



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AUGUST 7, 2015

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The Illinois House and Senate returned to Springfield this week to continue discussion of the state budget, and they also tackled other key issues. Intensive lobbying has begun to override the Governor's veto of SB 1229. The underlying legislation maintains the traditional collective bargaining process for state employees, but provides the option of arbitration to resolve an impasse. The Senate completed passage of HB 576, which will reduce legislator pay so they do not receive a cost of living adjustment.

The House returns next Tuesday, August 11th at 4pm. The Senate will return on Wednesday, August 19th at 3pm. Republican Day at the state fair is August 19th and Democrat Day at the state fair is August 20th. We urge our affiliates to continue thanking legislators for the sacrifices they are making for our collective bargaining rights.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COGFA Recommends Keeping Facilities Open

Governor Rauner has recommended closing the Illinois State Museum in Springfield and Hardin County work camp in southern Illinois. According to the State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608), the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) must take the Governor's recommendation and issue an advisory (non-binding) opinion on the facility closures. On two separate votes, COGFA recommended the Illinois State Museum, Hardin Work Camp, as well as satellite operations of the museum in Whittington, Lewistown, Chicago, and Lockport remain open. Both votes were 7-2, with three Republicans (Moffitt, Poe, and Unes) voting to keep the facilities open.

AFSCME was also successful in passage of SB 317 (Manar) by a vote of 40-9-5. The legislation provides that the State shall operate an Illinois State Museum in Springfield and at branch sites at Dickson Mounds, Lockport, Rend Lake, and the James R. Thompson Center. Provides that the Illinois State Museum and all branch sites shall be open to the public. Provides that the Illinois State Museum shall operate a Research and Collections Center to research, preserve, and maintain access to the extensive Illinois State Museum collections. The bill now goes to the House, where Rep. McAsey will seek passage.

Federal Spending Bill Passes Illinois Senate, May See Changes in the House

The Illinois Senate passed **SB 2042** by a vote of 57-0. It would authorize spending \$4.8 billion in federal dollars for programs that help domestic violence victims, low-income seniors and disabled people. Speaker Madigan has indicated some changes may be needed for House passage. The legislation appropriates:

DCEO

- \$330 million is included for the federally supported portion of the LIHEAP program
- \$275 million is included for job training under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (formerly Workforce Investment Act/WIA)
- Community colleges and private providers throughout the state can access the funding to provide job training services to adults
- \$260 million for community block grants for small cities to assist Illinois communities in meeting their greatest economic and community development needs, with an emphasis on helping communities with substantial low to moderate-income populations
- \$60 million for the community service block grant program, which provides a range of services that help low-income people attain skills, knowledge and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. The program also may provide low-income people immediate life necessities such as food, shelter and medicine.

(Continued on page 2)



Federal Spending Bill *(Continued from page 1)*

DHS

- \$304.2 million for family and community services including support for domestic violence victims, food banks, child care and refugees
- \$323.8 million for the WIC program (services are currently being provided by court order)
- \$33.4 million for mental health services for adults and children
- \$80.6 million for alcohol and substance abuse treatment and preventions services
- \$50 million for community services for individuals with developmental disabilities
- \$176.5 million for rehabilitation services to help disabled individuals live independently and become participating members of society

Veterans' Affairs

- \$125,000 for the homeless veterans program. The veterans home in Manteno provides housing and supportive services for homeless Illinois veterans.

DPH

- \$312.8 million for various programs including:
- Breast and cervical cancer screening

- AIDS/HIV prevention
- Immunizations
- Perinatal services
- Rural health centers
- Monitoring of long-term care facilities

Dept. on Aging

- \$98.7 million to support statewide Area Agencies on Aging, which provide services to seniors in the community including:
- Home delivered meals
- Employment services
- Elder abuse prevention
- Ombudsmen

Military Affairs

- \$9.8 million for the Lincoln's Challenge Academy

ISBE

- \$163.3 million includes funding for Race to the Top, Early learning challenge and student assessments

Rauner threatens 94 layoffs in state government

On Aug. 3, AFSCME received notice from the Rauner Administration of 94 layoffs in state government. The threatened job losses are in the Department of Natural Resources (54 layoffs associated with the Governor's plan to close the Illinois State Museum sites and the Sparta World Shooting Complex), the Illinois Commerce Commission (24), the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (9) and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (7).

The notices all cited a lack of funds as the rationale for the layoffs, which have an effective date of September 30.

"Most of these layoffs stem from Governor Rauner's rush to shutter the Illinois State Museum sites, destroying a vital resource for learning and the preservation of cultural heritage and putting professional museum curators, librarians and support staff in the unemployment lines," AFSCME Council 31 executive director Roberta Lynch said.

"Other layoffs would throw out of work men and women involved with nuclear safety, tourism, recycling and overseeing public utilities.

"Instead of holding hostage the public services Illinois residents rely on and eliminating jobs of public service workers who provide them, the Governor should drop his extreme political agenda that would hurt the middle class and work with legislators to pass a budget that prevents these cuts."

Illinois has the nation's smallest state employee workforce per capita. DNR was already cut 40% since 2000, DCEO cut 33% and IEMA cut 39%, hampering the ability of these agencies to meet their goals. At the ICC, this layoff could have a significant impact, eliminating 24 staff from an agency that had just 69 employees at the start of 2015, a 35% cut.

In Other Bills

- HB 439 (Hoffman/Munoz)** - Requires a contract carrier transporting employees, including but not limited to railroad employees, to verify hit and run and uninsured motor vehicle coverage, as well as underinsured motor vehicle coverage, in an amount not less than \$500,000 (rather than \$1,000,000) per passenger beginning on January 1, 2016, and not less than \$750,000 per passenger on and after January 1, 2020. *Passed both chambers unanimously. SMART initiative. Governor Rauner AV issued on August 6th.*
- HB 745 (Welch/SP Cullerton)** - This will allow Metropolitan Pier Exposition Authority(MPEA) taxes collected to flow to the Expansion Project Fund without an appropriation in 2016 (only). MPEA taxes are being collected and held in the Authority Tax Fund and state revenue has been deposited into and held in the Expansion Project Fund. The MPEA failed last month to make a state-mandated deposit of \$20.8 million into the funds that pay off its long-term debt, according to a notice distributed to bondholders. The transfer requires an appropriation passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. *Passed Senate 51-6-0. To House. Labor supports.*
- HB 3497 (Currie/Munoz)** - It provides the Capital Development Board (CDB) with continued authority to use the Single Prime project/procurement method with protected subcontractor contract delivery method for procuring construction projects and gives CDB greater ability to take advantage of efficiencies achieved using this approach. Under current law, CDB's Single Prime authority expires on July 1, 2015. This legislation would extend the expiration date by five years. *Signed into law, PA 99-257, Effective Immediately.*
- SB 162 (Raoul/Madigan)** - Amends the Workers' Compensation Act. Provides that accidental injuries sustained by employees while traveling to or from work do not arise out of and in the course of employment. Creates the Workers' Compensation Ombudsman Program as an office within the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission. Provides for personnel, duties, reports, and other matters. Creates the Workers' Compensation Edit, Alignment, and Reform Commission ("WEAR Commission") to develop a proposed recodification of the Workers' Compensation Act that meets specified goals. Provides for membership, administrative support, a report, and other matters. Provides that the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission shall procure and implement a computer system to replace its current computer system. Sets forth capabilities of the new system. Provides that the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission shall ensure that parties practicing before the Commission, including injured employees, are aware of the changes required by the new system. Amends provisions regarding determination of permanent partial disability by providing that a report of impairment prepared pursuant to specified provisions is not required for the arbitrator or Commission to approve a Settlement Contract Lump Sum Petition. Provides that the fraud and insurance non-compliance unit shall be within the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission (rather than within the Department of Insurance). Adds provisions regarding billing by health care providers for treatments, procedures, or services for a work-related illness or injury, including petitions for enforcement of specified provisions and interest and fines under specified circumstances. Adds requirements regarding the responsibility of the Director of Insurance to adopt rules regarding electronic claims. Makes other changes. *Passed Senate 36-19-1, to House. Labor neutral.*
- SB 318 (SP Cullerton/Currie)** - Legislation would freeze property taxes for two years and create a panel of Democratic and Republican lawmakers (each with an equal number of votes) to devise a new system of funding public education that would not rely as heavily on the property tax — with the ultimate goal of raising more money for public schools and spending more of it in poorer school districts. The bill also would require the state to pay the employer's cost of Chicago teachers' pensions as a continuing appropriation. In fiscal year 2015-16, that would be \$197 million. *Passed Senate 37-1-18. To House. Labor opposes.*
- SB 993 (McCarter/Kay)** - Amends the Employee Classification Act to delay the deadline for reports of payments to an individual or entity not classified as an employee from January 31 to April 30. Requires the report to be filed electronically. *Effective immediately. Passed both chambers unanimously. Signed into law this week, PA 99-303. Labor neutral.*
- SB 2039 (SP Cullerton/Madigan)** - Provides an additional \$74 million in poverty grant dollars to school districts for FY16, bringing total funding to \$159 million. *Passed Senate 49-7-0. To House.*

Hosted By:
Illinois AFL-CIO & GWC Law Firm



8th ANNUAL MIDWAY SHOOT FOR A CURE

Benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Let's aim to shoot down this terrible disease!

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You're Invited

to participate in this special event by being a sponsor or by sponsoring a group from your organization.

WHEN: FRIDAY, August 28, 2015
Registration 8:00 a.m. sharp! • Shotgun start 10:00 a.m.
Lunch and raffle to follow

*Please note: Gun rentals and instruction available from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Reduced menu of 50 targets available for new shooters.*

WHERE: Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation
14N322 IL-Route 25
Dundee, IL 60118
(847) 741-8000
www.mcgrawwildlife.org

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