



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

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The Illinois General Assembly adjourned today. Both chambers will return next Tuesday, May 10 at noon. Next week is the deadline to pass bills from the opposite chamber out of committee. Labor and business leaders continue to meet with the legislative leaders on workers compensation. We will continue to update our affiliates as all of our important issues continue to develop.

Labor Coalition Takes Pension Fight to the People

Polling Supports Government Keeping Promises, Funding Pensions

We Are One Illinois, a coalition of labor organizations, launched a grass-roots, public campaign this week focused on growing the public's support of assuring the government keeps its promise of funding pensions.

On the heels of seeing neighboring states seeking to destroy the pension promise and even Illinois lawmakers considering proposals risking retirement income for public employees, the coalition acted by commissioning a poll of Illinois residents and staging a grassroots plan to fight back.

The statewide survey showed that more than 60 percent of all voters--including more than half of all Republicans--agreed with the statement that, despite the deficit, public employees should receive their promised pension. The poll was conducted by Hart Research Associates on behalf of the coalition.

"We've come together to show the politicians that the people of Illinois don't want Wisconsin-brand reform," Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan said. "We're not going to sit idly by and let the modest retirements of our teachers, fire fighters and police officers be destroyed. The people of this state deserve better. They should be assured that their representatives are going to keep their promises."

We Are One Illinois coalition members include the Illinois AFL-CIO, Illinois Education Association, Illinois Federation of Teachers, Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois, AFSCME Council 31, Illinois Police Benevolent and Protective Association, Fraternal Order of Police, Service Employees International Union, Laborers International Union of North America

and the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association. The coalition represents more than one million members across Illinois.

We Are One Illinois will begin a statewide television campaign Wednesday. The commercials are available to view at www.WeAreOneIllinois.org and feature public employees, including firefighters, police officers, teachers and nurses, talking about the work they do every day like fix streets, save lives and teach children.

Key issues that will be highlighted in the campaign include:

- Employees Provide Essential Services
- Most Public Employees Are Not Eligible for Social Security
- Modest Pensions Constitute Life Savings
- Politicians Caused Pension Debt

In addition to television advertising, We Are One Illinois has launched a grassroots educational campaign to mobilize union members and Illinoisans across the state to stop politicians in Springfield from passing legislation to cut the modest pensions earned and paid into by public employees. More information on the coalition is available at www.WeAreOneIllinois.org.

**WE
ARE
ONE**



IFT Members Speak Out on Pension Attacks

Hundreds of IFT members and retirees traveled to Springfield to participate in IFT Lobby Day on May 3 to tell legislators to do the right thing on public pensions and other key issues being addressed this legislative session.

"When we speak with one powerful voice as IFT members, we impact the important decisions made on issues that affect our professions and those we serve," said IFT President Dan Montgomery. "IFT Lobby Day is a terrific opportunity to come together and make our collective voice heard."

Pensions topped the Lobby Day agenda, as IFT members expressed their concerns about possible pension changes during a pre-lobby briefing. As early as this week, lawmakers could consider legislation that would cut public pensions for IFT members in the state systems. The IFT and legal experts, including Illinois Senator John Cullerton's Chief Legal Counsel Eric Madair believe any attempts to diminish public employee pensions would be unconstitutional.

Shannon Anderson, a teacher and member of the Prairie Hill Federation of Teachers, Local 4423, traveled from South Beloit to participate in IFT Lobby Day for the first time to tell her lawmakers face-to-face about the importance of her pension. "We are counting on them to make the right decision and the fair decision."

For those who could not make it to Springfield, the IFT offered the option to lobby lawmakers online during the union's first-ever Virtual Lobby Day. Thousands of members sent e-mails and made phone calls to their legislators to urge them to keep the promise the state made to provide a modest pension in return for a lifetime of public service.

Call 217.544.4014 For More Information On These And Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People - www.ilaff-cio.org



G E N E R A L A S S E M B L Y

HB 1041 – Prevailing Wage

Rep. Beiser (D – Alton)

SUPPORT

Legislation will help provide uniform application of federal and state prevailing wages on public works projects. It will lead to a safer work environment by deterring an employer from overworking an employee. It will also level the playing field for responsible employers.

*5/6/11 – Passed House 65-52-0.**To Senate.***HB 1427 – Firefighter Work Comp**

Rep. Bradley (D – Marion)

Sen. Wilhelmi (D – Crest Hill)

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. Clarifies 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.**5/4/11 – Passed Senate Labor 8-0-0. Third Reading.***HB 1503 – Higher Education**

Rep. Rose (R – Charleston)

Sen. Maloney (D – Chicago)

Monitor

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Directs the Board of Higher Education to form a broad-based group of individuals to devise a system for allocating State resources to public institutions of higher education based upon performance in achieving State goals related to student success and certificate and degree completion. Provides that, beginning in Fiscal Year 2013, the Board of Higher Education budget recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly shall include allocations to public institutions of higher education based upon performance metrics designed to promote and measure student success in degree and certificate completion. Provides that these metrics must be adopted by the Board by rule. Requires the metrics to be developed and promulgated in accordance with specified principles. Provides that in devising

performance metrics, the Board may be guided by the report of the Higher Education Finance Study Commission.

*4/5/11 – Passed House 102-0-0.**5/4/11 – Passed Senate Higher Education 8-0-0. Second Reading.***HB 1703 – Pipelines**

Rep. Reitz (D – Sparta)

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; provides that an application may request either that the Commission review and approve a specific route for a pipeline, or that the Commission review and approve a project route width that identifies the areas in which the pipeline would be located; provides for a consolidated proceeding for decisions on consolidated applications; requires the Commission to make its determination on any application filed pursuant to this Section and issue its final order within one year after the date that the application is filed unless an extension is granted; provides that the rules of the Commission may include additional options for expediting the issuance of permits and certificates. Makes other changes. Effective July 1, 2011.

*4/6/11 – Passed House 88-23-0.**5/5/11 – Passed Senate Energy 11-0-0. Second Reading.***HB 2066 – UI**

Rep. Jakobbson (D – Champaign)

Sen. Frerichs (D – Champaign)

Neutral

Amends the Jury Act and the Jury Commission Act. Provides that lists of claimants for unemployment insurance shall be added to the other lists (Illinois driver's license, Identification Card, Disabled Person Identification Card, and registered voters lists) now used to create jury lists.

*4/14/11 – Passed House 116-0-0.**5/4/11 – Passed Senate Judiciary 8-1-0. Second Reading.***HB 2987 – Project Labor Agreements**

Rep. Verschoore (D – Moline)

SUPPORT

Codifies Governor Quinn's executive order 2010-3, making project labor agreements a statewide policy. In the event that a non-labor friendly Governor is elected, this will make it PLA's the law, as opposed to just an Executive Order.

*5/5/11 – Passed House 69-49-0.**To Senate.***HB 3591 – CTA**

Rep. Mussman (D – Schaumburg)

Sen. Mulroe (D – Chicago)

Monitor

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. In provisions concerning the retirement plan for employees of the Chicago Transit Authority and the pension plan for employees of the Regional Transportation Authority, the Suburban Bus Division, and the Commuter Rail Division, prohibits an individual from being paid any benefits provided under the Code if (i) he or she first becomes a participant on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act and (ii) he or she is convicted of a felony relating to, arising out of, or in connection with his or her service as a participant. Effective immediately.

*4/6/11 – Passed House 103-5-2.**5/4/11 – Passed Senate Pensions 6-0-0. Third Reading.***HJRCA 5 – Pension Benefits**

Speaker Madigan (D – Chicago)

OPPOSE

Would require a 3/5 vote (now simple majority) of the General Assembly for any bill that authorized an increase in pension benefits for any state or municipal pension system. If a bill were to pass and the Governor vetoed that bill, it would mandate 2/3 vote to override that veto (now 3/5). *(In order for this to become part of Illinois' constitution, both chambers of the General Assembly would have to approve it by 3/5 majority, and it would then be placed on the ballot for the 2012 election. If either 3/5 of those voting on the question or a majority of those voting in the election approve the question, it becomes part of the constitution).*

*5/4/11 – Passed House Pensions 9-0-0. Second Reading.**(continued on page 3)*

SB 1 – Executive Appointments

President Cullerton (D – Chicago)

Speaker Madigan (D – Chicago)

Monitor

This legislation would eliminate all gubernatorial appointees on holdover, meaning their term has expired, yet they continue to serve in the same capacity because no one has been appointed to take their place. According to Senate staff, there are currently 599 holdover positions. This legislation has an immediate effective date. All salaried positions would cease immediately upon this legislation becoming law. Non-salaried positions would be given 30 days to vacate position upon this bill becoming law. For those whose term will become “heldover”, they will have 30 days after term expires.

AV: Recommends that the provisions of the bill that amend the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act and that pertain to a salaried office apply on and after July 1, 2011. Recommends that the provisions of the bill that amend the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act and that pertain to an office other than a salaried office apply on and after October 1, 2011.

2/10/11 – Passed Senate 48-0-0.

2/17/11 – Passed House 103-6-1.

4/19/11 – Governor Amendatory Veto

5/4/11 – Placed on Senate Calendar Order of Amendatory Veto (15 calendar days to consider).

SB 1258 – Transportation

Sen. Sandoval (D – Cicero)

Monitor

Amends the State Finance Act. Changes the name of the State Rail Freight Loan Repayment Fund to the State Rail Freight Fund. Creates the Building Our Economy Transportation Fund. Provides that money in the Road Fund shall be used for public transportation and for the payment of debts incurred in construction of public transportation facilities. Amends the Motor Fuel Tax Law. Provides that

an amount of the motor fuel tax shall be deposited into the Building Our Economy Transportation Fund. Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Provides that a county board or municipality may use motor fuel tax money for construction of public transportation facilities. Effective immediately.

5/3/11 – Failed in Senate 18-31-2.

SB 1342 – Nursing Plan

Sen. Lightford (D – Chicago)

Rep. Gabel (D – Evanston)

SUPPORT

Amends the Hospital Licensing Act. Provides that a copy of the written staffing plan for nursing care services shall be provided to any member of the general public upon request.

5/3/11 – Passed Senate 54-0-0.

5/4/11 – Referred to House Rules.

SB 1754 – Offense Against Juvenile Detention Employee

Sen. Mulroe (D – Chicago)

Rep. McAsey (D – Romeoville)

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.

3/30/11 – Passed Senate 53-0-0.

4/11/11 – Passed House 110-2-1.

Passed both chambers.

SB 1952 – Repeal Labor Arbitration Services Act

Sen. Althoff (R – Crystal Lake)

Rep. Reis (R – Olney)

Monitor

Repeals the Labor Arbitration Services Act. Authorizes IDOL to assist labor and management groups in resolving grievances, negotiating contracts and conducting representation elections through the

Illinois Arbitration Service. IDOL receives about 30 arbitration requests each year, enforcement of this law requires a significant amount of time and detracts from the Department’s core mission.

4/14/11 – Passed Senate 59-0-0.

5/4/11 – Passed Senate Labor Committee 19-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 2037 – Elevator Safety

Sen. Sullivan (D – Rushville)

Rep. Pihos (R – Glen Ellyn)

Monitor

Amends the Elevator Safety and Regulation Act. Provides that the provisions of the Performance-Based Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators (ASME A17.7) shall be included in the standards and criteria for licensing of elevator mechanics, inspectors, and installers of elevators. Provides that a certificate of operation is renewable every 3 years (rather than annually) for a conveyance (i) that is located in a building owned and occupied by any church, synagogue, or other building, structure, or place used primarily for religious worship and is the only conveyance in the building, (ii) that is under the jurisdiction of the Administrator, (iii) that is limited in use to 2 levels, and (iv) for which the church, synagogue, or other building, structure, or place used primarily for religious worship has an annual maintenance examination that includes the applicable category tests. Makes corresponding changes. Effective immediately.

4/14/11 – Passed Senate 58-0-0.

5/4/11 – Passed House Business & Occupational Licenses 9-0-0. Second Reading.

AM 73 – Warren Ribley

Sen. Munoz (D – Chicago)

Nominates Warren C. Ribley to be Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

5/6/11 – Passed Senate 46-0-2.

Pension Battle Looming

The Illinois House has posted SB 512 (Madigan/Cullerton) for a House Pensions Committee. This bill is anticipated to be amended to contain “pension reform” language that would cut current employee pension benefits. No details on the amendment have emerged yet. The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 12 at 12pm in Room 122B. Please reach out to your House and Senate members to ask them to oppose any reduction in pension benefits.

Illinois Senate Considers Budget Bills

The Illinois Senate began considering budget bills this week that would cut over \$1 billion in government spending. The cuts will reduce the budgets for the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Labor and several other departments. The bill to cut the budget of the Illinois Department of Labor is SB 2456 (Senator Steans D – Chicago). It passed the Senate 52-6, and will effectively cut their budget by 5%.

Senate Bill 2390, sponsored by Senator Kotowski, cuts the Senate Democratic Caucus budget by 5 percent. This will also lead to a reduction of salaries for Senators. Senate Republicans spent much of their day opposing the series of spending cuts. Senate President Cullerton reminded the members of the chamber that the Republicans have not, to date, submitted a single amendment to the listing of bills Democrats identified as budget legislation even though the Senate leader repeatedly encouraged all members to file real legislation for discussion.

Many of the appropriations bills were not called for a vote due to resistance of Senators on both sides of the aisle. The Senate will continue to consider budget related bills next week, while the House will begin their budget process in the near future.



Haymarket Martyrs Monument Rededicated

On May Day, Labor activists joined together for the 125th Anniversary and Commemoration of the Haymarket Martyrs Monument at Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park. The martyrs' monument was also unveiled for a rededication following an extensive restoration. The commemoration and rededication followed a week of May Day Activities celebrating and re-examining the history of the Haymarket Martyrs and their influence on today's labor movement.

At Sunday's event a number of Speakers, including AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Liz Shuler, LIUNA General President Terrence O'Sullivan, IUPAT General President James Williams, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride, Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez and Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan spoke on the importance of remembering and honoring those

who have sacrificed for worker rights.

Illinois Labor History Society (ILHS) President Larry Spivak and ILHS founding member Les Orear unveiled the restored monument and ensured that the Haymarket Martyrs monument will continue to inspire labor activists from around the world for the cause of economic justice for working families.



Central Labor Council & Community Services Conference – June 27-28

On June 27-28, Central Labor council leaders and Community Service activists will meet at the Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center for the annual statewide conference. The conference is designed to inspire, motivate and activate union members around issues important to working families and provides a forum to learn and share ideas. National, state and local leaders will provide information on political strategies, community involvement, legislative issues and a variety of local programs. Additionally, the Robert G. Gibson Community Service award will be presented to members who go above and beyond to serve their union brothers and sisters. Registration deadline is June 1 and the cost is only \$150 which includes all meals. For more information please visit <http://www.ilaf-cio.org/forms/11clcregform.pdf> or contact Amy Nixon at 217-492-2633.



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