



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY E. DREA, SECRETARY TREASURER

JASON KELLER, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Illinois General Assembly will wrap up its business today. Both chambers will return Monday afternoon and are scheduled remain in session until the end of the month. In the remaining days the General Assembly is expected to consider changes to the state's pension systems, Medicaid reforms, and FY13 Budget completion.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Medicaid Package Taking Shape

Cigarette Tax, Cuts Likely Part of Final Legislation

Following up on Gov. Pat Quinn's recent proposal to prop up the state's Medicaid health care program for the poor through deep program cuts and new revenue through a \$1 a pack cigarette tax, language has begun to surface as session nears closure.

The plan being discussed now to deal with the \$2.7 billion plan calls for reducing eligibility and coverage, eliminating programs and dropping rates to providers. The proposal could be voted on early next week.

In other news, the Illinois AFL-CIO initiated legislation this year to find private equity to spur construction growth in certain communities in Illinois. SB 3210, sponsored by Senator David Koehler (D – Peoria), passed the Senate 39-14-1 with bipartisan support this week. Under current law, not-for-profit entities are finding it difficult to raise capital through commercial lenders for construction of new facilities. This legislation seeks to allow a not-for-profit to undertake a sale/leaseback of their property with a private developer. An amendment attached in the Senate limits the sale/leaseback to just health care facilities in Peoria, Rockford, Pontiac, Bloomington, Galesburg, or Monmouth. In other action this week:

- SB 2450 (Steans/Madigan) – Diverts \$73.6 million in federal payments administered by the state into the childcare program maintained by DHS. The program provides children with health services who are in low-income families. According to the Governor's office, an increase in the number of Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) cases made this legislation necessary. *Passed House 113-3. To Senate on concurrence.*
- SB 3184 (Millner/Ramey) – Caps bonds issued by the Carol Stream Park District, for airport and other uses, at \$15 million. *SUPPORT – Passed House 80-33-0.*
- SB 3518 (Mulroe/Moffit) - No county or municipality may prohibit a charitable organization from soliciting for charitable purposes, including solicitations taking place on public roadways from passing motorists. *SUPPORT – Passed House Counties & Townships Committee 7-0-0.*
- HB 4029 (Chapa LaVia/Mulroe) - Restores current law with respect to the power of a school board to award contracts for work to the lowest responsible bidder. Provides that at no time shall a cause of action lie against a school board for awarding a pupil transportation contract per the standards set forth in the provisions of the School Code concerning the award of contracts to the lowest responsible bidder



ILLINOIS

Statewide Mobilization Launched

We Are One Illinois, a coalition of the Illinois AFL-CIO and unions representing public employees, is attempting to provide reasonable and reasoned solutions to a pension problem caused by politicians who for decades have failed to pay their share into Illinois public retirement systems.

We Are One Illinois is mobilizing its one million members, their families and the public to call, e-mail or visit their legis-

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 2



Schilling Votes to Sink PLAs

The U.S. House approved an amendment to H.R. 4310 prohibiting Project Labor Agreements on Department of Defense projects Thursday.

The amendment passed by two votes (211-209). The Illinois delegation opposed it with the exception of Congressman Bobby Schilling (D-17). Schilling, who has a scant 25 percent voting record on labor issues, is facing East Moline alderwoman Cheri Bustos in the General Election.

Federal Court Upholds Dismissal Wages Suit

The Federal Court of Appeals upheld a District Court decision dismissing AFSCME Council 31's lawsuit against the state of Illinois for its failure to pay negotiated wage increases to state employees.

The Appellate Court held that the state was immune from suit in federal court because the Union's lawsuit was seeking monetary relief. The court also held that the lawsuit did not present a federal constitutional issue.

State Senate Exec Passes Minimum Wage Hike

On a partisan vote with Democrats supporting and Republicans in opposition, a hike in the state's minimum wage passed the Senate Executive Committee Wednesday.

The bill would raise the wage from \$8.25 an hour incrementally to \$10.55 in 2015. It would then be subject to automatic raises depending on the rate of inflation.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Kimberly Lightford (D-Maywood), acknowledged that there was still work to be done with the bill, saying she would like to negotiate with supporters and business interests in opposition.

General Assembly... from front page

unless the cause of action is based on fraudulent conduct Allows for contracts for transportation of pupils to and from school on a year to year basis. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate 32-19-1. To House on Concurrence.*

- HB 4592 (Cunningham/Millner) – Bans a prisoner in DOC system from filing a FOIA request for records on DOC staff members. *SUPPORT – Passed Senate 55-0-1.*
- SR 404 (Millner) - Urges Congress to fully fund Amtrak and the high speed rail program, and to eliminate any provision that would reduce the federal investment in State-supported Amtrak service. *SUPPORT – Adopted by voice vote.*
- HJR 73 (Verschoore/Jacobs) - Urges the President and Congress of the United States to protect the Rock Island Arsenal from future budget reductions. *SUPPORT - Adopted by voice vote in Senate, adopted by both chambers.*
- AM 405 – Appoints **Ron Powell (UFCW)** to Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Board. *SUPPORT – Confirmed by Senate.*
- AM 406 – Appoints **Bob Reiter (CFL)** to Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Board. *SUPPORT – Confirmed by Senate.*
- AM 428 – Appoints **Steve Powell (UFCW)** to the Illinois State Board of Investment. *SUPPORT – Confirmed by Senate.*
- AM 429 – Appoints **Tony Garcia (UAW)** to the Employment Security Advisory Board. *SUPPORT – Confirmed by Senate.*

We Are One... from front page

lators to support a fair solution to the pension funding problem. The coalition is also airing new ads statewide on broadcast and cable TV, radio and online.

“We must keep union families engaged and mobilized,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “We are getting down to the final days of legislative session. Working families have to make sure their senators and representatives hear them loud and clear.”

Thousands of calls are flooding the Capitol. Nearly seven thousand calls have gone to legislators on top of the thousands of e-mails coming in.

Corporate CEOs and lobbyists pushing unfair, unconstitutional cuts are drowning out the voices of middle class public employees who earn modest pensions—just \$32,000 a year on average—typically contribute 8 to 10 percent of every paycheck toward their pension, and rely on the pension they earn since nearly 80% aren't eligible for Social Security.

Go to www.weareoneillinois.org to participate or for more information.

COPE GOLF OUTING - MONDAY, JUNE 11

CONTACT TERRI PAYNE (217) 492-2622

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