



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MAY 4, 2012

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

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The General Assembly concluded its business on Thursday this week. Both chambers are scheduled to convene on Tuesday, May 8. They are scheduled to remain in session through Friday, May 11. They will now move to floor action on bills passed over from the other chamber. The deadline for final passage on bills is May 25. The General Assembly will have very large issues for its consideration in the final 27 days in May. We will keep you abreast of any bill moving that impacts working families.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State, University Retirees Face Loss Of Health Care

The House Executive Committee adopted House Amendment #8 to SB 1313 (Schoenberg/Madigan) by a vote of 11-0-0. The legislation would eliminate health care benefits for approximately 114,000 retired Illinois State and university employees, judges and legislators. The legislation would give the Director of Central Management Services the authority to determine the subsidy amount for retiree health care.

“This legislation clearly interferes with the collective bargaining process,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “Through collective bargaining some \$70 million annual savings (since FY11) has been realized. It’s just short-sighted and punitive on some of society’s most vulnerable people.”

SB 1313 now moves to the House floor.

Pension Constitutional Amendment Passes Senate, On Ballot In November

The Senate completed passage of a constitutional amendment regarding pension enhancements.

HJRCA 49 passed the Senate 51-2-0 (Jacobs and Fre- richs were the no votes). It passed the House 113-0-0 on April 18.

HJRCA 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 govern- ing body approving of the increase. HJRCA 49 further states that if the Governor vetoes any bill that has met the three-fifths threshold, it will take two-thirds vote of each chamber in the General Assembly to override.

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.

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NALC FOOD DRIVE SATURDAY MAY 12

Remember to place a box or bag of non- perishable food items by your mail box!



Walsh, Evans Appointed to GA

Marcus Evans, Jr. and Larry Walsh, Jr. were recently appointed to fill vacancies in the Illinois House.



Evans, Jr.



Walsh, Jr.

Evans was appointed to fill the va- cancy left by Rep. Marlow Colvin in the 33rd District. Walsh took over for Jack McGuire, who retired from the 86th.

Evans worked as Deputy Chief of Staff for Chicago Alderman Mi- chelle Harris. Walsh, the son of Will County Executive and former State Senator Larry Walsh, is the Secretary Treasurer for Machin- ists District 8 in Chicago.

Meet Mr. 1% -- Mitt Romney

As Mitt Romney moves to the middle, as his campaign said he would attempt to change his right-wing views for the General Election like shaking an “etch a sketch.” It’s worth continually reminding our families and co-workers that he is truly “Mr. 1%.”

- Romney made his fortune selling out America’s work- ers, eliminating jobs, bankrupting businesses and stash- ing money in overseas tax shelters.
- He’s hiding most of his tax returns, but is estimated to be worth \$190 to \$250 million.
- That’s why he wants to cut taxes for wealthy corpora- tions, saying “Corporations are people.”

For more information, visit www.aflcio.org



General Assembly... from front page

HB 4036 (Nekritz/Kotowski) - Removes a provision that required approval by the Regional Transportation Authority in order for the Suburban Bus Board to issue certain revenue bonds. Further amends the Regional Transportation Authority Act. *MONITOR Passed House Executive 11-2.*

HB 4513 (Nekritz/Cullerton) - Increases employees' pension contributions at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. *NEUTRAL – Passed Senate Pensions 7-1-0.*

SB 1064 (Munoz/Acevedo) - Would block a corporate-owned immigrant detention center in south suburban Crete. *NEUTRAL – Passed House Executive 7-4-0.*

SB 1808 (Noland/Nekritz) – Allows for recording of a law enforcement officer while they are performing their public duties in a public place. *Monitor – Passed House Judiciary I 10-0-0.*

SB 3318 (Hutchinson/DeLuca) -- The bill would grant IDOT the authority to acquire property through quick-take power for the Illiana Expressway. Passage of this legislation is vital to the timely completion of the project. *SUPPORT – Passed House Transportation 11-4.*

HJR 73 (Verschoore/Jacobs) - Urges the President and Congress of the United States to protect the Rock Island Arsenal from future budget reductions. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate State Government 5-0.*

HB 3782 (Ford/Radogno) - Unlawful for any employer to ask any employee or prospective employee to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to a social networking website where that person maintains an account. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Labor 9-0-0.*

HB 4715 (Dugan/Koehler) - Physical ability examinations may be tests based on industry standards currently in use or equivalent tests approved by the joint labor-management committee of state fire marshal. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Local Government 9-0-0.*

HB 5657 (Bradley) - Provides that, if a municipality, county, or township prohibits the consideration of a project labor agreement by rule, initiative, or ordinance, then State funding or financial assistance shall not be used to support that project. *SUPPORT – Passed House Labor 11-4-0.*

HB 5926 (Madigan) - Provides that the Department shall engage the services of an independent private vendor to manage the workers' compensation liability program on behalf of the State and its employees. *OPPOSE – Passed House State Government 14-0-0.*

SB 2643 (Noland/Lilly) - Requires bidders on public works projects to be a "responsible bidder". Requires all bids to contain a breakdown of all hours worked by a journeyman or apprentice. *SUPPORT – Passed House Labor 11-4*

HR 988 (Jefferson) - Urges the legislators and citizens of this State to support their neighbors, their community, and their country by considering an American-made car for their next automobile purchase. *SUPPORT – Adopted by House.*

SB 3695 (Frerichs) - Requires contractors to use the Illinois Department of Labor form when submitting PWA certified payroll records and requires amongst other information, the inclusion of the worker's hours worked, wage rate, overtime wage rate, fringe benefit rates, name and address of each fringe benefit rates. Also requires contractors to submit the annual costs of any fringe benefit provided to their employees. Additionally, it will change the date that contractors file certified payroll forms from the 10th of each month to the 15th of each month. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate Labor 6-3-0.*

USDOL Recovers \$4.83 Million In Back Wages, Damages for Wal Mart Workers

WASHINGTON — Wal-Mart Stores Inc., headquartered in Bentonville, Ark., has agreed to pay \$4,828,442 in back wages and damages to more than 4,500 employees nationwide following an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division that found violations of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime provisions. Additionally, Wal-Mart will pay \$463,815 in civil money penalties.

The violations affected current and former vision center managers and asset protection coordinators at Wal-Mart Discount Stores, Wal-Mart Supercenters, Neighborhood Markets and Sam's Club warehouses. Wal-Mart failed to compensate these employees with overtime pay, considering them to be exempt from the FLSA's overtime requirements. The Labor Department's investigation found that the employees are nonexempt and consequently due overtime pay for any hours worked beyond 40 in a week.

"Misclassification of employees as exempt from FLSA coverage is a costly problem with adverse consequences for employees and corporations," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Let this be a signal to other companies that when violations are found, the Labor Department will take appropriate action to ensure that workers receive the wages they have earned."

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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