



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

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Friday, May 23 was the third reading deadline to pass bills in the opposite chamber, or send them back to the chamber of origin on concurrence. The Illinois General Assembly begins its final week of the Spring Session on Monday. Both chambers are scheduled to remain in session through Saturday, May 31. The House and Senate still must agree on a FY15 budget. House and Senate members must also decide whether to keep the state's income tax rates steady. Other outstanding issues legislators may work on in this final week include: back pay for state workers; capital bill; advisory questions to be placed on the ballot; rules for hydraulic fracturing in the state; payroll card regulations; unemployment insurance issues; and perhaps election code changes. We will continue to keep all of our affiliates abreast of key issues moving in Springfield this week.

Illinois AFL-CIO Pursues Statewide Responsible Bidder

The Illinois AFL-CIO and its building trades affiliates have continued to pursue statewide responsible bidder legislation. The current bill is HB 924 (Hoffman/Harmon). The Illinois AFL-CIO, Senator Don Harmon, and Larry Ivory with the Illinois Black Chamber have been working on language for a statewide responsible bidder law. An amendment filed last week, containing many provisions requested by the Illinois Black Chamber, by Senator Harmon would create statewide responsible bidder provisions applicable to all local bodies, with threshold provisions (2015 - \$100,000; 2016 - \$50,000; 2017 - \$20,000). It further creates the Apprenticeship Participation and Contractor Access Council to increase opportunities for Minority Contractors and Workers. The council shall review tools and methods for real time tracking methods for recording and reviewing participation by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities on public works projects. The Illinois AFL-CIO stands in support of increasing minority participation in construction projects statewide, which is one of the many reasons we support HB 924. We would ask that you call your President Cullerton, Leader Harmon, and your senator and ask them to support HB 924 – which supports responsible minority contractors, minority workers, and the Illinois labor movement.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **HB 8** (Flowers/Hutchinson) - Would make it a civil rights violation if an employer fails to provide “reasonable accommodations” for all working pregnant women, including part-time and full-time employees. *Passed Senate 57-0 on May 20th, to House on Concurrence. Labor supports.*
- **HB 2513** (Phelps/Koehler) – Requires all new school construction to include in its design and building of a storm shelter. Initiative of Laborers’ Midwest Region. *Passed Senate 43-14-0 on May 20. Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*
- **HB 3754** (Chapa LaVia/Lightford) - Originally, the bill sought to eliminate the charter commission altogether, but was amended to replace it with a charter school appeal board which would work under the Illinois State Board of Education. As amended, the bill would transfer all the powers, duties, assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records, and pending business of the State Charter School Commission to the Illinois State Board of Education as the Charter Appeals Board. The state superintendent, instead of the Governor, would have the authority to select the members of the board. The appeals board would be charged with making recommendations about whether to override a school district’s decision about a charter, with ISBE having the final say. *Passed Senate 34-22-2, to House on concurrence. Labor opposes.*

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HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY FROM THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO



GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

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- **HB 3792** (Madigan) – Appropriations/budget bill that assumes that income tax rates will not be held steady for the state. Would result in drastic cuts across the board. *Failed in the House 5-107. Leader Currie (voted no, on prevailing side) filed a motion to reconsider vote.*
- **HB 3814** (Madigan/Lightford) - Minimum Wage Ballot Question. Creates the Minimum Wage Increase Referendum Act. Requires statewide advisory public question to be submitted to the voters at the November 4, 2014 general election asking whether the minimum wage in Illinois for adults over the age of 18 should be raised to \$10 per hour by January 1, 2015. *Passed House 71-43-0 on May 20th. Scheduled to be heard in Senate Executive this week.*
- **HB 3816** (Madigan/Kotowski) - Millionaire’s Tax Ballot Question. Creates the Tax for Education Referendum Act. A statewide advisory question of public policy to be submitted to the voters at the general election to be held on November 4, 2014 asking whether the Illinois Constitution should be amended to require that each school district receive additional revenue, based on their number of students, from an additional 3% tax on income greater than \$1,000,000. *Passed House 64-46-0 on May 23rd. Assigned to Senate Executive Committee. Labor supports.*
- **HB 4591** (Martwick/Collins) - 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 Senate 57-0 on May 21, passed both chambers. Labor supports.*
- **HB 5412** (Gabel/Koehler) - Creates the Community Health Worker Advisory Board Act. Establishes the Advisory Board on Community Health Workers and sets forth the membership of the Board. Requires the Department of Public Health to provide administrative and staff support to the Board. Provides that the Board shall consider the core competencies of a community health worker, including skills and areas of knowledge that are essential to bringing about expanded health and wellness in diverse communities and reducing health disparities. Requires the Board to develop a report with its recommendations regarding the certification process of community health workers and sets forth the information to be included in the report. *Passed Senate 50-0 on May 19, to House on Concurrence.*
- **HB 5701** (Mayfield/Munoz) – “Ban the Box”. Creates the Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act. An employer with 15 or more employees or employment agency may not inquire about or into, consider, or require disclosure of the criminal record or criminal history of an applicant until the applicant has been determined qualified for the position and notified that the applicant has been selected for an interview by the employer or employment agency or, if there is not an interview, until after a conditional offer of employment is made to the applicant by the employer or employment agency. Provides for certain exceptions. *Passed Senate 40-12-0 on May 23rd, to House on concurrence. Labor supports.*
- **HB 5735** (Williams/Koehler) - Creates the Home Repair and Construction Task Force Act. Creates the Home Repair and Construction Task Force. Sets forth the membership of the Task Force. Provides that the Task Force shall: (1) discuss whether the residents of Illinois would benefit from legislation requiring home repair and construction service providers to obtain a license from the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation before offering these services in Illinois; (2) if it is determined that licensure is required, determine the requirements applicants must meet to qualify for a license, grounds for denial or revocation of a license, and any other considerations relevant to a licensing requirement; and (3) make recommendations to the General Assembly. *Passed Senate 44-5-2 on May 22. To House on concurrence. Labor supports.*
- **SB 1681** (Link/Hoffman) – Provides an alternative process for local government units to enter into intergovernmental agreements for the creation of Regional Fire Protection Agencies. Empowers citizens in contiguous jurisdictions to vote on the issue by referendum, but only after being provided a thorough analysis of the costs and emergency service levels proposed in the newly created district. *Passed House Cities and Villages 13-0, Second Reading. Labor supports.*

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

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- **SB 3023** (Mulroe/K Burke) – Amends the Mechanics Lien Act to prevent the elimination of lien rights through the use of subordinations clauses. Banks have the ability to protect themselves prior to lending and during the course of the project. Contractors should have equal protection. This legislation will ensure contractors have equal protection. *Passed House 116-0 on May 20, Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*
- **SB 3287** (Raoul/Lang) - 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 65-49-3, Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*
- **SB 3427** (Koehler/Gordon) – Requiring a public bidding process for construction in fire protection districts. Initiative of West Central IL Building Trades. *Passed House 111-0 on May 23rd. Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*
- **SR 639** (Sandoval) – Calls for supporting CrossRail Chicago, a new initiative to connect Metra and Amtrak routes through Union Station, creating direct service connecting Champaign-Urbana, the South Suburban Airport, McCormick Place, the Loop, O’Hare Airport, Schaumburg, Elgin and Rockford via one rail line. Calls on the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to include CrossRail Chicago in their long-range plans. *Adopted by Senate on May 19.*



As the General Assembly enters its final week of the 2014 Spring session the Illinois AFL-CIO sends gratitude and admiration to all that have sacrificed in the service to our country. Your sacrifices and the sacrifice of all the veterans enable us to use our Constitutional Rights to advocate for laws to improve the pay and working conditions of all Americans. On Memorial Day 2014 we reflect and give honor to the millions of men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces to protect our freedoms. Thank you for your service.