



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

**HB4677**

Introduced 2/6/2024, by Rep. Anna Moeller

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal Act. Requires the Department on Aging, in consultation with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal (Portal). Provides that the Portal shall serve as a centralized and trusted online platform offering a wide range of resources related to caregiving, including, but not limited to: (1) information on State and federal programs, benefits, and resources on caregiving, long-term care, and at-home care for Illinois residents who are 50 years of age or older; (2) educational materials, articles, and videos on caregiving best practices; and (3) accommodations for users with different language preferences, ensuring the information is accessible to diverse audiences. Sets forth additional resources and information that the Portal may feature, such as information on caregiving resources, home and community-based services that support family caregivers, nursing home care, services and programs offered by Area Agencies on Aging, relevant health care and financial assistance programs, and local support group opportunities for caregivers. Requires the Portal to be designed to be user-friendly and accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities and to include features such as search functionality, language accessibility, and compatibility with assistive technologies to ensure that a diverse range of caregivers can use it. Contains provisions concerning required outreach and promotional campaign efforts to raise awareness of the Portal, reporting requirements, and State and federal funding for the Portal. Requires the Portal to be implemented one year after the effective date of the Act. Effective immediately.

LRB103 35849 KTG 65934 b

1 AN ACT concerning aging.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose and intent. The purpose of this Act is  
7 to establish a State-created virtual portal that features a  
8 virtual comprehensive directory of State, federal, non-profit,  
9 and paid resources dedicated to caregiving and Illinois'  
10 1,300,000 unpaid caregivers. The mission of this portal is to  
11 provide caregivers with simplified and trusted access to an  
12 information, support, and resource website to help caregivers  
13 develop and implement caregiving plans for their loved ones or  
14 friends.

15 Section 10. Establishment of the Illinois Caregiver  
16 Assistance and Resources Portal.

17 (a) The Department on Aging, in consultation with the  
18 Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Department  
19 of Public Health, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs,  
20 shall be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the  
21 Illinois Caregiver Assistance and Resource Portal (hereinafter  
22 referred to as the "Portal").

1 (b) The Portal shall serve as a centralized and trusted  
2 online platform offering a wide range of resources related to  
3 caregiving, including, but not limited to:

4 (1) Information on State and federal programs,  
5 benefits, and resources on caregiving, long-term care, and  
6 at-home care for Illinois residents who are 50 years of  
7 age or older.

8 (2) Information from non-profit organizations  
9 providing free-of-charge caregiving support and resources.

10 (3) Tools and guides for developing and implementing  
11 caregiving plans.

12 (4) Direct contact information for relevant Illinois  
13 agencies, organizations, and other State-licensed  
14 long-term care, aging, senior support services, and  
15 at-home care providers.

16 (5) Educational materials, articles, and videos on  
17 caregiving best practices.

18 (6) Accommodations for users with different language  
19 preferences, ensuring the information is accessible to  
20 diverse audiences.

21 (c) By incorporating these resources, the Portal aims to  
22 serve as a comprehensive and user-friendly hub for caregivers,  
23 providing them with the tools, information, and support they  
24 need to navigate the complex landscape of caregiving, nursing  
25 home care, and at-home care and other essential resources that  
26 are readily accessible. Additional information and resources

1 to be featured may include the following:

2 (1) Caregiving resources: A comprehensive section  
3 dedicated to caregiving, including guides, articles, and  
4 videos on caregiving techniques, managing caregiver  
5 stress, and enhancing the quality of care provided.

6 (2) Home and community-based services: Resources,  
7 descriptions, and opportunities on how the State supports  
8 family caregivers, to include, but not be limited to, the  
9 Senior HelpLine, Illinois Care Connections, the Community  
10 Care Program, Adult Protective Services, the Illinois  
11 Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Adult Day Services, the Home  
12 Delivered Meals program, and all other programming and  
13 services offered by the Department on Aging.

14 (3) Nursing home care: State and federal information  
15 and online resources on nursing homes, including facility  
16 ratings, reviews, and resources for choosing the right  
17 nursing home based on specific needs and preferences.

18 (4) Area Agency on Aging: A dedicated section  
19 highlighting the services and programs offered by Area  
20 Agencies on Aging, including, but not limited to,  
21 assistance with long-term care planning, nutrition,  
22 transportation, caregiver support and need assessment, and  
23 the address and contact information of statewide Area  
24 Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource  
25 Centers.

26 (5) At-home care: Resources and guides for at-home

1 care, including information on hiring caregivers, managing  
2 in-home medical and non-medical care, and ensuring a safe  
3 and comfortable home environment.

4 (6) Hospital-to-home transition: A specialized section  
5 focusing on the transition from hospital care to  
6 home-based care, offering tips, checklists, and resources  
7 to ensure a smooth transition and continued recovery at  
8 home.

9 (7) Contact Information: Direct contact details for  
10 relevant agencies, organizations, and State-licensed  
11 professionals involved in caregiving, nursing home care,  
12 and at-home care, making it easy for users to connect with  
13 the right resources.

14 (8) Medicaid coverage and resources: Information on  
15 Medicaid coverage for long-term care services, eligibility  
16 criteria, application procedures, and available  
17 Medicaid-funded programs and services to support  
18 caregivers and care recipients.

19 (9) Financial assistance: Details on financial  
20 assistance programs and benefits available at the State  
21 and federal levels, including grants, subsidies, and tax  
22 incentives that can ease the financial burden of  
23 caregiving.

24 (10) Veterans' assistance: Details on veterans'  
25 assistance programs and benefits available at the State  
26 and federal levels.

1           (11) Legal and planning Tools: Resources for legal  
2 matters related to caregiving, such as power of attorney,  
3 advance directives, and estate planning, and tools to help  
4 users create and manage caregiving plans. Services offered  
5 under this paragraph do not include the practice of law.

6           (12) Support groups: A directory of local caregiver  
7 support groups and online communities where caregivers can  
8 connect, share experiences, and receive emotional support.

9           Section 15. Accessibility and user-friendliness.

10          (a) The Portal shall be designed to be user-friendly and  
11 accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities.

12          (b) The Portal shall include features such as search  
13 functionality, language accessibility, and compatibility with  
14 assistive technologies to ensure that a diverse range of  
15 caregivers can use it.

16          Section 20. Outreach and promotion.

17          (a) The Department on Aging, in consultation with the  
18 Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Department  
19 of Public Health, the Department of Human Services, and the  
20 Department of Veterans' Affairs, shall undertake an outreach  
21 and promotional campaign to raise awareness about the Portal  
22 and its resources upon completion.

23          (b) The campaign shall include a digital-first strategy to  
24 inform health care providers, social service agencies, and

1 community organizations about the Portal's availability.

2 (c) The campaign shall coordinate with the State-wide  
3 2-1-1 Service system administered under the 2-1-1 Service Act  
4 in order to insure persons calling 2-1-1 telephone lines are  
5 directed, when appropriate, to the Portal and reciprocally to  
6 2-1-1.

7 Section 25. Reporting and evaluation. The Department on  
8 Aging, in consultation with the Department of Healthcare and  
9 Family Services, the Department of Public Health, and the  
10 Department of Veterans' Affairs, shall provide an annual  
11 report to the General Assembly and State executive officers  
12 outlining the usage statistics, user feedback, and any  
13 necessary improvements to the Portal.

14 Section 30. Funding. Funding for the creation,  
15 maintenance, and promotion of the Portal shall be appropriated  
16 from State funding and can be matched with possible federal  
17 resources.

18 Section 35. Implementation date. The Portal shall be  
19 implemented one year after the effective date of this Act.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
21 becoming law.