



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

The General Assembly completed their deadline to pass bills out of committee this past week. The Illinois House and Senate will return to Springfield on Tuesday, March 17th at noon. Governor Quinn will give his first budget address on Wednesday, March 18th at noon.

STATE NEWS

HB 37 – Lease Closed Parks Monitor

Rep. Moffit (R – Galesburg)
Requires that the Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency offer to lease to any interested unit of local government, non-profit organization, or public or private college or university the operation and maintenance of any closed State park or historic site for one dollar for between one to five years.
3/11/09 – Passed State Government Committee 17-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 185/SB 105 – MRSA Screening

Rep. Bellock (R – Westmont)
Sen. Radogno (R – Lemont)
SUPPORT
Creates the MRSA Prevention, Control, and Reporting Act. Sets forth methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* ("MRSA") prevention, control, and reporting activities that are applicable to State residential facilities (that is, any State mental health hospital, State developmental center, or State residential school for the deaf and visually impaired; any Department of Corrections operated correctional center, work camp or boot camp; and any Department of Juvenile Justice operated juvenile center or boot camp).
3/11/09 – Passed Human Services Committee 7-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 210 – Court Reporter Funding

Rep. Mautino (D – Spring Valley)/Sen. Wilhelm (D – Crest Hill)
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. The sum of \$760,000 is appropriated for State contributions to the State Employees' Retirement System and \$356,250 for State contribu-

tions to Social Security.
3/11/09 – Passed Senate Appropriations II 10-0-0. Second Reading

HB 267 – Grace Period Registration

Rep. Davis (D – Chicago)
SUPPORT
Amends the Election Code. Permits grace period registration until the 7th day (now, the 14th day) before the election or primary.
3/10/09 – Passed Elections & Campaign Reform Committee 5-4-0. Second Reading.

HB 660 - Wage Increase

Rep. Froehlich (D - Schaumburg)
SUPPORT
Appropriates \$45,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Human Services to fund a \$0.50-per-hour wage increase for non-executive staff of private-sector agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities.
3/12/09 – Passed Appropriations - Human Services 14-1-0. Second Reading.

HB 2375 – DOC/DJJ Service Workers Become State Employees

Rep. Bradley (D – Marion)
SUPPORT
Provides that effective July 1, 2009, all employees providing medical services at all facilities of the Illinois Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice, and those employees providing support services to those employees at those facilities, shall become State employees.
3/11/09 – Passed Labor Hearing 14-6-0. Second Reading.

HB 2377 - Local Government Bidding Projects

Rep. Smith (D - Peoria)
SUPPORT
Creates the Local Government

Construction Contract Bidders Act. Requires bidders on construction contracts with units of local government and school districts to comply with applicable laws, comply with applicable provisions of the Prevailing Wage Act, comply with federal equal employment opportunities laws, have a valid FEIN or SSN, have valid insurance certificates, and participate in apprenticeship and training programs.
3/11/09 – Passed State Government Committee 13-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 2394 - TIF

Rep. Walker (D - Arlington Heights)
Monitor
Amends the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act in the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that a redevelopment project area may include areas within a one-half mile radius of an existing or proposed Regional Transportation Authority Suburban Transit Access Route (STAR line) station without a finding that the area is classified as an industrial park conservation area, conservation area, or a blighted area.
3/12/09 – Passed Revenue Committee 13-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 3634 – Equal Pay Act Record Keeping

Rep. Currie (D – Chicago)
SUPPORT
Provides that an employee or former employee may file a complaint with the Department of Labor alleging a violation of the Act by submitting a signed, completed complaint form, and all complaints shall be filed with the Department within one year from the date of the underpayment. Requires an employer subject to the Act to preserve specified records for not less than 5 (rather than 3) years and shall make reports from the records as pre-

scribed by rule or order of the Director of Labor
3/11/09 – Passed Labor Hearing 15-7-0. Second Reading.

HB 3823 – Insurance Waiver for Power Plant

Rep. Mautino (D – Spring Valley)
SUPPORT
Provides that no company that is authorized to do business in this State and that issues policies for life or accident and health may attach a waiver of benefits or any coverage exceptions for acts of war or acts of terrorism to any such policy that is issued to a person who is employed in any capacity by a nuclear power plant.
3/10/09 – Passed Insurance Hearing 13-7-1. Second Reading.

HB 3834 – Utilities

Rep. Hamos (D – Evanston)
OPPOSE
Provides that if a municipality, by ordinance, approves the creation of a wireless network, then any entity within that municipality that owns or co-owns above-ground utility poles, including, but not limited to, street light and traffic poles and pole arms located in the public rights-of-way within the municipality, shall be required to enter into pole access agreements with the ISP to allow access to all above-ground poles of the public utility located in the public right-of-way.
3/12/09 – Passed Computer Technology 7-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 3859 – EPA

Rep. Franks (D – Woodstock)
OPPOSE
Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Reenacts a Section concerning fast-track rule-making for the Clean Air Act. Defines the terms "fast-track rule-making" and "requires to be

adopted." Provides that if the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require the adoption of rules other than identical in substance rules, then the Pollution Control Board must adopt rules under fast-track rulemaking if requested to do so by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
3/11/09 – Passed Energy & Environment 18-1-0. Second Reading.

HB 3878 – Health Facility Closure Statement
Rep. Bradley (D – Marion)
SUPPORT

Amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that a health care facility must provide a written pre-closing statement to the Department no less than 90 days before permanently closing its facility.

3/11/09 – Passed Human Services Committee 7-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 4109 – New Employee Portal
Rep. Black (R – Danville)
OPPOSE

Creates the Illinois New Employee CMS Portal to track new employees hired with the state. Will state their name, state agency, title, position number, county of employment location, compensation on a monthly and annual basis, rutan status, and whether or not that employee is subject to collective bargaining.

3/11/09 – Passed State Government 17-0-0. Second Reading.

HB 4251 – Staffing Levels
Rep. Phelps (D – Harrisburg)
SUPPORT

Provides that the staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission (instead of only the Commission) shall develop benchmarks for employee staffing levels for each classification and employee training for each classification within one year after the effective date of the amendatory Act (rather than by January 1, 2010).

3/11/09 – Passed Labor Hearing 25-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 322 – Prevailing Wage
Sen. Steans (D – Chicago)
SUPPORT

In provisions making it a public body's responsibility to notify contractors and subcontractors of a revised prevailing wage rate, provides that the publication of an ordinance or resolution passed by the public body that states the ascertained prevailing wage is sufficient notification to the contractor and each subcontractor.

3/11/09 – Passed Labor Committee 10-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 327/HB 2376 – State Facility Closure

Sen. Crotty (D – Oak Forest)
Rep. Gordon (D – Coal City)

SUPPORT

Provides that, if appropriations have been made for the current fiscal year for the operation of a State facility during the entire fiscal year that facility cannot be closed or have its funding or services reduced.

3/11/09 – Passed State Government 8-0-1. Second Reading.

SB 1350 – Unemployment Insurance

Sen. Forby (D – Benton)

SUPPORT

Provides for one year of unemployment insurance during a lock-out situation with an employer.

3/11/09 – Passed Labor Committee 7-2-0. Second Reading.

SB 1423 – Prevailing Wage

Sen. Link (D – Lake Bluff)

SUPPORT

Provides that laborers, workers, and mechanics directly employed by contractors or subcontractors in actual construction work on the site of the building or construction job shall be deemed to be employed upon public works. Provides for coverage of "the transportation of aggregate and excavated materials and equipment operated to haul to or from the site".

3/11/09 – Passed Labor Committee 9-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1479 – Furlough Days toward Pension

Sen. Raoul (D – Chicago)

SUPPORT

Amends the State Employee Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides service credit for up to 5 days of voluntary or involuntary furlough used to address a State fiscal emergency. Effective immediately.

3/11/09 – Passed Pensions Hearing 6-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1547 – Wage Payment

Sen. Jones III (D – Chicago)

SUPPORT

Amends the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act. Provides that if an employer fails to include all commissions earned by a separated employee in the final compensation paid to the separated employee within the time limit set forth in the Act, the employer shall, in addition to any other penalties, pay the employee an amount equal to 3 times the amount of the commissions that were not paid, as well as the employee's court costs, attorney's fees, and any other associated costs incurred in successfully pursuing a legal action against the

employer.

3/11/09 – Passed Labor Committee 10-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1559 – Buy American

Sen. Koehler (D – Peoria)

SUPPORT

Provides that a municipality and school district shall require that all vehicles purchased or leased for use be American made vehicles.

3/12/09 – Passed Commerce Hearing 7-0-0. Second Reading

SB 1657 – Employment Discrimination

Sen. Lightford (D – Chicago)

Monitor

Provides that it is a civil rights violation for any employer, employment agency, or labor organization to inquire into or use the fact of an arrest that did not result in a conviction, the fact of a criminal charge that did not result in a conviction, or criminal history record information ordered expunged, sealed or impounded under the Criminal Identification Act as a basis to refuse to hire, to segregate, or to act with respect to recruitment, hiring, promotion, renewal of employment, selection for training or apprenticeship, discharge, discipline, tenure or terms, privileges or conditions of employment (rather than the fact of an arrest or criminal history record information).

3/11/09 – Passed Criminal Law 5-2-0. Second Reading.

SB 1715 – Public Labor Relations

Sen. Harmon (D – Oak Park)

SUPPORT

Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. Establishes a time frame within which an initial agreement must be reached or conciliation and arbitration attempted. Provides that the bill's changes apply to agreements with respect to public employees other than peace officers, fire fighters, and security employees.

3/11/09 – Passed Labor Hearing 9-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1729 – Amtrak Public/Private Partnerships

Sen. Schoenberg (D – Evanston)

SUPPORT

Amends the Department of Transportation Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Authorizes the Department, on behalf of the State, to enter into public-private partnerships for the acquisition of equipment for Amtrak passenger rail service.

3/10/09 – Passed Transportation Hearing 11-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1732 – State Facility Closure

Sen. Schoenberg (D – Evanston)

SUPPORT

Amends the State Facilities Closure Act. Provides that the Act applies to all State facilities (now, a facility must be the primary work station for 25 or more State employees).

3/11/09 – Passed State Government 7-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1827 – Firefighter Pension

Sen. Noland (D – Elgin)

SUPPORT

Allows a firefighter employed by a village with a population on July 1, 2007 greater than 9,000 but less than 12,000 who was excluded from participation in a downstate firefighter fund prior to January 1, 1996 because the firefighter earned credit for that service under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Article for the same municipality may also elect to establish creditable service for those periods of employment for that municipality's emergency services as a firefighter, EMT, or paramedic during which he or she was excluded from participation in a downstate firefighter fund.

3/11/09 – Passed Pensions Hearing 10-0-0. Second Reading.

SB 1846 – Bond Extension

Sen. Raoul (D – Chicago)

SUPPORT

Increases certain bond authorization limits of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority from \$2,107,000,000 to \$2,254,000,000.
3/11/09 – Passed Revenue Hearing 7-2-0. Second Reading.

SB 2162 – Repeal of Ban on Nuclear Plants

Sen. Clayborne (D – East St. Louis)

SUPPORT

Lifts the ban on new construction of nuclear power plants.

3/12/09 – Passed Energy Hearing 12-0-1. Second Reading.

SB 2250 – Public Safety Benefits Act

Sen. Noland (D – Elgin)

OPPOSE

Amends the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act relating to health insurance benefits for a public safety officer or his or her spouse or dependents when the public safety officer suffers catastrophic injury or is killed in the line of duty. Provides that health insurance benefits available (rather than payable) from any other source shall reduce those benefits.

3/11/09 – Passed Insurance Hearing 12-0-0. Second Reading.



Illinois Unemployment Still High

After leading the nation in new unemployment claims being filed for the week ending February 21, 2009, Illinois saw a decrease of 889 in new claims being filed for the week ending February 28, 2009. Despite this small decrease, 315,032 unemployed workers in Illinois filed for unemployment benefits for the week ending February 28, 2009 according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Regional Capital Hearings Begin Next Week

The Illinois House will begin their Regional Capital Hearings next week, on March 16th. The first hearing is to occur on Monday in Herrin, IL, and hosted by Representatives Bradley and Phelps. There is an additional hearing on Friday, March 20 in Aurora, IL to be hosted by Representative Chapa LaVia. We encourage all labor leaders and advocates to attend these meetings to express the importance of capital projects and jobs in your area.

For a complete listing of the hearings to be held around the state, please visit our web site at: <http://www.ilaficio.org/laborbills.htm>

New Members Appointed to the General Assembly

There were two new members added to the General Assembly in the past week. Late last Friday Anthony DeLuca (D – Chicago Heights) was appointed to fill the 80th House District seat that was vacated by former Rep. George Scully. Scully left the seat to become a Circuit Court Judge. Representative DeLuca is a card carrying member of the Teamsters and was Mayor of Chicago Heights most recently.

Betsy Hannig was appointed to the 98th House District seat this week. She replaced former Representative Gary Hannig, who had served that district since 1979. Gary Hannig left to take the position of Director of the Illinois Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL NEWS

2009 Employee Free Choice Act Co-Sponsored by entire Illinois Democratic Congressional Delegation

When the Employee Free Choice Act was introduced in Congress on Tuesday, all of Illinois' Democratic members were listed as co-sponsors.

The House version - H.R. 1409 - was co-sponsored by Reps. Bean, Costello, Davis, Foster, Gutierrez, Halvorson, Hare, Jackson, Lipinski, Rush and Schakowsky. The 5th Congressional District seat formerly held by Democrat Rahm Emanuel is vacant until after the April 7th Special Election. However, Mike Quigley, who won the Democratic Special Primary Election, last week, told the Illinois AFL-CIO that he would, "immediately sign on as a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act if elected."

The Senate version - S. 560 - was co-sponsored by Sens. Burris and Durbin.

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) said on Tuesday that the legislation will most likely start in the Senate where at this time there are 39 co-sponsors. There are 222 co-sponsors in the House.

OSHA Funding Gets Much-Needed Increase

On Wednesday, President Obama signed the 2009 appropriations bill that will fund all federal departments other than defense and homeland security-related agencies.

The \$410 billion package includes a \$27 million increase in funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The total budget for the agency for fiscal 2009, which ends Sept. 30, is now \$513 million – up from \$486 million.

The increased monies will be used to enforce workplace safety rules, uncover violations and ensure that companies accurately report workplace injuries.

Under the Bush administration, the nation's job safety programs and number of safety inspectors decreased dramatically.