

ILLINOIS AFL - CIO

NEWS UPDATE - 6/3/16

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

End of Session

In the weeks leading up to the regularly-scheduled end of session, bipartisan “working groups” met in an effort to reach an agreement on the budget and the Governor’s reform agenda (i.e. budget, collective bargaining, school mandates, and workers’ compensation reform). House Democrats approved a FY17 budget in **SB 2048** (SP Cullerton/Currie) that appropriates \$14 billion in general revenue funds, including funding for education and back pay for state employees, and continues to rely on court orders, consent decrees, and continuing appropriations for the majority of FY17 spending. House Republicans opposed the legislation, stating their belief that the bill was \$7 billion out of balance. The Senate voted on the motion to concur with the House on amendments to **SB 2048** – it failed 17-31-0.

The Senate approved a plan to fund a stand-alone K-12 education bill that provided additional funding to the Chicago teacher’s pension system, **HB 2990** (SP Cullerton/Currie). The legislature followed a similar plan last year, making elementary and secondary education the only portion of the FY16 budget to be approved by the Governor. Certain provisions in the bill for the Chicago Public Schools were deemed controversial, and just before midnight on May 31st the motion to concur were voted down by a vote 24-92-0.

Illinois is now entering its 12th month without an FY16 state budget and faces the potential of also entering FY17 without a budget. Local school superintendents are concerned about the ability to open schools in August if there is no FY17 state budget in place. The House is scheduled to return every Wednesday in June, beginning on June 8th. The Senate will be returning in the summer, yet to be determined.

Both Chambers Override Governor on Chicago Pension Bill

SB 777 passed the House 65-45-2 and the Senate 38-20-1 in 2015. The bill was held by the Senate under a “motion to reconsider”. It was sent to the Governor on March 31, 2016. Governor Rauner vetoed the bill on May 27, 2016. The Senate voted to override the veto with 39 yes votes (McCann only Republican who supported it), and the House followed suit with all democrats but Skoog voting yes. Representatives David Harris, McSweeney and McAuliffe were republicans who voted for override.

The new law is trying to smooth out the city’s pension contributions and avoiding a big property tax increase on city residents. If Chicago fails to make required pension payments, the bill allows for an intercept of state funds due the city and for the retirement funds to go to court to force payments. The bill also requires proceeds from a Chicago casino in the future to be allocated to the public safety retirement funds. Mayor Emanuel has been asking state lawmakers for a bill authorizing a city-owned casino, but that legislation was not called for a vote. **SB 777** is now **Public Act 99-506**.

Override Motion on Impartial Arbitrator Bill Fails

On May 31st, the House voted on a motion to override Governor Rauner’s veto of **HB 580**. The vote to override failed 68-49-1 (needed 71 votes). Sixty-eight Democrats voted for the override. Three House Democrats did not vote for the override (Franks voted present; Dunkin and Drury were “no” votes), no House Republican stood up for state employees. It would allow an impartial arbitrator to be chosen to resolve a contract dispute, with the arbitrator being chosen by mutual agreement from both parties in the dispute.

Domestic Worker Protection Bill

HB 1288 passed through both chambers this year, nearly unanimously. Under the proposal, domestic workers in Illinois such as nannies, house cleaners, and caregivers would be covered under the state's Minimum Wage Law, the Wages of Women and Minors Act, the One Day Rest in Seven Act and provisions of the Human Rights Act. Additionally, it will provide protections against sexual harassment.

The bill will now go to the Governor for his consideration.

Illinois AFL-CIO Economic Development Initiatives

SB 2531 (Lightford/Welch) and **SB 2600** (Delgado/Welch) passed both chambers this year. It seeks two labor spots and two minority spots with no charge, and no compensation on Economic Development Corporations. It applies only when public dollars have been contributed toward the regional EDC. **SB 2600** seeks two labor spots and two minority spots on Economic Development Commissions – which are set up through local public bodies. These bills will go to the Governor.

Victims of Economic Security and Safety Act

HB 4036 passed the Senate 40-14-0, and the House concurred 73-42-0. It would expand the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act to apply to all employers. **HB 4036** changes the law to offer workers at employers with 1-14 employees a total of four workweeks of leave to cope with the ramifications of domestic violence. The bill now goes to the Governor.

Sick Leave Bill

HB 6162 passed the House 78-35-0 and the Senate 38-19-0. The bill creates the Employee Sick Leave Act. Provides that employees may use personal sick leave benefits provided by the employer for absences due to an illness, injury, or medical appointment of the employee's family members for reasonable periods of time as the employee's attendance may be necessary. Provides that employers who have policies that provide the required leave do not have to modify those policies. The bill now goes to the Governor.

Firefighters' Bill

HB 1380 (Phelps/Forby) passed Senate 38-8-1 and the House 74-30-0. The bill states that unless mutually agreed otherwise, a party to a collective bargaining agreement who fails to timely comply with an interest or grievance arbitration award or, who after a timely demand, fails to submit a grievance dispute concerning the administration or interpretation of an agreement to arbitration, shall pay to the prevailing party in an enforcement action all reasonable costs. The bill now goes to the Governor, another pro-labor bill with veto proof majorities.

State Fairground and State Museum

HB 5783 (Wojicki-Jimenez/Manar) passed the Senate 38-18-0 at the end of May. It creates the Illinois State Fairground Foundation under the Department of Agriculture. Any projects undertaken by the foundation – will be paid prevailing wage. The legislation further requires that the State Museum in Springfield and its branch locations (Dickson Mounds, Lockport, Rend Lake, and the Thompson Center) shall be open to the public. The bill is in the House on calendar order of concurrence.

AFSCME Passes Livable Wage Legislation and DOC Measure

HB 5931 (Gabel/Steans) passed the House 67-43-0 and Senate 40-18. Provides that the Department of Human Services shall establish reimbursement rates which build toward livable wages for front line personnel in residential and day programs serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, supported by State funds or funding under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act. Provides that the Department shall increase rates and reimbursements so that direct support persons earn a base wage of not less than \$15 per hour and so that other front line personnel earn a commensurate wage.

Both chambers approved **HB 5104** (G Harris/Manar) this year. The bill is a joint initiative of the Illinois Nurses Association and AFSCME. It restricts IDOC's and IDJJ's ability to replace the 322 state employee who currently provide these critical services by bringing in private vendors to perform the work currently being provided by state employees.

Voter Registration Expansion Passes Senate

SB 250 (Manar/Gabel) passed the House 86-30-0 and the Senate 50-7-0. It provides for automatic voter registration. The main components of the plan include:

- Requires that on September 1, 2016, designated agencies under this Section shall transfer all personal information contained in relevant agency databases and collected since September 1, 2015 to the state board of elections for cross-reference against the statewide voter registration database. The state board of elections shall create voter registration applications for all persons who are not registered to vote in Illinois and are not disqualified, and shall transmit these voter registration applications to the appropriate election authorities for processing and registration.
- The agencies responsible for updating voter registration data under this new act include:
 - Secretary of State's Driver Services & Vehicle Services Departments;
 - Department of Human Services;
 - Department of Healthcare & Family Services;
 - Department of Employment Security;
 - Department on Aging; and
 - Any federal source that agrees to submit personal identification information to the State for voter registration purposes, and any other reliable state government source the State Board of Elections may designate.

The bill now goes to the Governor, with an immediate effective date, who has indicated his support.

Plumbers' Bill

HB 5913 passed the House 79-33-0, and the Senate 40-13-0. It requires a licensed plumber to provide proof of completing 4 hours of continuing education to renew his or her annual license. This bill was an initiative of the State Pipetrades, and it was signed by Governor Rauner on May 27th, PA 99-504.

Penalties for Non-compliant Building Trades Apprentices Programs

SB 3104 (Althoff/Jesiel) passed the House 111-0-1, and the Senate 55-0. Under that State Construction and Female Building Trades Act, each labor organization and other entity who fails to report minority numbers would be penalized. The penalty would first be a warning, followed by a \$100 penalty for each day after the 45th day from the warning. For a second violation, the penalty shall be \$250, and \$500 for a subsequent violation. This legislation goes to the Governor for his consideration.

SEIU Passes Service Provider Package

- The Workforce Security Bill for Home Healthcare Providers Serving People with Disabilities (SB 2931) would protect existing training and health insurance programs that Governor Rauner is demanding to eliminate at the bargaining table, and would raise wages to \$15 an hour for one of the lowest-paid state workforces. Passed both chambers. Sent to Governor on May 25th.
- The Workforce Security Bill for Home Healthcare Providers Serving Seniors (HB 5764) would protect existing health insurance and would provide a rate increase, phased in steadily over four years, to raise industry standards and wages to \$15 an hour. Passed both chambers.
- The Child Care Worker Protection Bill (SB 2536) would protect health care and training benefits for the child care workforce. Passed both chambers. Sent to Governor on May 25th.
- The Child Care Assistance Program bill (SB 730) Increases the CCAP eligibility threshold to 250% FPL, and phased in steadily over two years, will provide access to affordable, quality care to 52,961 additional children. Passed both chambers.

Verizon Workers Make Big Gains In Strike Agreement

After 45 days on strike, 40,000 Verizon workers made big gains on a proposed four-year agreement with the company.

Included in the agreement, the company will add 1,300 new east coast call center jobs and reverse outsourcing trends that will create new field technician positions. According to the Stand Up To Verizon website, it also includes: The four-year proposed agreement provides 10.9% in raises, a \$1250 signing bonus in the MidAtlantic and a \$1000 signing bonus plus a \$250 healthcare reimbursement account in the Northeast, \$2800 minimum in profit sharing, pension increases, and a first contract for Verizon Wireless retail store employees in Brooklyn, NY and Everett, MA.

In a statement from the website: "CWA appreciates the persistence and dedication of Secretary Perez, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director Allison Beck and their entire teams. The addition of good new jobs at Verizon is a huge win not just for striking workers, but for our communities and the country as a whole. This contract is a victory for working families across the country and an affirmation of the power of working people," said Chris Shelton, President of the Communications Workers of America. "It proves that when we stand together we can raise up working families, improve our communities and advance the interests of America's working people."

Trump Hypocrisy Showing; Profiting From Outsourcers Carrier and Oreo

It's a familiar refrain by now. Donald Trump likes to talk the talk when it comes to workers about outsourcing jobs. But he doesn't walk the walk.

Not only is the presumptive GOP nominee for President an outsourcer himself, but he's profiting off companies he bashes in public speeches for shipping jobs out of the United States.

According to research findings in Trump's financial disclosure report by American Bridge, Trump reported interest from Mondelez International, the parent company of Oreo, and United Technologies, which owns Carrier. Click here for a video about the Trump outsourcing hypocrisy: <http://www.aflcio.org/Blog/Political-Action-Legislation/Another-New-Trump-Hypocrisy-Exposed>

The facts show that Trump outsources jobs himself, profits from companies that ship jobs out of our communities, supports Right To Work and fights to keep his workers from joining unions.

The Trump rhetoric doesn't match the record.

REMINDER

Illinois AFL-CIO COPE
General Election
Endorsements

June 7, 2016

State House Inn - Springfield, IL
Registration 8 AM - Meeting 9:30 AM



Vote for Pullman
at www.voteyourpark.org/pullman
"Early and often" 