



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MARCH 28, 2014

**PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO**

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*The Illinois General Assembly concluded their business on Thursday this week. Governor Quinn gave his budget address on Wednesday. March 28 was the deadline to pass bills through committees in their chamber of origin. The House and Senate both return next Tuesday, April 1 at 12pm. Both chambers will now shift to considering bills on the floor of the House and Senate. The deadline to pass legislation to the opposite chamber is Friday, April 11.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

Labor was successful in stopping many bills that we opposed. Bills that saw action this week include:

- **HB 7** (Flowers) - Creates the Community Bank of Illinois Act. Provides that the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation shall operate the Community Bank of Illinois. Passed House Financial Institutions 8-5. Second Reading.
- **HB 3898** (Conroy) - Would eliminate the only protection that IMRF retirees have against inflation and cost of living increases. This legislation is a blatant assault on benefits for retirees and members of IMRF that have an average annuity of \$15,700. Passed House Pensions 10-0. Second Reading. Labor opposed.
- **HB 4205** (Hoffman) - Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that the requisite notice regarding every contract that is let shall include the number of unsuccessful bidders (currently unsuccessful responsive bidders). Passed House State Government 15-0. Second Reading.
- **HB 4272** (Gabel) - Creates the Illinois Family Care Provider Act. Provides that an employer must provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid family medical leave to an employee during any 12-month period for the care of a grandchild. Passed House Labor 11-4. Second Reading. Labor supports
- **HB 4382** (Nekritz) – This is an initiative of the Governor to expand the types of projects eligible for financing through the Clean Water Initiative. No cost to state. Passed House Environment 16-0. Labor Supports.
- **HB 4418** (Hoffman) - Prohibits a city or village that owns, operates, or maintains any fire department or departments from ceasing the operation and maintenance of that fire department or those fire departments unless the proposed cessation is first submitted to the voters by referendum. Passed House Public Safety: Police & Fire 20-2. Second Reading. Labor Supports
- **HB 4591** (Martwick) - Provides that if a charter school dismisses a pupil from the charter school after receiving a quarterly payment from the school district, the charter school shall return payments to the school district. Passed House Elementary & Secondary Ed 14-0. Second Reading. Labor Supports.
- **HB 4609** (Feigenholz) - Creates the Task Force on Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Education Act. Would prohibit the Office of Fire Marshal from adopting any new rules for statewide mandates for the installation of fire sprinkler systems. The Illinois AFL-CIO is working with Representative Feigenholz to come up with language that would move labor to a neutral position. Passed House State Government 17-2. Second Reading. Labor opposes.
- **HB 4612** (Sandack) - Provides that any 2 or more school districts that share the same boundaries may combine transportation activities to achieve savings to these school districts as well as this State. Passed House Elementary & Secondary Ed 14-0. Second Reading. Labor opposes.
- **HB 5606** (Reis) - Provides that the term “public works” does not include work done for purposes of soil and water conservation, whether or not done under public supervision or paid for wholly or in part out of public funds, and performed directly by an owner or person who has legal control on agricultural lands. Passed House Labor 16-0. Labor Neutral.
- **HB 5622** (Turner) - Establishes requirements for the use of payroll cards by employers. Provides that receipt of wages by means of a payroll card may not be a condition of employment. Requires certain disclosures to be made to employees before using payroll cards. Requires the offer of an alternative means of payment to be available. Establishes limits on fees. Passed House Labor 15-0. Second Reading. Labor Supports.

*(General Assembly continued on Page 2)*



*(General Assembly continued from Page 1)*

- **HB 5746** (Tryon) Provides that lobbying an official of a unit of local government includes members of the Chicago Transit Authority and Directors of the Regional Transit Authority, the Suburban Bus Board, and the Commuter Rail Board. Failed in House Mass Transit 10-1 (needed 12). Labor opposed.
- **HB 6005** (Chapa LaVia) - With respect to a lottery to select charter school applicants, requires the lottery to be administered by the authorizer of the charter school. Provides that a charter school waiting list must be centrally administered by the authorizer, prohibits a charter school from creating any admissions process subsequent to a lottery, and, in the event that a student transfers from a charter school, requires the authorizer to inform the next parent or guardian on the waiting list. Passed House Elementary & Secondary Ed 8-3. Second Reading. Labor supports.
- **HJRCA 33** (Jakobsson) – Progressive income tax. Failed in House Revenue 3-6-1. Labor Supports.
- **HJRCA 51** (Madigan) - Millionaire Tax. Provides that an additional income tax shall be imposed on individuals in an amount equal to 3% of the portion of the individual's income that is greater than \$1,000,000 for the taxable year. Provides that the revenue collected from the tax shall be distributed to school districts on a per pupil basis. Passed House Revenue 6-4. Read in full a second time. Labor Supports.
- **SB 2682** (Hastings) - It requires the study of the history of organized labor in America and the collective bargaining process to be included in the teaching of the history of the United States. Passed Senate Education 9-5. Third Reading. Labor Supports.
- **SB 3287** (Raoul) - Legislation to limit immunity in work comp act for safety inspectors. If employer does safety inspection, they are immune from litigation. If employer hires third party for safety inspection, this legislation would say those third party inspectors are not immune to litigation. Passed Senate Judiciary 8-3. Second Reading. Labor Supports.

### **Governor Quinn Announces Illinois Ranks #3 in Nation for Business Development**

Governor Quinn announced that Illinois has moved up to third in the nation and the Chicago area is now the number one metro market in the country for new and expanded corporate facilities. In 2013, Illinois had 383 corporate facilities locate or expand in the state. The rankings put out by Site Selection required that new corporate facilities and expansions had to meet at least one of three criteria - involve a capital investment of at least \$1 million, create at least 50 jobs or add at least 20,000 square feet of new floor area. The rankings are regarded by corporate real estate analysts as the "the industry scoreboard."

## **Quinn Proposes Property Tax Relief, Making Permanent Current Tax Levels**

Highlighting this week's action at the State House, Gov. Pat Quinn outlined his priorities to the General Assembly during the annual Budget Address Wednesday.

Quinn proposed making permanent the current tax levels for Illinois while providing property tax relief in the form of a \$500 refund each year and a doubling of the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families.

"The Governor's proposals were reasonable and pragmatic," said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. "In an election year, it took courage to make his case for keeping the state's revenue growth in order to provide vital services and make a deeper investment in education. Austerity would create an economic free fall."

Quinn proposed educational budget reforms that would significantly increase investment in education, including increasing classroom funding, funding for the Birth to Five early education initiative, and doubling the MAP scholarships for students in need.

"Education and infrastructure are the two biggest drivers for economic development," Carrigan said. "The Governor has passed a capital plan in his first term and with this budget proposal is seeking to boost our schools up to historic levels. This budget outlines a vision for a strong and vibrant economic future."

Quinn said that, following cuts of \$5.7 billion in recent years, a reversal of tax rates would create unthinkable cuts in services and education funding.

"If action is not taken to stabilize our revenue code, the reality is that extreme cuts will be imposed on education and critical public services," Quinn said. "Cuts that will starve our schools and result in mass teacher layoffs, larger class sizes and higher property taxes... We cannot stand by and allow savage cuts to education and public safety to unravel the progress we've made these last five years."

### **Rauner Responds – Kind of**

Quinn's opponent in November, billionaire Bruce Rauner, issued a statement saying that Illinois could balance the budget without a tax increase. Seemingly relying on boilerplate right-wing anti-middle class rhetoric, Rauner said it would mean Illinois would have to create a "growth economy."

However, as usual, he offered no specifics – like what he would cut and how the cuts would affect mental health programs, veterans assistance, education and public safety.

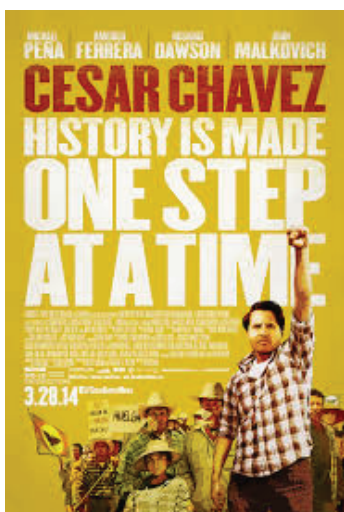


# Quinn Endorsed By Illinois AFL-CIO

The Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board voted to endorse Gov. Pat Quinn on March. 21.

Following a Primary Election where Labor worked strenuously to defeat billionaire right to work advocate Bruce Rauner, the Board overwhelmingly voted to endorse Quinn, who is seeking a second term (he took over following the impeachment of Rod Blagojevich in 2009).

“Working families in this state can’t afford a Rauner administration,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “He is an arch enemy of workers. He wants to slash the minimum wage, take away pensions and destroy unions... We felt it was important to send the message that we are standing with Pat Quinn and will be doing everything we can to see that he is re-elected.”



## Cesar Chavez: The Movie

This weekend will mark the nation-wide release of the film Cesar Chavez, about the life and career of the leader and founder of the United Farm Workers. For the first time in decades, a major motion picture will focus on the struggle of courageous workers to form a union - in this case the epic David versus Goliath case of immigrant farm workers taking on one of California’s richest and most powerful industries. The film captures the sacrifices made when workers are on strike, engage in civil disobedience, and demonstrates that labor movement solidarity with a community galvanized around the moral issue of social justice can inspire the nation. Please check your local listings for show times.

**SAVE THE DATE**



*7th Annual*

## Illinois AFL-CIO COPE Golf Outing

The Rail Golf Course - 1400 S. Club House Drive, Springfield, IL

# Monday, June 9, 2014

1 PM Shotgun Start / 6 PM Dinner

\$200 per player / \$3,000 Gold Sponsor / \$2,000 Silver Sponsor / \$250 Hole Sponsor

*A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website ([www.elections.state.il.us](http://www.elections.state.il.us)) or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL*