



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MAY 3, 2013

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

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*The Illinois General Assembly concluded their business today. The Senate will return at 3pm on Monday, May 6th, while the House returns at 12pm on May 7th. Both chambers are scheduled to remain in session through Friday, May 10th, which is also the deadline to pass bills from the opposite chamber out of committee. Labor unsuccessfully attempted to pass responsible bidder legislation (HB 924) out of Senate Labor Committee this week. We will renew our efforts to pass HB 924 next week.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### House Passes Major Pension Overhaul

The Illinois House took action on a major overhaul of the state's pension systems. The vote to pass SB 1, sponsored by Speaker Madigan, was 62-51-2. SB 1 unilaterally and illegally diminishes benefits for all state retirement systems (except the Judges'), even though the Illinois Constitution specifically states that pension benefits are a contractual right that cannot be diminished or impaired. The legislation makes it impossible for retirees to keep up with rising cost-of-living in retirement. Just through its COLA caps, the bill illegally cuts the value of a retiree's pension between 28% to 31% after twenty years in retirement. On top of that, it also freezes COLAs until age 67 or five years after retirement.

The We Are One coalition released the following statement following passage of SB 1:

"Senate Bill 1 is unfair to the active and retired teachers, nurses, police, and other employees who paid out of every paycheck to fund their pensions, even as the state shorted its share. On top of that, it is blatantly unconstitutional and thus saves nothing. It simply exacerbates Illinois' fiscal problems. In contrast, our coalition had a productive meeting with President John Cullerton, and we hope to be able to continue the dialogue."

The bill could go back to the Senate for its consideration on concurrence, with Senate President Cullerton as the sponsor.

### Senate Passes Gaming Bill

Senator Terry Link (D – Lake Bluff) passed another major gaming expansion bill through the Senate this week by a vote of 32-20-1. It would allow five new casinos, including one in Chicago. Additionally, it allows betting games at horse-racing tracks, Midway and O'Hare

airports. Numerous changes were made at convincing Governor Quinn to sign the bill.

The Illinois Revenue and Jobs Alliance released the following statement after the passage of SB 1739. "The Illinois Senate voted today to create thousands of jobs and generate sorely needed revenue for our state. With the passage of Senate Bill 1739 – which includes strong ethical safeguards and oversight – construction workers, farmers, horse breeders and other hard-working Illinoisans can look forward to more opportunities that will help create a brighter future."

The bill now goes to the House, where Leader Lang will sponsor it.

### In other news this week:

- HB 116 (Ives/Biss) - Provides that no member of the Civil Service Commission, Board of Review of the Department of Employment Security (other than the Director of Employment Security), Civil Service Commission, Illinois Liquor Control Commission, Secretary of State Merit Commission, Human Rights Commission, State Mining Board, Property Tax Appeal Board, Illinois Racing Board, Department of State Police Merit Board, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, or Illinois State Board of Elections may establish creditable service in the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois on or after the effective date. *Passed Senate Licensed Activities & Pensions 9-0. Second Reading. Labor is monitoring.*
- HB 226 (Sente/Link) - 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 immediate following

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general election. *Passed Senate Executive 12-0-3. Second Reading. Labor Supports.*

- HB 774 (D'Amico/Hutchinson) - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code to allow for the use of red or white oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights on vehicles belonging to the Illinois Department of Transportation designated as Emergency Traffic Patrol. Provides that these lights shall only be operated when the vehicle is responding to an emergency call or is on the scene of an emergency. *Passed Senate Transportation 14-0. Second Reading. Labor Supports.*
- HB 923 (Hoffman/Noland) – Requires any contractor or subcontractor who pays an individual who is not an employee to file a report with IDOL detailing the payment. *Passed Senate Labor 9-5-2. Second Reading. Labor Supports*
- HB 1379 (Phelps). It is an initiative of American Water. It 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 Senate Energy 12-0. Second Reading. Labor Supports*
- HB 2540 (Smiddy/Silverstein) – Deletes language requiring copies of determinations concerning the prevailing rate of wages to be filed with the Secretary of State. Copies are already filed with the Illinois Department of Labor. *Passed Senate Labor 14-0. Second Reading.*
- HJR 9 (Rita/Cullerton) – Section 14.1 of the Toll Highway Act states that prior to the issuance of bonds for the commencement of construction of any new toll highway, it must be authorized by joint resolution of the General Assembly. This

resolution would authorize the Illinois State Toll Highway system to begin the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access (EOWA) project. *Passed House 96-14. To Senate.*

- HJR 27 (Chapa LaVia) - Creates the Teacher Recruiting and Retention Task Force to study the impact of Tier 2 pension benefits on the ability of school districts to recruit and retain teachers in public school classrooms. *Passed House 116-0. To Senate. Labor Supports.*



## NALC Food Drive set for May 11

Be sure to place non-perishable food items by your mailbox next weekend as the National Association of Letter Carriers host their annual food drive. Known as the largest one-day food drive in the nation, the event raises millions of pounds of food for local food pantries.

## Appointments Acted Upon this Week:

- AM 25 – John Butler (IUPAT) to be a member of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University. Confirmed by full Senate.
- AM 56 – Jorge Ramirez (CFL) to be a member of the IDOL Advisory Board. Confirmed by full Senate.
- AM 59 – Mark Guethle (IUPAT) to be a member of the IDOL Advisory Board. Confirmed by full Senate.
- AM 64 – John Penn (LIUNA) to be a member of the IDOL Advisory Board. Confirmed by full Senate.
- AM 65 – Larry Swope (UA) to be a member of the IDOL Advisory Board. Confirmed by full Senate.
- AM 66 – Marc Poulos (IIFFC) to be a member of the IDOL Advisory Board. Confirmed by full Senate.
- AM 176 - Gordon John Mazzotti to be a member of the Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission. Confirmed by full Senate.
- AM 488 – Cinda Klickna (IEA) to be a member of the Education Funding Advisory Board. Passed Senate Executive Appts 10-0. To floor.
- AM 489 – Dan Montgomery (IFT) to be a member of the Education Funding Advisory Board. Passed Senate Executive Appts 10-0. To floor.

## Honoring Workers

This week, organized labor hosted events all across Illinois in honor of Workers Memorial Day & May Day. Ceremonies took place in Alton, Bloomington, Chicago, Decatur, Joliet, Peoria, Quad Cities, Rockford, and Springfield. Below are a few photos of this weeks events.



Peoria



Decatur



Springfield



Chicago

