



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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On These And Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People

The Illinois General Assembly will return on Tuesday, May 5. Both Chambers will convene at noon. Next week is the final week to pass substantive bills out of committee. Both Chambers are scheduled to be in session through Friday, May 8.

## STATE NEWS

### **HB 38 – Fire House Construction and Remodeling**

Rep. Moffit (R – Galesburg)  
Sen. Noland (D – Elgin)

#### **SUPPORT**

Authorizes the Illinois Finance Authority and the State Fire Marshal jointly to administer a revolving loan program for the construction and rehabilitation of fire stations.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate Local Government 8-0-0.**

### **HB 77 – Firefighter Death/Flag Half Staff**

Rep. Cole (R – Grayslake)  
Sen. Althoff (R – Crystal Lake)

#### **SUPPORT**

Requires that the U.S. national and Illinois State flags be displayed at half-staff when an Illinois firefighter is killed in the line of duty.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate State Government 8-0-0.  
Second Reading.**

### **HB 163 – Prevailing Wage**

Rep. Tryon (R – Crystal Lake)  
Sen. Althoff (R – Crystal Lake)

#### **NEUTRAL**

Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Provides that when a public body or other entity covered by the Act has awarded work to a contractor without a public bid, contract or project specification, such public body or other entity shall provide the contractor with written notice on the purchase order related to the work to be done or on a separate document indicating that not less than the prevailing rate of wages as found by the public body or Department of Labor or determined by the court on review shall be paid

to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work on the project.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate Labor 9-0-0. Second Reading.**

### **HB 267 – Grace Period Registration**

Rep. Davis (D – Chicago)  
Sen. Meeks (D – Chicago)

#### **SUPPORT**

Amends the Election Code. Permits grace period registration until the 7th day (now, the 14th day) before the election or primary.

**4/28/09 – Passed Senate Elections 5-4-0.  
Second Reading.**

### **HB 338 – Renewable Fuels**

Rep. Franks (D – Woodstock)  
Sen. Althoff (R – Crystal Lake)

#### **Monitor**

Amends the Illinois Renewable Fuels Development Program Act. Provides that a grant recipient must be constructing, modifying, altering, or retrofitting a plant that has annual production capacity of no less than 5,000,000 (now, 30,000,000) gallons of renewable fuel per year.

**4/28/09 – Passed Senate Agriculture 9-0-0.  
Second Reading.**

### **HB 571 – DCEO Report on Fed Economic Stimulus Package**

Rep. Mulligan (R – Des Plaines)  
Sen. Harmon (D – Oak Park)

#### **Monitor**

Creates the Federal Stimulus Tracking Act. Requires the Office of the Governor, or a designated state agency, to track and report the state's spending of federal stimulus

moneys. Sets forth the requirements of monthly reports. Requires that a final report be available online at the conclusion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program or December 31, 2014, whichever occurs first.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate Executive 11-0-0.  
Second Reading.**

### **HB 613 - Competitive Bidding by Electronic Process**

Rep. Eddy (R - Hutsonville)  
Sen. Cronin (R – Lombard)

#### **Monitor**

In provisions requiring certain contracts to be awarded by competitive bid, provides that the acceptance of bids sealed by a bidder and the opening of these bids at a public bid opening may be permitted by an electronic process for communicating, accepting, and opening competitive bids; requires certain safeguards. An amendment added this week would provide that bids for construction purposes are prohibited from being communicated, accepted, or opened electronically.

**4/28/09 – Passed Senate Education 9-0-0.  
Second Reading.**

### **HB 680 - Renewable Fuels**

Rep. Moffitt (R - Galesburg)  
Sen. Risinger (R – Peoria)

#### **Monitor**

Authorizes the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to award, in excess of the annual aggregate grant total, up to \$ 4 million to a grant applicant who installs advanced technologies for water usage, carbon foot-

print reduction, and other blending improvements designed to optimize processes at the applicant's renewable fuels facility.

**4/28/09 – Passed Senate Agriculture Committee 9-0-0. Second Reading.**

**HB 2376 - State Facility Closure**

Rep. Gordon (D - Coal City)  
Sen. Crotty (D – Oak Forest)

**SUPPORT**

Provides that, if appropriations have been made for the current fiscal year for the operation of a state facility during the entire fiscal year, then no action may be taken to close the facility, to reduce its capacity to serve the number of residents, youth, or inmates for which the appropriation was made, or to move its location from the county in which the service is provided, unless the action is specifically approved by the same joint resolution of the General Assembly.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate State Government 7-2-0. Second Reading.**

**HB 2394 – TIF Zones in Non-blighted Areas**

Rep. Walker (D - Arlington Heights)  
President Cullerton (D – Chicago)

**Monitor**

Provides that a redevelopment project area may include areas within a one-half mile radius of an existing or proposed Regional Transportation Authority Suburban Transit Access Route (STAR line) station without a finding that the area is classified as an industrial park conservation area, conservation area, or a blighted area.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate Revenue 8-0-0. Second Reading.**

**HB 2445 - Omnibus Collective Bargaining Act**

Rep. Chapa LaVia (D - Aurora)  
Sen. Sullivan (D – Rushville)

**SUPPORT (AFL-CIO initiative)**

Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. Makes changes concerning Board attorneys and investigators, choice of employee organization, unit clarification petitions, and arbitration procedures. Effective immediately.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate Labor 9-0-1. Second Reading.**

**HB 3634 – Equal Pay Act Record Keeping**

Rep. Currie (D – Chicago)  
Sen. Lightford (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Equal Pay Act of 2003. Provides that an employee or former employee may file a complaint with the Department of Labor alleging a violation of the Act by submitting a signed, completed complaint form, and all complaints shall be filed with the Department within one year from the date of the underpayment. Requires an employer subject to the Act to preserve specified records for not less than 5 (rather than 3) years and shall make reports from the records as prescribed by rule or order of the Director of Labor, unless the records relate to an ongoing investigation or enforcement action under the Act, in which case the records must be maintained until their destruction is authorized by the Department or by court order.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate Labor Hearing 9-0-0. Second Reading.**

**SB 1715 – Public Labor Relations**

Sen. Harmon (D – Oak Park)  
Rep. Miller (D – Dolton)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. With respect to collective bargaining of an initial agreement between non-public safety employees and an employer with fewer than 35 employees, establishes a schedule for (i) commencing bargaining, (ii) in the event of a dispute, requesting mediation from the Illinois Public Labor Relations Board in accordance with the Act's provisions for public safety employee mediation, and (iii) in the event of an impasse, requesting arbitration in accordance with certain of the Act's provisions for public safety employee arbitration.

**4/30/09 – Passed Senate 51-0-0. 1st Reading in House.**

**SB 1909 – STAR Bonds**

Sen. Clayborne (D – East St. Louis)  
Rep. Holbrook (D – Belleville)

**SUPPORT**

Allows for Sales Tax and Revenue (STAR) bonds in Illinois as an economic development incentive tool designed to use new local and

state sales tax revenues generated by a major tourism, entertainment and related destination project to pay for certain costs of the project. STAR bonds can be used to pay for public infrastructure costs (including roads, site preparation and utilities) and were the primary reason the major destination retail and entertainment tenants. STAR bonds are not obligations of the state or local government, but rather are repaid entirely from the sales and transient guest tax revenues generated by the projects within the defined geographic district.

**4/30/09 – Passed House Revenue 10-2-0. Second Reading.**

**SB 1923 – Wind Farms**

Sen. Garret (D – Highwood)  
Rep. Holbrook (D – Belleville)

**SUPPORT**

Provides that businesses that intend to establish a new wind power facility in Illinois may be considered "high impact businesses" and qualify for certain occupation tax exemptions. Exempts businesses that intend to establish new wind power facilities from provisions of the Act requiring applicants for designation as high impact businesses to provide the Department with (i) the prospective plan for which 1,500 full-time jobs would be eliminated if the business is not designated and (ii) proof of alternative non-Illinois sites which would receive the proposed investment and job creation if the business is not designated, and from provisions of the Act concerning revocation of high impact business status. Requires payment of prevailing hourly wages.

**4/29/09 – Passed House E & E 17-0-0. Third Reading.**

**SR 54 - Consolidation of Pension Systems**

Sen. Frerichs (D - Champaign)

**SUPPORT**

Instructs the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to study the economic impact on Central Illinois of the number of jobs that would be eliminated due to the consolidation of investment authority in the State Universities Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of State of Illinois.

**4/29/09 – Passed Senate 53-0-1.**



## Workers' Memorial Day 2009

On Tuesday, union members all across the country honored those who have lost their lives or been injured on the job. In Illinois events were held in 10 communities including Alton, Bloomington, Decatur, Galesburg, Joliet, Peoria, Quad Cities, Rockford, Springfield and Spring Valley.

Gov. Quinn attended the Decatur ceremony where he told union members that a safe work environment is every worker's right and the responsibility of government, labor and business.

Gov. Quinn was introduced by Illinois AFL-CIO President and Decatur Mayor Michael T. Carrigan.



### **Solis Vows Safety Enforcement**

*Also on Tuesday, national Labor Secretary Hilda Solis told workers gathered at the National Labor College in Maryland, "When it comes to workplace protection, workplace health and workplace safety, let me be clear – the Department of Labor is back in the enforcement business. Under my watch enforcement of our labor laws will be intensified to provide an effective deterrent to employers who put their workers' lives at risk."*

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Obama's First 100 Days Full of Victories for Workers**

Wednesday marked the 100th day of Barack Obama's presidency. In that short time, the president and his administration have dramatically changed the course of federal government to benefit working families.

- 1) The Obama budget will bolster the economy, create health care reform and invest in education, clean energy and green jobs. It also provides tax cuts for the middle-class rather than the wealthy and corporations.
- 2) The economic recovery package will create an estimated 3.5 million jobs, invest in roads, bridges, mass transit, schools, clean water projects and additional infrastructure. And it extends and increases unemployment benefits.
- 3) President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) Days later, the President signed the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) authorizing health coverage for 11 million children from low-income homes. Bush had vetoed the bill twice before.
- 5) The Obama Administration created the Task Force on Middle Class Working Families – chaired by Vice President Biden and including the Secretary of Labor.
- 6) Executive Orders were issued reversing anti-worker orders by President Bush, including overturning Bush's ban on project labor agreements on federally funded construction.
- 7) The President appointed Hilda Solis, the daughter of union members and supporter of the Employee Free Choice Act, as Secretary of Labor.
- 8) The Labor Department has begun establishing new safety standards and more stringent enforcement of existing laws to protect workers.

### **Szabo Confirmed as Federal Railroad Administrator**

On Wednesday, Joe Szabo, UTU legislative director for Illinois and Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board member, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the new administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

Szabo, a career railroader, was selected by President Obama for the position. He will oversee the 800-person agency.

The Federal Railroad Administration is one of seven agencies within the Department of Transportation dealing with intermodal transport. It was created in 1966 through the Department of Transportation Act.

The agency enforces rail safety regulations, administers railroad assistance programs and conducts research and development to improve railroad safety and efficiency and national rail transportation policy.

*Save the Date*

**Monday • June 8, 2009**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual COPE Golf**

**Outing at The Rail**