



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MARCH 30, 2012

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 business for the week, and will now take a two week break before returning to Springfield on Tuesday, April 17. Today was the third reading deadline in each chamber. When the House and Senate return, they will have three weeks to consider bills from the opposite chamber in committees. The State Fed will be taking this time to review the bills still moving through the process and may be reaching out for input.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly Completes Deadline Week

The House and Senate completed their business for this deadline week today. Labor earned some key victories in both chambers this week; however, there are still issues that need further work.

Perhaps the largest issue taken up by either chamber this week was a budget resolution (HR 706 and HJR 69) that set the amount of money each House Appropriation Committee could spend for FY 13. The House and Senate passed a resolution earlier this year agreeing that there was \$33.7 billion available for FY13 (HR 707 & HJR 68).

The resolutions passed by the House this week stated that prior to appropriations committees allocating the money, certain non-discretionary funds should first be deducted. The resolution calls for taking \$1 billion and paying down its debts to the Medicaid program, with an additional \$300 million going to other state obligations. The plan also calls for using \$800 million of next year's tax receipts to pay down state debts. The percentage to each committee breaks down like this:

- Elementary & Secondary Education (39.83%)
- General Services (7.15%)
- Higher Education (12.14%)
- Human Services (31.21%)
- Public Safety (9.67%)

The ultimate result of the passage of these resolutions will be deep cuts in state services. Where those cuts are made will be decided by those committees.

Other action taken by the General Assembly this week:

- HB 404 (Mautino/Sullivan) – Eliminates mandates that DNR cannot and does not fulfill. DNR can re-purpose \$1 million. DNR faces a \$22 million shortfall in FY14, and has seen their budget go from \$100 million to \$45 million in recent years, while having additional mandates placed on it. **Monitor – Passed House 114-0-0.**
- HB 411 (Madigan/Raoul) – IDOL initiative to grant authority to apply for federal grant money for other funding opportunities during tough budget times. It may allow for the Department to utilize college interns to assist with outreach activities to boards and commission staffing. **Monitor – Passed House 114-0-0.**
- HB 3636 (Rose/Mulroe) – Reverses the Cypress Creek Court decision and will restore the intent of the Mechanics Lien Act which allows the construction industry to continue to provide labor and materials needed to initiate new developments in Illinois. **SUPPORT – Passed House 34-10-5. To Senate on Concurrence.**
- HB 3782 (Ford/Radogno) – Prohibits an employer from requesting a password or other account information in order to access an employee or prospective employee's social networking website. **SUPPORT – Passed House 78-30-1.**

- 2012 Election

Romney Applauds Walker's Anti-Worker Methods

Ahead of next Tuesday's Wisconsin Primary Election, GOP Presidential front-runner Mitt Romney applauded Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker for gutting public employees' pensions as a part of a larger anti-worker agenda he ran last year.

"...I support the governor in his effort to reign in the excesses that have permeated the public sector union and government negotiations over the years," said Romney.

Not to be outdone, Rick Santorum, who's been running second to Romney in recent primaries, called unions "bullies" as he stated his strong support for Walker's attempts to slash collective bargaining rights for public employee unions.

"And I know what it's like, you know, to fight the bullies. And there is no tougher bullies than the public employee **continued on page 2**



Walker Rally Set for April 17; Champaign Anti-RTW Rally Set for April 19

The We Are One Illinois Coalition along with the Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor and the Central Illinois Building Trades are holding a protest for Gov. Scott Walker's appearance in Springfield.

Walker is the keynote speaker at an Illinois Chamber of Commerce event in Springfield on April 17.

What: Scott Walker Protest

When: 9-11 am, April 17

Where: Outside the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield

Thousands of union members and community groups are expected to protest Walker and the Chamber.

Union members and community allies are also set to protest in Champaign on April 19 as Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is set to speak at the Champaign County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner. Daniels recently signed legislation making Indiana a Right to Work state. Right to work laws erode wages and benefits for workers.

What: Right to Work - Won't Work In Illinois Rally

When: 3-7:15 pm, April 19

Where: Hessel Park, 1401 Grandview Drive, Champaign (march

Romney... continued from front page

unions, and I just want to say to your governor, I am for you, I am behind you, and I'm going to do everything I can" Santorum said.

In related news, Walker is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at an Illinois Chamber of Commerce function April 17 in Springfield.

The Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor Council and the Central Illinois Building Trades are leading the effort to protest Walker's appearance. Details of the protest are in article above.



Labor, Women's Rights Pioneer Addie Wyatt Dies

First Female VP of International Union

Chicago labor and women's rights champion Rev. Addie Wyatt died Wednesday in Chicago. She was 88.

Wyatt started out working at a meat-packing company in 1941 at 17-years-old. She was elected vice-president of her local, United Packinghouse Workers of America Local 56, in 1953. Soon after, she was named UPWA's international representative and later the first female international vice president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

Also a leading voice on civil rights and women's rights, Wyatt was close to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was named by Eleanor Roosevelt to serve on the Protective Labor Legislation Committee of the United States Commission on the Status of Women.

In 1974 she founded the Coalition of Labor Union Women and two years later, became the international vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

"Rev. Wyatt was a treasure for us here in Illinois and for all workers across the country," said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. "Her contributions to a better society will be felt forever."

The House passed HR 915 today, in memory of Wyatt, on a voice vote.

**COPE GOLF OUTING -
JUNE 11 - SPRINGFIELD**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY... CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

- HB 4177 (Bradley/Hunter) – Preserves the collective bargaining rights for DHS’s Division of Rehabilitation Services Personal Assistants as the state moves towards more managed care. Includes maintenance home health care workers in the Labor Relations Act, giving them collective bargaining rights. **SUPPORT – Passed House 63-49-1.**
- HB 4665 (McAsey/J Collins) - Requires all new residential construction to include passive radon resistant construction. **MONITOR – Passed House 96-12-0.**
- HB 5201 (Fortner/Delgado) – The bill stipulates that the Illinois State Board of Elections is not a public employer under the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. Removes collective bargaining rights from its employees. **OPPOSE – Passed House 97-15.**
- HB 5212 (Krezwick/Crotty) - Public bodies may notify contractor of revisions in the prevailing wage by passing and publishing an ordinance to post a link on their website with the revised rate schedule. It would further require notification in any contract it lets. **SUPPORT – Passed House 107-4-0.**
- HB 5336 (Dugan) – Transfers all responsibilities of the Illinois OSHA program from DCEO to the Department of Labor. **MONITOR – Passed House 110-0-0.**
- HB 5531 (Arroyo) – Would eliminate the 50% tuition waiver for students of long-term state university employees. It applies to approximately 2,200 students and costs the state \$8 million a year. Labor stood together to work against this legislation that would end a long standing benefit for those workers. We wish to thank everyone for their hard work. **OPPOSE – Failed in House 26-75-7.**
- HB 5789 (Osmond/Althoff) – Allows the Department of Natural Resources to charge entrance fees to help raise revenue for the agency. **SUPPORT – Passed House 81-29-0.**
- SB 1064 (Munoz/Acevedo) - Extends the ban on privatized jails and prisons to cover civil detention. **NEUTRAL – Passed Senate 34-17-0.**
- SB 2643 (Noland/Lilly) – Will require all bids on public works projects to include a total number of straight-time work hours performed by a “journey person” or “apprentice” for each craft. In addition, requires all contractors who bid on public works projects to be a responsible bidder as defined in the Illinois Procurement Code. **SUPPORT – Passed Senate 32-18-0.**
- SB 2847 (Steans/Gabel) – Allows the IDOL to hold officers or agents of employers personally liable for willfully evading a final judgment under the Equal Pay Act. **SUPPORT – Passed Senate 56-0-0.**
- SB 3173 (Clayborne/Winters) – Creates a pilot project that will allow investor-owned utilities to engage in a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with a prospective solar project in East St. Louis, Illinois. **SUPPORT – Passed Senate 33-22-0.**
- SB 3279 (Martinez/Rita) – Roofing contractors seeking a building permit must present a government issued photo ID along with a building permit application. **SUPPORT – Passed Senate 56-0-0.**
- SB 3283 (Clayborne/Mautino) - Requires the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study comparing airborne emission reductions of coal-fired electric generating units within the State of Illinois between 1990 and 2012 and forecasting additional reductions for the period from 2013 to 2020. **MONITOR – Passed Senate 56-0-0.**