



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN, PRESIDENT

TIMOTHY E. DREA, SECRETARY TREASURER

JASON KELLER, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The General Assembly began its veto session this week. Both chambers are scheduled to return noon Tuesday. The House is scheduled to remain through Thursday, while the Senate is set to adjourn a day earlier. Leader elections were held in each legislative caucus this week. Senate President John Cullerton and House Speaker Michael Madigan were re-elected as the Democrat leaders. The Republicans chose Tom Cross in the House and Christine Radogno in the Senate. Radogno faced a contested election with Kyle McCarter. Radogno won by a vote of 12-6, with one member voting present.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Passes Wage Freeze For Union Workers

The Illinois House passed a joint resolution (HJR 45) this week that would effectively freeze all state employee wages. The resolution was sponsored by Speaker Michael Madigan and passed the House 84-29-0.

The resolution says the state shall not appropriate any amount for new wage increases associated with any and all collectively bargained contracts throughout state government for the FY13 budget. It further dictates that the policy of the state will now be that the size of state government, which would include reductions, will not be a topic of collective bargaining.

The resolution now moves to the Senate, where President Cullerton will sponsor it. **Please call your State Senator and ask them to vote no on HJR 45.** A vote on this could come as early as next week.

Quinn Pushing For Collective Bargaining Restriction Bill

The Illinois AFL-CIO has learned that Governor Quinn has requested a vote on SB 1556 during the "lame duck" session the first week of January.

This bill would eliminate the bargaining rights of thousands of state employees. This legislation affects many unions.

Please call your senator and urge them to protect collective bargaining rights. URGE A NO VOTE ON SB 1556!

Chicago Public Schools Closing Bill Passes General Assembly

The General Assembly passed legislation extending the deadline to announce school closures in Chicago from Dec. 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 over Labor's opposition.

The passage of SB 547 allows for the "top down" closures of schools without full examination and stakeholder input.

The Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) said it will continue to press for a stop to all school actions that put the future of many of Chicago's children at risk following the passage of the bill.

SB 547 was sponsored by Senator Iris Martinez (D-Chicago) and Leader Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago). It passed the House Wednesday 84-28-2 and the Senate on Thursday 51-0. It now moves to Gov. Quinn.

The Chicago Teachers Union believes that no schools should be closed until CPS has fully examined the impact of its actions on students, teachers, administrators and neighborhoods. The union also calls for transparency in regard to CPS findings and the implementation of a process that allows for less "top-down" influence and legitimate interaction between all parties affected by potential closings.

Until these needs are met, the union and its allies will continue efforts to protect and work for the well-being of those who did not have a vote in Springfield this week, and also for the future of Chicago's children.



Senate Stops Chamber of Commerce's Discrimination Bill

The Senate was successful in sustaining Governor Quinn's veto of SB 2945. This Labor-opposed legislation passed both the House and Senate relatively easy in the spring. The bill, as passed by the General Assembly, would have allowed the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, who sits on the Illinois Chamber's Board of Directors, to fire or discipline their employees for using ANY tobacco products, even on their own time. Governor Quinn took a hard look at the bill over the summer and issued a total veto. Senator Dan Duffy (R-Barrington) attempted to override the Governor's total veto. His motion to override got 24 votes, he needed 36 for passage.

DNR Funding Bill Passes Senate

The Illinois Senate passed SB 1566 this week that will create a \$2 license plate fee increase (currently \$99) and other charges to help fund the state parks. The bill, supported by the Illinois AFL-CIO, now goes to the Governor, who is expected to sign it. The Department of Natural Resources currently has a \$750 million backlog in park maintenance stemming from years of budget cuts. The legislation is expected to generate approximately \$30-35 million a year. Much of the money is expected to go towards hiring staff and fixing infrastructure within DNR's jurisdiction.

Senate Overrides Governor's Veto

Despite pressure from Gov. Pat Quinn, 35 senators overturned the governor's veto of SB 2474. The veto cut funding for Dwight Correctional Center, Tamms Correctional Center, IYC Joliet and IYC Murphysboro. Quinn's veto effectively stripped money to keep these facilities running. The motion to override moves to the House next week.

Special Election Moved to April 9

Jesse Jackson Jr. resigned from Congress on Nov. 21, setting in motion the need to have special election to fill the seat in the Spring. To make the special election coincide with the Consolidated Election, the General Assembly passed a bill moving the election to April 9. The primary will be held the same day as the Consolidated Primary on Feb. 26. The petition deadline also was changed in the bill from Dec. 24 to Dec. 26.

Executive Appointments

The following appointments were confirmed by the Senate this week:

- Gilbert O'Brien Jr. to the IL Education Labor Relations
- Michael Smith (former State Rep) to IL Education Labor Relations
- Bob Flider (former State Rep) to Director of Agriculture

The following appointments passed out of committee, but were not acted upon before the full Senate:

- William Potts (SEIU) to Employee Security Advisory Board.
- Rod Bashir (SEIU) to State Board of Investments.
- Paul Schaefer (UFCW) to Lottery Control Board.
- Michael T. Everett (IBEW) to Tri-County River Valley Development Authority Board.



Springfield



Schaumburg

Unions, Community Activists Urge Congress "Hands Off" Medicare, Social Security

Union members, allied organizations and community activists gathered for actions in congressional districts across Illinois two days after the election.

These "lame duck" actions urged members of Congress to say "NO" to more tax cuts for the richest 2% and "NO" to benefit cuts in Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid.

Events included:

- Train station leafleting in Lockport
- Press conference at IFT in Schaumburg
- Press conference/public action at Social Security Administration in Aurora
- Protest outside John Shimkus' office in Springfield

Please contact your members of Congress now at 888-659-9401 and tell them:

1. *No more tax cuts for the richest 2% of Americans.*
2. *No benefit cuts to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid.*

