



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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The Illinois Senate was in session on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, while the House was in session Wednesday. The House is scheduled to return on Tuesday, July 21st at 12pm. The Senate has not yet scheduled their next session day. The House will continue to hold hearings next week on the excessive salaries paid to the Governor's staff, on the special pension perk given to the State Superintendent of Education, and also the Governor's FY14 Workers' Compensation Report (<http://www.iwcc.il.gov/annualreportFY14.pdf>) where it says work comp costs have gone down by 19% between 2011 and 2015. The Governor's office finally filed bills in the Senate this week outlining their class warfare agenda. The bill introduction deadline in the Senate was February 20th, just about five months ago (SB 2152, SB 2153, SB 2154, SJRCA 16, & SJRCA 17).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly Sends Rauner One Month Budget

The Illinois Senate voted on Wednesday to pass a temporary one month budget for the state. The vote in the Senate was 39-0-15, with all Democrats voting for it, and the Republicans all voted present. The House had voted the week before on SB 2040 (Steans/Madigan) and passed it 71-19-13. The legislation provides for \$2.2 billion in essential state services. Governor Rauner has already indicated he will not sign the bill.

City of Chicago Pension Bill

A city of Chicago pension proposal was unveiled again this week. The amendment to SB 316 was introduced by Senate President Cullerton. It did several things:

- Clarified that the state will pay 200M in costs to the pension (ctpf) for FY16 and 17;
- Clarified that the school district (cps) will pay 200M in costs to the pension(ctpf) for FY16 and 17;
- While many said this legislation wasn't a pension holiday, the total amount of pension liability that would be underfunded is an estimated half billion dollars---which will inevitably place us in similar position in 2018;
- Property tax freeze for FY 17 and 18 (for the entire state) no freezing of property taxes in 2016;

SB 316 had no organization supporting it, while the Chicago Teachers Union and Illinois Federation of Teachers opposed. The bill failed by a vote of 33-0-22 (needed 36 votes).

A Thank You Goes a Long Way

As the legislative session is nearing two full months in overtime session – it is important to point out the personal sacrifices legislators are making. They are missing family reunions, missing their kid's ball games, and dealing with extra stress at home.

The House and Senate Democrats are in Springfield defending our collective bargaining rights, prevailing wage, school funding, frontline state services, and fighting against Right-to-Work. This is not a situation where people can just shrug their shoulders and say "Why can't the legislators and the Governor get along?" This is a battle for the middle class, and Governor Rauner is attacking us. We must remain steadfast and unified in standing up to Governor Rauner and his class warfare.

We are urging our affiliates, Central Labor Councils and Building & Trades Councils to reach out to House and Senate Democrats to say "thank you" to them. Thank you for standing with us to protect our rights. The Illinois AFL-CIO wishes to thank those legislators for their personal sacrifices and for standing up for the middle class.



Update on Local Government Actions

This week, Labor had another victory this time in the Village of Glen Carbon (pop. 12,934) in the Metro East. The Village had previously passed a requirement that Project Labor Agreements be used in public projects. There was a movement by the Mayor to rescind that requirement. Before a group of roughly 60 union members, the Village Board voted to keep the requirement for Project Labor Agreements in place. Four Village Board members voted with the working families of the Metro East to ensure that public projects are completed by qualified union workers and that they will be completed on time and on budget.

The Village of Glen Carbon joins the Village of Pontoon Beach (pop. 5,836) in recently requiring Project Labor Agreements for public projects. These two join many other communities in the fast growing Metro East area, including Madison and St. Clair, Counties, that will continue to require Project Labor Agreements to be used for public projects.

Good News

Despite Bruce Rauner's constant repetition that the Illinois economy is heading in the wrong direction and needs his "turnaround reforms", the unemployment rate continues to drop. The U. S. Department of Labor reported that Illinois' unemployment rate fell to 5.9% in June (was at 6% in May). The Illinois unemployment rate decreased more than 3% (from 9.2% to 6.1%) during the last 3 years of the Quinn administration.