



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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The General Assembly concluded their business in Springfield after four days of work this week. A budget outline has been passed; however, it is currently unbalanced. The operating budget for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1 is \$26 billion. The House and Senate passed SB 3660 to borrow \$1.2 billion against future tobacco settlement proceeds; cut daily expenses for lawmakers while in Springfield from \$139 to \$111 next year; cut mileage rate paid to lawmakers from 50 cents to 39 cents; eliminate cost of living pay increases for lawmakers next year, amongst many other things. The overall budget is essentially the same as last year, balanced with internal borrowing and delayed payments. Lawmakers gave Quinn new powers to withhold nearly \$2 billion from state agencies and universities at his discretion to help manage the state's cash flow. Even with these cuts and expansion of executive powers, the budget deficit stands at \$6.6 billion for the state.

On Thursday, Governor Quinn sought unsuccessfully to pass a pension borrowing plan in the Senate that would borrow \$3.7 billion for state pension systems. The House passed SB 3514 on Tuesday, with the help of two House Republicans (Biggins and Black). In the Senate an attempt was made to secure the necessary 36 votes to pass the legislation, however, the threshold could not be reached because no Senate Republicans were prepared to vote for the measure, and two Senate Democrats were adamantly opposed (Steans and Noland). The state is required by law to make payments to the pension systems. Without any further legislative action, the state would owe \$4.1 billion to the systems for this year. Money which the state presumably does not have.

It is anticipated that the General Assembly will return in June to deal with the required pension payments. If they decide to skip a pension payment, it would cost at least \$20 billion over 20 years.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HB 537 – Consumer Protections

Rep. Lang (D – Skokie)
Sen. Lightford (D – Chicago)

SUPPORT

Sets rates for all payday and consumer installment loans. Prevents the cycle of debt caused by frequent refinancing. Re-establishes lending based on a borrower's ability to repay. Provides commonsense protections to all borrowers, regardless of which loan store they walk into. Creates a fully amortizing payday product, with no balloon payment, to meet the needs of credit-challenged borrowers. Keeps loans repayable by limiting monthly payments to 22.5% or 25% of a borrower's gross monthly income. Eliminates additional fees such as post-default interest, court costs, and attorney's fees. Sets reasonable rates of 36% to 99% for longer-term consumer installment loans. Sets a minimum loan term to ensure that borrowers have enough time to repay the loan. Keeps loans repayable by limiting monthly payments to 22.5% of a borrower's gross monthly income. Eliminates balloon payments. Ends the current practice of penalizing borrowers for paying off loans early.

*5/5/10 – Passed Senate 58-1-0.
5/26/10 – Passed House 108-1-1.
Passed both chambers.*

HB 859 – FY 2011 Budget

Rep. Hannig (D – Gillespie)
Sen. Trotter (D – Chicago)

Monitor

Contained re-appropriations from last year's capital projects bills. It also contains the operating budget for FY11. Effective July 1, 2010, reduces state government operations spending by 5%. Appropriates \$26 billion in GRF and \$30.8 billion in Other State Funds/Federal Funds.

*5/7/10 – Passed Senate 31-26-0.
5/25/10 – Passed House 66-50-0.
Passed both chambers.*

HB 4644 – Pensions

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

SUPPORT

Amends the IMRF Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Allows a sheriff's law enforcement employee or elected county officer 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, 2010.

*3/3/10 – Passed House 115-0-1.
5/5/10 – Passed Senate 53-0-0.
5/24/10 – Passed House on concurrence 81-28-2. Passed both chambers.*

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.
5/4/10 – Passed Senate 41-12-0.
5/26/10 – Passed House 101-10-0.
Passed both chambers.*

HB 4927 – Video Gaming at Truck Stops

Rep. Lang (D – Skokie)
Sen. Link (D – Lake Bluff)

Monitor

Video machines at truck stops and Limited Liability Companies (not defined in the bill) already exist, this bill would license and tax places that have such machines. This would allow those machines to pay out one, five, ten, and 25 cents. Revenues go toward capital projects.

*5/5/10 – Passed Senate 42-11-0.
5/26/10 – Passed House on concurrence 81-26-5. Passed both chambers.*

HB 5513 – Sprinklerfitters

Rep. Rita (D – Blue Island)
Sen. Martinez (D – Chicago)

Neutral

Amends the Criminal Code of 1961. Provides that a person is guilty of identity theft when applying for a building permit and uses a license number of a fire sprinkler contractor that the applicant knows will

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not be doing work on the project. Class 4 felony.

3/24/10 – Passed House 115-0-0.

5/4/10 – Passed Senate 59-0-0.

5/26/10 – Passed House 111-0-0.

Passed both chambers.

HB 6202 – Renewable Energy

Rep. Burns (D – Chicago)

Sen. Harmon (D – Oak Park)

SUPPORT

Amends the Illinois Power Agency Act. Requires that, of the renewable energy resources procured using moneys in the Illinois Power Agency Renewable Energy Resources Fund, a percentage of solar energy shall be purchased on the following schedule: 0.5% by June 1, 2012; 1.5% by June 1, 2013; 3% by June 1, 2014; and 6% by June 1, 2015 and thereafter.

5/7/10 – Passed Senate 56-0-0.

5/26/10 – Passed House 94-19-0 on concurrence. Passed both chambers.

HB 6349 – Illinois Preference Act

Rep. Beiser (D – Alton)

Sen. Sullivan (D – Rushville)

SUPPORT

The Illinois AFL-CIO has been part of a working coalition for the past four months regarding upgrading the Illinois Preference Act. There are two laws in the Illinois Legislative Compiled Statutes regarding high unemployment for workers on public work projects. One has been ruled unconstitutional and the other has been rendered unenforceable by the Illinois Supreme Court, holding employees of the Illinois Department of Labor personally liable if mistakes are made. This legislation would state that whenever unemployment in the State of Illinois has exceeded 5% as measured by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, public works projects must employ at least 90% Illinois workers on the project. Creates a private right of action for enforcement, with up to \$500 per day for a violation. Provides any interested party may file a complaint. Illinois Laborer is defined as an individual who has resided in Illinois for at least 30 days. Each violation is liable for a penalty of \$1,000 per person per day, \$5,000 for a second violation and \$15,000 for a third or subsequent violation.

3/25/10 – Passed House 107-5-0.

5/4/10 – Passed Senate 54-0-0.

5/26/10 – Passed House on concurrence 112-1-0. Passed both chambers.

HR 1129 – Production of C-17 Globemaster Planes

Rep. Hoffman (D – Collinsville)

SUPPORT

Urges Congress to pass federal legislation to procure additional C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

5/27/10 – Resolution Adopted by House.

SB 28 – McPier/McCormick Place

President Cullerton (D – Chicago)

Speaker Madigan (D – Chicago)

NEUTRAL

Democratic Leaders passed legislation in the first week of May to severely restrict work rules, jurisdiction and overtime at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center. The legislation superseded collective bargaining agreements and will allow convention exhibitors to do work that has historically belonged to the 5 unions at McCormick Place (IBEW, Steelworkers, Iron Workers, Carpenters and Teamsters). The Illinois AFL-CIO was opposed to this legislation, because we feel work rules should be negotiated not legislated.

Governor Quinn amendatorily vetoed SB 28 on May 26th, only to have both the House and Senate override the veto the following day (51-2-1 in Senate and 93-19-0 in House).

5/6/10 – Passed House 93-25-0.

5/7/10 – Passed Senate 51-6-1.

Passed both chambers.

5/26/10 – Amendatory Veto

5/27/10 – Amendatory Veto overridden in House and Senate.

SB 49 – Clean Coal

Sen. Forby (D – Benton)

Rep. Reitz (D – Sparta)

SUPPORT

Removes approximately \$35 million from a fund designated for a Baldwin Power Plant in Randolph County where the funding is no longer needed. The \$35 million appropriation will be used by the Clean Coal Development Department to assist in development of clean coal gasification facilities.

5/26/10 – Passed House 110-1-0.

5/27/10 – Passed Senate 51-1-2. Passed both chambers.

SB 375 – Reforms to State Contracting

Sen. Kotowski (D – Park Ridge)

Rep. Walker (D – Arlington Heights)

Monitor

Prohibits the automatic renewal of state contracts over \$249,999 and requires that these contracts must be competitively bid

upon expiration of the contract.

5/25/10 – Passed House amendment #2 becomes bill 117-0-0.

5/27/10 – Passed Senate 56-0-0. Passed both chambers.

SB 744 – Video Gaming

Sen. Link (D – Lake Bluff)

Rep. Lang (D – Skokie)

Monitor

Allows for video gaming to be placed in a place of business that serves alcohol and also has off track betting facilities.

5/26/10 – Passed House 74-32-4.

5/27/10 – Passed Senate 39-15-0. Passed both chambers.

SB 2093 – STAR Bonds

Sen. Forby (D – Benton)

Rep. Bradley (D – Marion)

NEUTRAL

Would help fund a Marion project using \$120 million in Sales Tax and Revenue Bonds to build a 400 acre, \$380 million entertainment, retail, and restaurant facility. This would redirect sales taxes generated by the stores at the proposed development and use them to pay off bonds for the projects infrastructure. According to the Franklin County Economic Development Corporation, this development would create 6,000 jobs during construction, 5,685 full time jobs upon completion and pump \$756 million into the region.

5/7/10 – Passed House 79-36-1.

5/27/10 – Passed Senate 34-17-3 on Motion to concur with House. Passed both chambers.

SB 2534 – Peoria Development

Sen. Koehler (D – Peoria)

Rep. Gordon (D – Peoria)

SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2534 creates a pilot program for historic rehabilitation. The pilot project will be a hotel in the City of Peoria. Under the program, the owner of the property will qualify for income tax credits, based on the amount of expenditures made in the rehabilitation of the property. Peoria is home to the historic Hotel Pere Marquette—a downtown hotel that is part of a larger plan to create a convention and trade show destination in the Heart of Illinois. The planned rehabilitation of the Pere Marquette is one piece of a \$102 million plan to build a world-class Marriott Hotel, improve parking and enhance our convention center. The plan is expected to create \$160 million in economic

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activity in the Peoria area and create over 1,000 construction or permanent jobs.

5/25/10 – Passed House 111-4-1.

5/27/10 – Passed Senate 46-7-1. Passed both chambers.

SB 3215 – McPier Trailer Bill

President Cullerton (D – Chicago)

Speaker Madigan (D – Chicago)

Monitor

Provides that James Reilly may be removed as Trustee only by joint resolution of the General Assembly. Provides that the

Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a person to fill a vacancy in the office of Trustee. Provides that when the Authority proposes to enter into a contract or agreement for professional services, other than a marketing agreement, the Authority shall use a request for proposal process in accordance with the Illinois Procurement Code.

5/26/10 – Passed House 109-1-0.

5/27/10 – Passed Senate 53-0-0. Passed both chambers.

5/28/10 – Sent to Governor.

SR 782 – C-17 Globemaster Planes

Sen. Demuzio (D – Carlinville)

SUPPORT

Urges Congress to pass federal legislation to procure additional C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

5/27/10 – Resolution Adopted.

General Assembly Makes Voter Registration Efforts Easier

Changes Will Boost Labor's Registration Efforts

The Senate advanced a bill on Thursday simplifying the no-excuse Absentee Voting process in Illinois.

Following up on recent changes allowing for anyone to request an absentee ballot – which basically creates a no-excuse needed vote by mail – the Senate passed SB 3012 which allows for duplication, distribution and return for early/absentee ballot applications.

The result of the legislation means that anyone – for example unions or precinct canvassers – can distribute, collect and turn in absentee ballot applications to their respective election authorities.

The bill passed on a largely party-line roll call 37-18. The House passed the bill a day earlier by a vote of 63-47-1.

Voters can request absentee ballots 40 days before and election, this year that date is Thursday, Sept. 23. If voting absentee in-person at the polling place, voters have until one day before the election to vote. If voting by mail, voters have until five days before the election to cast their ballots.

With these Labor-supported changes, Illinois voters may now vote early by mail or in-person without excuse. Unions can now maximize turnout with early/mail-in voting programs by distributing, collecting and turning in applications for ballots.

Additionally, SB 3012 also requires election authorities in State University communities to conduct grace period registration and early voting in high traffic areas of public universities. This provision should greatly increase college student registration and participation among college-aged voters.

Brady MIA on Senate Votes

Last week, the *Daily Herald* reported Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Brady missed over 200 votes in the Illinois Senate during the final weeks of the regular spring session.

State Senator Brady (R-44), according to the Senate voting record missed entire days of voting from late April through early May. He failed to vote on several bills important to Labor including HB 4797 – providing tax easement for wind farms, HB 5154 – prohibiting public employee evaluations from being made public, HB 5262 – allowing state employees to buy back furlough days, HB 5712 – improving railroad safety, SB 43 – strengthening transit workers' pension fund and SB 1526 – lobbyist registration reform.

On bills that Brady has managed to vote on over his 18 years in the General Assembly, he has a dismal 25 percent record on working family issues.

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