



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JUNE 2, 2014

PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

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The Illinois General Assembly concluded its business for the spring early Saturday morning. The Cook County Pension proposal (HB 1154) passed the Senate, but lacked the votes to be called in the House. The budget passed this year is for \$35.7 billion, however, the General Assembly did not act on keeping tax rates steady. The state income tax rates are set to decrease on January 1, 2015. Senator Manar passed SB 16 in the Senate, attempting to bring parity in education funding statewide, the measure is now in the House for their consideration when they return. Both chambers announced their scheduled dates for the fall veto session. They will return November 19-21 and December 2-4.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Unemployment Agreed Bill stalls in the Senate

Just hours before the adjournment of the Spring Session, **SB 3530** (Stadelman/Mautino), an agreed bill on several unemployment issues was not called for a vote in the Senate. After negotiating with business and the Department of Employment Security (IDES) through the Spring Session and the bill receiving a 115-0 vote in the House, final action on the bill was held in the Senate Assignments Committee.

SB 3530 as amended by the House Amendments 3 and 4 would have implemented the Illinois Work Share, a layoff aversion program to allow companies to enter into a voluntary program to reduce the hours of the workforce as a whole rather than laying workers off. In an approved work share program workers who experience a reduction in hours of the 40 hour week may qualify for unemployment insurance on the number of hours they are reduced from 40 hours. Work Share which has recently been enacted in 28 States, including Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan and can prevent full-time layoffs so workers keep their health care, earn pension credits and keep their seniority for vacation and job classification purposes.

The legislation also contained several measures requested by IDES and a measure requested by business to allow newspapers to classify newspaper bundlers in the same manner as newspaper carriers for unemployment insurance purposes.

Instead of calling **SB 3530** for a vote, the Senate President filed an amendment onto **HB 4733** that contained the agreed bill and two items that were not agreed by business and labor including the creation of the controversial I-Step program and a \$25 million tax cut to companies who have experienced lay-offs in exchange for eliminating the social security offset. Labor has been opposed to the I-Step program because it is a duplication of programs in the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and could change the focus of IDES from an agency devoted to collecting unemployment taxes and paying unemployment benefits. While labor supports the elimination of the Social Security offset labor opposes giving employers a tax break to remove it. When offsets were implemented in 1980, labor did not receive a benefit increase and business has benefited for 34 years from older workers not being able to collect unemployment benefits while drawing social security.

HB 4733 as amended was also held in the Senate Assignments Committee.

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\$1.1 Billion Capital Bill Passes House and Senate

HB 3794 passed both chambers to jumpstart a \$1.1 billion projects bill. The legislation stipulates it shall be for preliminary engineering, construction engineering and contract costs of construction, including reconstruction, extension and improvement of state and local highways, arterial highways, roads, access areas, roadside shelters, rest areas, and fringe parking facilities and sanitary facilities.

SB 3224, is the funding mechanism that is paying for the capital bill. The plan will be paid for, in part, through higher vehicle registration fees put in place in the late 1990s that were used to float construction bonds under former Gov. George Ryan. Some of those bonds have now been paid off by the state. This legislation passed both chambers as well. A project list can be found at: http://www.ilaf-cio.org/weekly_updates.htm



In other news:

HB8 (Flowers/Hutchinson) - Would make it a civil rights violation if an employer fails to provide “reasonable accommodations” for all working pregnant women, including part-time and full-time employees. *Passed House 115-0. Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*

HB 2427 (Gabel/Harmon) - This bill directs the Illinois Power Agency to buy solar energy using money that has already been collected from ratepayers for this purpose. *Passed House 97-10-1. Passed both chamber. Labor supports.*

HB 3659 (Franks/Sandoval) - Amends the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act. Prohibits employees and members of the Chicago Transit Board from holding any other office or employment under the Federal, State or any County or any municipal government, or any other unit of local government. Makes corresponding changes in the Regional Transportation Authority Act that apply to members serving on the Regional Transportation Authority Board and the Commuter Rail Board. Effective immediately. *Passed Senate 56-0. Passed both chambers.*

HB 3816 (Noland/Madigan) – Millionaires tax. Creates the Tax for Education Referendum Act. Provides that the State Board of Elections shall cause a statewide advisory question of public policy to be submitted to the voters at the general election to be held on November 4, 2014 asking whether the Illinois Constitution should be amended to require that each school district receive additional revenue, based on their number of students, from an additional 3% tax on income greater than \$1,000,000. *Passed Senate 33-17-0. Sent to Governor on May 30.*

HB 4418 (Hoffman/Raoul) - Prohibits a city or village that owns, operates, or maintains any fire department or departments from ceasing the operation and maintenance of that fire department or those fire departments unless the proposed cessation is first submitted to the voters by referendum. *Passed Senate 43-11-0. Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*

HB 5622 (Turner/Raoul) - Protects low wage workers who receive their wages on a payroll card, an increasingly common method of payment used by Illinois employers. The bill will provide important protections for workers against unreasonable fees to access their pay. Ensures employees can access their wages without incurring fees, including a prohibition on fees for overdrafts, transaction history requests and purchases. It will limit fees for card inactivity and declined transactions. It will preserve employees’ right to choose the payment method that works for them, whether that method is check, direct deposit or payroll card. Lastly, it will require employers to give employees notice of the terms of the payroll card program. *Passed Senate 57-0 and House 98-11-1. Passed both chambers.*

HB 5701 (Mayfield/Munoz) – “Ban the Box”. Creates the Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act. An employer with

15 or more employees or employment agency may not inquire about or into, consider, or require disclosure of the criminal record or criminal history of an applicant until the applicant has been determined qualified for the position and notified that the applicant has been selected for an interview by the employer or employment agency or, if there is not an interview, until after a conditional offer of employment is made to the applicant by the employer or employment agency. Provides for certain exceptions. *Passed House on concurrence 67-47-0. Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*

HB 5755 (Cassidy/Martinez) - Creates the Women’s Health Referendum Act. Requires the State Board of Elections to cause a statewide advisory public question to be submitted to the voters at the November 4, 2014 general election asking whether any health insurance plan in Illinois that provides prescription drug coverage should be required to include prescription birth control as part of that coverage. *Passed Senate 31-18-0 and House concurs 62-48-0. Passed both chambers.*

HR 782 (Phelps) Urges the Environmental Protection Agency to develop guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions that take into account the unique policies, energy needs, resource mixes, and economic priorities of Illinois and other states. *Resolution Adopted 66-36-2 in House. Labor supports.*

HR 1146 (Madigan) - Urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, PJM Interconnection, LLC, and the Mid-Continent Independent Systems Operator to adopt rules and policies to ensure the continued operation of nuclear power plants in Illinois. *Resolution Adopted by House. Labor supports.*

SB 226 (Frerichs/Moylan) – Creates the “Support Your Neighbor” Task Force, which will look at ways to increase the procurement and sale of American and Illinois made goods. Requires state museums, state parks, and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum to set up a booth in their gift shops for American Made goods to be sold. *Passed Senate 57-0. Illinois AFL-CIO initiative.*

SB 346 (Cullerton/Madigan) – Requires chief executives of all companies seeking the EDGE tax credit to sign a document that states they would not expand in Illinois without the tax credit. Those looking for the EDGE tax credit to relocate or expand in Illinois would have to create new jobs, rather than simply retain the ones they have. Companies would have to certify that new jobs would be created in areas with high poverty and high unemployment, and companies would have to publicly disclose their gross income, the amount of income allocated to Illinois and their net income during the period in which they claim the EDGE credit. *Passed House 107-4-0. To Senate on concurrence.*

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SB 1681 (Link/Hoffman) – Provides an alternative process for local government units to enter into intergovernmental agreements for the creation of Regional Fire Protection Agencies. Empowers citizens in contiguous jurisdictions to vote on the issue by referendum, but only after being provided a thorough analysis of the costs and emergency service levels proposed in the newly created district. *Passed House 115-0, and Senate 56-0. Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*

SB 3038 (Raoul/Sandack) - Amends the Workplace Violence Prevention Act. Provides that the Act does not apply to the monitoring of compliance with certain worker safety laws, lawful picketing, or the exercise of the right of free speech or assembly that is otherwise lawful. Additional language was added to reflect negotiations between business and victim advocates. *Passed House 117-0, Passed Senate 56-0. Passed both chambers. Labor supports.*

Some Back Pay Restored for Public Employees

In what has been a long lobbying effort, state lawmakers finally took an important first step in paying off some of the debt owed to many state employees for back wages earned from July 2011 to July 2013. The House passed HB 3793 by a vote of 61-48-3 and the Senate passed the bill 40-14. The bill also appropriated an additional:

- \$13 million grant for sewage and waste disposal facilities;
- \$10 million grant to Uptown Theatre. Uptown is the largest theatre in Chicago, with over 46,000 square feet;
- Appropriates \$50 million in back-pay to public employees at the Public Health, Human Services, Corrections, Juvenile Justice and Natural Resources;
- \$50 million to Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund;
- \$40 million from the School Infrastructure Fund for school maintenance grants;
- \$35 million to CPS for school construction.

General Assembly Expands Voting Rights in Illinois

The Illinois House and Senate passed HB 105 (Currie/Harmon) this week that is a significant expansion of voting rights in Illinois. The legislation, if signed by Governor Pat Quinn, would become effective immediately. Among the major components of the bill:

- **Early Voting Expansion for 2014:** In 2014 General Election, Early Voting extended to Sunday (currently ends Saturday) before Election Day as well as mandated hours site must be open for Early Voting purposes, including the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. or 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the eight days before Election Day. The EV locations must be open for 14 hours the weekend before Election Day.
- **Same Day Registration and Voting for 2014:** Grace period registration and voting is extended through Election Day at permanent Early Voting locations, effectively creating Election Day registration and voting for the upcoming General Election.
- **Absentee ballot request period extended:** Absentee/mail-in ballot requests can now be made 90 days before the election (previously 40 days).
- **In-person absentee voting at universities on Election Day:** The bill requires election authorities to provide in-person absentee voting in high-traffic areas at the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana and Springfield), Southern Illinois (Carbondale and Edwardsville), Eastern Illinois, Illinois State, Northern Illinois, and Western Illinois (Macomb and Moline).
- **Minimum Wage on ballot:** It requires the placement of a non-binding referendum on the ballot for the 2014 General Election. The question posed will be "Shall the minimum wage in Illinois for adults over the age of 18 be raised to \$10 per hour by January 1, 2015?"
- **No forced leave from work for election judges:** The bill prohibits an employer (25 or more employees) from requiring a worker to use earned vacation time or any form of paid leave time to serve as an election judge.

2014 Ballot Referendums

There will be potentially six questions on the ballot this November. The initiatives passed in the General Assembly state the ballot question. The citizens' initiatives (signatures) do not have the exact ballot language in place yet, and it won't be certified until August 22.

- **Redistricting Proposal** – Citizens' initiative to change the Illinois constitution to create a redistricting commission to redistrict state legislative districts following a decennial census. Needing 300,000 valid signatures, the measure appears to be short of ballot signatures following a state board of elections statistical analysis. In addition may be found unconstitutional by the courts.
- **Term limits** – The measure would establish eight-year term limits for legislators, reduce the size of the Senate from 59 to 41, increase the size of the House from 118 to 123, and require a two-thirds majority vote in both houses for the legislature to override a governor's veto. Currently, it takes three-fifths vote to override a Governor's veto.
- **Millionaires Tax** – Pursuant to HB 3816, and pending a signature from the Governor, statewide advisory question of public policy to be submitted to the voters at the general election to be held on November 4, 2014 asking whether the Illinois Constitution should be amended to require that each school district receive additional revenue, based on their number of students, from an additional 3% tax on income greater than \$1,000,000?
- **Minimum wage** – Pursuant to HB 105/HB 3814, and pending a signature from the Governor, statewide advisory question asking whether the minimum wage in Illinois for adults over the age of 18 should be raised to \$10 per hour by January 1, 2015?
- **Birth Control** – Pursuant to HB 5755, and a pending signature from the Governor, a statewide advisory question asking whether any health insurance plan in Illinois that provides prescription drug coverage should be required to include prescription birth control as part of that coverage.
- **Election Discrimination** – Pursuant to HJRCA 52 - Proposes to amend the Suffrage and Elections Article of the Constitution. Provides that no person shall be denied the right to register to vote or to cast a ballot in an election based on race, color, ethnicity, status as a member of a language minority, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion or income.

Illinois AFL-CIO 7th Annual COPE Golf Outing

There's only a week left and the 7th annual golf outing is shaping up to be the best one yet! Space is now limited and we will be putting foursomes together very soon but it's not too late to reserve a spot. If you would still like to be a part of the day's festivities please call or e-mail Terri Payne at terrip@ilaf-cio.org or 217-492-2622. Your sign-up sheet, when filled out, can be e-mailed to Terri or faxed to 217-492-2622. Reserve your spot today!



The Rail Golf Course

1400 S. Club House Drive, Springfield, IL

If you would like to sponsor:

Gold Sponsor

\$3,000

(Includes 4 golfers, hole sign, lunch and dinner sponsorship)

Silver Sponsor

\$2,000

(Includes 4 golfers, hole sign, refreshment cart sponsorship)

Hole Sponsor

\$250

Dinner Tickets Only

\$50

Monday - JUNE 9, 2014

1 PM Shotgun Start 6PM Dinner

If you would like to golf:

\$200 Per Player

(Includes green fees, cart, lunch, dinner, and prizes)

We thank you for your support as it is paramount to the work that we do at the Illinois AFL-CIO. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Checks Can Be Made Payable to:

Illinois AFL-CIO COPE

534 S. Second St., Ste. 200, Springfield, IL 62701

For information contact Terri Payne at terrip@ilaf-cio.org or 217-492-2622