



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO
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The Illinois General Assembly adjourned late this afternoon. Both Chambers are scheduled to return to Springfield on January 12, at 1 p.m., and stay thru January 14, 2010.

HB 5 – Lobbyist Registration Trailer Bill

Sen. Clayborne (D – East St. Louis)/
Rep. Currie (D – Chicago)

Monitor

Trailer bill to Public Act 96-555. Requires registered lobbyists to file semi-monthly reports on any expenditure made for state officials (PA 96-555 specified weekly reporting during legislative session and monthly at other times). Expands the definition of a state official, (currently the law defines “state officials” as constitutional officials, Chiefs of Staff constitutional officials, cabinet members, and General Assembly members) to include members of any board, commission or authority created by executive order or law.

10/29/09 – Passed Senate 40-8-0.

Concurrence in Senate.

HB 1526 – Navistar Edge Tax Credit

Rep. Lang (D – Skokie)/
Sen. Viverito (D – Burbank)

NEUTRAL

The Legislation would allow certain auto manufacturing companies to elect to apply the EDGE credit against the personal income tax employer with holding payments to the state. The tax credit would amount to \$20 million over the course of 10 years.

10/30/09 – Passed the Senate.

Passed both chambers.

HB 2445 – Omnibus Collective Bargaining Bill

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

SUPPORT

The Illinois House voted to override the Governor’s veto on HB 2445 this week and the veto override will now go to the Senate for their consideration. HB 2445, an initiative of the Illinois AFL-CIO and its public employee affiliates, seeks to clarify that public employees only have to sign either a majority interest petition or union dues card, not both. The legislation required the Labor Relations Board to employ 16 attorneys and 6

investigators, and the Educational Labor Relations Board to employ 8 attorneys and 5 investigators. Governor Quinn amendatorily vetoed the legislation seeking to make the minimum staffing levels at those agencies subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

10/30/09 – Senate overrode the Governor’s AV by a vote of 45-7-1.

Public Act.

HB 3997 – Gaming Board

Rep. Gordon (D – Coal City)/
Sen. Link (D – Lake Bluff)

Monitor

Makes a declarative of existing law that the Gaming Board is separated from the Illinois Department of Revenue. Puts the Gaming Board under the Governor’s jurisdiction. It honors all current collective bargaining agreements in the transfer and regulates the actions of Gaming Board members by banning involvement in political activities. Specifies penalties for underage gamblers. Gives investigators of the IL Liquor Control Commission and the Illinois Racing Board police powers in the administration of their duties.

10/29/09 – Passed the Senate 58-0-0.

House Concurrence.

HB 4625 – Cook County Veto Threshold

Rep. Walker (D – Arlington Heights)/
Sen. Kotowski (D – Park Ridge)

OPPOSE

Lowers the number of votes to override a veto by the Cook County Board from 4/5 to 3/5 (from 14 affirmative votes to 11 affirmative votes of the County Commissioners).

10/29/09 – Passed Senate 48-1-8.

Passed both chambers.

HJR 31 – American Made Products

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

SUPPORT

Directs the State to maximize the creation of American jobs and restore economic growth and opportunity by

spending economic recovery (ARRA) funds on products and services that create jobs and keep American Workers employed.

10/29/09 – Passed the Senate 58-0-0.
Resolution adopted by both chambers.

HJRCA 37 – TABOR

Rep. Keith Farnham (D – Elgin)

OPPOSE

This measure is an attempt to put on the 2010 General Election ballot the question of whether state spending should be capped, only to be raised by the average annual percentage change in the average per capita personal income for Illinois for the five most recent calendar years for which data is available. This amendment which has failed in other states would allow the state to increase spending for essential services for the unemployed during hard economic times.

10/30/09 – Bill not called due to labor’s unified opposition.

SB 390 – Expansion of Energy Efficiency

Sen. Koehler (D – Peoria)

SUPPORT

Expands the definition of “energy efficiency project” under the Illinois Finance Authority Act. This will help capture additional state funding for the construction a new hotel in downtown Peoria.

10-30-09 - Passed House 105-9-0.

Passed both chambers.

HB 1306 – Video Gaming

Rep. Dugan (D – Kankakee)/
Sen. Harmon (D – Oak Park)

SUPPORT

Provides that if a municipality or county bans video gaming in their jurisdiction, an establishment may still offer video gaming entertainment for two years after the municipal/county ordinance becomes effective. This will help with funding for the Illinois Jobs Now! Capital bill.

10/29/09 – Passed the Senate 40-12-0.

Failed in the House,
order of concurrence.

Labor and Community Groups March for Banking Reform

On Tuesday, union members from around the state marched with thousands of other concerned citizens through downtown Chicago to deliver a message to the American Bankers' Association – Enough is Enough!

Angry over the big banks' failure to help struggling families after accepting \$17.8 trillion in taxpayer bailout funds and spending an estimated \$35 billion to defeat federal financial reforms, workers marched down Michigan Avenue to the Sheraton Hotel where the ABA was holding its convention. There, victims told their stories of home foreclosures, plant closings, student loan troubles and other financial hardships.

Workers from Republic Windows, who were forced to stage a sit-in at their plant when Wells Fargo Bank refused to extend business loans to their company, placed "pink slips" on huge cutouts of bank presidents John Stumpf, Wells Fargo; Jamie Dimon, J P Morgan Chase; and Ken Lewis, Bank of America.

Michael Carrigan, Illinois AFL-CIO president told the crowd, "This is all about need versus greed...their greed and our need."

SEIU President Andy Stern and CFL President Dennis Gannon kicked off the march along with community clergy. At the rally, SEIU Local 1 President Tom Balanoff introduced speakers including AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan, Change to Win President Anna Burger and many others from community organizing groups like Action Now, ARISE Chicago, Citizen Action, and Operation Rainbow Push.

Prior to the march and rally, AFL-CIO President Trumka joined about 60 members of the Illinois AFL-CIO's and Chicago Federation of Labor's executive boards for a breakfast meeting. President Trumka reiterated the Labor Federation's conviction to health care reform with a public option and without taxation of benefits (*see below*), as well as for the Employee Free Choice Act, which he said would happen immediately after the health care vote.



Campaign Finance Reform Passes General Assembly

On a nearly party-line vote in both chambers, the Illinois General Assembly passed historic and significant campaign finance reform legislation. The bill moves to Gov. Pat Quinn's desk for final approval.

The Democrat-supported bill passed 66-49 in the House Thursday and 36-22 in the Senate on Friday.

The bill (SB 1466) originally contained several major areas of concern for Labor. However, through discussions with House and Senate bill sponsors and staff these concerns were largely alleviated. The Illinois AFL-CIO stood neutral on the bill's final passage.

A more detailed analysis will be forthcoming, but this legislation will change the way Labor PACs, reports political contributions, including more reporting (quarterly), and caps on contributions (\$5,000 individual, \$10,000 corporation or labor organization, \$50,000 political action committee).

NATIONAL NEWS

Down to the Wire on Health Care Reform

On Thursday, the House of Representatives unveiled its health care reform legislation titled the Affordable Health Care for America Act – that blends the three versions passed previously by House committees.

The House bill will expand coverage to 96 percent of Americans, provide a public option plan, crack down on the insurance industry, require employers with payrolls over \$500,000 to provide health coverage to their employees and require the wealthiest (top 0.3 percent) of taxpayers to help foot the bill. It does not include a tax on current health benefits.

A 218-vote majority is needed to pass. The House is expected to vote on the bill next week (Nov. 4-8).

AFL-CIO affiliates, state federations and CLCs will implement one last push on Thursday, Nov. 5, reaching out to members of Congress, holding worksite informational rallies, contacting local media and sending patch-through calls into designated Congressional districts.

NOTICE REGARDING THE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Much of the information contained in the Legislative Update is time sensitive and in the rapidly changing environment of the Illinois General Assembly and United States Congress, the information is often outdated using conventional delivery methods.

To ensure affiliates and labor activists are receiving accurate and late breaking information, effective November 1, 2009, the Legislative Update will only be delivered via email.

To continue to receive the Legislative Update after November 1, 2009, please provide the Illinois AFL-CIO with your email address and contact information. You may list more than one email address if you wish to include additional recipients from your organization. Please complete a contact form for each recipient.

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