



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Published for Labor Activists

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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 will return on Tuesday, May 12. Both Chambers will convene at noon. The House and Senate will now have two weeks to pass substantive bills. The last week following Memorial Day will be used to consider the budget for Fiscal Year 2010.

STATE NEWS

HB 1175 - Fire Sprinklerfitter Inspections

Rep. Burke (D - Chicago)
Sen. Frerichs (D - Champaign)

SUPPORT

Amends the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act. Requires that a copy of the fire sprinkler inspection report for a facility must be forwarded to the local fire department or fire protection district in which the sprinkler system is located.

5/6/09 - Passed Senate Licensed Activities 8-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 3878 - Health Facility Closure Statement

Rep. Bradley (D - Marion)
Sen. Forby (D - Benton)

SUPPORT

Provides 90 days public notice and regulates the closure procedures for the closing of a health care facility.

5/5/09 - Passed Senate Public Health 9-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 4251 - Staffing Levels

Rep. Phelps (D - Harrisburg)
Sen. Clayborne (D - East St. Louis)

SUPPORT

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Provides that the staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission shall develop benchmarks for employee staffing levels for each classification and employee training for each classification, subject to specified provisions, within one year after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Effective immediately.

5/7/09 - Passed Senate Energy Committee 15-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 39 - Teacher Pregnancy Leave

Sen. Althoff (R - Crystal Lake)
Rep. Froehlich (D - Schaumburg)

SUPPORT

Amends the Downstate Teachers Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Allows a teacher to establish credit for certain leaves of absence due to pregnancy. Provides a 6-month window for application for the establishment of the leave of absence. Changes the interest for the establishment of certain creditable service to interest at the actuarially assumed rate.

5/7/09 - Passed Personnel & Pensions Hearing 8-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1133 - E-Verification

Sen. Martinez (D - Chicago)
Rep. Currie (D - Chicago)

SUPPORT

Employers are urged to consult the Illinois Department of Labor's website for current information on the accuracy of E-Verify and to review and understand an employer's legal responsibilities relating to the use of the voluntary E-Verify program. Requires the Department of Labor to provide employers with up-to date information regarding E-Verify and its accuracy so that employers can make an informed decision whether to participate in the program.

5/6/09 - Passed House Labor 23-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1342 - Intermodal Facilities

Sen. Wilhelmi (D - Crest Hill)/Rep. Gordon (D - Coal City)

SUPPORT

Creates the Intermodal Facilities Promotion Act. Provides that the incremental income tax attributable to a new employee of an individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity that owns and operates an

intermodal terminal facility in the City of Joliet shall be deposited into the Intermodal Facilities Promotion Fund.

5/6/09 - Passed House State Government 17-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1350 - Unemployment Insurance

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

SUPPORT

Provides locked out workers with 52 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits during a lockout situation with an employer.

5/6/09 - Passed House Labor 15-8-0. Second Reading.

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.

5/6/09 - Passed House State Government 9-7-1. Second Reading.

SB 1784 - Quad Cities Development

Sen. Jacobs (D - Moline)/Rep. Sacia (R - Freeport)

Monitor

Defines the area of the Upper Mississippi River International Port District as the corporate limits of Whiteside and Rock Island Counties and changes the make-up of the Port District.

5/6/09 - Passed House International Trade & Commerce 7-0-0. Second Reading.



U of I Study Shows No Coercion by Unions during Organizing Drives

A study, released this week, done by the University of Illinois School of Labor and Employment Relations shows that no workers have been harassed or intimidated into joining a union by union representatives since the state's "card check" law went into effect in 2003.

In 2003, Illinois became the second state in the country to permit public employees in municipal, county, state and educational institutions to organize a

union through the majority sign-up process. Over 21,000 public sector employees have joined unions in Illinois in that six year period.

The study was prompted by business allegations that the federal Employee Free Choice Act's "card check" provision would leave employees open to coercion from union organizers.

The study unequivocally shows that majority sign-up works well for both the employer and employees.

Hannig and Ribley Confirmed by Senate

The Illinois Senate confirmed two key appointees to Governor Quinn's cabinet. Former State Representative Gary Hannig was confirmed, on a vote of 56-0, as the head of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Hannig testified before the Senate Executive Appointments Committee that one of his top priorities as Secretary of IDOT is to pass a capital construction bill for road and bridge projects.

Warren Ribley was confirmed by the Senate with an identical 56-0 vote. He will take over as Director of the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Director Ribley also testified before the Senate Executive Appointments Committee and pledged his support for a capital bill to be passed this year.

ILLINOIS AFL-CIO
2nd Annual COPE Golf Outing
Monday, June 8, 2009

1:00 P.M.
SHOTGUN
START

The
RAIL
Golf Course
Springfield
Illinois

6:00 P.M.
DINNER

For additional information contact Terri Payne, 217/544-4014 or terrip@ilaf-cio.org

- Registration & Box Lunch from 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.
- Entry Fee - \$150 per Player (*Includes green fee, cart, lunch, dinner, drinks and prizes*)
- **GOLD** Sponsor - \$2,000 (*4 golfers, hole sign, refreshment cart sponsorship, banner at dinner*)
- **SILVER** Sponsor - \$1,000 (*4 golfers, hole sign, refreshment cart sponsorship*)
- **HOLE** Sponsor - \$125 (*hole sign*)
- Dinner Only Tickets - \$50 each

NATIONAL NEWS

Obama Sends Congress Details of Budget Plan

President Obama sent Congress his detailed plan for the FY10 budget this week. Included in the plan was a 1% increase for the U.S. Department of Labor. The proposed budget requests Congress to appropriate \$13.3 billion to the Department of Labor for FY 2010. The increase will also include \$50 million in job training for "green jobs".

The budget also proposes boosting funding for several enforcement agencies the administration believes have been neglected. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Wage and Hour Division and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will see an increase in 1,000 new staff members, including 670 new investigators. The three agencies enforce more than 180 worker protection laws.

Additionally, the proposed Department of Labor budget lays the groundwork for a system of automatic workplace pensions that would operate along side Social Security and assist the roughly 75 million Americans who currently lack employer-based retirement plans.

Walker, Maxwell to Work for DOL

Naomi Walker, director of State Government Affairs for the AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C., is leaving to take a job with the federal Department of Labor.

Walker will become Associate Deputy Secretary under Hilda Solis. She begins her new duties on Monday, May 18. Walker has been with the AFL-CIO for 12 years.

Mary Beth Maxwell, the founding executive director of American Rights at Work, is also going to work for the DOL. Ms Maxwell has been appointed Senior Advisor to Secretary Solis and will serve on the White House Task Force on Middle Class Working Families.