



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michael T. Carrigan, President  
Timothy E. Drea, Secretary Treasurer

*Published for Labor Activists*

April 3, 2009

**Call The Illinois AFL-CIO at (217) 544-4014 For More Information  
On These And Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People**

This week, the Illinois House and Senate both conducted marathon sessions in order to meet their deadline to pass substantive bills in the chamber in which the legislation was introduced. While the Senate adjourned for the traditional two-week Spring Break late Thursday evening, the House is still voting on substantive pieces of legislation.

Once the House adjourns later today, both chambers of the legislature will stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 21.

Due to the House still being in session, a more complete and detailed update will be prepared on Monday.

## STATE NEWS

### GOVERNOR SIGNS CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION BILL

*Bill described as a jump start capital bill to meet needs of Illinois' Roads*

On Thursday night, lawmakers passed House Bill 289 to transfer \$200 million from the state's road fund to sell \$2 billion in bonds to build and repair roads and bridges in the state. In addition, the legislation also transferred \$100 million out of the General Revenue Fund to bond and get \$1 billion for mass transit capital improvements.

House Bill 210, the companion spending legislation, appropriated funding to allow IDOT to immediately seek bids for road and bridge projects

that were deemed "shovel ready."

In addition, HB 210 appropriated \$109 million in funding to reopen state historic sights, hire additional staff and provide nearly \$5 million in enhanced funds for unemployed individuals, along with other essential state services.

It is expected that after returning from Spring Break, lawmakers will begin to work on a comprehensive Capital Construction Plan which will include vertical construction components.

#### **HB 2445 - Omnibus Collective Bargaining Act**

Rep. Chapa LaVia (D-Aurora)/Sen. Sullivan (D-Rushville)  
**SUPPORT**

Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. Provides for public employees wishing to form a union to sign union authorization cards OR majority interest petitions, not both. Provides for minimum staffing levels at each of the boards. Requires each board to return decisions on certification of an union within 120 days.

**4/3/09 - Passed House 91-25-0. 1st Reading in Senate.**

#### **SB 43 - Prevailing Wage in TIF/Enterprise Zones**

Sen. Clayborne (D-East St. Louis)  
Rep. Fritchey (D-Chicago)

#### **SUPPORT**

Workers on projects in TIF/Enterprise Zones in Illinois would be paid the prevailing wage in the area.

**4/1/09 - Passed Senate 34-21. 1st Reading in the House.**

#### **SB 1350 - Unemployment Insurance**

Sen. Forby (D-Benton)/Rep. Phelps (D-Harrisburg)

#### **SUPPORT**

Provides for one year of unemployment insurance during a lockout situation with an employer.

**4/2/09 - Passed House 37-19-1. 1st Reading in House.**

#### **SB 1559 - Buy American**

Sen. Koehler (D-Peoria)/Rep. Hernandez (D-Cicero)  
**SUPPORT**

Provides that a municipality and school district shall require that all vehicles purchased or leased for use be American made vehicles.

**3/31/09 - Passed Senate 51-0-1. 1st Reading in House.**

#### **SB 1827 - Firefighter Pension**

Sen. Noland (D-Elgin)

#### **SUPPORT**

Amends the Downstate Firefighter Article of the Illinois Pension Code and allows firefighters employed by a village with a population on July 1, 2007 of greater than 9,000 but less than 12,000 that were excluded from participation in a downstate firefighter fund prior to January 1, 1996 because the firefighter earned credit for that service under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Article for the same municipality to establish creditable service for those periods of employment for that municipality's emergency services as a firefighter, EMT, or paramedic.

**4/2/09 - Passed Senate 30-19-4. 1st Reading in House**