



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

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The Illinois General Assembly concluded their business for the week on Thursday. The Illinois Senate will convene in session next Monday, March 14 at 2pm. The Illinois House returns next Tuesday, March 15 at noon. Next Thursday, March 17 is the deadline by which bills must pass committees in both chambers. No significant action on workers compensation or unemployment insurance was taken this week by the General Assembly. The Illinois AFL-CIO will hold our labor lobbyist meeting in our Springfield office on Monday, March 14 at 1:30pm.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **HB 225 – Education Employees**

Rep. Jakobsson (D – Champaign)

#### **SUPPORT**

Amends the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. Provides for pre-professional graduate employees to be represented for collective bargaining purposes if a majority of employees choose to do so.

*3/9/11 – Passed House Higher Education Committee 6-4-0. Second Reading.*

### **HB 1228 – Plumbing License**

Rep. Saviano (R – Elmwood Park)

#### **Monitor**

Amends the Illinois Plumbing License Law. Adds a provision that in the event a plumber's contractor's registration is suspended or revoked, the Department of Public Health shall notify the City of Chicago and any corresponding plumber's contractor license issued by the City of Chicago shall be suspended or revoked.

*3/9/11 – Passed Businesses and Occupational Licenses Committee 11-0-0. Second Reading.*

### **HB 1375 – Responsible Bidder**

Rep. Beiser (D – Alton)

#### **SUPPORT**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that, in order to be considered a responsible bidder under the Code, a bidder must submit a signed affidavit stating that it will maintain an Illinois office as the primary place of employment for persons employed in the

construction authorized by the contract. Effective immediately.

*3/9/11 – Passed House State Government 13-0-0. Second Reading.*

### **HB 1427 – Firefighter Work Comp**

Rep. Bradley (D – Marion)

Sen. Raoul (D – Chicago)

#### **SUPPORT**

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act. Provides that a member of a fire department in any city whose population exceeds 500,000 (was 200,000) is considered an "employee" under the Act only with respect to claims for any serious and permanent disfigurement. Seeks to clarify that firefighters in cities with an increasing population will continue to fall under the Workers' Compensation Act.

*3/9/11 – Passed House 114-0-0. First Reading in Senate.*

### **HB 1573 – First Aid Kits**

Rep. Holbrook (D – Belleville)

#### **SUPPORT**

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that all passenger trains, engines, and vehicles operated by a contract carrier transporting railroad employees in the course of their employment shall contain a first aid kit that contains, at a minimum, those articles those articles prescribed by the Illinois Commerce Commission, for first aid to persons who may be injured.

*3/8/11 – Passed House Transportation 11-0-0. Second Reading.*

### **HB 1672 – Employee IRA**

Sen. Martinez (D – Chicago)

#### **SUPPORT**

Employers with more than 10 employees that have been in business for at least 2 years and do not sponsor any plan for their employees would be required to automatically enroll their employees and allow employees to use the employer's payroll system to channel the employee's own money from their paychecks to an IRA.

*3/9/11 – Passed House State Government 9-6-0. Second Reading.*

### **HB 1966 – High Speed Rail Public Private Partnership**

Rep. Burke (D – Chicago)

#### **Monitor**

Creates the Illinois and Midwest High-Speed Rail Commission Act. Contains provisions concerning the composition of the Illinois and Midwest High-Speed Rail Commission. Provides that by November 20, 2011, the Commission must prepare and issue a report recommending the best governmental structure for a public-private partnership to design, build, operate, maintain, and finance a high-speed rail system for the State. Provides that a follow-up report shall be issued by October 1, 2012. Repeals the Act on January 1, 2015. Adds the chairman of the ICC to the commission. Effective immediately.

*3/9/11 – Passed House Jud I 11-0-0. Second Reading.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

**HB 2902 – Electric Vehicle Council**

Rep. Williams (D – Chicago)

**Monitor**

Creates the Electric Vehicle Adoption Act. Authorizes the Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to appoint an Electric Vehicle Coordinator for the State of Illinois who will act as the point person for electric vehicle related policies and activities in the State. Creates the Illinois Electric Vehicle Advisory Council to investigate and recommend strategies that the Governor and the General Assembly may implement to promote the use of electric vehicles.

*3/10/11 – Passed House Environmental Health 13-1-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 2903 – Electric Vehicle Manufacturing**

Rep. Williams (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Alternate Fuels Act. Requires \$500,000 of the amount that is appropriated for rebate programs under the Act during fiscal years 2012 and 2013 to be designated instead to fund a grant program to support the adoption of electric vehicles powered by solar generation. Authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency in fiscal year 2012 and thereafter, to make a grant of \$500,000 to a not-for-profit car-sharing organization. *Authorizes the grant funds to be used to purchase electric vehicles from an original equipment manufacturer that operates a manufacturing facility in Illinois.* Effective immediately.

*3/10/11 – Passed House Environmental Health 12-3-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 2987 – Project Labor Agreements**

Rep. Verschoore (D – Moline)

**SUPPORT**

In 2010, Governor Quinn signed an Executive Order (EO 2010-3) in a statewide building trades meeting in Bloomington. The executive order requires agencies under the control of the Executive Branch to use project labor agreements on public works projects. HB 2987 is attempting to take that executive order and make it law. This is necessary to codify and protect project labor agreements in Illinois, in the event that a Gov-

ernor wins election and does not respect project labor agreements.

*3/9/11 – Passed House Labor Committee 11-5-0. Second Reading.*

**HB 3237 – Prevailing Wage**

Rep. Phelps (D – Harrisburg)

**SUPPORT**

House Bill 3237 will strengthen the Prevailing Wage Act resulting in tougher enforcement, more widespread compliance with the Act, and less fraud on public bodies.

- Changes the criminal penalty for violating the Act from (at most) a Class A misdemeanor to a Class 4 felony.
- Requires the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) to debar those criminally convicted of violations of the Act for a period of 4 years. Currently, there is no such debarment for criminal convictions.
- Permits state, local and federal law enforcement agencies to obtain relevant documents from contractors and subcontractors. Currently, only IDOL and the relevant public body have the right to obtain these documents.
- Reduces the amount of notice contractors and subcontractors have prior to the inspection of documents by government entities from 7 to 3 days.

*3/9/11 – Passed House Labor Committee 11-8-0. Second Reading.*

**HR 110 – Spending Cap**

Speaker Madigan (D – Chicago)

**OPPOSE**

Places a spending cap on the Illinois House. The Governor's office and COGFA all have different numbers. It was testified in committee that the resolution would cut house spending by \$1.5 billion, from their own revenue projections.

*3/9/11 – Passed House 112-0-0.*

**SB 1122 – Civil Rights**

Sen. Link (D – Waukegan)

**SUPPORT**

Makes it a civil rights violation for any employer to refuse to hire, to segregate, or to act with respect to recruitment, hiring, promotion, renewal of employment, selection for training or apprenticeship, discharge, discipline, tenure or terms, privileges or conditions of employment

on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Effective immediately.

*3/9/11 – Passed Senate Labor 7-2-0. Second Reading.*

**SB 1352 – CDB Expansion**

Sen. Schoenberg (D – Evanston)

**Monitor**

Expands the number of contracts that the CDB can bid out as a package, as opposed to bidding each part of construction out individually.

*3/9/11 – Passed Senate Executive 15-0-0. Second Reading.*

**SB 1754 – Offense Against Juvenile Detention Employee**

Sen. Mulroe (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Criminal Code of 1961. Makes it an offense of aggravated assault when an inmate attacks an employee of a county juvenile detention center who provides direct and continuous supervision or who supervises recreational activity for residents of a juvenile detention center. Effective immediately.

*3/9/11 – Passed Senate Judiciary – Criminal Law 8-0-0. Third Reading.*

**CALL TO ACTION!****SB 1932 - Vouchers**

Sen. Murphy (D – Palatine)

**OPPOSE**

Creates the Illinois School Choice Program, which shall be administered by the State Board of Education. The bill establishes a Chicago-only voucher plan, with the potential to expand elsewhere in Illinois. Provides that any State-certified, non-public school may enroll eligible students and be reimbursed with vouchers paid by state tax dollars. The bill's stated goal is to take vouchers statewide, skimming state tax dollars for public schools in suburban and downstate communities. The Illinois State Constitution clearly outlaws state dollars supporting or sustaining any school or academy controlled by any church or sectarian denomination (Article X, Section 3)

*3/9/11 – Passed Senate Education 7-3-0. Second Reading.*

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## Governor Signs Internet Sales Tax Bill

On Thursday, in spite of opposition by large internet companies like Amazon.com, Gov. Quinn signed legislation (HB 3659) that will require out-of-state internet sellers to charge/pay sales tax on purchases that originate in Illinois. The Illinois AFL-CIO was a proponent of the bill that will level the playing field between companies that have permanent stores in our state and who must pay sales tax and those that sell to residents via the internet. Estimates indicate the measure will raise over \$500 million in state revenue.

“The Illinois Internet Tax represents much needed revenue for our state,” said President Michael Carrigan. “Labor worked closely with business to address this problem in our state, to help protect jobs and grow Illinois’ economy. We thank state lawmakers in the House and Senate for their overwhelming support of the bill, especially the leadership and main sponsors: Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago), Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno (R-Lemont) and State Representative Pat Verschoore (D-Milan). And we thank Governor Pat Quinn for signing the bill into law.” ■

### SB 2169 – Pipelines

Sen. Clayborne (D – East St. Louis)  
**Monitor**

Amends the Public Utilities Act. In provisions concerning issuance of a certificate of good standing authorizing a person to operate as a common carrier by pipeline, makes changes concerning the factors the Illinois Commerce Commission shall consider in its determination of public convenience and necessity for a proposed pipeline or facility

*3/10/11 – Passed Senate Energy 10-0-0. Second Reading.*

### SB 2172 – Responsible Bidder

Sen. Clayborne (D – East St. Louis)  
**SUPPORT**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that, in order to be considered a responsible bidder under the Code, a bidder must submit a signed affidavit stating that it will maintain an Illinois office as the primary place of employment for persons employed in the construction authorized by the contract. Effective immediately.

*3/9/11 – Passed Senate Executive 12-1-0. Second Reading.*

### AM 25 – Michael Joyce to Labor Relations Board

Sen. Munoz (D – Chicago)  
**Monitor**

Nominates Michael J. Joyce as a member and Chair of the Illinois Labor Relations Board - Local Panel.

*3/4/11 – Appointment Withdrawn*

### AM 28 – Doug Scott to Illinois Commerce Commission

Sen. Munoz (D – Chicago)  
**Monitor**

Nominates Douglas Scott to be a Commissioner and Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission.

*3/10/11 – Passed Executive Appointments Committee 7-0-0. Calendar Order of Executive Appts. ■*

## AFGE National President in Chicago for TSA Vote



*(Right to left) Local AFGE President Ricky McCoy, AFGE National President John Gage and AFGE 7<sup>th</sup> District National Vice President Dorothy James talk to a TSA agent about voting for union representation at O'Hare Airport on Thursday.*

On Thursday, AFGE International President John Gage was at O'Hare and Midway Airports in Chicago talking to federal Transportation Security Agents who are in the process of voting on union representation. According to Illinois AFL-CIO Vice President and AFGE 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice President Dorothy James, who was also at the airport for the campaign, the vote will affect over 600 members in Illinois.

Alvis Martin, Illinois AFL-CIO Field Director, visited the terminals with President Gage as he spoke to off-duty agents about who would represent them in future collective bargaining. Over 20 AFGE members were at the Chicago airports Thursday.

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## State Building to be Named for Former Director Brunsvold

On Thursday, the Governor signed legislation (HB 1422–96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) to name the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) headquarters in Springfield after former House member and DNR director Joel D. Brunsvold.

Brunsvold died suddenly in September of 2010. He was a Democratic State Representative serving District 72 for 20 years before becoming DNR director from 2003 - 2005. ■

## Labor Agencies Testify Before Appropriations Committee

Many of the state agencies that enforce labor laws in Illinois were called upon to testify before House and Senate Appropriations committees this week. Jacalyn Zimmerman, chairwoman of the Illinois Labor Relations Board (ILRB), testified before House and Senate Appropriations Committees that past budgets have not made it possible for her agency to provide adequate staffing to enforce the laws under its jurisdiction. However, the agency continues to work on its backlog of cases. Currently, the board completes approximately 76% of its unfair labor practice investigations within 90 days of filing, up from an average of approximately 43% in FY10.

The Illinois Department of Labor's Director Catherine Shannon testified before a Senate Appropriations Committee that the Department has submitted a proposed budget request for FY12 of \$11.2 million, for a staff of 111 people. This is a significant increase of \$3.8 million over the Department's FY11 budget, most of this increase (\$3 million) is due to the transfer of the federally-funded Private Sector Consultation Program from DCEO to IDOL. The Department's General Revenue Funds increase is \$50,200. The FY12 budget request includes \$150,000 from the Employee Classification Fund to fill vacant investigator positions. Director Shannon pointed to key accomplishments in 2010:

- Recovered \$2.2 million in prevailing wages owed to workers;
- Recovered \$1.7 million in final compensation owed to workers;
- Recovered \$1.2 million in minimum wage/overtime payments for workers;
- Processed 44 complaints and assessed \$703,500 in penalties for violations of the Employee Classification Act.

The Illinois Department of Labor will give testimony before a House Appropriations Committee on April 6 at 4pm. No room number assigned yet. ■

## IDOT Director to Resign

On Thursday, Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig announced he will resign from his post effective March 31. Hannig cited personal reasons for leaving saying, "he thoroughly enjoyed his job, but that the daily stresses were wearing on him."

Hannig was born in Litchfield and raised in Mt. Olive. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in accounting and in 1978 he was the youngest member to be elected to the Illinois House of Representatives at that time. He served in the General Assembly until he was appointed Secretary of Transportation by Gov. Quinn in February of 2009. Hannig was appointed Assistant Democratic Leader for the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Deputy Majority Leader for the 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. He was the Chief Budget Negotiator for the House Democrats.

No word on who will replace Secretary Hannig. ■