



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

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The Illinois House and Senate completed its business for the week yesterday. They now have two weeks left to pass the remaining bills out of committees in the opposite chamber. Both chambers will return to Springfield on Tuesday, April 24 at 12pm.



Thousands of workers protest Gov. Scott Walker's appearance at the Illinois Chamber's meeting Tuesday (top); Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan and Indiana Secretary-Treasurer Joe Breedlove before addressing the crowd at the Daniels protest in Champaign (left).

Rallies "Unwelcome" Anti-Worker Governors in Springfield, Champaign

Many thousands of union members greeted anti-union governors Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Mitch Daniels of Indiana in Springfield and Champaign this week. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce invited Walker in to the Capitol City to tout his record of gutting collective bargaining, education cuts and corporate handouts. His state ranks near the bottom in job growth since his election. In Champaign, workers and community allies protested Daniels and his targeting of union workers by repealing collective bargaining for public employees and his recent signing of Right to Work. Protests were scheduled in Chicago and Lake County on Friday for Walker appearances. For more photos of the two rallies please go to: www.ilaf-cio.org/gallery_main.htm

Central Labor Council & Community Services Conference – June 27-29

For more information please visit or contact Amy Nixon at 217-492-2633.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Passes Constitutional Amendment Limiting Future Pension Improvements

During the two-week period the General Assembly took for Spring break, Speaker Madigan filed a House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment changing the way governing bodies approve pension enhancements. HJR-CA 49 states that no bill, ordinance, action, or rule that provides for a benefit increase under any pension or retirement system of the state, local government, or school district shall be valid without 3/5 of its governing body approving of the increase. HJRCA 49 further states that if the Governor vetoes any bill that has met the 3/5 threshold, it will take 2/3 vote of each chamber in the General Assembly to override the veto.

The Illinois AFL-CIO, along with many of its public employee affiliates, drafted a letter on April 12 to the Speaker expressing concerns. The letter states that requiring school boards and other governing bodies to have a three-fifths majority to approve proposals that might impact pension costs would be detrimental to the collective bargaining process.

The House passed HJRCA 49 this week by a vote of 113-0-0. The measure is being sponsored by Senate President Cullerton, and it has been posted for a hearing in the Senate Executive Committee on Wednesday, April 25 at 3pm. The Senate must act on HJRCA 49 by May 6 to have the referendum placed on the ballot in the Fall. The Constitutional Amendment would become part of the full Illinois Constitution if approved by either three-fifths of those voting on the question in November or a majority of those voting in the election.

Other actions taken by the General Assembly this week:

- HB 404 (Mautino/Sullivan) – Eliminates mandates that DNR cannot and does not fulfill. Expected savings of \$200 million a year. DNR faces a \$22 million shortfall in FY14, and has seen their budget go from \$100 million to \$45 million in recent years,

Continued on page 2



General Assembly... from front page

while having additional mandates placed on it. The Senate added an amendment this week requiring the Director of Natural Resources, or his or her designee, to hold a certificate of competency as a mine examiner in order to serve as the executive officer of the Mining Board.

Monitor – Passed Senate Agriculture committee 7-0-0.

- 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 Senate Labor 8-0-0.*
- HB 4022 (Nekritz/Hutchinson) - Each Class I (UP & BN) and Class II (small carriers) rail carrier must review and update its accident counseling or trauma program filing every three years. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Transportation 8-0-0.*
- HB 4078 (Winters/Sandoval) - Toll highway may design and construct new railroad tracks. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Transportation 8-0-0.*
- HB 4665 (McAsey/J Collins) - Requires all new residential construction to include passive radon resistant construction. *MONITOR – Passed Senate Licensed Activities 10-1-0.*
- HB 4674 (Rita/Cullerton) - Extends the repeal date for Elevator Safety and Regulation Act to January 1, 2023 from January 2013. Amends the Elevator Safety and Regulation Act. Provides that the upgrade requirements for the restricted opening of hoistway doors or car doors on passenger elevators as provided for in the 2007 edition of the Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators and the 2005 edition of the Safety Code for Existing Elevators must be completed by January 1, 2014. *Monitor – Passed Senate Executive 10-0-0.*
- HB 5212 (Krezwick/Crotty) - Public body may notify contractors of revisions in the prevailing wage passing and publishing an ordinance to post a link on their website with the revised rate schedule. Requires notification in contract. *SUPPORT - Passed Senate Labor 8-0-0.*
- HB 5336 (Dugan/Althoff) - Transfers all responsibilities of the Illinois OSHA program from DCEO to the Department of Labor. *Monitor – Passed Senate Labor 8-0-0.*
- SB 2488 (Garrett/May) - Expands the definition of construction speed zone to include an area where IDOT, Toll Highway Authority, or local agency has posted a sign advising drivers that the zone is being approached. Provides for exemptions to using a cell phone, if using a headset or voice operated mode. *SUPPORT – Passed House Transportation 6-0-0.*
- SB 3393 (Steans/Chapa LaVia) - Changes provisions concerning the reinstatement of a lapsed teaching certificate by providing that lapsed certificates may be immediately reinstated upon payment of fees and penalties by the applicant to the State Board of Education. *SUPPORT – Passed House Elementary & Secondary Education 20-0-0.*
- HR 944 (J Gordon) – Mourns the death of National Building Trades President Mark Ayers. *Adopted by Voice Vote in House.*
- AM 371 - Nominates Moises Zavala (UFCW) to be a member of the Illinois DREAM Fund Commission. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Executive Appts 7-0-0.*
- AM 384 - Nominates Hanah Jubeh (Chicago Federation of Labor) to be a member of the Employment Security Advisory Board. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Executive Appts. 7-0-0.*
- AM 405 - Nominates Ronald E. Powell (UFCW) to be a member of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Board. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Executive Appts. 7-0-0.*
- AM 406 - Nominates Robert G. Reiter, Jr. (Chicago Federation of Labor) to be a member of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Board. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Executive Appts. 7-0-0.*
- AM 408 - Nominates Becky Strzechowski (Teamsters) to be a member of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Board. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Executive Appts. 7-0-0.*
- SR 663 - Proclaims April 15, 2012 as A. Philip Randolph Day in the State of Illinois. Randolph was long time labor and civil rights leader. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate State Government 8-0-0.*
- SR 712 (Koehler) - Mourns the death of National Building Trades President Mark Ayers. *Adopted by Voice Vote in Senate*

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

Quinn Unveils Pension Reform

Contribution Increases, Benefit Cuts Anchor Governor's Plan

Governor Quinn unveiled a proposal on Friday afternoon to make changes to the state's pension systems. According to the Governor, his proposal provides for 100% funding for pension systems by 2042 and makes the following changes to the current plan:

- 3% increase in employee contributions
- Reduce COLA (cost of living adjustment) to lesser of 3% or ½ of CPI, simple interest
- Delay COLA to earlier of age 67 or 5 years after retirement
- Increase retirement age to 67 (to be phased in over several years)
- Establish 30-year closed ARC (actuarially required contribution) funding schedule
- Public sector pensions limited to public sector employment

Quinn Floats Cigarette Tax, Cuts to Medicaid

Cites Civic Federation as Source of Many Components of his Proposal

Governor Quinn unveiled a proposal to stabilize Illinois' Medicaid liability. His proposal would include a \$1 a pack increase in the state's cigarette tax. According to Governor Quinn, his proposal would reduce Illinois' Medicaid liability by \$2.7 billion, with three-quarters of the plan comprised of cuts, reductions and efficiencies, one-eighth in state revenue, and one-eighth in federal matching funds:

- Cuts, reductions and efficiencies to 58 separate items totaling \$1.35 billion (50 percent)
- Rate reduction to providers totaling \$675 million – (25 percent)
- Additional revenue through a \$1 per pack increase in the cigarette tax totaling \$337.5 million (12.5 percent)
- 100 percent federal match funding from the increased cigarette tax totaling \$337.5 million (12.5 percent)

In a statement released by the Health Care Council of Illinois they state, "Our initial review of the governor's proposal suggests there is a \$237 million cut for nursing homes, an enormous amount."

Peoria native, Building Trades President Ayers Dies



Saying the Labor Movement will suffered a "terrible loss," with national Building and Construction Trades President Mark Ayers' passing, Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan added that the Peoria native's legacy will be felt forever.

"Mark Ayers was a great trade unionist and a visionary leader," Carrigan said. "I will miss him personally and the Labor Movement in Illinois and across this country will have a void that can never be filled"

From the IBEW: A 38-year member of the IBEW, Brother Ayers previously served as director of the Construction and Maintenance Department, a position he held for nine years.

An Illinois native, he joined Peoria Local 34 in 1973. He worked his way up the ranks, serving as treasurer and business representative, before being elected business manager. A veteran, Ayers served as a U.S. Navy aviator for more than four years, including a tour of duty in the Vietnam War.

As business manager, Ayers co-founded the Central Illinois chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association – Local 34 Quality Connections, and served as trustee and chairman of the NECA-IBEW Welfare and Pension Trust Funds.

Says Local 34 Business Manager Mike Everett, who served as assistant business manager under Ayers for 10 years: "Mark was a leader in labor/management relations and earned great respect from electrical contractors and labor leaders alike. He also wanted labor to be recognized as a positive force in the community, helping to get our union involved in charity work, including Habitat for Humanity and other community activities."

Appointed Construction and Maintenance Department Director in 1998, Ayers brought many of President Edwin Hill's policies to fruition, including the Code of Excellence, a renewed commitment to high quality work that has been adopted by nearly all of the other building trades unions.

Elected Building Trades president in 2007, Ayers' commitment to excellence went to making sure the 2 million-member organization remained the No. 1 choice for quality, skilled labor in the construction industry.

As president, he pioneered new labor-management models in the energy industry, including nuclear, oil and natural gas, while serving as the voice for construction workers and their families on Capitol Hill.

Brother Ayers was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. He also served as the labor co-chair for the Helmets to Hardhats Program, on the Board of Trustees for the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust, Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee for Multi-Union Plans, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company and the Chairman of the Center for Construction Education.