



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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**PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO**

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*Both chambers just completed a deadline week, having to pass substantive bills out of committee. The Illinois General Assembly will return to Springfield next week for four days. Both chambers are scheduled to convene on Tuesday, at noon. They will begin consideration of bills for final passage and concurrence. The General Assembly has only two scheduled weeks remaining and will begin looking at budgetary related items as the scheduled adjournment date draws closer on May 7.*

## STATE NEWS

### Thousands Protest State Budget Cuts

*“Put People Before Politics, Raise Revenue”*

On Wednesday 15,000 angry Illinois citizens that are affected by state budget cuts descended on Springfield. Their message – Cut the Bull, Not the Budget.

Starting at 8 am, buses began unloading protesters from all over the state who came to make their voices heard by state leaders and legislators. By 11 am the streets and grounds on all sides of the Capitol were full of union members from AFSCME, SEIU, IFT, IEA, IBT as well as supporters from religious, senior citizen and community welfare groups.

Union leaders Henry Bayer (AFSCME), Ed Geppert (IFT), Keith Kelleher (SEIU) and Ken Swanson (IEA) blasted lawmakers for not having the political courage to raise desperately-needed revenue for crucial state services and education. Union members raised signs and chanted, “Show some guts, Stop the cuts” and in reference to HB 174 (a revenue reform bill that passed the Senate but sits in House Rules), “You know what you have to do, 174 – Raise revenue.” At one point the crowd turned to face the Capitol and yelled “Raise my taxes.”



William McNary, co-director of Citizen Action Illinois speaks to the crowd on Wednesday.

At 12:30, led by the Springfield High marching band, the crowd began to march around the Capitol carrying a giant banner that read, “SOS Save Our State.” Union members entered the Capitol from three entrances to lobby their legislators.

It was reported to be the largest rally ever held in Springfield. It was peaceful, it was well organized. Was it effective? We’ll wait and see if legislators listen to the voices of their state workers or if they go home next month without a resolution to the state’s \$13 billion budget deficit.

### Equal Pay Day – Gender Gap in Illinois Still Exists, but IDOL Fighting for Equity

Tuesday was Equal Pay Day in America and the news was not good for women. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women still earn much less than men in similar positions and women of color earn even less.

In the U.S. women earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. African-American women earn an average of 67.9 cents on the dollar and Latin-American women only 58 cents. In Illinois women earn 78 cents for each dollar earned by their male counter-parts. But the good news is the Illinois Department of Labor, working under the Illinois Fair Pay Act of 2003, are making great strides enforcing the law and recovering back wages.

According to IDOL, since the law went into effect in 2004, the Department has received 440 complaints and of the investigations completed to date has recovered \$275,000 in back wages for female workers.

“Our effort has been to ensure that men and women, who do the same work, are paid the same, and I’m proud of the number of individuals and families we’ve helped through enforcement of the Illinois Equal Pay Act,” said Catherine Shannon, director of IDOL.



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# Wall Street Bankrolling Kirk; Votes Reflect His Loyalty

GOP U.S. Senate hopeful Mark Kirk, under heavy pressure, finally returned some of the Wall Street cash he has collected to underwrite his senate bid. Kirk returned just \$21,000 of the more than \$50,000 he has taken from Goldman Sachs employees.

Goldman Sachs, a behemoth Wall Street bank, is in trouble with the Securities and Exchange Commission for risky investment ventures, ultimately defrauding consumers.

Kirk is propped up by Wall Street. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the four-term congressman has taken \$1.26 million from the securities and investment industry in campaign contributions.

Kirk's record on regulating Wall Street reflects a reluctance to bite the hand that feeds him.

In 2009, Kirk voted against the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which placed stricter requirements on banks and other financial institutions that accept government assistance. He also voted against a bill to bar any recipient of federal money from the \$700 billion financial industry bailout from paying any compensation that is "unreasonable or excessive." Additionally he opposed The Corporate And Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act and voted against the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which included a provision to limit TARP executive pay.

Kirk has a 22 percent voting record supporting working families according to the Illinois AFL-CIO Voting Record.



Illinois AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Tim Drea speaks to AFFI members during their legislative conference in Springfield on Wednesday. Also on stage are (l to r) Pat Devaney, AFFI president and IL AFL-CIO vice president; Ross Hunt, AFFI vice president at large; Chuck Sullivan; AFFI lobbyist and Eddie Crews, AFFI lobbyist

## Vacancies Filled; New Candidates File

Candidates filed this week to meet Monday's deadline to fill a vacancy left from the Primary Election. Local political parties appointed the individuals to the open slots.

Several incumbent state senators now have opponents including Sen. Maggie Crotty (D) and Mike Frerichs (D). In a twist, Marla Wilson (D), who won the Primary to face incumbent Rep. Dave Winters (R) in Winnebago County, filed to fill the vacancy to run against GOP Sen. Dave Syverson. Wilson takes the place of Jennifer Cacciapaglia, who withdrew. Sen. Dale Righter, of East-Central Illinois, will now have an opponent in Josh Weger.

House incumbents from both parties will now have opponents, including in downstate competitive districts like the 101st, where Rep. Bob Flider (D) faces Decatur City Councilman Adam Brown (R) and Brent Schorfheider (D) faces incumbent Rep. Mike Bost (R) in Southern Illinois.

New candidates have been mailed issues questionnaires as the state federation prepares for its June endorsement session.

The following is a rundown of the new candidate filings since the Primary Election.

### New Candidates

**1st Congress** Raymond Wardingly (R) filed against Bobby Rush (D)

**4th Congress** Israel Vasquez (R) filed against Luis Gutierrez (D)

**19th Senate** Adam Wojcik (R) filed against Maggie Crotty (D)

**34th Senate** Marla Wilson (D) filed against Dave Syverson (R)

**43rd Senate** Cedra Crenshaw (R) filed against AJ Wilhelmi (D)

**52nd Senate** Al Reynolds (R) filed against Mike Frerichs (D)

**55th Senate** Josh Weger (D) filed against Dale Righter (R)

**6th House** Lionel Garcia (R) filed against Esther Golar (D)

**9th House** Ronnie McKenzie (R) filed against Arthur Turner, Jr. (D)

**12th House** Dave Lenkowski (R) filed against Sara Feigenholtz (D)

**40th House** Lisa M. Reed (R) filed against Deb Mell (D)

**65th House** Wendy J. Gruen (D) filed against Rosemary Mulligan (R)

**86th House** Ryan Eggert (R) filed against Jack McGuire (D)

**89th House** Victoria Grizzoffi (D) filed against Jim Sacia (R)

**95th House** Maria Owens (D) filed against Mike Fortner (R)

**101st House** Adam M. Brown (R) filed against Bob Flider (D)

**102nd House** John Warner (D) filed against Ron Stephens (R)

**115th House** Brent Schorfheider (D) filed against Mike Bost (R)

**ILLINOIS AFL-CIO Political Briefing & COPE Golf Outing**  
**June 7 & 8, 2010** For information contact **217.544.4014**

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**HB 4644 – Pensions**

Rep. Poe (R – Springfield)  
Sen. Bomke (R – Springfield)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Allows a participant to establish creditable service and earnings credit for periods of furlough beginning on or after July 1, 2009 and ending on or before June 30, 2011.

*3/3/10 – Passed House 115-0-1.*

*4/21/10 – Passed Senate Pensions & Investments 9-0-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 4649 – Alternative Method for ICC Approval of Electric Transmission Lines**

Rep. Reitz (D – Sparta)  
Sen. Haine (D – Alton)

**SUPPORT**

Under current law, public utilities must obtain approval from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to construct any transmission line that has a voltage rating of 100kV or more and is longer than one mile. This legislation will retain the traditional transmission line approval process, but would also provide an alternative procedure for transmission line approval that would require:

- the ICC to expedite its decision within 150 days of the filing, with the possibility of a 75 day extension;
- the public utility seeking approval of a transmission line to pay a \$100,000 application fee with each filing to fund additional ICC resources needed to implement the expedited process;
- the public utility to satisfy the same criteria for obtaining approval of a transmission line that exists under the state's current laws and regulations; and

*2/24/10 – Passed House 108-0-0.*

*4/22/10 – Passed Senate Energy 13-0-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 4658 – Credit History/Employment**

Rep. Franks (D – Woodstock)  
Sen. Harmon (D – Oak Park)

**SUPPORT**

Prohibits employers from checking a potential employee's credit history and further outlaws denying employment to those with poor credit histories. Provides for a civil action remedy in circuit court for job seekers or current employees that are discriminated against because of their credit history. Allows certain financial institutions and state agencies to perform extensive background checks, including credit checks, in certain circumstances.

*3/25/10 – Passed House 89-24-0.*

*4/21/10 – Passed Senate Labor Committee 9-0-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 4886 – Four Day School Week**

Rep. Black (D – Danville)  
Sen. Frerichs (D – Champaign)

**OPPOSE**

Provides that a school district may, by board resolution, adopt an alternative school calendar for a 4-day school week, which must be approved by the State Board of Education. Requires a minimum of at least 150 days to ensure 141 of actual pupil attendance. Labor's opposition with this legislation is due to the concern of reduced salaries for cafeteria workers and bus drivers (typically wage/hour employees), additional child care costs for working families on nonschool days, and keeping students attentive during an extended day.

*3/22/10 – Passed House 81-21-0.*

*4/20/10 – Failed to pass in Senate Education Committee.*

**HB 5154 - FOIA Trailer Bill**

Rep. ChapaLaVia (D - Aurora)  
Sen. Lightford (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Personnel Record Review Act. Prohibits the disclosure of public employee performance evaluations under the Freedom of Information Act.

*3/11/10 – Passed House 70-39-0.*

*4/21/10 – Passed Senate Labor 7-3-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 5664 – Fraternity/Sorority Housing Fire Safety**

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

**SUPPORT**

Creates the Greek Housing Fire Safety Act. Fire sprinklers are required in the construction of new fraternity or sorority houses on an university/college campus after January 1, 2011, and all fraternity and sorority houses in the state by January 1, 2019.

*3/12/10 – Passed House 97-4-2.*

*4/21/10 – Passed Senate Local Government 6-2-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 5668 – Firefighters**

Rep. Dugan (D – Kankakee)  
Sen. Hutchinson (D – Chicago Heights)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Firemen's Disciplinary Act. Adds to the definition of "fireman" a person who is a paramedic employed in a unit of local government and an EMT employed in a unit of local government. Effective immediately.

*3/12/10 – Passed House 86-15-1.*

*4/21/10 – Passed Senate Labor 8-0-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 6065 – School Nurse/Insulin Injections**

Rep. Cross (R – Oswego)  
Sen. Steans (D – Chicago)

**OPPOSE**

Allows an unlicensed person, without liability in schools to care for diabetic students including administering insulin, in essence alters state statute to replace the need for a school nurse.

*3/26/10 – Passed the House 104-1-2.*

*4/21/10 – Passed Senate Executive Hearing. 12-0-0. Second Reading.*

**SB 2494 – Tuition Vouchers**

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

**OPPOSE**

Allows parents to obtain public tax vouchers paid for with tax payer money to cover the cost of private schooling. The Illinois Federation of Teachers support parental rights to send their children to private or religious schools, however, they oppose the use of public tax funds through vouchers to do so. The Illinois Constitution forbids the use of public funds for religious education. There is little to no accountability to the taxpayers in the use of voucher money.

*3/25/10 – Passed Senate 33-20-3.*

*4/22/10 – Passed House Executive Committee 10-1-0. Second Reading.*

**SB 2615 - Community College Borrowing Authorization**

Sen. Forby (D - Benton)  
Rep. Eddy (D – Hutsonville)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that for a period of 3 years after the effective date, in order to create, maintain or increase a working cash fund, a community college board may borrow money to fund its day to day operations.

*3/10/10 – Passed Senate 50-4-0.*

*4/21/10 - Passed House 91-24-0. Passed both chambers.*

**SB 3047 – Health Care Implementation Task Force**

Sen. Koehler (D – Peoria)  
Rep. Flowers (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Creates the Health Care Justice Implementation Act of 2010. Provides that the mission goals of the Health Care Justice Implementation Task Force are to monitor the implementation of the federal health care reforms and make recommendations, to report regarding additional reforms needed to ensure affordable health care,

*(continued on next page)*

and to assess current programs. Contains provisions concerning reports, public hearings, and research assessments. Effective July 1, 2010.

**3/18/10 – Passed Senate 33-21-1.**

**4/20/10 – Passed House Health Care Availability & Accessibility 9-0-0. Second Reading.**

#### **SB 3291 – Agencies**

Sen. Koehler (D – Peoria)

Rep. Colvin (D – Chicago)

#### **SUPPORT**

Beginning July 1, 2010, in order to attract and retain a stable, qualified, and healthy workforce, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health-care and Family services may reimburse individual community service providers

servicing individuals with developmental disabilities or an individual intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled for spending incurred to provide improved wages and benefits to its employees serving developmentally disabled individuals. In order to qualify for a reimbursement, a provider or facility must submit to the appropriate agency, before January 1 of each year, documentation of a legally binding commitment to increase spending for the purpose of providing improved wages and benefits to its eligible employees during the next year.

**3/10/10 – Passed Senate 38-11-0.**

**4/23/10 – Passed House 113-0-0. Passed both chambers.**

#### **SR 723 – Worker Memorial Resolution**

Sen. Koehler (D – Peoria)

#### **SUPPORT**

Declares April 28, 2010 as Workers' Memorial Day in the State of Illinois, and honors all of those who have fallen on the job.

**4/21/10 – Passed Senate Labor 9-0-0. Calendar Order of Resolutions.**

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Bank Reform Bill to Go to Senate Monday**

According to the Washington Post, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) will bring the much-awaited financial reform bill to the Senate floor on Monday, April 26 for a vote on cloture. The Democrats need one Republican vote to overcome a filibuster on the bill crafted by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT). Republicans oppose the bill and blocked debate in the Senate on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, President Obama, in New York speaking to the state's political leaders, Wall Street bankers and Labor leaders – including AFL-CIO President Trumka, said, "Ultimately, there is no dividing line between Main Street and Wall Street. We rise or we fall together as one nation. So I urge you to join me -- to join those who are seeking to pass these commonsense reforms. And I urge you to do so not only because it is in the interests of your industry, but because it is in the interests of our country."

The reform bill will create an independent consumer protection agency, set up a \$50 billion fund paid for by the major banks to cover the cost of future bank failures and ban big banks from engaging in specific investment activities like owning hedge funds.

Some pro-reformers say the bill doesn't go far enough in controlling the size of megabanks.

According to the AFL-CIO, in September 2009, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched a \$2 million advertising campaign to defeat the Consumer Protection Agency plan and the banking industry spent another \$50.4 million to lobby in 2009, a 5.4 percent increase from the previous year.

### **Employee Misclassification Bill Introduced in Congress**

On Thursday, Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) introduced the federal Employee Misclassification Protection Act to penalize contractors who knowingly misclassify their employees as independent contractors to save paying income, Social Security, unemployment and workers' compensation taxes.

The practice of misclassification gives unscrupulous employers an unfair advantage over law-abiding companies that list all of their workers on the books and pay state and federal taxes. Misclassification is detrimental to workers as well who often are unaware that their employer is not paying taxes for them.

"For workers affected by this practice—construction workers, hospitality workers, broadcast technicians, stage hands, musicians, home health care workers and day laborers, among many others—this bill offers a pathway to receiving labor protections that most Americans take for granted, like being paid the minimum wage and receiving overtime pay after 40 hours of work, or workers' compensation when they are hurt on the job," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "Workers wrongly classified as independent contractors also are denied pension or and health benefits, and are told they aren't protected by civil rights laws."

Illinois, at the urging of Labor, passed a similar law that went into effect Jan. 1, 2008. Since then, it has been vigorously and successfully enforced by the Illinois Department of Labor in cooperation with Labor leaders who often times are the front-line reporters of misclassification wrong-doing by contractors.