(House Bill 4472)

House Bill 4472 creates a statewide Blue Envelope Program for people on the autism spectrum.

The voluntary program allows individuals to present a blue envelope during traffic stops to alert law enforcement to a communication disorder. The envelope may contain important documents and includes instructions for both officers and individuals on how to handle interactions.

Many departments already use similar programs. The law takes effect Jan. 1.

Digital coupons (House Bill 45)

House Bill 45 requires retailers offering digital coupons to ensure equivalent access for eligible customers through nondigital means.

Retailers are not required to provide paper coupons, but must make sure discounts are available to all qualifying customers. The law follows complaints from consumers

unable to access digital-only savings and takes effect Jan. 1.

Public utility rate forums
(House Bill 4514)

House Bill 4514 allows Illinois utility customers to request public forums before the Illinois Commerce Commission on proposed rate hikes and to submit written comments.

Previously, customer participation was limited during hearings. The new law requires forums to be scheduled at times that maximize public participation. It takes effect Jan. 1.

Public media protections
(House Bill 4420)

House Bill 4420 protects editorial independence at public radio and television stations affiliated with Illinois colleges and universities.

The law prohibits prior review of editorial content by university officials. According to the Illinois Public Broadcasting Council, eight institutions operate stations affected by the change, which the group says is the first law of its kind in the nation.

Diaper labeling (House Bill

4702)
House Bill 4702 requires manufacturers of disposable and reusable diapers to list all ingredients in order of predominance on packaging by July 2028.

Supporters say the measure is intended to help families identify potential allergens and make informed product choices.

Speed control devices
(House Bill 4948)

House Bill 4948 allows drivers with suspended licenses for certain speeding violations to install speed control devices in their vehicles instead of losing driving privileges.

The device limits a vehicle’s speed based on posted limits and functions similarly to ignition interlock devices used for DUI cases. The law takes effect in 2028.

Environmental standards
(House Bill 5070)

House Bill 5070 restricts the Illinois Pollution Control Board from adopting federal environmental regulations that are less stringent than existing state standards.

The change follows concerns over federal environ-

mental rollbacks and aims to maintain stricter state-level protections.

In-state tuition (House Bill 5093)

House Bill 5093 expands eligibility for in-state tuition at Illinois colleges and universities to students who attended Illinois high schools for at least three years, even if they later established residency elsewhere.

Noncitizens must also begin the process of becoming permanent U.S. residents to qualify. The law takes effect for the 2027–28 school year.

Hormone therapy coverage
(House Bill 5492)

House Bill 5492 requires insurance providers to cover up to a six-month supply of hormone therapy prescriptions.

The law applies broadly to patients receiving hormone treatments, including gender-affirming care. It takes effect Jan. 1.

Minor league baseball wages (Senate Bill 454)

Senate Bill 454 exempts Minor League Baseball players from Illinois minimum wage law. The change applies to players on the Peoria

Chiefs, the state’s only minor league team.

Lawmakers said players are salaried under collective bargaining agreements, and similar exemptions already exist elsewhere in professional sports.

Swipe fees delay (Senate Bill 3645)

Senate Bill 3645 delays implementation of several laws, including a measure addressing credit card swipe fees.

The original law would have restricted interchange fees on tax and tip portions of purchases. The effective date has now been pushed to at least July 1, 2027, following legal challenges and a federal court injunction.

Insurance climate disclosure (Senate Bill 4006)

Senate Bill 4006 requires insurers to provide longer advance notice of cancellations or nonrenewals and to disclose flood coverage options in plain language.

The law also requires insurers to participate in the National Association of Insurance Commissioners’ Climate Risk Disclosure Survey.



“How they say that in...”

English: Picnic
Spanish: Picnic
Italian: Picnic
French: Pique-nique
German: Picknick

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

NKTEBAL

123

SFROK

45

KCIEOO

67

DNREIN

8

45738

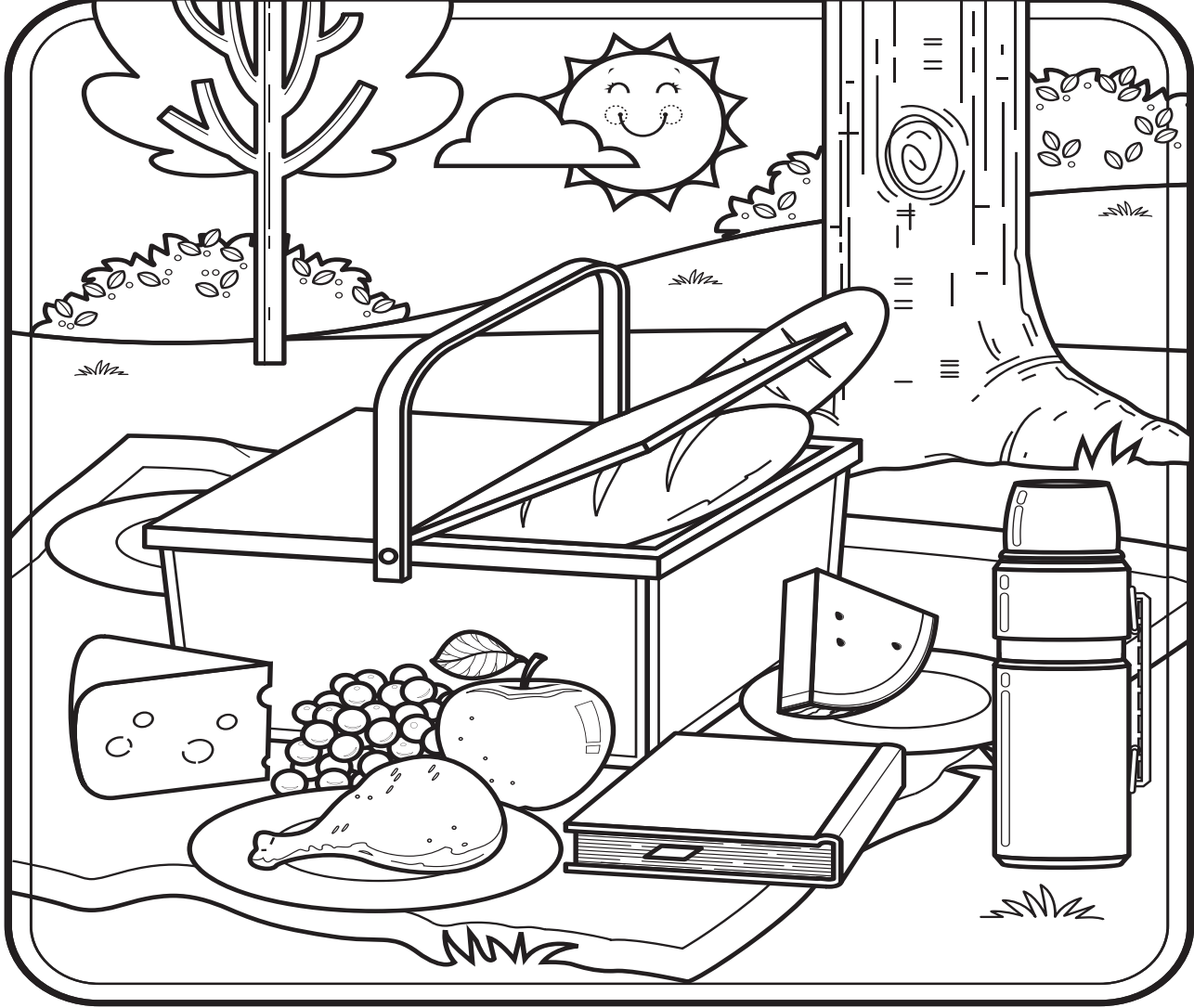
H

676231

P

76176

Answers: blanket, forks, cookie, dinner, Fried chicken picnic



Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Picnic basket