



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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*The Illinois House concluded its business today, while the Illinois Senate wrapped up its business on Thursday. There remains two weeks for bills to pass out of committee in their originating chamber. The Governor delivered his budget address on Wednesday this week. The Illinois House is scheduled to return Tuesday, March 12 and remain in through Friday. While the Senate will return on March 12 and remain in through Thursday next week.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### QUINN PROPOSES DEEP CUTS IN EDUCATION, FLAT-LINING MANY AREAS

Gov. Pat Quinn outlined his budget priorities in his annual Budget Address to lawmakers on Wednesday.

The budget outline, described by Quinn as the “most difficult” he’s ever submitted, contains deep cuts in K-12 and higher education. Elementary and secondary face \$300 million in cuts in this budget, while higher education gets hit with a \$100 million cut. Quinn did maintain level funding for Early Childhood and Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants.

Quinn targeted rising pension costs for the deep cuts.

He also proposed closure of several corporate tax loopholes, including the exemption of foreign dividends from multi-national corporations on state taxes. The savings from the tax loophole closures would amount to \$445 million a year, according to Quinn. This proposal was met by expected opposition from the business lobby.

Quinn’s proposed budget also does not match up with the House’s more conservative estimates of revenue, which may mean more cuts. Quinn sets the number of revenue collected at \$35.6 billion, while the House passed a resolution setting the number at \$35.1 billion.

#### We Are One Responds to Quinn Address



“We appreciate that Governor Quinn has appeared to embrace critical elements of our plan, but we disagree with the false choices framed in the Governor’s proposed budget. The actual cost of today’s pensions is negligible

compared to the cost of debt accrued by politicians who failed for decades to pay the state’s share. It is misguided to blame the modest pensions earned by teachers, police, caregivers and other public employees for harmful cuts to education and essential public services.

Governor Quinn and the legislature should cut or close some of the \$2 billion in wasteful corporate tax loopholes our coalition has identified. We are encouraged the Governor mentioned some of these today. As the budget process begins, we urge lawmakers to prevent cuts to public services and keep promises to retirees by closing wasteful loopholes instead.”

#### Senate Executive Appointments Committee Approved the following:

- AM 25 - John Butler to Northern Illinois University board of trustees. Passed 11-0. John is an IUPAT member.
- AM 53 - Michael Simmons to be a member of the Employment Security Advisory Board, passed 11-0.
- AM 515 - John Hartnett to Chair the State Panel of Illinois Labor Relations board. Passed 12-0.
- AM 558 - Adam Pollet to director of DCEO was confirmed 10-0.



## Illinois Chamber Looking For Workers Compensation Relief

*Labor to Offer Workers' Compensation Insurance Reform Next Week*

The House Labor Committee heard testimony from Rep. Dwight Kay and representatives from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce about how Illinois was at a competitive disadvantage with other states because of workers' compensation costs. Particularly in the area of "causation". Representative Kay called two bills in sub-committee and tabled another, the two called for a vote failed by a vote 1-2.

Labor will seek to assist the Illinois Chamber next week in House State Government Committee. HB 2919 (Fine) has been introduced to create the workers' compensation insurance fund. It will create competition for the current insurance group that sets Illinois' workers' compensation rates, National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), who releases little information on how they set their rates for employers. We look forward to working with the Illinois Chamber in lowering employer workers' compensation rates, without compromising workplace safety or cutting benefits.

### ***In other news 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. The House changed the dates and the way the money is allocated. *Passed House 65-49-0. Sent to Governor. AFL-CIO SUPPORTS*

SB 1830 (Jones) - The ILRB received a negative audit finding, which interpreted that statute dictated the board should set compensation levels for its mediators. In the past the mediators set their price and the two sides agreed on a mediator based on that estimate. SB 1830 would make the law clear, and codify the current practice of allowing mediators to set their price. *Passed Senate Labor 12-0-0. Second Reading. AFL-CIO no position.*

HB 1 (Lang) – Medical marijuana legislation. *Passed House Human Services Committee 11-4-0. AFL-CIO SUPPORTS*

HB 1188 (D Burke) – In March 2012 Palos Fire Protection District voters approved an increase in the district's limiting rate by \$1.9 million. The money was to be used

to replace obsolete fire and ambulance equipment. Due to Cook County tax levy dollars dropping, the \$1.9 million was not going to be appropriated. HB 1188 would ensure the full \$1.9 million is appropriated. *Passed House 86-29-0. AFL-CIO SUPPORTS*

HB 1283 (Senger/Brady) - Requires the actuary of each of the 5 State-funded systems to conduct an investigation of the system at least once every 3 (rather than 5) years. Effective immediately. *Passed House 118-0-0. Arrived in Senate. 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 Senate 53-0-0. Passed both chambers.. AFL-CIO no position.*

## **Governor Vetoes Gaming Bill New Bill Begins Moving**

Governor Quinn vetoed SB 744 (Link), from the 97th General Assembly, this week. The bill would have created five new casinos in the following cities: Chicago, Danville, Rockford, Park City (Waukegan), and in the south suburbs. The bill also contained: 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.

Governor Quinn in his veto message stated the bill had a "total absence of comprehensive ethical standards and regulatory oversight".

Following the veto, Senator Link quickly amended SB 1739 with new language authorizing five new casinos in the same locations as SB 744, and adding regulatory language. The bill passed out of Senate Executive Committee 10-4-1 this week, was moved to third reading, but was not called for a vote this week. We do anticipate a vote very soon in the Senate on SB 1739.



# ILLINOIS LABOR HOSTS 1ST ANNUAL UNION SPORTSMEN DINNER

*One Union Member Takes Home the Grand Prize*



The 1st Annual Illinois Union Sportsmen Alliance (USA) Dinner was held in Plumber's Hall (UA 130) on Wednesday evening. Hosted by the Illinois AFL-CIO, the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Council, the dinner drew more than 200 participants. Special guests for the evening were Daniel Lee Martin and Julie McQueen, hosts of the award winning television series, Brotherhood Outdoors.

The dinner opened with veterans leading the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. Special recognition was then given to a Sheetmetal Workers Local 73 guest for his heroic service in the Afghanistan War.

Mike Dejohn of the Ironworkers won the Ultimate Sportsman package which contained an 47" LED HD-TV, a Bose Home Entertainment System, a LA-Z-Boy Recliner. It also included dinner and drinks for up to 20 people at Piazza Bella in Chicago.

Tom Villanova, President of the Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Council served as the Auctioneer for the evening. Dinner was donated by Chicago based Union Insurance Group.

The Union Sportsman Alliance is a non-profit, conservation organization dedicated to union members and their families that hunt, fish shoot and enjoy America's great outdoors.



*Brotherhood Outdoors Co-Hosts Daniel Lee Martin and Julie McQueen are pictured with Tom Villanova, USA Executive Director Fred Myers and Michael Carrigan.*

## House Again Votes on Pension Amendments

The Illinois House again took time on Thursday this week to debate and vote on three pension ideas. The different ideas were all opposed by the WE ARE ONE coalition. The amendments were offered on HB 1154:

- HA #6 – Freeze COLA's for ten years. Failed by a vote of 2-67-0.
- HA #7 – Caps pensionable salary at \$113,000. Adopted this amendment 65-7-1.
- HA #8 – Increases employee contributions by 4%. Failed by a vote of 11-58-2.

Speaker Madigan filed a tenth amendment to HB 1154 and was ready to call it for a vote on Thursday, but withdrew it. It contained a pensionable salary cap. We continue to advocate for constitutional pension reform contained in the WE ARE ONE proposals (HB 3162 & SB 2404).

The Senate is expected to hear pension proposals in Executive Committee on March 13.