Q: Why does it take so long for an IDPH LTC rule to go from being proposed to being adopted?

A: The rulemaking process in Illinois is quite lengthy. When a rule is first considered, it must be drafted and then taken to the Long Term Care Advisory Board for review. After Board review and any agreed upon changes are made, the rule is then sent to the Secretary of State for publication in the *Illinois Register* as a proposed rulemaking. The publication in the *Illinois Register* then starts a 45 day public comment period. IDPH receives any public comments during this first 45 day period and must review and respond to each comment. After IDPH makes any changes in response to the public comments, it then sends the revised rulemaking, along with all the public comments and responses, to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR is composed of legislators from both the Illinois House and Senate). This starts the second 45 day comment period for JCAR to review the rulemaking and comments from the first 45 public comment period. JCAR staff reviews the rulemaking from several aspects; legislatively, legally and how IDPH responded to the public comments. After the JCAR staff complete their review, they forward their recommendations to the full JCAR Committee (legislators) for their final decision/action. After JCAR Committee approval, the rule is sent back to IDPH to finalize with any JCAR changes. It then sends the final rulemaking to the Secretary of State for publication in the *Illinois Register* as an adopted rulemaking. The rule becomes effective (unless otherwise noted in the rulemaking) on the date the adopted rulemaking is published in the *Illinois Register*.

As you can see, the process is lengthy and takes a minimum of four to six months to go from proposed to adopted; and on the back end, a rule must be finalized within one year from date of proposal or the agency must start the entire process over. IHCA monitors both State and federal rulemakings, seeks input from our members, provides comments as needed, and keeps our members informed through our regular informational updates. If you have any specific questions about any rulemakings, please do not hesitate to contact me (Bill Bell-bbell@ihca.com).