



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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The Illinois General Assembly completed a two day session week, which wrapped up on Wednesday. Despite a snow storm that came through Springfield on Tuesday, legislators were in town to continue introducing bills and to hold hearings. Both chambers passed, and Governor Quinn signed, SB 1227 to delay the date by which the Governor must deliver his budget outline and speech to the General Assembly. Quinn will now give his budget address on March 26 (was February 19). Both chambers will take a one week break, and continue introducing new bills. The bill introduction deadline is Friday, February 14. Both chambers will return to Springfield at 12pm on Tuesday, February 18.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senator Kirk Votes to Leave Over 99,000 Illinoisans in Cold

Statement by Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan on Senate failure to renew emergency unemployment insurance – by one vote margin

(SPRINGFIELD, Ill.) By failing to keep his word and to vote to extend emergency unemployment insurance if costs were 'offset,' Senator Kirk failed more than 1.7 million jobless workers –more than 99,000 in Illinois. Just one vote would have restored a critical lifeline millions of families, 40 days after it was allowed to lapse when lawmakers went home for the holidays without taking action.

Too many families in Illinois and across the country are enduring this winter without desperately needed lifeline. Hardworking people who are struggling to find work in this economy where there simply aren't enough jobs to replace those lost are being left out in the cold – and Senator Kirk could have made the difference today. We urge Senator Kirk and House leaders to make this right and restore unemployment insurance for those who need it.

Priority Issues for Illinois AFL-CIO in 2014

Minimum Wage – Senator Lightford and Representative Turner have introduced legislation in their respective chambers to increase the state's minimum wage to \$10.65 over two years. Those bills are SB 68 and HB 3718. We are actively working to pass both bills. Income disparity is something that is harming our state's economy, and this should just be the beginning in fixing that disparity.

Direct Care Wage Increase – Representative Gabel and Senator Steans introduced HB 3698 and SB 2604 respectively. Both would increase wage rates for direct care personnel of not less than \$13 per hour by July 1, 2016. It would phase the increase in over four steps beginning July 1, 2014 through July 1, 2016.

Responsible Bidder – The building and construction trades continue to pursue a statewide responsible bidder bill. HB 924 (Hoffman/Harmon) has passed

(Continued on Page 2)

Illinois AFL-CIO Unveils Legislation for American Products

No Longer Acceptable to say We Can't Make that Here, We Can and We Must Find a Way

The Illinois AFL-CIO unveiled a series of "Buy American" bills this week. They include:

- HB 4559 was introduced by Rep. Derrick Smith (D – Chicago). It will require uniforms and head gear that are worn by Illinois' collegiate athletes be manufactured in the United States. This legislation applies to all state universities and community colleges. Not the high school level.
- SB 2802 was introduced by Sen. Mike Frerichs (D – Champaign). It will require that only American made products are sold in the gift shops at any state museum, state park, state historic site, state memorial, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.
- HB 4555 was introduced by Rep. Mike Smiddy (D – Rock Island). It requires that any vehicle purchased or leased by an Illinois state agency MUST be manufactured in the United States.



ABC Endorses Rauner Early

*Construction Unions in
Mega-Rich Rauner's Crosshairs*

From the conservative web site Illinois Review following the ABC's endorsement of Bruce Rauner for Governor...

One of the state's most anti-union groups, Contractors for Free Enterprise, the political action affiliate of The Associated Builders & Contractors Illinois Chapter, endorsed Bruce Rauner for Governor.

"ABC is excited to endorse Bruce Rauner for Governor," said ABC Illinois President Alicia Martin. "Bruce Rauner has demonstrated an understanding of how state government impacts the economic well-being of ABC members and the economic competitiveness of our state," Martin explained. "The election of Bruce Rauner is important to making sure that Illinois turns the corner to attracting and creating Illinois jobs."

Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan responded.

"Rauner saves most of his rhetoric to demonize the public sector, but this shows that he is clearly looking to gut unions from top to bottom," Carrigan said. "It's clear he wants to drag Illinois to the bottom of this country in wages and worker protections across the board – not a big surprise from a guy sitting in his comfortable chair in his CEO office."

2nd Annual Union Sportsmen Alliance Dinner

The Union Sportsmen Alliance (USA) is working to unite union sportsmen and sportswomen and likeminded individuals to educate future generations of sportsmen, conserve healthy wildlife habitat and volunteer their time and skills for projects that improve access to quality places to hunt, fish, shoot and recreate outdoors.

On **February 24, 2014**, USA, in conjunction with the Chicago & Cook County Building and Construction Trades Council, the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Illinois AFL-CIO, will host the 2nd Annual Illinois Sportsmen Dinner at the Bricklayers Hall, 600 Enterprise Drive, in Elmhurst.

Please visit www.ilaf-cio.org for more information.

Priority Issues for Illinois AFL-CIO in 2014

(Continued from Page 1)

the House and has been read a second time on the Senate floor, thus just needing one final senate floor vote to be sent to the Governor.

Progressive Income Tax – A coalition of organizations in Illinois have come together to form "A Better Illinois" to place a progressive income tax referendum on the ballot for the 2014 General Election. Referendum language must pass the General Assembly by May 1 to be placed on the ballot.

Paid Leave – Governor Quinn advocated the need for earned sick time for employees in his state of the state. Representative Berrios introduced HB 4420, on behalf of the Governor's office, creating the earned sick time act. Senator Munoz introduced SB 2789 with the same language. The Illinois AFL-CIO will be unveiling a paid family leave bill next week.

What is the State of Illinois' Economy?

The House Revenue and State Government Committees held a joint hearing this week on the state's tax incentive policies. The committees heard from various agencies and Departments. The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity provided documents to the committee regarding Illinois' economy.

Despite all of the "unemployment rate" rhetoric, in 2012, Illinois had a net gain in employment through relocations, but lost slightly more companies than it attracted. Approximately 22,531 new businesses were created in 2012 in the Chicago metropolitan statistical area (MSA). On a per capita basis, this total ranks the region fifth amongst the nation's largest cities.

Illinois saw record levels of exports in 2012, a key indicator of a supportive business climate. From May 2013 through December 2013, Illinois ranked first in a nine state Midwest region (stretching from Ohio to Minnesota) in private jobs created at 64,300. Illinois averaged 5.80 million jobs in 2013, which was a 1.0% increase over the 2012 average of 5.74 million jobs. This is the third consecutive year of positive growth in statewide employment following three consecutive years of negative job growth.