



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

APRIL 19, 2013

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

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*The Illinois House concludes its business today, while the Senate went home yesterday. This week was third reading deadline in the House to send House Bills over to the Senate. The House will take a one week break and return on Tuesday, April 30th. The Senate will return on Tuesday, April 23rd and remain in through Thursday. April 25th is the Senate deadline to pass Senate Bills to the House. No action was taken on substantive pension bills this week.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **Statewide Responsible Bidder Passes House** **Just one of many key Building Trades bills passed by the House this week**

A joint effort by those in the building trades saw success late Thursday evening. HB 924 (Hoffman/Cullerton) passed the House by a vote of 60-50-3. It will require any contractor bidding on a public works project to be a responsible bidder, as defined in the Illinois Procurement Code. It further requires contractors to report minority and female hours worked on each project and filed with the public body awarding the work. IDOT, CDB, & the Illinois Toll Highway Authority will be charged with collecting minority and female hours worked on all of their projects and making a report, no later than October 1 of every year.

The bill will now go to the Senate for consideration. We wish to thank everyone who helped lobby and made calls on this bill.

#### **Other bills passed:**

- HB 140 (Franks/Duffy) – After the effective date of the act, prohibits any newly appointed members to the RTA Board, Suburban Bus Board and Chicago Transit Authority Board from accumulating pension credits under SERS and any other Illinois Pension system. *Passed House 106-0-1. To Senate. Labor has No Position.*
- HB 226 (Sente) - Amends the Election Code. Provides that a person who is 17 years old on the date of a primary may vote at the primary if that person is otherwise qualified and will be 18 years old on the date of the following election. *Passed House 95-22. To Senate. Labor Supports*
- HB 923 (Hoffman/Cullerton) – Requires any contractor or subcontractor who pays an individual who is not an employee to file a report with IDOL detailing the payment. *Passed House 72-44-0. To Senate. Labor Supports*

- HB 1292 (Gordon-Booth/Koehler) – Returns Wildlife Prairie Park, in the Peoria area, to private control. The operations are currently run by the Department of Natural Resources. *Passed Senate Agriculture 5-0. Labor Supports*
- HB 1379 (Phelps). It is an initiative of American Water. Provides clarity to the valuation and rate making process when a private water utility acquires a public or private water system. It provides needed alternatives to communities who desperately need to upgrade their water and/or wastewater systems. The hope is to create an incentive for private water utilities, with proven expertise, to acquire troubled water and wastewater systems.
  - Estimated \$32.52 billion investment in drinking and waste water over the next 20 years;
  - \$190 billion in current private capital available for infrastructure improvements;
  - 28,500 estimated jobs to be supported by this legislation

*Passed House 77-31. To Senate. Labor Supports*

- HB 2649 (Arroyo) - Amends the Employee Classification Act. Provides for notice to an employer of violations and penalties and for a time within which an employer may request a hearing; provides for a formal administrative hearing. Provides for individual officers and agents of employers to be liable under the Act. This will prevent an individual from setting up a business and dissolving it to avoid prosecution under the Act. IDOL initiative. *Passed House Labor 12-6. Labor Supports*

*(Continued on page 2)*



(General Assembly continued from page 1)

- HB 3092 (Jakobsson) - Requires the Department of Corrections to establish an in-house registry of nurses classified as Corrections Nurse I or Corrections Nurse II for the purpose of improving staffing levels to minimize or eliminate the use of mandatory overtime at State-operated facilities. Allows DOC to make Extra help appointments for Corrections Nurse I or Corrections Nurse II positions. *Passed House 64-53-0. AFL-CIO Neutral*
- HB 3223 (Beiser) - Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Requires contractors to include in record keeping the gross and net wage, hourly overtime rate, fringe benefit rates, and the sponsor and administrator of fringe benefit plans. Provides for filing of the records with the Department of Labor. Authorizes that Department to require electronic filing. Requires that Department to create and provide a form for the filing of certified payrolls. *Passed House 68-38-1. Labor supports.*
- SB 2 (Manar) - Abolishes the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Creates the Illinois Business and Economic Advocacy and Development Act of 2013, and the Illinois Economic Development Authority as the successor agency to the Department. Provides for the Authority to be headed by an Executive Director and subject to a Board of Directors, both appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Provides for the transfer of powers, duties, rights, responsibilities, and personnel of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to the Authority. Creates the Illinois Business and Economic Development Corporation as a private-public economic development corporation. Provides for the operations of the Illinois Business and Economic Development Corporation, and makes it subject to the oversight of the Illinois Economic Development Authority. *Passed Senate State Government 8-0. Second Reading. Labor opposes.*

## IDOT unveils Six-Year, \$12.62 Billion Road Program

Governor Pat Quinn and IDOT Secretary Ann L. Schneider unveiled a six-year, \$12.62 billion road program on Tuesday. The program will improve roads and bridges throughout Illinois.

The plan includes \$7.2 billion in anticipated federal funds, \$1.9 billion in state funds and the remainder from local and other sources. The General Assembly will need to approve additional bond authorization to fund these projects. The \$580 million remaining for road and bridge projects from the labor supported *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital construction program is also included in this multi-year program.

Projects that are part of the fiscal years 2014-2019 program will begin after July 1, 2013. More information on the construction program may be found at <http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/hip1419/hwyimprov.htm>.

## Illinois suffers flooding and storm damage

Due to rapid flooding and wind damage, Governor Quinn declared 38 Illinois counties as disaster areas. The counties include: Adams, Brown, Bureau, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Fulton, Greene, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Jersey, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Marshall, Mason, McHenry, Mercer, Morgan, Peoria, Pike, Putnam, Rock Island, Schuyler, Scott, Tazewell, Whiteside, Will, Winnebago and Woodford.

Flash flooding and rapidly rising rivers and streams have forced evacuations, damaged or destroyed homes and businesses, caused power outages and closed numerous roads throughout Illinois.

AFL-CIO Community Service Liaisons at local United Ways are coordinating volunteer efforts in several counties. If you or your members are interested in relief efforts, please visit <http://www.ilaf-cio.org/csl.htm> to find the Liaison in your area.

## Comprehensive Immigration Reform Starts Moving In Senate; Illinois Plans Mobilization Effort

As the U.S. Senate's "Gang of Eight" unveiled their immigration reform legislation this week, the AFL-CIO put into motion a national plan to make sure commonsense immigration reform passes Congress as a part of a larger economic agenda based on shared prosperity.

From the AFL-CIO's early analysis of the bill, it takes some strong steps toward meaningful reform, including:

### Road Map to Citizenship

The more than 11 million immigrants currently in the country without proper documentation and who were in the United States before Dec. 31, 2011, may apply for a newly created immigration status called Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI). Application requires paying a \$500 fine, plus some fees. RPI status includes authorization to work and allows the workers to change jobs and travel outside the United States.

After 10 years, a person with RPI status who has been regularly employed may apply for a green card (permanent residence) and after three years may apply for citizenship. Applicants also must show proficiency in English and pass a criminal background check. Persons convicted of an aggravated felony, felony, three separate misdemeanors or voting fraud are not eligible.

### DREAMers

DREAMers, those who were brought to this country at a young age and have been raised and educated in the United States, have a shorter path to citizenship under the new legislation. They also must apply for RPI status, and after five years would apply for a green card. Time spent in RPI status will count towards naturalization and allow DREAMers to become citizens immediately after receiving their green cards. Additionally, DREAMers who were deported but would have qualified for the program if they were in still in the country can apply and return to the United States.

### Agricultural Workers

Agricultural workers who worked at least 100 days in the agriculture industry during the 24-month period that ended Dec. 31, 2011, may apply for a new blue card status that will allow them to continue to work in the industry for three to five years and then apply for a green card.

### Worker Protections

All immigrant workers will be covered by U.S. labor laws, including from minimum wage, workplace safety, anti-discrimination, whistle-blower protection and other labor laws.

There are concerns, that according to AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, Labor will be working to correct as the bill moves through the process.

"As is to be expected in an 844-page first response to an issue as complex as immigration, there are several details in the bill that cause unintended, but serious harm to immigrant workers and the broader labor market. We will work to correct those problems now that a bill is before the Senate Judiciary Committee."

Hearings on the bill are scheduled for this week and next in the Senate Judiciary Committee, with the goal of a full Senate vote this summer.

Illinois is one of several states targeted to work specifically toward assuring passage in the Senate. The Illinois AFL-CIO will be working with Central Labor Councils and affiliates on the plan to mobilize union families in the effort.

## Additional Union Members Elected to Local Office April 9:

Paul Hinterlong (UA), Naperville City Council; Marty Clinch (IBEW), Germantown Hills Village Trustee; and Rich Karr (UAW), Wapella Village President.

## UAW Region 4 Conducts CAP/PAC Conference

The United Auto Workers (UAW) hosted their 2013 Region 4 Illinois State CAP/PAC Conference in Springfield this past week. Hosted by Region 4 Director, Ron McNroy and Assistant Director, Brad Dutcher, the annual conference focuses on maximizing the legislative and political efforts of the UAW in Illinois.

Delegates attending the Conference heard from Governor Quinn, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Senate President Cullerton and Speaker Madigan. In addition, to elected officials delegates also heard from IL AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan, Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez, Citizen Action Co-Director, William McNary and Emily Stuart, Director of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans.

On Tuesday afternoon, Illinois CAP Coordinator, Tony Garcia, coordinated a lobby activities at the State Capitol where the delegates met with their legislators and lobbied them on issues important to all Illinois working families.



Pictured: Tony Garcia, Michael T. Carrigan and Ron McNroy.

### Thomas Perez Confirmation Hearing for DOL Secretary

On Thursday, Thomas Perez, President Obama's nominee to be the nation's 26th Secretary of Labor appeared before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and said that he would approach the job with an open mind and a willingness to work. Perez told the Committee of his plan for leading the Labor Department and said his top priorities would be "jobs, jobs and jobs," along with getting Congress to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act, which funds job training programs. He also pledged to continue enforcement of safety, wage and hour laws.

A Committee vote on his confirmation is expected as early as next week.