



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

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The Illinois House was the only chamber in session this week. Most of their time was spent in committees considering legislation that has been introduced. House members continue to introduce new bills, with the introduction deadline set at 4:30pm on Tuesday, February 26. The House is scheduled to return on Tuesday, February 26, while the Senate will return on Wednesday, February 27. Both chambers are scheduled to remain in session through Friday, March 1.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Gov. Quinn Announces Major Capital Investment in Illinois State University

\$54 Million Fine Arts Complex Will Create 775 Construction Jobs and Strengthen University's Renowned Arts Programs

NORMAL – February 21, 2013. Governor Pat Quinn announced a \$54 million capital investment to build a new fine arts complex that will strengthen Illinois State University's renowned arts programs and create 775 construction jobs. It is funded through the governor's *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital program.

The *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital construction program will provide \$54.25 million for the Fine Arts Complex, starting with \$7.5 million for design and planning. The project includes renovation of existing buildings and construction of new, state-of-the-art space for instruction and performance. It will create more than 775 construction and related jobs, and it is estimated that the spending by those workers will support an additional 775 jobs in the community.

The next step toward a new complex is hiring an architectural and engineering firm to design it with input from faculty, staff members and students in conjunction with the state's Capital Development Board.

NEXT WEEK:

The Illinois AFL-CIO will hold its labor lobbyist meeting on Tuesday, February 26 at 11 AM.

LEGISLATION THAT WAS ACTED UPON THIS WEEK:

SB 622 (Cullerton/Madigan) – The Illinois House Executive committee approved legislation that will more than double the cost of a three-year physicians' license fees to \$700 (currently \$300). The fee hadn't been increased since 1987. It authorizes the Department of Financial and Professional Regulations to borrow \$6.6 million to immediately hire additional staff. An amendment adopted in the House changes the dates and the way the money is allocated. The bill, if passed by the House, would still need to go back to the Senate for final passage.

Passed House Executive 7-4-0.

AFL-CIO SUPPORTS

HB 156 (Currie/Kotowski) – Authorizes the Governor to deliver his budget proposal to the General Assembly on March 6 (was Feb. 22 last year).

Signed by the Governor this week, PA 98-002.

AFL-CIO No Position.

HB 1560 (Kosel/Harmon) – Authorizes an election authority, IN 2013 ONLY, to close an early voting place on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday (March 29-31), provided that the early voting place remains open 2 hours later on April 3, 4, and 5 of 2013. The election authority shall notify the state board of elections of any closure and provide notice to the public.

Passed the House 87-21-6. Arrived in the Senate.

AFL-CIO No position.

Agreement Reached on Hydraulic Fracturing Legislation

A press conference was held yesterday to announce an agreement reached between the Attorney General, Environmental Groups, and Oil/Gas representatives on legislation to regulate and allow companies to begin hydraulic fracturing in Illinois. This is expected to create thousands of jobs in Illinois.

HB 2615, introduced by Representative John Bradley (D – Marion) and Representative David Reis (R – Olney), will still need to pass both chambers and be signed by the Governor.

The Grow-IL coalition, which the Illinois AFL-CIO is a partner in, released the following statement:

“The legislation introduced by Rep. John Bradley and Rep. Reis is a step in the right direction in enacting common sense hydraulic fracturing legislation that creates jobs, stimulates the economy and provides regulations to protect our environment. Our coalition representing business and labor is encouraged the legislature is focused on policy that puts working families and local businesses to work. GROW-IL supports this

kind of common-sense framework that maximizes our energy resources and capabilities, puts working men and women to work and enhances our environment.”

HB 2615 includes extensive regulation of the drilling process, mandating numerous best practices.

- A requirement that all waste – which includes “flowback” of all the chemical-laced water pumped into the ground – be stored in closed tanks, rather than the pits that chronically leak and overflow elsewhere.
- Restrictions on venting and flaring of natural gas (which contains the potent greenhouse gas methane, as well as other harmful constituents, and turns to smog).
- A ban on the dangerous practice of injecting diesel (which contains carcinogenic hydrocarbons).
- Required disclosure of all fracking chemicals to the public before operations commence (and limits on industry’s ability to claim that this information is a trade secret).

ILLINOIS AFL-CIO, CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR, CHICAGO & COOK COUNTY BUILDING TRADES TO HOST CONSERVATION EVENT MARCH 6



The Illinois AFL-CIO, Chicago Federation of Labor and the Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council are hosting a fundraising reception honoring the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance on Wednesday, March 6. The event will be held at the Plumbers Hall - UA 130 - in Chicago and will begin at 6PM.

The event promises to be a great evening with special guests including **AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka**, **USA Executive Director Fred Myers**, and the television show **Brotherhood Outdoors** co-hosts **Daniel Lee Martin** and **Julie McQueen**.

Join your union brothers and sisters for a delicious meal, raffles, silent and live auctions to benefit conservation efforts in your area, and you could walk away with some great new outdoor gear or thousands of dollars worth of guns. You might even take home the grand door prize – **Ultimate Sportsman Viewing Package** – complete with and LG 47” Class LED HDTV, Bose® Home Entertainment Speaker System and LazyBoy® Leather Rocker recliner, donated by Sportsman Channel, the official network of *Brotherhood Outdoors*.

You won’t want to miss this exciting opportunity to meet celebrities, win prizes and help USA expand efforts to preserve wildlife habitat, protect public access and educate a future generation of sportsmen and women.

Individual tickets are available for \$100 with table sponsorships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. For more information, download a flyer at www.ilaf-cio.org or call Amy Rueff at 217-492-2633.

Seats are limited - buy your tickets today!

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