



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

**MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN**, PRESIDENT

**TIMOTHY E. DREA**, SECRETARY TREASURER

**JASON KELLER**, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

*The Illinois House and Senate have completed their work for this week. Both chambers will return at noon on Tuesday, February 15. Upon their return, the House and Senate will begin considering bills in committees. Governor Quinn will deliver his budget address to a joint session of the General Assembly on Wednesday, February 16.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **Governor Announces Top Appointments**

On Monday, Gov. Pat Quinn announced several key re-appointments to his cabinet including Brent Adams as secretary of Financial and Professional Regulation, Arthur Bishop as director of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Dan Grant as director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Michael McRaith as director of the Department of Insurance and Marc Miller as director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Also on Monday, the Governor chose Cristal Thomas as his Deputy for Public Policy and Sean Vinck as his Chief Information Officer.

In January, the Governor re-appointed six directors including Rocco Claps as director of the Department of Human Rights, Brain Hammer as director of the Department of Revenue, Julie Hamos as director of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Gary Hannig as director of the Department of Transportation, Erwin McEwen as director of the Department of Children and Family Services and Michelle Saddler as secretary of the Department of Human Services.

### **Gubernatorial Appointee Process Changing in Springfield**

The Illinois Senate is seeking to make changes to the way Governor Quinn must make his appointments to key leadership posts on boards and commissions. Historically, the Governor's office has initiated the nomination of an individual to serve a term on a board or commission. That person could begin serving as soon as the Governor made the appointment, but the appointment still required the consent of the Senate. Many appointees' terms have expired, yet they remain serving without re-appointment by the Governor or consent by the Senate.

The Senate is seeking to change the process by which nominees are appointed and approved. Senate President Cullerton and Minority Leader Radogno introduced SB 1, which will terminate all salaried appointments upon the bill becoming law. It will allow non-salaried appointments to remain in that position for 30 days after becoming law. The bill gives the Governor the power to temporarily appoint an individual, but that appointment would expire upon the next Senate session day. All other permanent appointees must be re-appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. SB 1 passed the Senate Executive Committee 14-0-0. It is currently on Third Reading in the Senate.

The Senate also passed changes to their rules (guidelines by which the chamber operates) regarding gubernatorial appointees. Senate President Cullerton passed SR 25 by a vote of 57-0-0. The resolution will require each appointee to be given a number. They will be designated "Appointment Message 1, Appointment Message 2...". The appointment messages will be searchable on the [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) website. Each appointment message will contain the agency the individual is appointed to, length of term, name of the person and their address, salary and per diem expenses, and the appointee's senator.

## S T A T E N E W S

## General Assembly Introduces Thousands of Bills

The Illinois House and Senate have now put in place the rules by which their chamber will operate for the next two year. Leadership has been decided and offices have been chosen. Now members will begin their work in earnest.

Up to the time of this update, there have been nearly 2,300 Senate bills introduced, with February 10 being the introduction deadline. At this time, there have been nearly 1,500 House bills introduced. However, there are still two weeks left before the House bill introduction deadline.

The Illinois AFL-CIO will continue to monitor and analyze these bills and forward onto our affiliates those we feel may impact you. For a full list of the legislation we are tracking, please visit our website: [http://www.ilafll-cio.org/forms/bill\\_trak.pdf](http://www.ilafll-cio.org/forms/bill_trak.pdf).

## State Senator Lou Viverito Retires

State Senator Lou Viverito officially retired this week from the Illinois General Assembly. Senator Viverito served the 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District for 16 years. He is a decorated Korean War Veteran. One of the many highlights of Viverito's senate career was his commitment to improving the quality of life and safety in local communities, including his own community of Burbank.

Democratic committeemen met last Saturday at Toyota Park in Bridgeview and voted to give the position to Bridgeview Mayor Steve Landek, who also is head of the Lyons Township Democratic Committee.

## Mitsubishi to Build New Model in Bloomington

On Feb. 4, Governor Quinn, UAW International President Bob King, UAW International Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Williams and Mitsubishi Motors North America President Shinichi Kurihara were in Normal at the Mitsubishi plant to announce the company will stay in Illinois and invest \$45 million to produce the new Outlander Sport Crossover Utility vehicle.

A state incentive package is credited for enticing Mitsubishi to expand here and save an estimated 1,200 good-paying jobs. Incentives included Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) tax credit, Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) job training funds as well as Enterprise Zone tax relief. ([Click here to view the press conference.](#))

## N A T I O N A L

## AFL-CIO Encouraged by President's Remarks to Chamber

On Monday, AFL-CIO Political Communications Director Eddie Vale said there were several passages from President Obama's speech to the Chamber of Commerce that the AFL-CIO welcomed, including his reminder to business that they need to hire American workers to bring this country out of the economic recession.

"Ask yourselves what you can do for America," said Obama. "Ask yourselves what you can do to hire American workers, to support the American economy, and to invest in this nation."

The President seemed to stand firm in his support for workers' rights. "...even as we work to eliminate burdensome regulations, America's businesses have a responsibility to recognize that there are some safeguards and standards that are necessary to protect the American people from harm or exploitation," said the President.

And he went as far as to say tax code reform can only be done with the insurance that increased profits will equal increased opportunity for the middle-class. "If we're fighting to reform the tax code and increase exports to help you compete, the benefits can't just translate into greater profits and bonuses for those at the top," he said. "They should be shared by American workers, who need to know that expanding trade and opening markets will lift their standard of living as well as your bottom line. We cannot go back to the kind of economy -- and culture -- we saw in the years leading up to the recession, where growth and gains in productivity just didn't translate into rising incomes and opportunity for the middle class."

## Republicans Block Assistance to Workers Losing Jobs to Off-shoring

On Tuesday, House Republican leaders refused to let members vote on an extension of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs that will expire Feb. 12.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka criticized the obvious political move. "This shows a blatant lack of concern for American workers who have lost jobs because of unfair trade deals," he said. "For years the TAA program has been a lifeline for working people trying to get the skills necessary to change careers after their lives have been turned upside down."

"This is just more of the same old politics that voters don't want. First it was blocking unemployment benefits, now it's fighting TAA programs for workers whose jobs have been outsourced. Apparently the Republican leadership thinks that workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own due to trade deals are living too high on the hog."

National media is reporting that workers who are currently enrolled in a re-training program through TAA will not be affected and qualified workers who apply by Feb. 14 will be accepted.

## Victory for TSA Workers

On February 4, the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced it will grant collective bargaining rights to over 40,000 airport screeners across America. By law, the TSA administrator has the power to grant collective bargaining rights to employees, but under the Bush administration employees were continually denied that right.

TSA workers will vote in early March to join either the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) or the National Treasury Employees Union.

## Writing a New Chapter to Black History Month . . . *the Union Chapter*

There are many African Americans who are dedicated to the Labor movement in this country and who work to ensure that this segment of society receives its fair share of jobs, contracts and leadership positions in Labor's organizations.

Historically, the work of A. Philip Randolph can not be disputed. This visionary started The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) in 1925. In 1935, the BSCP was the first Labor organization led by African-Americans to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor (AFL). Randolph and the union's leaders worked to garner fair wages, better working conditions and a voice in the workplace for the dedicated rail workers who had long been denied their rights.

Most of us know well the struggles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who worked civil rights into the frame work of the labor movement and who said, "The coalition that can have the greatest impact in the struggle for human dignity in America is that of blacks and the forces of Labor, because their fortunes are so closely intertwined."

Labor played a major role in electing the first African American President of the United States. Labor has joined to assist community organizations that work in the African American community, especially in the area of apprenticeship training for the trades. Labor has African Americans in leadership as presidents, secretary-treasurers and board members. And in 2010 the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed black workers are more likely to be union members than whites, Asian or Hispanic worker (<http://www.bls.gov>).

The Illinois AFL-CIO applauds the work of the African American worker past and present and those to come. The State Labor Federation will continue to support all of our members regardless of race and encourage our affiliates to support and mentor future black Labor leaders. February is the month that we celebrate African American history in America; it is time we begin to write a new "Union Chapter," one that unites all workers as one strong voice.