

ILLINOIS AFL - CIO

NEWS UPDATE - 06/30/17



Today is the final day of the 2017 fiscal year for the state. If the Governor and legislators don't enact a budget into law by today – road projects, lottery games, state universities and social services will continue layoffs and shutting down. The Democrats have given Rauner 90% of what he wants for a budget. They have passed workers' compensation reform (HB 200, HB 2525 & HB 2622), pension reform (HB 4045), and government consolidation (HB 171). An attempt to pass a four year property tax freeze was made, but only one Republican voted for it (SB 484), and it failed. The general assembly is expected to be in session this weekend.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Adopts Budget Amendment for Next Fiscal Year

The Illinois House adopted an amendment to **SB 6** in a bipartisan fashion. It is a \$36.5 billion spending plan for the state of Illinois to keep our government open. It includes \$1.7 billion for higher education and \$8.2 billion for the state board of education. The bill would keep IDOT projects open and workers receiving pay checks. The legislation was filed late last night and it is still being analyzed. The vote to adopt the amendment was 90-25.

Workers Have Their Voice Heard on Pensions

Last Sunday, the Illinois House held a Committee of the Whole on public pensions. IFT President Dan Montgomery testified with the We Are One attorney, John Stevens. Alongside Montgomery, was an IFT Vice President LeeAnn Gemmingen. The Republicans took turns attacking Montgomery and Gemmingen. Rhetoric was terse at times coming from Representatives seeking to cut pensions, asking questions that alluded to teachers having inflated salaries, skirting paying taxes on retirement income, and not paying enough of their fair share to the Teachers Retirement System.

IFT panelists corrected these unfair and false claims while reminding lawmakers that these proposals would diminish pensions, which has already been deemed unconstitutional by the Illinois Supreme Court.

On Wednesday, the House passed **HB 4045** with 61 votes. It contains a consideration option for tier 1 active employees; a pension buyout for tier 1 vested, inactive members; creation of a tier 3 hybrid plan; and a voluntary defined contribution plan for tier 1. The bill still needs to be voted on in the Senate.

Right to Work Zone Ban Passes House

SB 1905 passed the House this week by a vote of 67-38-0. The bill stipulates that it is the policy of the State that employers, employees, and their labor organizations are free to bargain collectively. It essentially prohibits local bodies from passing right to work zones. The legislation needs approval by the Senate for final passage.

Minority Leader Christine Radogno Resigns

The leader of the Senate Republican caucus, Christine Radogno (R – Lemont), announced abruptly on Thursday that her last day as a senator will be July 1st (Saturday). In her statement, Leader Radogno said “I have particularly enjoyed my friendship and working relationship with Senate President John Cullerton that began the day we were chosen as Leaders of our respective caucuses.”

Leader Radogno served in the Senate for twenty years. She plans on devoting more time to family.

Senator Bill Brady (R – Bloomington) was chosen to replace her as Minority Leader. Brady is best remembered for his failed attempt to be Governor in 2010, when he lost to Pat Quinn.



Senate Postpones ACA Repeal Vote Following Dire Projections

Illinois Loses Big Under Plan; Rauner Silent

U.S. Senate Republican leadership deelayed a planned vote on its version of healthcare reform this week following a Congressional Budget Office report saying 22 million people would lose their health insurance if signed into law.

United Democratic opposition along with several Republicans have dimmed the chances of the bill's passage. GOP leaders planned to attempt changes to mollify Republicans hesitant to support the bill – a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. The Senate version was very similar to the House version that passed that chamber – especially the net effect of slashing Medicaid, cutting Medicare and dumping people out of their coverage.

“Make no mistake, this bill isn't a health care plan at all. It's a massive transfer of wealth from workers to Wall Street,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “It obliterates Medicaid. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget

Office, it would increase the number of uninsured Americans by 22 million. And it cuts taxes for millionaires while raising taxes on hard-working men and women who have negotiated high-quality health care.”

Rauner Gets Big Tax Break; Won't Oppose GOP Plan

Gov. Bruce Rauner has remained silent on the Republican legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Some 600,000 people could lose coverage and millions with pre-existing conditions could lose protections.

With the tax breaks granted to the wealthy under the GOP plan, Rauner – a billionaire – stands to personally benefit from the legislation.



The Illinois AFL-CIO joined with Rep. Lisa Hernandez, members of the Latino Caucus and affiliated unions at the Capitol on Wednesday in support of a bipartisan effort authorizing table games at racetracks to salvage Illinois' agribusiness economy, save 30,000 jobs and preserve the livelihood of thousands of Latino workers. Labor organizations supporting HA 2 to Senate Bill 7 include UNITE HERE Local 450, Operating Engineers Local 399 and Teamsters Joint Council 25.

911 Call Center Act to Expire – Unless Rauner Signs Bill

The telecommunications act that provides for 911 fees to be collected and distributed to 911 call centers is set to expire today. **HB 1811** will increase phone fees to pay for emergency services and allow Illinois to drop traditional landline service. It would go to \$5 from \$3.90 in Chicago and from 87 cents to \$1.50 in the rest of the state.

SB 1839 passed in May. **HB 1811** passed this week. Both bills passed with veto proof majorities in both chambers. However, the Governor amendatorily vetoed **SB 1839** today.