



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JUNE 23, 2011

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY E. DREA, SECRETARY TREASURER

JASON KELLER, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Illinois General Assembly concluded its one day session on Wednesday this week. Both chambers are scheduled to return to Springfield for the fall veto session on Tuesday, October 25.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Collective Bargaining Bill Not Called in Senate *Governor Quinn's proposed legislation lacked support in Senate*

Prior to the General Assembly's return for one day this week, Governor Quinn made another attempt to pass legislation that would strip collective bargaining rights from thousands of public employees. SB 1556 (Cullerton/Currie) had passed the House 62-52-1 on May 31, and is on the calendar order of concurrence (final passage) in the Senate.

Governor Quinn lobbied Senate President Cullerton for passage of SB 1556. For the past week, union leaders and activists from all sectors of the union movement have called Senate offices to convey their opposition to SB 1556. Following those calls, many called the Governor's office to register their displeasure with him.

On Tuesday, when the Governor's office became aware of the significant lack of support on both sides of the aisle, the Governor's office asked Cullerton not to call the bill. Due to its immediate effective date, the bill would have required 36 affirmative votes for passage in the Senate and was nearly unanimously opposed in the Democratic caucus and had significant opposition in the Republican caucus. This marks the third time this year the Governor has failed to garner enough support for this issue in the Senate.

While this legislation was stopped this week, this issue could come up again when the General Assembly returns.

General Assembly Passes Capital Expenditure Bill

The General Assembly returned to Springfield this week to ensure that this year's capital infrastructure projects around the state would continue unimpeded. The General Assembly needed to authorize the \$18 billion of funding for projects. Both chambers quickly approved SB 2414 (Cullerton/Currie). It is estimated that its passage prevented 52,000 workers in Illinois from being laid off. The House vote was 103-0-0, and the Senate 52-0-0. The bill now goes to the Governor for his consideration.

Medicaid Bill Passes

The General Assembly passed SB 1633 this week to transfer \$365 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Healthcare Provider Relief Fund. This will qualify Illinois to receive a higher rate of matching Medicaid funding from the federal government. It will save the state approximately \$90-100 million. The bill must still be signed by Governor Quinn.

Lawmakers Freeze Pay

The Illinois Senate passed SB 266 (Kotowski/Madigan) that will prevent any increases in their compensation for the next fiscal year. The House passed the bill on May 31, 117-0-0. The Senate passed the bill yesterday, 48-4-0. The legislation requires legislators to take 12 furlough days between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. In addition, it prevents lawmakers, elected statewide constitutional officers, state's attorneys, agency directors and members of boards and commissions from getting a 1.1% COLA increase for the next fiscal year. It freezes the mileage reimbursement rate for lawmakers at 39 cents per mile (federal reimbursement rate is 51 cents per mile) and their per diems at \$111 per day. The furlough days will reportedly save the state about \$565,000. The bill now goes to the Governor.

Rowell Confirmed as Director of Employment Security

The Illinois Senate confirmed Governor Quinn's appointment of Jay Rowell to be the Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Rowell formerly worked with Chicago City Clerk, Miguel del Valle, as a Deputy Director and as Political Director of the Senate Democratic Victory Fund. His appointment message (AM 127) was confirmed 42-9 by the Senate.

THIS JUST IN . . . REPRESENTATIVE DAN REITZ (D-SPARTA) ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE THIS WEEKEND. REITZ IS A UMWA MEMBER. HIS REPLACEMENT WILL BE SELECTED WITHIN 30 DAYS BY THE WEIGHTED VOTE OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CHAIRS IN THE DISTRICT.

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



LIUNA362afl-cio

Election Bill Passes This Week

The House and Senate completed work on an omnibus election package bill in June and passed it through both chambers this week. The legislation passed the House 82-22, and the Senate 53-0. The bill was immediately sent to the Governor's desk. SB 1586 (Harmon/Zalewski) included:

- Allows certain Judicial candidates to only file nominating petitions for only one vacancy in a circuit or sub-circuit.
- Sets State Senate Candidates may file with a maximum of 3,000 signatures (was unlimited) and State Representative Candidates may file with a maximum of 1,500 signatures (was unlimited) The minimum remains at 1,000 for State Senate and 500 for State Representative.
- Allows early voting locations to close in the event of a severe weather emergency if the building in which the early voting location is taking place closes. Requires the election authority to open for a designated 8 hour period on the 2nd day preceding the election and requires the election authority to make notification of the additional voting hours.
- Requires an election authority to give each voter who requests an absentee ballot the opportunity to provide an email address beginning 1/1/2012. The email may not be publicly available or may be released to any other 3rd party. The email may only be used by the election authority to communicate with the voter about the voting process including the transmittal of military-overseas ballots if the voter has requested electronic transmission.
- Township political caucuses are moved from the Second Tuesday in January to the first Tuesday in December.
- In Municipal Elections, changes that the top 2 vote recipients in a primary for a municipal election go to a run-off (instead of the top 4) At Large City Council is similar except that if 2 are to be elected the top 4 vote recipients go to a run off and etc.
- Allows School Boards to place advisory questions on the ballot by a majority vote of the board.

F E D E R A L

TSA Employees Organize Under AFGE

Transportation Security Administration employees across the country elected the American Federation of Government Employees as their exclusive union representative.

After a painfully long process and more than a decade without a voice on the job, more than 40,000 Transportation Security Officers working at airports nationwide have achieved the ability to improve their own lives, as well as the services they provide to others, by voting for workplace representation by the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO. Transportation Security Officers now join the ranks of firefighters, police and emergency responders, who have a say through collective bargaining to protect the public's safety and make their jobs more efficient and productive.

In April, more than 80 percent of the TSOs voting in a first election chose to have a union. Now a majority of those voting in the run-off election have chosen to be a part of the larger labor family in the AFL-CIO, and the 12 million working men and women in the AFL-CIO are proud to welcome them.

Today's victory affirms the deep-seated desire of working people across the country for a voice on the job and a seat at the table in solving workplace problems when given a free choice.

For more information, please visit <http://tsa.afge.org/>

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

For more information please visit <http://www.ilaf-cio.org/forms/11clcregform.pdf> or contact Amy Nixon at 217-492-2633.