



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

APRIL 30, 2010

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

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*The Illinois General Assembly wrapped up its work this week on Friday and canceled their scheduled session days for the weekend. Both chambers are scheduled to return on May 3 at noon. Friday, May 7 is the deadline to pass bills out of the General Assembly. May 7 is also the scheduled adjournment date for the Spring session. It remains to be seen what actions will be taken by the General Assembly to tackle the \$13 billion deficit. We will continue to keep you abreast of any further actions by the General Assembly that will impact working families.*

## STATE NEWS

### Workers' Memorial Day *Fallen Workers Remembered*

On Wednesday, union members across the state honored the men and women who have died or been injured while working at their jobs. There were 10 services held around the state including in Alton, Bloomington, Decatur, Galesburg, Joliet, Peoria, Rock Island, Rockford, Springfield and Spring Valley. In Springfield, Cheryl Neff from the Illinois Department of Labor's Division of Public Safety spoke. In Bloomington, the 6 a.m. ceremony was held at Illinois State University's Hovey Hall where Steve White a member of Operators Local 649 was killed in a fatal construction accident in December of 2009.

Also on Wednesday, President Obama released a proclamation marking the day and honoring the 29 miners who lost their lives on April 5 in West Virginia. It was the first time a U.S. President has issued a Presidential Proclamation in honor of Workers' Memorial Day. In Illinois both the House and Senate unanimously passed resolutions designating April 28 as Workers' Memorial Day in Illinois. The resolutions were sponsored by Rep. John D'Amico (D-15) and Sen. Dave Koehler (D-46).

For the past 21 years Workers' Memorial Day has been held on April 28. It marks the day the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) went into effect in the United States (April 28, 1971).



**In Springfield** (top right): Jonathon Gordon, AFFI Local 37 Honor Guard; Tim Drea, Illinois AFL-CIO secretary treasurer; Cheryl Neff, IDOT Division of Public Safety; Michael T. Carrigan, Illinois AFL-CIO president; Terry Reed, president Springfield CLC; Carl Hinman, AFFI Local 37 Honor Guard; (front row) Anastasia Jones, Aaron Shipman and Aiden Shipman, all helpers at the ceremony.

**In Decatur** (lower right): CLC President Bill Francisco reads the names of workers killed on the job in front of the Workers' Memorial at the Macon County Court House.

**In Bloomington** (left): Doug Baer, Operating Engineers 649 honors fallen worker Steve White at a sunrise ceremony.



## Letter Carriers Food Drive *Saturday, May 8*

Volunteer and remember to leave non-perishable food for your mail carrier!

Call 217.544.4014 For More Information On These And Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People - [www.ilaff-cio.org](http://www.ilaff-cio.org)



**HB 4649 – Alternative Method for ICC Approval of Electric Transmission Lines**

Rep. Reitz (D – Sparta)  
Sen. Haine (D – Alton)

**SUPPORT**

Under current law, public utilities must obtain approval from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to construct any transmission line that has a voltage rating of 100kV or more and is longer than one mile. This legislation will retain the traditional transmission line approval process, but would also provide an alternative procedure for transmission line approval that would require:

- the ICC to expedite its decision within 150 days of the filing, with the possibility of a 75 day extension;
- the public utility seeking approval of a transmission line to pay a \$100,000 application fee with each filing to fund additional ICC resources needed to implement the expedited process;
- the public utility to satisfy the same criteria for obtaining approval of a transmission line that exists under the state’s current laws and regulations; and
- require the public utility to pay to each county in which the transmission line is constructed a one-time construction fee of \$20,000 per mile of transmission line constructed in that county.

*2/24/10 – Passed House 108-0-0.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 55-0-0. Motion filed to concur in House.*

**HB 4673 – Fees for Unmarked Trucks**

Rep. D’Amico (D – Chicago)  
Sen. Munoz (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Provides that a construction contractor or subcontractor operating second division vehicle commercially in this State that fails to display on the side of the vehicle or its trailer the name of the company for which it is employed is guilty of a petty offense with a fine of not less than \$500 (instead of a petty offense with a fine not to exceed \$100).

*2/16/10 – Passed House 70-38-0.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 32-20-1. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 4782 – Insurance Coverage for Dependents**

Rep. Mautino (D – Spring Valley)  
Sen. Haine (D – Alton)

**Monitor**

Provides that the provisions of the code concerning dependent coverage do not apply to short-term travel, disability income, long-term care, accident only, or limited or specified disease policies.

*2/18/10 – Passed the House 112-0-0.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 54-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 4797 – Wind Farms**

Rep. Mautino (D – Spring Valley)/Sen. Harmon (D – Oak Park)

**SUPPORT**

Extends the method of tax assessment on wind farms to 2016 (currently 2011).

*3/18/10 – Passed House 114-0-0.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 55-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 4820 – School Bus Driver Records**

Rep. William Davis (D – Chicago)  
Sen. Sandoval (D – Cicero)

**Monitor**

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code and Criminal Code of 1961. Provides that in addition to existing requirements, applicants for a school bus driver permit must not have been convicted of aggravated reckless driving or driving while under the influence of alcohol, other drugs, intoxicating compounds or any combination thereof (current law contains a denial of school bus permit for driving while intoxicated).

*3/4/10 – Passed House 110-1-0.*

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 54-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 4842 – Primary Election Voter Guide**

Rep. Currie (D – Chicago)  
Sen. Sandoval (D – Cicero)

**SUPPORT**

Requires (now, permits) the State Board of Elections to publish an Internet voters’ guide before each general primary in the same manner that the board does before each general election.

*2/17/10 – Passed House 108-0-0.*

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 49-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 4873 – School and Commercial Bus Permits**

Rep. William Davis (D – Chicago)  
Sen. Hutchinson (D – Chicago Heights)

**Monitor**

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Adds luring of a minor, solicitation of a sex act, aggravated battery of a senior citizen, cyberstalking, arson, use of a weapon, and meth use offenses to the list of existing offenses that disqualify a person for a school bus driver permit or a commercial driver’s license. Effective immediately.

*3/4/10 – Passed House 111-0-0.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 54-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 4987 – Rail Safety**

Rep. Holbrook (D – Belleville)  
Sen. Haine (D – Alton)

**SUPPORT**

Increases the penalty to a Class 4 felony for willfully placing an object or objects on active

railroad tracks or railroad right of way which would adversely affect safe railroad operations.

*3/11/10 – Passed House 112-0-0.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 56-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 5120 – School Bus Drivers**

Rep. Rose (R – Charleston)  
Sen. DeLeo (D – Chicago)

**Monitor**

Provides that a school bus must contain either an operating cellular radio telecommunication device (cell phone) or two-way radio (rather than just a two-way radio) while the school bus driver is in possession of a school bus and provides that the cell phone or two-way radio must be turned on and adjusted in a manner that would alert the school bus driver of an incoming communication request.

*2/25/10 – Passed House 108-0-0.*

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 52-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 5154 - FOIA Trailer Bill**

Rep. ChapaLaVia (D - Aurora)/Sen. Lightford (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Personnel Record Review Act. Prohibits the disclosure of public employee performance evaluations under the Freedom of Information Act.

*3/11/10 – Passed House 70-39-0.*

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 45-9-1. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 5514 – Roofing Contractors**

Rep. Rita (D – Blue Island)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Illinois Roofing Industry Licensing Act. Adds that a person is guilty of identity theft, if in the course of applying for a building permit, they provide a license number of a roofing contractor who will not do the work on the project. Class 4 felony. Effective Immediately.

*3/26/10 – Passed House 86-7-0.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 54-0-0. Motion filed to concur with Senate Amendments.*

**HB 5664 – Fraternity/Sorority Housing Fire Safety**

Rep. Burke (D – Chicago)  
Sen. Frerichs (D – Champaign)

**SUPPORT**

Creates the Greek Housing Fire Safety Act. Fire sprinklers are required in the construction of new fraternity or sorority houses on an university/college campus after January 1, 2011, and all fraternity and sorority houses in the state by January 1, 2019.

*3/12/10 – Passed House 97-4-2.*

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 39-12-0.*

*Passed both chambers.*

**HB 5668 – Firefighters**

Rep. Dugan (D – Kankakee)  
Sen. Hutchinson (D – Chicago Heights)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Firemen’s Disciplinary Act. Adds to the definition of “fireman” a person who is a paramedic employed in a unit of local government and an EMT employed in a unit of local government. Effective immediately.

*3/12/10 – Passed House 86-15-1.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 56-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 5712 – Railroad Track Equipment**

Rep. Nekritz (D – Des Plaines)  
Sen. Sandoval (D – Cicero)

**SUPPORT**

Requires vehicles and pedestrians to yield at rail crossings for approaching railroad track equipment in the same manner as the law requires for approaching trains.

*3/2/10 – Passed House 102-0-0.*

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 57-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 5820 – Election Nomination**

Rep. Lang (D – Skokie)  
Sen. Raoul (D – Chicago)

**Monitor**

Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor must run as a team for nomination in a General Primary election.

*3/12/10 – Passed House 90-5-3.*

*4/27/10 – Passed Senate 56-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 5956 – Line of Duty Processing**

Rep. Dugan (D – Kankakee)  
Sen. Hutchinson (D – Chicago Heights)

**SUPPORT**

Provides that the person filing a claim for compensation under the Line of Duty Compensation Act, for a firefighter killed, shall have access, on a timely basis and in an ef-

ficient manner, to all information related to the court’s consideration, processing, or adjudication of the claim.

*3/16/10 – Passed House 113-0-0.*

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 57-0-0. Passed both chambers.*

**HB 6065 – School Nurse/Insulin Injections**

Rep. Cross (R – Oswego)  
Sen. Steans (D – Chicago)

**OPPOSE**

Allows an unlicensed person, without liability in schools to care for diabetic students including administering insulin, in essence alters state statute to replace the need for a school nurse. Please call your representative to oppose this legislation.

*3/26/10 – Passed the House 104-1-2.*

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 34-8-3. Motion filed to concur in House.*

**SB 2485 – Alternative Method for ICC Approval of Electric Transmission Lines**

Sen. Haine (D – Alton)

**SUPPORT**

Under current law, public utilities must obtain approval from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to construct any transmission line that has a voltage rating of 100kV or more and is longer than one mile. This legislation will retain the traditional transmission line approval process, but would also provide an alternative procedure for transmission line approval that would require:

- the ICC to expedite its decision within 120 days of the filing;
- the public utility seeking approval of a transmission line to pay a \$100,000 application fee with each filing to fund additional ICC resources needed to implement the expedited process;
- the public utility to satisfy the same criteria for obtaining approval of a transmission line that exists under the state’s current laws and

regulations; and

- require the public utility to pay to each county in which the transmission line is constructed a one-time construction fee of \$20,000 per mile of transmission line constructed in that county.

*4/30/10 – Passed Senate 53-0-0.*

*Referred to House Rules*

**SB 2925 - College/University Registration and Voting**

Sen. Frerichs (D - Champaign)  
Rep. Rose (R – Charleston)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Election Code. Requires a pilot program for the conduct of early voting, grace period registration, and grace period voting on public university campuses for the 2010 general election. Effective immediately.

*4/29/10 – Passed Senate 33-20-0.*

*Referred to House Rules.*

**SB 3047 – Health Care Implementation Task Force**

Sen. Koehler (D – Peoria)  
Rep. Flowers (D – Chicago)

**SUPPORT**

Amends the Health Care Justice Act. Changes the short title to the Health Care Justice Implementation Act of 2010. Provides that the mission goals of the Health Care Justice Implementation Task Force are to monitor the implementation of the federal health care reforms and make recommendations, to report regarding additional reforms needed to ensure affordable health care, and to assess current programs. Contains provisions concerning reports, public hearings, and research assessments. Effective July 1, 2010.

*3/18/10 – Passed Senate 33-21-1.*

*4/29/10 – Passed House 76-41-0.*

*Motion filed to concur in Senate.*



# Camille Lilly New 78<sup>th</sup> District Rep

On Saturday, the 78th District selection committee, chaired by Sen. Don Harmon, chose Camille Lilly of Austin to replace Deborah Graham. Chicago City Council Member Deborah Graham resigned her House seat after she was appointed by Mayor Daley on March 15 to represent the 29th Ward. Representative Lilly is an administrator for Loretto Hospital in Chicago.

*(Representative Lilly is pictured on the left with Deborah Graham.)*



Photo by Terry Dean/Wednesday Journal of Oak Park and River Forest.

# Brady's Business – Non-Union Construction, Tax Avoidance

Republican Governor hopeful Bill Brady first wouldn't release his tax records because it would put his business at a competitive disadvantage. Brady, who runs a non-union construction and real estate business, finally gave in under public pressure.

After media scrutiny, the public found out why he wanted to hide his tax records. Using business tax breaks, he did not pay any personal federal income tax for two years and, as reported by Greg Hinz of Crain's Chicago Business, he paid relatively little on his \$1.6 million income over the course of the last five years.

"...Mr. Brady -- a state senator and Bloomington home developer -- paid a relatively modest 20.2% in federal taxes despite a reported total adjusted gross income for those years of more than \$1.6 million," according to Hinz.

From his own campaign web site, Brady boasts that "...he and his brothers own and run one of the largest privately held home construction and real estate development companies in Illinois as well as property management, mortgage, real estate marketing, hospitality and entertainment companies in Central Illinois."

His company may be big, but Brady clearly found a way to legally dodge paying his taxes. All the while he has been a staunch opponent to working families at the State Capitol.

"Bill Brady has made a career in the legislature and in his personal business of being anti-worker," Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan said. "His 25 percent voting record is probably generous given the lengths he has gone to side with big business. He has opposed nearly all regulation and accountability for businesses."

Brady has opposed, among many other pro-working family bills, Corporate Accountability (2003), Responsible Bidder (2003), Unemployment Insurance for Locked-Out Workers (2004), Prevailing Wage Expansion (2007), Employee Misclassification Prohibition (2007) and funding the \$34 billion Capital Bill in 2009.

## NATIONAL

# Republicans Block Banking Reform Three Times

*While 10,000 March on Wall Street Demanding Changes*

For three days in a row this week, Democrats in the Senate tried to move a banking reform bill that will create tight financial regulations and establish an independent consumer protection agency, but all Republican members and one Democrat – Sen. Ben Nelson (NE) voted no, stalling the bill. Finally Wednesday afternoon Republicans, aware of mounting public sentiment against Wall Street, indicated they would allow the vote to the floor for discussion. On Thursday, debate began. A vote on the bill is not expected until next week.

Also on Thursday, an estimated 10,000 union members and religious and community groups marched in Lower Manhattan New York near Wall Street demanding not only financial regulatory reform but calling for Wall Street banks to pay for the damage they caused to the U.S. economy with taxes on CEO bonuses and lucrative financial deals.

# National Building Trades Conference



April 19-20, Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan and many Labor leaders from around the state were in Washington D.C. for the National Building Trades Legislative Conference. Pictured with President Carrigan are (l to r) Mark Ayers, president AFL-CIO National Building & Construction Trades Department; Steve Magruder, president Kankakee Building Trades Council; Tom Villanova, president Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Council; and Matt Kenney, IBEW Local 176 Kankakee.



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