



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michael T. Carrigan, President
Timothy E. Drea, Secretary Treasurer

Published for Labor Activists

Feb. 20, 2009

**Call The Illinois AFL-CIO at (217) 544-4014 For More Information
On These And Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People**

The Illinois House will return Tuesday, February 24th at noon. The Senate will return Wednesday, February 25th at noon. As a general reminder, Friday, February 27th is the House introduction deadline for substantive bills.

STATE NEWS

HB 23 – Graphic Arts Machinery Tax Exemption

Rep. Turner (D – Chicago)

SUPPORT

Amends the Use Tax Act, the Service Use Tax Act, the Service Occupation Tax Act, and the Retailers' Occupation Tax Act. Extends the exemption for graphic arts machinery and equipment and the manufacturer's purchase credit until August 30, 2014 (now, those provisions are due to expire on July 30, 2009).

2/20/09 – Passed out of Subcommittee on Sales and Other Taxes 3-0-0.

HB 77 – Firefighter Death/Flag Half Staff

Rep. Cole (R – Grayslake)

SUPPORT

Requires that the U.S. national and Illinois State flags be displayed at half-staff when an Illinois firefighter is killed in the line of duty.

2/19/09 – Passed the House 113-0-0.

HB 210 – Court Reporter Funding

Rep. Mautino (D – Spring Valley)

SUPPORT

Makes FY09 appropriations to the State Comptroller for expenses related to court reporting. The sum of \$3,633,750 is appropriated for official court reporting. \$760,000 is appropriated for State contributions to the State Employees' Retirement System and \$356,250 for State contributions to Social Security. This funding was originally vetoed out of the budget by the Governor last year.

2/19/09 – Passed the House Appropriation-General Committee 8-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 480 – Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Rep. Boland (D – Moline)

SUPPORT

Amends the State Finance Act. Provides that for personnel

under the jurisdiction of the State travel control boards, the allowance rate for automobile travel mileage reimbursement, shall be increased or decreased during the State's fiscal year as of the effective date of the federal regulations (now, increases do not take effect until the next July 1).

2/19/09 – Passed the House State Government Committee 17-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 1027 – Interfund Borrowing

Rep. Hannig (D – Gillespie)

MONITOR

Creates the Interfund Borrowing Act of 2009. This is a shell bill.

2/19/09 – Passed House Appropriations-General Services Committee 7-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 39 – Teacher Pregnancy Leave

Sen. Althoff (R – Crystal Lake)

SUPPORT

Amends the Downstate Teachers Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Allows a teacher to establish credit for certain leaves of absence due to pregnancy. Includes new benefit increase compliance language. Effective immediately.

2/19/09 – Passed Senate Pensions and Investment 7-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 302 - Laid Off State Employee Creditable Service

Sen. Bomke (R - Springfield)

SUPPORT

Allows an employee who was laid off but returned to any State employment to establish creditable service for the period of the layoff.

2/19/09 – Passed Senate Pensions and Investment 7-0-0. Second Reading.





Governor Quinn Appoints Key Staff Members

On Wednesday, February 18, 2009, Governor Pat Quinn added staff members to his Administration. They include:

Jack Lavin – Chief Operating Officer
Carolyn Brown Hodge – Dep. Chief of Staff
Robert Reed – Director of Communications
Michelle Saddler – Director of Policy
LaDawn Burnett – Senior Policy Advisor

Cory Foster – Director of Community Affairs
Jennifer Hoelzle – Dir. of Scheduling & Advance
Jay Stewart – Senior Counsel
Sean Vinck – Chief Legislative Counsel

NATIONAL NEWS

Economic Stimulus Package

President Obama signed the Economic Stimulus Package this week. The office of the Speaker of the U.S. House Nancy Pelosi released statistics on what Illinois will receive from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Illinois will receive approximately \$6.95 billion, broken down as follows:

- **Total of \$2,062,179,000 for State Fiscal Stabilization Fund**
- **Total of \$1,579,965,373 in Transportation Infrastructure Funds**
- **Total of \$154,194,240 in Job Training Funds**
- **Total of \$935,592,704 in Highway Funding**
- **Total of \$222,617,262 for the Public Housing Capital Fund**
- **Total of \$47,447,955 for the Community Development Block Grant**
- **Total of \$525,901,091 for the Title I Education for the Disadvantaged**
- **Total of \$16,553,830 for the Department of Labor–State Employment Service Grants**
- **Total of \$65,311,400 for the Department of Labor Dislocated Workers State Grants**
- **Total of \$26,051,123 for the Department of Labor Adult State Grants**

Employee Free Choice Act Rally

Over 3,000 union activists packed the Plumbers' Hall in downtown Chicago Tuesday evening to hear from labor leaders, union workers, elected officials and community organizers about the immediate need for passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Speakers included AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, Change to Win President Anna Burger, State Federation President Michael Carrigan, Chicago Federation President Dennis Gannon, LIUNA International President Terry O'Sullivan, Congressman Danny Davis, Alderman Ed Burke, Comcast technician Jose Hill, Heartland Human Services healthcare provider Gail Warner, Resurrection healthcare housekeeper Shirley Brown, Citizen Action Illinois Co-Director William McNary, Chicago Jobs with Justice Executive Director James Thindwa and Illinois Sierra Club Director Jack Darin.

In addition to the Chicago rally, union members took part in Employee Free Choice press conferences in Chicago, Decatur, Champaign, Peru and Bloomington-Normal Tuesday morning.

The Employee Free Choice Act will allow workers to join a union if a majority signs authorization cards, require mediation and binding arbitration on first contracts after three months of negotiation and stiffens penalties against employers who intimidate or harass workers trying to form a union.

All Illinois Democratic Congressional members are supporting the legislation. No Illinois Republicans are supportive. President Obama has said he will sign the legislation when it passes Congress.