



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

The Illinois General Assembly returned to Springfield after a two week break. They mainly concentrated on passing bills out of their respective committees. Next week both chambers return on Tuesday, April 28th at noon.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday April 28th is Workers Memorial Day. Please join us as we remember those workers who have suffered and died on the job and dedicate ourselves to continue the fight for safe workplaces and to make workers' issues a priority in the Congress and State Legislature. For a list of Workers Memorial Day Events please visit: www.ilafli-cio.org/events.htm .

**MOURN
FOR THE DEAD.
FIGHT
FOR THE LIVING.**

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28 • AFL-CIO

STATE NEWS

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. We urge you to please call your legislator and ask them to support this measure on the House floor.

4/22/09 – Passed House Labor Committee 14-10-1. Second Reading.

SB 223 – Prevailing Wage

Sen. Forby (D – Benton)/Rep. Miller (D – Dolton)

SUPPORT

Would require payment of prevailing wage on all projects financed in whole or in part with bonds, grants, loans, or other funds made available by or through the State or any of its political subdivisions. It would exempt work directly done by a public utility.

4/22/09 – Passed House Labor 14-7-0. Third Reading in House.

SB 2009 – Public University Energy

Sen. Righter (R – Mattoon)
Rep. Rose (R – Charleston)

NEUTRAL

Amends the Public University Energy Conservation Act. Provides that, from the effective date of the amendatory Act until January 1, 2015,

"energy conservation measure" includes a renewable energy center pilot project at Eastern Illinois University, provides that prevailing wage is paid on projects. Provides that these provisions are inoperative after January 1, 2015. Effective immediately.

4/23/09 – Passed the Senate 50-0-0. 1st Reading in House.

HB 185 – MRSA Screening

Rep. Bellock (R – Westmont)

SUPPORT

Creates the MRSA Prevention, Control, and Reporting Act. Sets forth methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus ("MRSA") prevention, control, and reporting activities that are applicable to State residential facilities (that is, any State mental health hospital, State developmental center, or State residential school for the deaf and visually impaired; any Department of Corrections operated correctional center, work camp or boot camp; and any Department of Juvenile Justice operated juvenile center or boot camp).

4/22/09 – Passed Senate Public Health 7-0-0. Second Reading in Senate.

HJR 31 – American Made Products

Rep. Beiser (D – Alton)

SUPPORT

Provides that the State is committed to using economic

recovery plan moneys to purchase materials, goods, and services that are produced within the United States.

4/22/09 – Passed House Labor Committee 25-0-0. Calendar Order of Resolutions

HR 55 - Fair Trade Resolution

Rep. Turner (D - Chicago)

SUPPORT

Calls upon federal policy makers to support policies that promote American interests by requiring full reciprocity, fairness, and transparency in all U.S. trade agreements, including such areas as labor and environmental standards, support actions to combat the illegal and mercantilist practice of prolonged currency misalignment, support the elimination of tax disadvantages which undermine the competitiveness of U.S. producers both at home and abroad or which discourage investment in America, support the aggressive enforcement of U.S. laws to halt foreign illegal trade activities such as dumping, subsidies, and intellectual property theft, and ensure that goods sold domestically meet U.S. food and product safety standards.

4/22/09 – Passed International Trade & Commerce 10-0-0. Second Reading.

Illinois Senate Passes EFCA Resolution

The Illinois Senate, on Wednesday, passed the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) Resolution by a vote of 33 to 22. The resolution, initiated by the Illinois AFL-CIO and sponsored by Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-40), encourages Congress to pass the federal EFCA legislation that will give workers in the private sector the right to more easily join a union, bargain for a fair contract in a timely manner and be free from employer harassment during organizing drives.

IFT & AFSCME Holding Legislative Forums Around State

The Illinois Federation of Teachers and AFSCME are conducting a series of nine regional legislative meetings throughout the state to urge lawmakers to pass new revenue and stop talks of cutting pension benefits for public employees. IFT and AFSCME are sharing leadership roles in the forums which range from Cook county, Lake and Will counties to downstate areas. Union member witnesses will offer testimony to Illinois State Representatives and State Senators and raise questions about what type of revenue they can support and if they will oppose Gov. Quinn's budget plan to slash pension benefits. For a full list of the forums please visit the Illinois Federation of Teachers website at: <http://www.ift-aft.org>

Illinois AFL-CIO Legislative Directories Now Available

The new 2009-2010 Illinois AFL-CIO legislative directories have been printed and are available for distribution. Our greatest strength in Illinois is our union members remaining politically and legislatively active to inform our state's leaders of issues important to working families. Our directory will provide you a complete listing of contact information for legislators and state agencies, and it is small enough to carry in your pocket.

If you have not ordered copies of this directory and would like to do so please contact Beth Spencer, Illinois AFL-CIO Communications Director, at (217) 492-2631.

SEIU Hosts Rally on Capitol Steps for Fair Funding

1,500 members of the Campaign for Illinois' Future – a broad and growing coalition of community, advocacy and labor organizations – gathered in front of the State Capitol's Lincoln Statue in Springfield on Wednesday to urge the Governor and members of the Illinois General Assembly to protect Illinois families from harmful budget cuts by passing a budget that includes a fair income tax increase. Keith Kelleher, President of the Service Employees International Union Health Care Illinois & Indiana (SEIU HCI&I), lead led the rally that included remarks from Governor Quinn, Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan, IFT President Ed Geppert, President of SEIU #73 Christine Boardman, and President of the IEA Ken Swanson.

NATIONAL NEWS

Illinois's Szabo Close to Confirmation for National Post

On Tuesday, Joe Szabo, Illinois legislative director for UTU, Illinois AFL-CIO vice president and President Obama's pick to be the next Federal Railroad Administrator, went before the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee as a first step towards his confirmation.

Szabo was introduced by Sen. Dick Durbin who told committee members, "Joe Szabo understands better than most the long days, unpredictable schedules and sometimes hazardous working conditions that come with employment in the railroad industry. Joe has worked for the railroad since he was 18 years old, including stints as a yard switchman, road trainman and commuter passenger conductor. He is uniquely qualified to hold this job."

Szabo told the committee his top priorities if appointed would be rail safety and properly managing the distribution of \$1.3 billion in Amtrak funding and \$8 billion in funding for state passenger rail programs.

Szabo's appointment must be voted on by the full Senate. The vote is expected in the very near future.

Duckworth Confirmed as V.A. Asst. Secretary

On Thursday, former Illinois Director of Veterans' Affairs Tammy Duckworth was confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs at the national Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Duckworth, a major in the Illinois National Guard, was deployed to Iraq in 2004, where she was severely injured when her Black Hawk helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. She lost both of her legs in the crash. In 2006, Duckworth ran for Congress in the Illinois 6th District. She was endorsed by the Illinois AFL-CIO. She lost the election but was appointed director of the Illinois V.A. later that year.

Duckworth was nominated by President Obama for the Assistant V.A. post. She will report to the Secretary Ret. General Eric Shinseki.