



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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The Illinois General Assembly completed its business on Thursday this week. The Senate is scheduled to return on Wednesday, February 13 at 12pm, and remain in through Thursday. The House is not scheduled to return until Tuesday, February 19.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Quinn State of the State Speech Light On Details

Governor Calls for Minimum Wage Hike, Public-Private Manufacturing Lab

Governor Pat Quinn delivered the annual State of the State speech before the full General Assembly on Wednesday this week. His legislative agenda this year includes:

- Creating an Illinois Manufacturing Lab
- Quinn filed an Executive Order for veterans to ensure their military training counts toward qualifying for a professional license.
- Raise the minimum wage to \$10/hr over the next four years (currently \$8.25/hr).
- Implement the federal Affordable Care Act.
- Prohibit the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.
- Called upon the General Assembly to pass the marriage equality act.
- Making voter registration available online.

The Governor is expected to deliver his budget address to the General Assembly on March 6th.

General Assembly Passes Spending Bill

The House and Senate acted quickly this week to pass HB 190, a supplemental appropriations bill that will shift money to agencies for the current fiscal year (FY13). According to documents from the Governor’s office and Department of Transportation the spending includes:

- \$25 million to the Department of Children and Family Services;
- \$12 million to the Department of Human Services to properly fund mental health services;

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Sen. Forby, Rep. Hoffman Chair Labor Committees

Leadership in the House and Senate have completed their appointments to substantive committees.

Senator Gary Forby (D - Benton) was renamed to Chair the Senate Labor Committee. Forby, a union member, has chaired the Labor Committee since 2005. Chairman Forby presides over a 16-member committee composed of 11 democrats and five republicans.

Freshman Senator Jim Oberweis (R - North Aurora) was named as the Minority Spokesperson of the committee.

Rep. Jay Hoffman (D - Belleville) was named as the Chairman of the House Labor Committee. He replaces Rep. John Bradley, who will still remain on the committee. Hoffman will preside over a 20-member committee composed of 12 Democrats and eight Republicans.

Rep. Jil Tracy (R - Quincy) was named as Minority Spokesperson of the committee.

“Gary Forby and Jay Hoffman are strong allies of the Labor Movement,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan. “They will be effective voices and advocates in those committees, as they both have demonstrated throughout their legislative careers.”



From the Front Page

- \$500,000 to the Department of Military Affairs;
- \$9.5 million to the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity for job training and retention;
- \$714 million to the Illinois Department of Transportation:
 - \$675 million in new projects;
 - \$71 million for restoration of cuts made in FY12;
 - \$39.7 million to capture federal dollars from the USDOT and to help relieve rail congestion in the City of Chicago.

HB 190 passed the House 63-52-1, and the Senate 38-15. Gov. Quinn signed the bill Thursday night.

Gaming

A Labor-supported gaming expansion bill was passed by the General Assembly on May 31, 2011. On a parliamentary maneuver, Senate President Cullerton filed a motion to reconsider the vote on SB 744. This was done to ensure negotiations with Governor Quinn would continue on the issue. On January 8, 2013 President Cullerton lifted his motion. The bill was sent to the Governor on Wednesday this week; Quinn will have until April 7 to consider his action on the bill. A veto will kill the bill.

The bill creates five new casinos in the following cities: Chicago, Danville, Rockford, Park City (Waukegan), and in the south suburbs. It also contains: permits for slots and harness racing nine months a year at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield; slot machines behind security checkpoints at O'Hare Airport; expansion of existing gaming positions and an option for riverboats to become land-based casinos.

Collective Bargaining

The 97th General Assembly passed SB 1556 effectively stripping collective bargaining rights away from thousands of public employees. The bill was sent to the Governor on Wednesday this week; Quinn will have until April 7 to

consider his action on the bill.

The Senate Executive Committee passed SB 20 this week by a vote of 12-2-1. Under SB 1556 thousands of employees are set to lose their collective bargaining rights, SB 20 would make clear that of those employees, those represented by the Laborers #2002, Operating Engineers #399, and Teamsters #916 would not lose their collective bargaining rights.

In House Labor Committee, a similar measure in HB 123, passed 15-5, although this measure only applied to the Laborers #2002.

Executive Appointments

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments confirmed the following individuals to key posts in state government. They must still be confirmed by the full Senate:

- Jerome O'Leary (UA #25 member) to the Pollution Control Board;
- Carrie Zalewski to the Pollution Control Board;
- Brandon Zanotti to be an arbitrator at Work Comp Commission;
- Nancy Beth Lindsay to be an arbitrator at Work Comp Commission;
- Doug Holland to be an arbitrator at Work Comp Commission;
- George Andros, Jr. to be an arbitrator at Work Comp Commission;
- Gerald Granada to be an arbitrator at Work Comp Commission;
- Peter O'Malley to be an arbitrator at Work Comp Commission;
- Neva S. Neal-Mundstock to be an arbitrator at Work Comp Commission;
- Maureen Pulia to be an arbitrator at Work Comp Commission