



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 General Assembly has set the dates for the 2009 Veto Session. They will return to Springfield from October 14-16 (Wednesday - Friday) and October 28-30 (Wednesday - Friday). In addition the Senate has scheduled their first day of session in 2010, that day will be Tuesday, January 12.

Quinn Signs Key Legislation For Teacher Unions

Governor Quinn signed two bills Thursday, Senate Bill 612 and Senate Bill 1984, that were an agreement and the result of more than nine months of negotiations between the Chicago Teachers Union, Chicago Public Schools, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Education Association, the Illinois Network of Charter Schools, the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club and other stakeholders.

SB 612 - (Sen. Lightford/Rep. J. Mitchell) - allowed for an increase in charters (single campus), defined and placed a hard cap on the number of contract schools and contract turnaround schools that can open in Chicago and provides for an additional 5 charter schools to deal solely with high school dropouts. These 5 charters can replicate up to 15 campuses each but have a total charter enrollment cap of 1,875 students per charter and an individual campus cannot exceed an enrollment of 165. In addition, and most important for the labor movement was the fact that with this increase in charters the legislation requires charter schools to be more accountable and transparent. Requires 75% of teachers statewide to be certified under IL certification laws (allowing for a three year phase in) (current law is at 50% in Chicago and 0% downstate), puts in place a revocation mechanism for charters that are not in compliance, and most importantly.

Passed House 115-0-2. Passed Senate 45-10-1. PA 96-0105

SB 1984 - (Sen. Lightford/Rep. M. Davis) - Provides full collective bargaining rights and card check for charter school and contractor school employees under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, including instructional employees who work in charter schools and contract schools where there are subcontractors.

Passed House 102-14-0. Passed Senate 37-19-2. PA 96-0104

Quinn Signs Bill for Additional Financing on Energy Project

SB 1906 - (Sen. Clayborne/Rep. Black) - Governor Quinn signed this legislation Wednesday in Chicago. It will provide financing guarantees for clean coal projects, agriculture projects and other renewable energy plans. Under the law, Illinois will produce \$3 billion for renewable energy and clean coal developments. In addition, the loan guarantees for agricultural businesses from the state will increase from \$75 million to \$225 million. This law also positions Illinois to compete for federal stimulus loan guarantees designated for the new green projects.

Passed House 118-0-0. Passed Senate 52-0-1. PA 96-0103

COPE Conference Set for Early December

In preparation for the Feb. 2, 2010 Primary Election, the Illinois AFL-CIO will have its COPE Conference on Dec. 7-8. The conference will include a political briefing on the national and state political environment on Monday Dec. 7. The COPE Primary Election Endorsement Session is set for Tuesday, Dec. 8.

The candidate filing period ends Nov. 2. Questionnaires will be sent to candidates immediately upon filing.

COPE Endorsement Conference

Political Briefing - Monday, Dec. 8

COPE Endorsement Session - Tuesday, Dec. 9

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Senate Redistricting Committee Begins Hearings

2010 Elections Will be a Prelude to Remap

On Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Redistricting held its first hearing to begin the process of redistricting State and Congressional Legislative Districts. Following the 2010 elections, the 97th General Assembly in 2011 will take up the issue of Reapportionment which will have a large impact on the partisan make-up of the General Assembly until 2022.

Under the Legislative Article of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Legislative Districts must be reapportioned by law prior to June 30 in the year following each Federal decennial census. If no law is enacted by June 30, a Legislative Redistricting Commission is appointed of 8 members, 4 members from each political party. If an agreement cannot be obtained among the 8 Commissioners, a lottery is held between the name of 1 Democrat and 1 Republican to determine the fifth and tie breaking member.

Currently, it is expected that both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate will have the votes necessary to pass a redistricting plan in the spring of 2011. However, to become law, the redistricting plan must be signed by the Governor. If the redistricting plan is vetoed by the Governor, the General Assembly would then need a supermajority vote (3/5) to override the veto. The Illinois Senate currently has 37 Democratic members, one more than the necessary 36 needed to override but the Illinois House falls one short of a veto proof majority with 70 Democratic members.

The Senate Redistricting Committee is scheduled to hold additional hearings in Springfield on August 18, in Peoria on September 16 and in Carbondale on October 13.

SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES OVER \$27 MILLION IN TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING FOR ILLINOIS

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) announced today that the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved \$27,004,744 in federal funding for Illinois transportation and economic development projects. While these projects have passed the Appropriations committee, this is just the first step in a long process. The AFL-CIO will continue monitor and update you on this legislation as it progresses through Congress and the U.S. Senate.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 appropriations bill for the Department of Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations includes funding for the following projects:

Department of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration:

- **CTA Circle Line, Chicago:** \$2,000,000 in funding to advance the Circle Line. The project, which is currently in Alternatives Analysis, will connect the existing CTA Orange Line near Ashland with the existing Pink Line Cermak Branch near 18th Street. It will also connect CTA Red and Brown Lines near North/Clybourn and add new CTA and Metra transfer stations along new and existing CTA tracks.
- **CTA Ravenswood Brown Line, Chicago:** \$304,744 in funding for capacity expansion and station rehabilitation along the Brown Line. This funding is part of the Full Funding Grant Agreement signed in 2003.
- **CTA Red Line North Rehabilitation, Chicago:** \$10,000,000 in funding for major rehabilitation of the north end of the CTA Red Line, which is one of the worst segments of the CTA system.
- **Illinois Bus and Bus Facilities, Statewide:** \$4,000,000 in funding to purchase of new buses and the modernization and construction of bus facilities in areas outside of the RTA service region. This year, IDOT has identified almost \$32 million in capital needs for downstate transit systems. The annual transit formula funding programs are not enough to meet these needs.
- **Metra, Northeastern Illinois:** \$2,000,000 in funding for preliminary engineering on METRA's Union Pacific Northwest, Union Pacific West, Suburban Transit Access Route (STAR) and SouthEast Service Lines.

Surface Transportation Program

- **Knoxville Road, Mercer County:** \$500,000 in funding for the reconstruction and improvement of Knoxville Road. The Knoxville Road in Mercer County runs across the northeast corner of the County from Rock Island County to Henry County, carrying the second largest volume of traffic in the entire County. The road does not meet current construction and safety standards.

Federal Railroad Administration:

- **Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Mitigation, Galesburg:** \$3,000,000 in funding to accelerate the City's efforts to build rail-road grade separations at East Main, West Main and Seminary streets.
- **Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Mitigation, Northeastern Illinois:** \$2,000,000 in funding to help communities along the EJ&E improve safety along at-grade railroad crossings experiencing significant increases in freight traffic
- **PEERS Rail-Grade Crossing Safety, Illinois:** \$500,000 in funding for the PEERS program to improve rail-grade crossing safety through education and enforcement

initiatives. An Illinois Commerce Commission report quantitatively demonstrated the effectiveness of the PEERS program in improving safety at highway-rail crossings, detailing how the program helped reduce fatalities along a Union Pacific line by 56.5% in two years.

Federal Aviation Administration:

- **Southern Illinois University Airport, Carbondale:** \$800,000 in funding to construct an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Building and Snow Removal facility. This building will bring the firefighting equipment closer to the midpoint of the air carrier runway, permitting a quicker response time, and consolidate five widely-spread facilities currently being used by the airport's fire and snow removal crews.
- **Quad Cities International Airport, Moline:** \$500,000 in funding for runway reconstruction and extension. The project will rebuild and extend the airport's main runway.

Department Of Housing And Urban Development (Economic Development Initiatives)

- **East Springfield Redevelopment, Springfield:** \$350,000 in funding for the acquisition of abandoned properties and the upgrade of infrastructure on the East Side of Springfield.
- **Danville Neighborhood Improvement Program, Danville:** \$350,000 in funding for the acquisition, demolition and redevelopment of dilapidated and abandoned structures in Danville. These buildings have brought down home values in the community, increased the potential for criminal activity, and have created a safety risk in the City.
- **Peoria Glen Oak and Southern Gateway Neighborhoods Improvement, Peoria:** \$250,000 in funding for critical public infrastructure improvements around the Glen Oak Community School and Harrison Community School. The two schools are the anchors for their respective neighborhoods. The proposed improvements will help to stabilize and revitalize the area.
- **Quincy Neighborhood Stabilization Expansion Program, Quincy:** \$200,000 in funding to expand the City's efforts to acquire blighted residential properties and produce affordable housing and facilitate mixed-use development.
- **Rockford West Side Economic Development Initiative, Rockford:** \$250,000 in funding for the development of a 57-acre parcel located at the corner of West State and Springfield Ave. -- the mixed-use development would include a senior living facility, an immediate care facility, a private ambulance service and a fire training facility --and for road, sewer, utility and stormwater upgrades.



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