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Illinois's Mounting Pension Debt Looms Over Pritzker's Plans.

- **Governor set to deliver 'State of the State' address Wednesday**
- **Stakeholders seek multiyear plan to improve finances: Loop**

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, whose state faces a mountain of pension debt and unpaid bills, may give some clues during his "State of the State" speech Wednesday to how he will deal with those challenges during his second year in office.

- The billionaire Democrat, whose command of a political majority in the legislature has put an end to the political gridlock over the budget that dominated the state under his predecessor and nearly caused Illinois's bonds to be downgraded to junk, will deliver his speech at noon in the state capital of Springfield.
- Pritzker is expected to discuss his bipartisan efforts, balancing the budget, infrastructure investments and consolidation of suburban and downstate first responder pension funds, according to the governor's office. He may also address the need to build on investments in education and comprehensive ethics reform.
- He will give his more detailed budget address on Feb. 19.

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