

104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 1st Session

HBXXXX

REP. _____, primary sponsor; ANDREW HELTON, chief co-sponsor, in the House of Representatives

A BILL to unite Illinoisans in fiscal responsibility, reducing gridlock, boosting efficiency, expanding broadband/housing, securing pensions, containing healthcare costs, and diversifying the economy by having the wealthiest pay their fair share—while protecting families, retirees, and local taxpayers via transparent reforms.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Illinois,
represented in the House of Representatives:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. The “CitizenHelton United Illinois Governance Accountability Act of 2026.”

SECTION 2. ILLINOIS COMPROMISE COMMISSION. Establishes bipartisan commission for budget talks.

(a) OVERSIGHT ROLE. Commission reviews/approves all Act triggers, allocations, and exemptions via 60% bipartisan vote (≥30% per party) to foster collaboration.

SECTION 2.1. SPENDING GROWTH CAP. General fund appropriations cap at prior year plus CPI increase + population growth. Commission recommends essential exemptions (education, safety, pensions, equity programs) via majority vote. Violations trigger proportional admin spending cuts.

SECTION 3. AUTOMATIC APPROPRIATIONS & EMERGENCY POWERS. Ensures operations during impasses; limits executive overreach.

SECTION 4. CITIZEN DATABASE. Public bill access tool.

SECTION 5. FAIR SHARE INCOME TAX REFORM. Amends 35 ILCS 5/201:

From tax year 2027:

(1) 1% surcharge on income >\$750K single/\$1M joint.

(2) +1.5% on >\$5M/\$10M.

(3) +0.5% on >\$10M/\$20M for pensions.

Adjust thresholds by CPI. Deposits \$1.1–\$1.4B/year to Pension Stabilization Fund (until 100% funded; then debt payoff). Allocates 10% to property rebates (moderate-income priority) and 10% to Economic Diversification Fund.

Protects families: +\$250/dependent exemption; EITC to 25% federal; inflation-indexed personal exemptions. Commission conducts biennial equity hearings for adjustments (no net burden <200% poverty).

SECTION 6. SUSTAINABLE PENSION REFORM. Amends 40 ILCS 5:

- (a) Permanent enhanced Tier 3 hybrid for hires post-July 1, 2027: 3% COLA defined benefit + 7% employer cash-balance (employee at current).
- (b) Voluntary Tier 2 upgrades with full credit.
- (c) \$20M/year AI from admin funds for fraud detection.
- (d) Auto-transfers surcharge excess >\$900M to systems until 100% funded.
- (e) Tier 1 (pre-2011 hires): If funding <80%, Commission recommends 1.5% COLA cap until 85% recovery (bipartisan approval req'd). Retirees elect 10% annual benefit lump-sum buyout or transparency reports. Preserves accrued benefits; funds via 0.5% surcharge/AI.

SECTION 7. MEDICAID CONTAINMENT. Implements 20% value-based payments and CPI rate caps by 2028. Transfers \$500M estimated savings to Pension Fund. Commission/stakeholders hold quarterly forums; biennial audits ensure rural access/efficiencies.

SECTION 8. BROADBAND/HOUSING/DIVERSIFICATION.

- (a) Surcharge-funded broadband credits/streamlined permitting.
- (b) \$100M/year credits for tech/manufacturing/green energy in non-metro counties (≥50 jobs/\$1M; DCEO audits). Prioritizes rural/southern growth to curb migration.
- (c) Housing: Density bonuses/fast-track/TIF rebates for 20% affordable units.

SECTION 9. FISCAL CERTIFICATION. Independent bill analyses; Commission co-certifies.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY. Invalid provisions do not affect others; protects surcharges, recommendations, guardrails, and containment as collaborative tools.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. Upon law: Caps immediate for FY2027 (post-review); taxes/pensions/Medicaid/diversification for years post-Dec. 31, 2026.

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SBXXXX

SEN. _____, primary sponsor; ANDREW HELTON, chief co-sponsor, in the Senate

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