



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MARCH 20, 2015

**PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO**

**MICHAEL T. CARRIGAN**, PRESIDENT

**TIMOTHY E. DREA**, SECRETARY TREASURER

**JASON KELLER**, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Illinois House and Senate concluded their business for the week yesterday. Next Friday, March 27 is the deadline by which bills must pass out of committee in their originating chamber. There have been approximately 6,300 bills introduced thus far in 2015 – not all of them substantive – but many of them have received a hearing, or will receive a hearing next week. The legislation enacting statewide right to work provisions (HB 4139 – Phillips) was posted for House Labor Committee for next week, however, it will be assigned to a sub-committee and not receive a hearing at this time. Both chambers return at 12pm on Tuesday, March 24 and are scheduled to remain in session through Friday, March 27.

## Minimum Wage Legislation Passes First Hurdle

Representative Turner (D-Chicago) led the effort to pass HB 3345 through House Labor Committee this week by a vote of 16-10-0.

The legislation increases the minimum wage from \$8.25 to \$9.00 beginning July 1, 2015 and increases it to \$10.00 per hour on and after July 1, 2016. It contains language to preempt home rule authority, with the exception of Chicago. Lastly, it contains provisions for certain employers that are subject to the minimum wage law may claim a tax credit from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

HB 3345 now goes to the full House for consideration. It is anticipated that more changes will be made to this legislation.

## Agency Directors Confirmed

### *Chaviano Ok'd for IDOL*

Many individuals were confirmed by the Senate this week to key spots under the Rauner Administration.

The key appointments confirmed this week include:

- AM 990004 – Jeff Mays to be Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security;
- AM 990009 – James Meeks to be member and Chair of the Illinois State Board of Education;
- AM 990018 – Hugo Chaviano to be the Director of the Illinois Department of Labor;
- AM 990110 – Michael Coli to be a member of the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

## Congressman Schock Resigns

*Multiple stories detail lavish spending, with much of it using tax dollars*

Congressman Aaron Schock (R-Peoria) announced his resignation from his 18th Congressional District seat. The official date of his resignation will be March 31st. His resignation followed weeks of local and national media detailing his lavish spending on trips, offices, and staff. Often times the spending included using tax dollars.

The 18th District stretches from western through central Illinois, including portions of Peoria, Bloomington and Springfield. It is a heavily Republican leaning district.

State Senator Darin LaHood (R-Dunlap) has declared his intent to run in the special election and there are several others eyeing a run.

Governor Rauner will have until April 5 to file a 'writ of election' to declare a special election to replace Congressman Schock. The election must be held within 115 days upon the Governor calling a special election.

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Other key legislation passed this week:

- **SB 47 (Clayborne)** - Amends the Illinois Day and Temporary Labor Services Act to require a day and temporary service agency, as part of its record-keeping obligations, to collect demographic information from job seekers on a contact form which allows each laborer to self-identify his or her race and gender. The bill requires that this information to be maintained separately from any personnel files used to make job assignments. *Passed Senate Labor 11-4-0. Second Reading. IL AFL-CIO Supports.*
- **SB 1238 (Harris)** - Creates the Illinois Family Care Provider Act. Provides that an employer must provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid family medical leave to an employee during any 12-month period for one or more of these purposes: the birth or adoption of a grandchild in order for the employee to care for such grandchild; because of the placement of a grandchild with the employee for adoption or foster care; or in order for the employee to care for a grandchild if such grandchild has a serious health condition or the employee to care for a grandparent if such grandparent has a serious health condition. *Passed Senate Executive 11-0-3. Second reading. IL AFL-CIO Supports*
- **SB 1480 (Righter)** - Will enable construction of the Sargas energy plant in Mattoon. This legislation is simply intended to ensure that the IPA and the ICC have clear authority to require Illinois Utilities and ARES to enter into sourcing agreements with Clean Coal Facilities other than those currently (and restrictively) specified. *Passed Senate Energy 14-0. Second Reading. IL AFL-CIO Supports.*
- **SR 114 (Hutchinson)** - Designates April 14, 2015 as Pay Equity Day in the State of Illinois. *Passed Senate Labor 10-0. To floor. IL AFL-CIO Supports.*
- **HB 403 (Franks)** - Employees of a State university who have been employed by a state university for at least 7 years receive a 50% tuition waiver for their children. This bill removes that benefit for students enrolled at a State university after the 2015-2016 academic year. Labor lobbyists had this stopped in committee two weeks ago, however, Chairman Franks worked hard to pass this out of committee. *Passed House State Government 9-4-0. Second Reading. Illinois AFL-CIO Opposes.*
- **HB 1380 (Phelps)** – The bill states that unless mutually agreed otherwise, a party to a collective bargaining agreement who fails to timely comply with an interest or grievance arbitration award or, who after a timely demand, fails to submit a grievance dispute concerning the administration or interpretation of an agreement to arbitration, shall pay to the prevailing party in an enforcement action all reasonable costs of the proceeding in the trial and reviewing courts including reasonable attorneys’ fees. *Passed House Labor 16-7-0. Second Reading. AFFI initiative, IL AFL-CIO Supports.*
- **HB 3110 (Lang)** – Closes certain loopholes for sourcing of purchase of jet fuel. Provides that, for the purposes of local sales tax sourcing, a retail sale of fuel or petroleum products used by an aircraft shall be deemed to be a retail sale at the place where the fuel or petroleum products are delivered to the aircraft. *Passed House Revenue 8-5-0. Second Reading. IL AFL-CIO Neutral.*
- **HB 3619 (Soto)** - Amends the Equal Pay Act of 2003. Provides that the Act applies to all employers rather than only those with more than 3 employees. Increases the maximum civil penalty for all violations of the Act or a rule from \$2,500 to \$5,000. *Passed House Labor 16-8-0. Second Reading. IL AFL-CIO Supports.*



*Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan giving welcoming remarks at the Next Up 2015 Summit in Chicago.*

## **Next Up Summit Opens Thursday in Chicago**

The Next Up 2015 Summit convened in Chicago on Thursday with over 1,300 participants in attendance. Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan and Chicago Federation of Labor Jorge Ramirez joined actor Danny Glover in welcoming the conference to Chicago. In addition, Illinois AFL-CIO Resource Director, Amy Rueff will be co-hosting a work shop for young workers at the summit.

Younger workers are the future of the Labor Movement and the 2015 AFL-CIO Next Up Young Worker Summit will be instrumental in younger workers engaging in political activism for economic and social justice advance policies to help all workers.

AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer, Liz Shuler, announced that in addition to having attendees from over 40 different States and the Puerto Rico the conference was the most gender and ethnically diverse conference in the history of the AFL-CIO.