



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MAY 17, 2013

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

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The Illinois General Assembly continues to vote on bills prior to its May 31st adjournment deadline. Both chambers have adjourned today and will return on Monday, May 20th. Both chambers still have the budget, pensions, gaming, cost shift, and hydraulic fracturing to consider before the end of the month. The Illinois AFL-CIO continues to pursue responsible bidder legislation in the Senate (HB 924) and stopping dangerous new coal mine reporting requirements (HB 1849). We will continue to update our affiliates on the actions of the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This Week in the General Assembly

Bills that were acted upon include:

- **HB 1 (Lang/Haine)** - HB 1 would create a highly regulated, very limited four-year medical cannabis pilot program. Patients with specified debilitating conditions and a Department of Public Health-issued registry identification card could possess a limited amount of cannabis for their medical use. Patients could also designate someone to pick up their medicine for them, a caregiver who would also have to register with the state and pass a background check. Patients and caregivers could not cultivate the cannabis, and instead would obtain it from one of up to 60 highly regulated dispensing organizations. Those dispensaries would in turn obtain the cannabis and edible products with cannabis from one of up to 22 cultivation centers. *Passed Senate. Labor supports.*
- **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 Senate 54-0. Passed both chambers. Labor has No Position.*
- **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 following election. *Passed Senate 43-9-0. Passed both chambers. 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 57-0. Passed both chambers. Labor Supports.*
- **HB 922 (Hurley/Holmes)** - Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Provides that contractors and subcontractors shall make and keep for a period of not less than 10, currently 3, years from the date of the last payment on a contract or subcontract for public works records of all workers employed on the project. Provides that a public body must keep for 10, currently 3, years certain payroll records. Provides that the relevant period for consideration by the Department of Labor of multiple violations shall be 10, rather than 5, years. *Passed Senate Labor 10-4. Second Reading. Labor supports.*
- **HB 1292 (Gordon-Booth/Koehler)** – Returns Wildlife Prairie Park in Peoria to private control. It was under the jurisdiction of DNR. Signed by Governor, PA 98-0013. *Labor Supports.*
- **HB 1379 (Phelps/Haine)** - 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.

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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 49-2. Passed both chambers. Labor Supports.

- **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 54-0. Passed both chambers. Labor took no position.*
- **HB 2649 (Arroyo/Cunningham)** - 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. This legislation continues to evolve, and we are expecting further amendments. IDOL initiative. *Passed Senate Labor 10-4. Labor Supports*
- **HB 3104 (Sosnowski/Jacobs)** - Will allow Nicor Gas to use a more streamlined depreciation study filing process that is acceptable to the Illinois Commerce Commission. The ICC will review the study and set depreciation rates, but there will be no impact to the rates customers pay for gas service. *Passed Senate Energy as amended 12-0. Second Reading in Senate. Labor supports.*

- **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 Senate Executive 13-0. Calendar Order of Resolutions.*
- **SB 1859 (Stadelman/Jefferson)** - Authorizes Winnebago County to assess a hotel tax of up to 2% to help fund a \$42 million renovation of a vacant factory into a basketball facility and construction of an outdoor soccer complex. All work will be done under a Project Labor Agreement. *Passed Senate 77-38. Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*
- **SR 172 (Collins)** - Supports the decision of Congress to require the U.S. Postal Service to maintain 6-day delivery service. Resolution Adopted. *Labor supports.*
- **SB 1738 (Link/Mautino)** - WMS Gaming is attempting to amend the Illinois Gaming Act due to an impending merger with Scientific Games. Scientific Games is the current Central System Provider and WMS is the largest Illinois-based developer and manufacturer of Video Gaming Terminal. This legislation will amend the Video Gaming Act to ensure that Illinois-based WMS Gaming is legally able to continue competing in the Illinois gaming market and also preserve Illinois union jobs (IBEW #134) and tax revenues. *Passed House 71-41-0. Sent to Governor. Labor supports.*

ILLINOIS AFL-CIO HONORS THE SERVICE OF DICK FALLOW



Longtime labor activist Dick Fallow passed away on Saturday, April 13 at his home in Davenport, IA. Dick was assigned to the Quad Cities area in 1952, when he joined the staff of the National AFL-CIO and focused his work on politics as a director of COPE. Dick was a regular at the Quad City Federation of Labor meetings. He will be missed.

Phone Banks Begin Monday for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

The Illinois AFL-CIO and Chicago Federation of Labor have scheduled phone banks to begin Monday to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The grassroots effort will focus on local union communication and direct contact with union households by phone, patching through calls to Sen. Mark Kirk's office.

"Sen. Kirk will be a key vote in passing immigration reform," said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. "This outreach to our members and allies in the community will be crucial to passing this legislation."

The framework that make up the labor movement's policy proposals consists of the following components:

1. A humane, practical path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants;
2. A data-driven approach to future flow, including creation of an independent, professional commission to measure labor shortages and recommend the numbers of employment-based temporary and permanent immigrants to fill those shortages;
3. Rational operational control of the border;
4. A fair and efficient worker authorization system and effective labor law enforcement; and
5. The improvement, not expansion, of temporary worker programs.

The Senate bill is currently going through amendment or "mark-up" phase in the Judiciary Committee. It is anticipated for a floor vote in June or July. There will be phone banks opening in June in Westmont and Lincolnshire.



The phone banks running Monday are as follows.

Chicago – IUPAT DC 14

1456 West Adams Street
Monday/Tuesday, 3:30-6:30 pm

May 20-21, 28 /

June 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 /

July 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

Aurora – IUPAT DC 30

1905 Sequoia Drive, Suite 201
Wednesday/Thursday, 5:30-8:30 pm

May 22-23

June 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27

July 10-11, 18-19, 24-25

Burr Ridge – IL AFL-CIO

999 McClintock Drive
Monday/Tuesday, 5-8 pm

May 20-21

June 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25

July 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

Contact Bill Looby at 217-494-4014 or Neal Waltmire 815-353-7655 for more information or to schedule volunteers.



Illinois AFL-CIO 6th Annual **COPE Golf Outing** Monday, June 10, 2013

For information contact Terri Payne at terrip@ilaf-cio.org or 217-492-2622. Reply by May 31.

Checks to: Illinois AFL-CIO COPE, 534 S. Second St., Ste. 200, Springfield, IL 62701-1764