



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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The Illinois House and Senate completed their business for the week yesterday. Both chambers are scheduled to convene at noon on Tuesday, May 1. They are scheduled to remain in through Friday, May 4. The deadline to pass bills out of committee in the opposite chamber is Friday, May 4.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Pressure Mounts on Unfunded Pensions and Medicaid

\$85 billion in pension costs, \$2.7 billion in Medicaid must be addressed

The pressure is beginning to mount in Springfield on how legislators are going to make payments to the state's pension systems and providers that receive Medicaid funding.

Governor Quinn made a bold statement last week in saying "I know that I was put on earth to get this (fixing the state pension systems) done." While all of labor is happy that Governor Quinn has found his special purpose, we continue to urge him to use the Illinois Constitution as the guide for any fix to the under-funding of the pension systems. Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan had this to say about Quinn's pension proposal released last Friday, "Forcing public servants to choose between two sharply diminished pension plans is no choice at all." Meetings were held yesterday on the pension issue with the Governor and legislative leaders. Further meetings will take place next week.

The Responsible Budget Coalition rallied this week in the Capitol. The coalition is composed of unions and social service groups. They outlined what Quinn's Medicaid proposal would mean to them: taking prescription drug programs away from seniors; taking health care away from adults in poverty; reducing community-based mental health treatment; and continuing cuts across the whole human services budget.

Unemployment Bills Stalled in Sub-committee

Senator Kyle McCarter (R – Decatur) testified on five unemployment insurance bills this week in the Senate Executive Subcommittee on State Government Operations. All of the bills (SB 2540, SB 2541, SB 2542, SB 2543, & SB 2544) would negatively impact the unemployed. Illinois AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Tim Drea and Illinois Retail Merchants Association President David Vite testified against the bills because they violated the agreed bill process in place on all unemployment insurance bills. Senator McCarter seemed unaware that many of his proposals would jeopardize federal funding for the Illinois Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. All five bills failed to receive the necessary votes to pass out of the sub-committee.

In other action this week:

- HB 4177 (Bradley/Hunter) - Preserves the collective bargaining rights for DHS's home care and home health workers who function as personal care attendants, personal assistants, and individual maintenance home health workers and who work under the Home Services Program under Section 3 of the Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Act. SUPPORT – Passed Senate Labor 7-1-0.
- HB 4592 (Cunningham/Millner) – Bans a prisoner in DOC system

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Letter Carriers Food Drive Set for May 12

May 12 will mark an important milestone for the NALC's Stamp Out Hunger national food drive.



"It's our 20th anniversary," NALC President Fredric Rolando noted. "For two decades now, our annual national drive has proved critical in helping millions of American families—our customers—who are struggling to make ends meet during this continuing recession."

The drive, the largest one-day food-collection event in the nation, has been a success every year, Rolando said, but the needs are particularly sad, even staggering, in 2012.

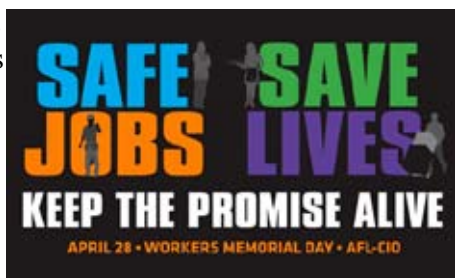
"Sixteen percent of all Americans are at risk of hunger—uncertain where their next meal may be coming from. That includes 1 in 5 children under the age of 18, plus 4 million seniors who are forced every day to choose between paying a utility bill and buying food," he said.

Last year, letter carriers proudly collected 70.2 million pounds of food, raising the total amount of donations picked up over the history of the drive to more than 1.1 billion pounds.



Workers Memorial Day Saturday

Working families will gather across the state Saturday to remember those who have died in the workplace and recommit to assuring safety for all in the future.



“Workers Memorial Day is a time to reflect and remember, but it’s also a time to mobilize,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “There are those, especially in an election year, that say regulation is anti-job. Well, the truth is that safety regulation save lives. We have to make sure we’re heard.”

Earlier events were held at the Peoria Labor Temple and at UAW Local 2488 in Normal.

General Assembly... from front page

from filing a FOIA request for records on DOC staff members. **SUPPORT** – Passed Senate Executive 11-0-0.

- HB 5547 (Zalewski/Hutchinson) - Provides that home rule municipalities with a population of more than 2,000,000 and home rule counties are not prohibited from imposing a tax on the use of a parking lot, garage, or other parking facility. **SUPPORT** – Passed Senate Executive 10-0-0.
- HJRCA 49 (Madigan/Cullerton) – Requires 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. **OPPOSE** – Passed Senate Executive 14-0-0.
- 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 House Judiciary I – Civil 11-0-0.
- 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 112-0-0. Passed both chambers.
- SB 3627 (Althoff) - Provides that overtime compensation provisions of the Law do not apply to any employee who is a member of a bargaining unit recognized by

Alton – Saturday, April 28, the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor Workers’ Memorial Day Services from 11:00 – 11:30 am in the Rose Garden at Gordon F. Moore Community Park. Contact Rick Wieckhorst at 618-254-1395.

Bloomington - Saturday, April 28, Bloomington-Normal Trades and Labor Assembly Workers’ Memorial Day Service at 6:30 am at White Oak Park Pavilion. Contact Gary Leake at 309-828-7383.

Decatur – Saturday, April 28, Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly Workers’ Memorial Day Service, 5 pm on the northwest corner of the Macon County Courthouse lawn. The ceremony is expected to last 45 minutes with an honor guard, speakers, and the reading of names of those who have died on the job. Contact Carl Draper, 217-791-1279.

Joliet – Friday, April 27, Will and Grundy Counties Trades and Labor Council annual Workers’ Memorial Day Dinner at the IBEW 176 West Banquet Hall.

Quad Cities – Saturday, April 28, Quad Cities Federation of Labor Workers’ Memorial Day Service at 10:30 am at the USW Local

105 Hall, 880 Devils Glen Rd, Bettendorf, IA. The QC Fed also hosts a Trivia Night at the VFW Lodge 1303, 3715 9th Street, Rock Island, IL at 7 pm. Contact Robyn Ferraro at 563-344-0317.

Rockford – Saturday, April 28, the Rockford United Labor Workers’ Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Workers’ Memorial Tablets located behind the E.J. ‘Zeke’ Giorgi Building. The event will be at 10:30 am for a short ceremony and Wreath Dedication. Lunch and refreshments will occur immediately following the ceremony. Contact Bill Corey, 815-968-1411.

Springfield – Saturday, April 28, Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor Council Workers’ Memorial Day Service at 11:00 am in the Howlett Building. Contact Shannon Garrett at 217-492-2615.

Galesburg – Saturday, April 28, Workers Memorial Ceremony 11 am at the Laborers Local 538 hall in East Galesburg.

Spring Valley – Workers’ Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing: Friday, June 8 at Spring Creek Golf Course in Spring Valley, IL.

the Illinois Labor Relations Board and whose union has contractually agreed to an alternate shift schedule as allowed by specified provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. This is an initiative of the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police. **NO POSITION** – Passed Senate Executive 11-0-0.

- SB 3665 (J Collins/Costello) - Aggravated assault shall apply to someone who assaults a letter carrier or postal worker carrying out duties for the USPS. **SUPPORT** – Passed House Judiciary II – Criminal 9-0-0.
- SB 3688 (Frerichs/Sullivan Jr.) – Allows enterprise zones to be in effect for 55 years (now just 30 years). Authorizes DCEO to certify an additional 10 enterprise zones. **OPPOSE** – Passed Senate 55-0-0.
- 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** – Adopted by voice vote in Senate.
- SR 721/HR 986 (Koehler/Gordon) – Mourns the death of Paul Gardner. Paul was a 42 year journeyman with IBEW #34.
- AM 293 - James Sweeney (IUOE) to State Toll Highway Authority. **SUPPORT** - Passed 50-0-1.
- AM 371 - Moises Zavala (UFCW) to Illinois DREAM Fund Commission. **SUPPORT** - Passed 51-2-1.
- AM 384 - Hanah Jubeh (CFL) to Employment Security Advisory Board. **SUPPORT** - Passed 51-2-1.

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

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

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