



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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**PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO**

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*The General Assembly adjourned late last night after passing a \$33.7 billion budget. After a huge response from workers up and down the state lobbying the issue, pension overhaul -- that had seemed imminent -- fell apart in the waning hours of session. It is likely temporary, as Gov. Quinn plans to meet with leaders and hold a special session over the summer to pass legislation. In other news, gaming expansion passed both chambers and an elections bill passed that removes contribution caps in races with high-dollar "super PACs" and opens up early voting up until the Saturday before Election Day. Veto session days are Nov. 27-29 and Dec. 4-6.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **Pension Overhaul Put On Hold Summer Special Session Likely**

Grassroots lobbying by thousands of workers helped keep the General Assembly from pushing through anti-worker pension cuts in the last days before the spring session ended last night.

The victory may only be a temporary reprieve though, as Gov. Pat Quinn and legislative leaders discussed a special session this summer to deal with the issue.

Quinn said in a statement that he would meet with leaders to work out an agreement, gearing toward a special session this summer to pass the pension cuts.

The pension overhaul started with Speaker Michael Madigan sponsoring. After the GOP fought pension cost shifts to local governments and school districts, Madigan gave up sponsorship to House Republican Leader Tom Cross.

Cross' bill, that included the reforms minus the cost shift, passed the House Pensions Committee early Thursday. However, after the Speaker stated he wouldn't support the Cross bill, there was clearly not enough support for passage in the full House.

Meanwhile, the Senate passed legislation containing pension cuts to two of the pension systems. The House did not act on the bill. Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan expressed his disappointment in the Senate's proposal, saying the labor coalition will continue to work with the legislators to find a long-term solution.

"Our coalition is committed to reaching a real solution that can become law. With the best interests of public employees, retirees and all taxpayers in mind, it is our hope that the state's political leaders will recognize the importance of including employees' voices and concerns in developing that solution. We stand ready to get back to work immediately to protect the modest pensions public employees rely on and ensure guaranteed adequate funding for the retirement systems going forward."

**Continued on page 2**

## **- Election 2012 -**

### **Harriman Out in 12th; GOP Picks Davis in 13th**

Citing health concerns, Democratic congressional candidate Brad Harriman dropped out of 12<sup>th</sup> CD race this week. In March, Harriman won the primary to follow in the footsteps of Congressman Jerry Costello, who served for more than two decades.

The 12<sup>th</sup> CD is one of the top targeted district in the country. It includes metro St. Louis, east to Mt. Vernon and south to Cairo. The Democratic County Chairmen in the 12<sup>th</sup> will select a replacement. Jason Plummer is the Republican candidate in the 12<sup>th</sup> CD.

In other news, an aide to Congressman John Shimkus (R-Collinsville) – Rodney Davis – has been selected by the GOP county chairs to replace Tim Johnson on the ballot in the 13<sup>th</sup> District. Davis, of Taylorville, faces off against Democrat David Gill for this newly-drawn central Illinois seat that includes parts of Springfield, Decatur, Champaign, Bloomington and south through Christian, Macoupin and parts of Madison counties.

### **Contribution Caps Removed In Races With Big IE Money**

An omnibus bill concerning the elections passed the House Thursday on a partisan roll call. The bill's most far-reaching component is eliminating the contribution caps for all candidates in a race where a candidate has received independent expenditures on his/her behalf over \$250,000 for statewide candidates or \$100,000 for all other offices.

Of particular concern for labor

**Continued on page 2**



## General Assembly... from front page

### **Budget**

The General Assembly passed a \$33.7 billion budget to Gov. Quinn. The budget discussion became contentious over education funding in the Senate. The budget that was passed slashed funding for elementary and secondary education. The Senate followed with bills that would raise an additional \$175 million for education through taxes on satellite TV service and offshore oil rigs operated by Illinois companies. The additional revenue bills were not acted on by the House.

### **Gaming**

Late Thursday, the Senate approved SB 1849, a bill expanding gaming in Illinois. The bill passed on a 30-26 vote and now will go the Governor. It creates five new casinos including a land-based casino in Chicago. Casinos would also be located in Rockford, Danville, Park City and the south suburbs. It also allows for slot machines at horse racing tracks.

The bill creates more than 20,000 jobs and saves more than 30,000 jobs in addition to upwards of \$1 billion in revenue and a one-time \$1 billion in licensing and a special tax.

“This bill will create jobs and generate revenue,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “We congratulate the General Assembly and implore the Governor to sign this legislation so we can continue to rebuild the middle class in this state and add much needed revenue.” In other action at the State House:

**DNR 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, while having additional mandates placed on it. *Passed both chambers.*

**Cigarette Tax SB 2194 (Schoenberg/Currie)** – One dollar per pack cigarette tax increase. Part of Medicaid overhaul to close funding gap. Increase will bring in approximately \$350 million annually. Other Medicaid funding bills passed both chambers previously. *Passed both chambers.*

**Leucadia SB 3766 (Trotter/Lyons)** – Ensures that the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) cannot kill the Leucadia/Chicago Clean Energy project. Requires the law will be implemented as written. *Support – Passed both chambers.*

**Workers’ Compensation-Arbitrators HB 1084 (Mussman/Cullerton)** – Requires Senate approval for Governor’s selections of Workers’ Compensation arbitrators. *Passed both chambers.*

**Collective Bargaining SB 1556 (Cullerton/Currie)** – Exempts thousands of public sector workers from their rights to collective bargaining. *Oppose – Passed Senate Executive Committee. Not called in Senate.*

**State Vehicles HB 5650 (McAsey/Garrett)** – Monitors the use of state vehicles. *Passed both chambers.*

**Presbrey Resolution SR 799 (Holmes)** – Mourns the passing of Kim Presbrey, past president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and Illinois State Bar Association. *Support – Resolution Adopted.*

**Ballot Language HJR 93 (Currie/Harmon)** – Resolution sets up language on ballot for pension increase question. The ballot question – created in HJRCA 49 – if approved will require three-fifths majority votes in General Assembly to pass improvements to public employee pensions. *Resolution Adopted.*

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## **State Senate Terms Released**

The staggered terms of the state senate were drawn by the Secretary of State Thursday and announced. The terms run in a 10-year cycle. Senators have three terms over the cycle either 2-4-4, 4-2-4 or 4-4-2.

For a list of the by senate district, please [www.ilaf-cio.org/political.htm](http://www.ilaf-cio.org/political.htm)

## **Wisconsin Recall Tuesday**

Wisconsin voters will go to the polls on Tuesday to decide the political fate of anti-worker Gov. Scott Walker.

Walker is facing Tom Barrett and polls are showing a dead heat as the crucial Get Out The Vote weekend begins.

Go to <http://local.americawantstowork.org> to find out where you can help the effort.

## **Elections Bill... from front**

unions and associations, a reporting threshold was created for money going into political action committees through dues, levies and assessments. The reporting threshold is \$500 per quarter (per dues-paying member).

SB 3722 (Harmon/Currie) deals with several other provisions, including:

- **Early Voting Changed:** Shortens the early voting time period to the 15<sup>th</sup> day (was 22<sup>nd</sup>) before the election up until the third day (was the 5<sup>th</sup> day) before the election.
- **Grace Period Registration Expanded:** Voter registration for grace period must be open until the 3<sup>rd</sup> day (now 7<sup>th</sup>) before the election.
- **Independent Expenditure Committee:** Provides that a political action committee may be designated as an “Independent Expenditure Committee” with its election cycle considered Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.
- **College Campus Registration/Voting:** Requires election authorities with a public university to conduct grace period registration and early voting in a high traffic location on the campus.

