



# 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 Senate will return to Springfield on Sunday at 4 pm, while the House will convene on Monday at 4 pm. Both chambers are scheduled to be in session every day until May 31st, with the exception of Memorial Day.

## STATE NEWS

### Fight over Pension Cuts Gets Ugly *Carrigan calls bill "Anti-worker"*

This week, labor leaders went to battle with the Governor and legislators over proposed pension reforms that would cut benefits for public employees and create a two-tiered retirement system, forcing new hires to work longer and pay more than their fair share into the pension program.

In an effort to cut state expenses and mask the fact that the state has not paid its share of pension payments in decades, SB 1292 (Amending the Pension Code) was introduced. The bill was passed out of the House Personnel and Pension Committee on Thursday.

Testifying before the Committee, Michael T. Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO told members, "This legislation is an affront to all of labor." "It overrides decades of bargaining agreements between the state and its employees that were hard fought. You can not ask them to give up more without opening up their contracts. It goes against the core of workers' rights. Frankly, we are angered by and disappointed in the supporters of this legislation."

Carrigan, who gave opposing testimony along with Ed Geppert, president of the IFT; Henry Bayer, president of AFSCME; Ken Swanson, president of the IEA; and Ralph Martire, executive director, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, said, "This legislation penalizes dedicated workers who have faithfully paid their share of pension contributions, many who are not eligible for Social Security." "They made their required contribution payments...the state did not."

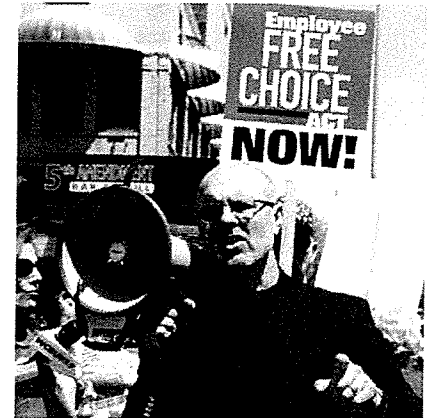
The pension cuts would affect hundreds of thousands of state workers including members from the IFT, IEA, AFSCME, SEIU, Teamsters, UFCW, the building trades, state police and many others.

Labor leaders have met with the Governor's staff and legislative leaders in an effort to quash the bill and force lawmakers to instead pass legislation that will provide adequate revenue to fund the state's floundering pension program.



Seated left to right are: Ralph Martire, executive director, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability; Henry Bayer, president, AFSCME Council 31; Ken Swanson, president, IEA; Ed Geppert, president, IFT; and Michael T. Carrigan, president, IL AFL-CIO.

### Solidarity in Peoria Workers Rally for EFCA, against Rove's Appearance



Sen. David Koehler (D-46) talks to workers at the EFCA rally in Peoria on Monday.

On Monday, over 300 hundred union members rallied in solidarity outside the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria to show their disapproval of Karl Rove's visit to their city to trash the most important federal legislation for American workers in over 60 years.

The Economic Freedom Alliance – a business-backed group - sponsored a closed-door fundraiser in Peoria opposing the Employee Free Choice Act. The guest of honor was Karl Rove – who spoke against the legislation that will give employees a better chance to forms unions in their workplace and bargain collectively for a first contract.

State Senator David Koehler, State Representative Jehan Gordon and Peoria Central Labor Council President Mike Everett spoke to the crowd and the press voicing support for EFCA amid chants of "Union yes!"

**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.

5/15/09 – Passed Senate 55-1-1. Passed both chambers.

**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.

5/15/09 – Passed Senate 58-0-0. Passed both chambers.

**HB 480 – Mileage Reimbursement Rate**

Rep. Boland (D – Moline)/Sen. Demuzio (D – Carlinville)

**SUPPORT**

The allowance rate for automobile travel mileage reimbursement for State related travel, shall be increased or decreased during the State's fiscal year on the effective date of the federal regulations (January 1 instead of July 1).

5/15/09 – Passed Senate 50-1-0. Passed Both Chambers.

**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. Requires a monthly report and a final report to be submitted.

5/13/09 – Passed Senate 58-0-0. Passed both chambers.

**HB 624 - Job Training**

Rep. Crespo (D - Streamwood)/Sen. Kotowski (D – Park Ridge)

**Monitor**

In provisions concerning training grants for skills in critical demand, provides as follows: no employee may be an unauthorized alien; permits on-site grant monitoring visits to verify employment dates and wages; requires applicants to certify employment at an Illinois facility and employee information; and authorizes audits.

5/13/09 – Passed Senate 55-0-1. Passed Both Chambers.

**HB 952 - Prevailing Wage**

Rep. Beiser (D - Alton)/Sen. Haine (D – Alton)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Provides that the Act applies to the demolition of public works.

5/13/09 – Passed Senate 52-2-0. Passed both chambers.

**HB 1175 - Fire Sprinklerfitter Inspections**

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

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act. Provides that a copy of the inspection report of the fire sprinkler

system must be forwarded to the local fire department or fire protection district in which the sprinkler system is located.

5/14/09 – Passed Senate 54-0-0. Passed both chambers.

**HB 3878 – Health Facility Closure Statement**

Rep. Bradley (D – Marion)/Sen. Forby (D – Benton)

**SUPPORT**

Requires a 90 day public notice and regulates the process for the closure of health care facilities.

5/14/09 – Passed Senate 56-0-0. Calendar Order of Concurrence.

**SB 125 – Hauling Debris Permits**

Sen. Link (D – Lake Bluff)/Rep. May (D – Highwood)

**SUPPORT**

Provides that a facility that accepts construction debris and located in a county with a population over 700,000 as of January 1, 2000 and is used exclusively for the transfer, storage or treatment of general construction or demolition debris, the facility does not need a permit if it is currently receiving construction debris.

5/13/09 – Passed House 75-37-2. Senate Concurrence Calendar.

**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 to allow employers to make an informed decision whether to participate in the program.

5/13/09 – Passed House 107-8-0. Senate Calendar Order of Concurrence.

**SB 1369 - State Facility Overtime**

Sen. Frerichs (D - Champaign)

**SUPPORT**

Creates the State Facility Overtime Act. Provides that the Director of the State agency responsible for the operation of specified State facilities may not require an employee to accept work in excess of an agreed upon, predetermined, and regularly scheduled daily work shift, not to exceed 40 hours per week. Excludes emergencies and natural disaster situations.

5/14/09 – Passed Labor Committee 15-5-0. Second Reading.

**SB 1479 - Furlough Days toward Pension**

Sen. Raoul (D - Chicago)/Rep. Howard (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the State Employee Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Allows a member to establish service credit for up to 5 days of voluntary or involuntary furlough used to address a State fiscal emergency. Requires employee contributions, plus an amount determined by the Board to be equal to the employer's normal cost of the benefit, plus interest at the actuarially assumed rate. Effective immediately.

5/14/09 – Passed House 112-2-0. Senate Calendar of Concurrence.



## Election Legislation Advances

Several pieces of legislation changing election and campaign finance laws are making their way through the State House this spring. The state federation is monitoring the legislation for its affect on Labor.

The debate over campaign finance reform has been ongoing throughout the legislative session and several bills include language that has a detrimental effect on Labor's ability to have a voice in the political process. The Illinois AFL-CIO and affiliated unions have been meeting with legislative leadership and staff to head off any harm to Labor's political programs. Following up on the Illinois Reform Commission's recommendations, the biggest push is to reform State procurement, increase transparency and limit campaign contributions. The Illinois AFL-CIO is concerned most with the contribution limitations.

"We are keeping in contact with House and Senate leadership and they understand the concerns of many affiliates," said President Michael T. Carrigan. "Though Labor has not been part of the problem in Illinois, there is tremendous political pressure for campaign contribution limits. We are staying engaged in the discussion and monitoring the progress of these initiatives."

The campaign contribution limits legislation has not yet been advanced in either chamber, though movement is expected before the May 31st adjournment.

### **The following is a breakdown of other election bills moving through the legislature:**

SB 80 – (2nd Reading House) Local Independent candidates nomination threshold (5% of voters from previous election)

SB 283 – (2nd Reading House) Allowance for candidate to switch political parties in subsequent primaries

SB 1801 – (2nd Reading House) Requires Early Voting hours be increased on holidays and weekend before election

SB 2022 – (2nd Reading House) Allows for no-excuse, mail-in absentee voting

HB 85 – (Concurrence House) Establishes a commission to issue recommendations on Internet-based voting starting with 2012 elections

HB 227 – (3rd Reading Senate) Allows a grace period registration of 7 days before an election (currently 14)

HB 723 – (Passed Senate) Provides that vacancies following local consolidated primaries be filled within 75 days following primary

HB 3785 – (3rd Reading Senate) Removes local control (and vests with the state) over the amount of time political signs can be displayed on residential property

## **PORTIONS OF MAJOR CAPITAL BILL BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE**

The Illinois Senate began piecing together revenue streams for state infrastructure improvements. Senate Bill 440, which is sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton (Senate 3rd Reading), will be the first Capital Improvement Plan for the State in more than a decade. It is estimated over \$1 billion can be generated in annual revenues in five separate ways:

- Raising vehicle registration, title/transfer & drivers license fees. It would include increases of \$20 for registration; \$30 for titles; \$20 for driver's licenses; \$30 for commercial licenses. Drivers License fees have not been raised in 25 years. Total revenue generated would be \$331 million.
- Extending existing taxes to candy, non-carbonated beverages, and health and beauty aids. It would not tax food, but would tax candy. Total revenue generated would be \$150 million.
- Adjusting tax rates on wine and spirits. It would translate into a thirteen cent increase in a bottle of wine and eighty cent increase for liquor. This does not include any increases on beer purchases. Total revenue generated would be \$100 million.
- Improve the Illinois Lottery through better management and operation. Privatization of the Illinois lottery. New program to allow the sales of lottery tickets over the internet – increasing purchases and participation. Total revenue generated would be \$150 million.
- Regulating video gaming throughout Illinois. This will generate \$375 million new revenue for Illinois and for local governments.

In addition to the funding mechanisms, the bill will reportedly makes changes to other funds and or current law by:

- Ending Road Fund diversions that currently fund operations at the Secretary of State and Illinois State Police;
- Increasing funds that are used to improve and make upgrades to railroad crossings;
- Preventing future sweeps out of the Leaking Underground Tank Fund (LUST);
- Increasing truck weight limits to allow 80,000 pound trucks on roads (currently 72,000 pound limit); and.
- Creating a new Capital Projects Fund to improve transparency and track revenues and expenditures that support capital programs and bond issuances.

The spending priorities and projects are still being negotiated. It is expected that the Senate will take final action on Senate Bill 440 early next week and send the measure to the House for their consideration during the last week of May.