



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

APRIL 12, 2013

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

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*The Illinois General Assembly concludes its business today. The House will return on Monday, April 15 and the Senate will return on Tuesday, April 16. The deadline to pass House Bills out of the House is Friday, April 19. While the Senate deadline to pass Senate Bills out of that chamber is April 25. No action was taken on pensions this week.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Key Legislation Passed This Week

- HB 924 (Hoffman) – Requires contractors who bid on public works projects to be a “responsible bidder”. Requires all bids for public works projects include an estimate of total number of hours to be performed by minorities and females. Passed House Labor Committee 12-8. Labor supports.
- SB 2393 (Manar) – In the construction industry, the amount charged to the insured for workers’ compensation and employers’ liability insurance shall be based upon hours worked by employees in specific job categories or classifications, not the wages or salaries paid to the employees. Passed Senate Labor 9-6-1. Labor supports.
- HB 2496 (Brown) & SB 1147 (Rose) – Legislation would set up tax breaks for Cronus Chemicals Inc., a fertilizer company, to invest in a \$1.2 billion plant project in Tuscola, Illinois. The proposed plant would employ about 2,000 short-term construction workers and 150 permanent workers. HB 2496 passed House Revenue 10-0. SB 1147 passed Senate State Government 12-0. Labor Supports.
- HB 1375 (Beiser/Kotowski) - In certain cases where a deceased firefighter left a surviving minor child but no surviving spouse, increases the pension payable to the guardian of the child from 12% to 20% of the firefighter’s monthly salary. Passed House 111-0. Labor Supports.
- HB 1421 (Bradley) - Requires rules adopted by the Illinois Pollution Control Board to determine the reasonableness of corrective action costs to contain provisions requiring bidders to supply, among other things, information regarding insurance coverage, employee benefits, and compliance with labor laws. Requires persons to execute project labor agreements if they intend to seek payment from the Underground Storage Tank Fund for costs incurred in response to releases reported on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Passed House Labor 12-7. Labor Supports.
- HB 140 (Franks) - Amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 and the Illinois Pension Code. Specifies that those Acts do not apply to members of specified regional transit boards who first become members of those boards on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act with respect to service on those boards. Passed House Mass Transit 18-0. Labor took no position.
- HB 2540 (Smiddy/Van Pelt) - Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Deletes language requiring copies of determinations concerning the prevailing rate of wages to be filed with the Secretary of State. Effective January 1, 2014. Passed House 112-0. Labor took no position.
- HB 3255 (Nekritz) – Requires organizers of a parade to notify law enforcement if a proceeding will cross an active railroad track. Gives law enforcement the discretion to deny/change that parade route. Passed House 113-0. Labor supports.
- HR 225 (Nekritz) - Congratulates the members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen on the 150th anniversary of the union’s founding. Resolution Adopted.

### U. S. Postal Service Backs Down from Plan to End Saturday Mail Delivery

On March 24, more than 100,000 postal workers and their supporters called on their lawmakers to “Save America’s Postal Service” in demonstrations in more than 200 cities organized by the Letter Carriers (NALC). This week, it was announced that the U. S. Postal Service has backed down from those plans when Congress passed legislation which prevents them from reducing delivery services.

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## Labor Holds In-District Congressional Meetings

With critical issues like sequestration, Social Security and Medicare changes and immigration reform on the congressional front-burner, the Illinois AFL-CIO and local labor held in-district meetings with several members of Congress during the recent recess.

The Labor representatives took the opportunity to urge the representatives to oppose benefit cuts to Social Security and Medicare as well as fight for inclusion of commonsense immigration reform. Additionally, the union delegations were able to address local issues.

At the Illinois AFL-CIO 2012 Convention, a resolution was passed by the delegates supporting comprehensive immigration reform and recently the Executive Council issued a statement calling for the immediate creation of a commonsense immigration approach with a road map for citizenship.

Among the concepts in the immigration reform Labor is seeking are: create a broad road map to citizenship; establish a data-driven approach to employment-based immigration; improve, not expand temporary worker programs; protect worker rights; ensure any worker authorization system treats workers fairly; and national border control and enforcement measures.

The state federation and local leaders held meetings with seven in the Illinois delegation and continue efforts to engage our federal officials on these and other important issues.

## Kelly Wins Special Election To 2nd CD



As expected after emerging from a crowded Democrat Primary Election, former State Representative Robin Kelly easily won in the special General Election to fill the seat for Jesse Jackson, Jr. in the Second Congressional District. She is pictured here in the ceremonial swearing in by Vice President Biden.

She cruised to the win in the overwhelmingly Democrat district that stretches from Chicago's South Side through south Cook and portions of Will County, to include all of Kankakee County.



## Union Members Win Local Offices

Following on the heels of the election of union members to the General Assembly last fall, more union members won election to local offices Tuesday. Included in the win column were: Pat Hardesty (UA), Heartland Community College Board; Bruce Adams (AFSCME), Bradley Village Board President; Robert Redmond (IBT), Bradley Trustee; Tyler Tall (AFSCME), Kankakee Alderman; Amy Rueff (LIUNA), Decatur Township Trustee; Ada Owens (USW), Decatur Township Clerk; Gary Brennan (UAW), Decatur Township Road Commissioner; Andy Quarnstrom (AFFI), City of Champaign Township Supervisor; Mike Dodge (USW), Danville Township Trustee; and Mike Todd (LIUNA), Millstadt President.

“It is important that union members are elected to these important local offices,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “The voices of everyday working families have to be heard on all levels of government. I congratulate each one of these candidates, who are sacrificing their time and energy to give back to their communities.”