



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Health Care Vote Set for Sunday in House; Labor Calls to Lipinski and Costello Needed



Rep. Lipinski



Rep. Costello

The U.S. House is working toward a Sunday vote on long-sought health care reform legislation that Labor has been lobbying for months.

In order to put the legislation on the desk of President Barack Obama, the legislation will wind its way through a process called reconciliation in order to achieve majority support instead of a much-larger hurdle to break a Republican-led filibuster.

The House will vote on the bill that passed the Senate earlier this year and then both chambers will ultimately vote on a bill – agreed to by both the House and Senate – that includes many pro-consumer changes to the health care and insurance industries.

Over-arching health care reform passed the House by a razor-thin margin late last year with the support of the entire Democratic delegation in Illinois. It was opposed by each Republican in Illinois.

All Illinois Republicans continue to stand opposed. Additionally, two Democrats – Dan Lipinski and Jerry Costello – in particular need to hear from Labor to solidify support for the bill.

Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan and other labor leaders in Illinois have been contacting the Democratic targets in order to convey Labor's support for the legislation (see contact numbers to the right). President Carrigan has

been in constant contact with House Democrat Chief Deputy Whip Jan Schakowsky (D-9) in Labor's lobby effort.

"We are asking for anyone in the Labor community that is willing to call or e-mail these two Democrats and implore them to support the legislation," Carrigan said. "It's not a perfect bill but it gets to the heart of the problems we have been facing for decades by finally reigning in the insurance and health care industries by putting it back in the hands of the people."

If enacted the legislation will:

- Spend \$794 billion on expanding insurance coverage
- Expand Medicaid coverage to 16 million additional people
- Provide coverage through an insurance exchange to 24 million people
- Reduce the number of uninsured by 32 million people
- Bar insurance companies from denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions
- Reduce the deficit by \$138 billion over the next 10 years

The changes also guarantee that student loans would now be made only by the government, ending a role for banks and other for-profit lenders who charge fees. The savings, an estimated \$60 billion over a decade, would increase Pell grants for needy college students.

**Contact: Dan Lipinski (D-3) 202-225-5701**  
**Jerry Costello (D-12) 202-225-5661**

### President Obama Signs Job Bill

On Tuesday, the Senate passed the **Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act** - HR2847 by a vote of 68-29. The legislation is part of a series of Democratic jobs bills to address the nation's high unemployment which stood at 9.7 percent in February. The bill includes \$18 billion dollars in tax breaks for companies that hire unemployed workers, a \$20 billion infusion into the federal Highway Trust Fund and an additional \$4.6 billion in federal subsidies to states for infrastructure projects.

**This Week** *the Senate was in session for five days, while the House was in four days. This was a deadline week to pass substantive Senate Bills out of the Senate. The House deadline to pass House Bills out of the House is Friday, March 26th. Most of the action was on the House and Senate floors this week. However, hearings for agency budget requests have begun this week, with more to follow next week. The Illinois AFL-CIO fully supports additional staffing and appropriations for those agencies that are responsible for enforcing our laws protecting working families in Illinois.*

**Next Week** *the House is scheduled to return on Monday, March 22nd at 3pm and work through Friday. The Senate will return on Tuesday, March 23rd at noon, and work through Thursday. The House will continue to pass substantive legislation out of their chamber, while the Senate will begin considering House Bills.*

*The following is a synopsis of action taken on bills this week that are important to working families, for a full view of legislation we continue to monitor, please visit: [www.ilaf-cio.org/laborbills.htm](http://www.ilaf-cio.org/laborbills.htm) .*

**HB 4818 – Upper Mississippi International Port District**

Rep. Sacia (R – Freeport)  
Sen. Bivins (R – Dixon)

**Monitor**

Allows registered voters of a county included in the Upper Mississippi International Port District to petition the local election authority (now, State Board of Elections) requesting the question of whether the county should be disconnected from the District to be placed on a ballot. Effective immediately.

*3/17/10 – Passed House 115-0-0.  
Referred to Senate Assignments.*

**HB 4985 – Government Electronic Records Act**

Rep. Holbrook (D – Belleville)  
Sen. Steans (D – Chicago)

**Monitor**

Creates the Government Electronic Records Act. Authorizes and requires the use of electronic records in the executive branch, rather than hard copy, if appropriate. Effective July 1, 2011.

*3/17/10 – Passed Senate 115-0-0.  
Referred to Senate Assignments.*

**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 efficient manner, to all information related to the court's consideration, processing, or adjudication of the claim.

*3/16/10 – Passed House 113-0-0.  
Referred to Senate Assignments.*

**HB 6112 – Prevailing Wage**

Rep. Flider (D – Decatur)  
**SUPPORT**

Requires payment of prevailing wage to and from (currently just to work site) a work site when hauling aggregate materials.

*3/18/10 – Passed House 71-43-0.  
Referred to Senate Assignments.*

**HJR 83 - State Financial Crisis**

Rep. Ford (D - Chicago)

**Monitor**

Creates the 2010 State Financial Crisis Task Force. Provides that the State Financial Crisis Task Force is established within the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to address means of cutting costs and obtaining more revenue.

*3/17/10 – Passed House 110-4-1.  
Referred to Senate Assignments.*

**SB 355 – Primary Election Date Change**

Sen. Demuzio (D – Carlinville)  
Rep. Nekritz (D – Des Plaines)

**Monitor**

Changes the general primary election from the first Tuesday in February of even-numbered years to the third Tuesday in March of even-numbered years.

*2/24/10 – Passed the Senate 54-0-0.  
3/10/10 – Passed House 114-1-1.  
3/17/10 – Signed by Governor, PA 96-0886.*

**SB 3249 – Female/Minority Hiring**

Sen. Sandoval (D – Cicero)  
Sen. Burns (D – Chicago)

**Monitor**

Amends the State Finance Act. Prohibits the granting of State funds for capital purposes unless the grantee has certified

that he or she will comply with the business enterprise program practices of the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act and the equal employment practices of the Illinois Human Rights Act (applies to contracts above \$250,000). Requires that State grantees submit their business enterprise program plans with their grant agreements.

*3/17/10 – Passed Senate 56-0-0.  
Referred to House Rules.*

**SB 3388 – Moratorium on Nuclear Power Plants**

Sen. Jacobs (D – East Moline)  
Rep. Verschoore (D – Moline)

**SUPPORT**

Lifts the ban on construction of nuclear power plants in Illinois.

*3/15/10 – Passed Senate 40-1-2.  
Referred to House Rules.*

**SB 3566 – Abusive Work Environment Act**

Sen. Delgado (D – Chicago)  
Rep. Washington (D – Waukegan)

**SUPPORT**

Creates the Abusive Work Environment Act. An abusive work environment is created when one acts with malice and subjects an employee to abusive conduct to cause harm. It can include repeated verbal abuse, threatening physical conduct, sabotage of the employee's work performance, or an attempt to exploit an employee's psychological or physical vulnerability. Private right of action created and damages limited to \$25,000.

*3/18/10 – Passed Senate 37-15-0.  
Referred to House Rules.*

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### **SB 3568 – Wage Payment and Collection**

Sen. Delgado (D – Chicago)  
Rep. Hernandez (D – Cicero)

#### **SUPPORT**

Establishes procedures for an employee who has not been paid the wage the employee is entitled by the Act to recover by filing a claim with the Department or in a civil action, but not both.

*3/18/10 – Passed Senate 56-0-0.*

*Referred to House Rules.*

### **SB 3570 – Graduate Assistants**

Sen. Forby (D – Benton)  
Rep. Jakobson (D – Champaign)

#### **SUPPORT**

Amends the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act to include pre-professional graduate assistants in the definition of educational employees. Allowing for pre-professional graduate employees to be

represented for collective bargaining purposes if a majority of employees choose to do so.

*3/17/10 – Passed Senate 34-15-1.*

*Referred to House Rules.*

### **SB 3659 – Enterprise Zone**

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

#### **OPPOSE**

Amends the Illinois Enterprise Zone Act. Provides that an Enterprise Zone may be extended for an additional 20 years upon application by the corporate authorities of the county or municipality that designated the Enterprise Zone. The Illinois AFL-CIO opposed this legislation because prevailing wages are not required to be paid in Enterprise Zone construction projects.

*3/17/10 – Passed Senate 57-0-0.*

*Referred to House Rules.*

### **HR 551 - Federal Assistance**

Rep. Ford (D - Chicago)

#### **SUPPORT**

Urges Congress to provide financial assistance to states so that state governments will be able to address budget deficits.

*3/17/10 – Resolution Adopted by Voice vote.*

### **HR 569 - Healthcare Reform**

Rep. Ford (D - Chicago)

#### **SUPPORT**

Urges the President and Congress to enact comprehensive health care reform.

*3/17/10 – Passed House 62-51-1.*

*Resolution Adopted*

## STATE NEWS

### APPOINTMENTS MADE TO McPIER TASK FORCE

House Joint Resolution 101 passed the General Assembly on March 3, 2010 and formed a bi-partisan task force consisting of 16 members from the House and Senate to examine and recommend ways to improve the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority's operational stability and profitability.

The 16-member legislative panel was appointed this week. The task force announced its first two hearings as well. The first will be held April 1 at the Thompson Center in Chicago, with a second hearing planned for April 7. The task force must present its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than April 30, 2010. The members of the task force include ten Democrats and six Republicans:

#### **House Democrats**

Speaker Michael Madigan, Chicago,  
Committee co-chair  
Edward J. Acevedo, Chicago  
William D. Burns, Chicago  
Sara Feigenholtz, Chicago  
Greg Harris, Chicago

#### **House Republicans**

Minority Leader Tom Cross, Plainfield,  
Committee co-vice chair  
Angelo Saviano, Elmwood Park  
Timothy L. Schmitz, Geneva

#### **Senate Democrats**

President John J. Cullerton, Chicago,  
Committee co-chair  
Mike Jacobs, East Moline  
Edward D. Maloney, Chicago  
Antonio Muñoz, Chicago  
Kwame Raoul, Chicago

#### **Senate Republicans**

Minority Leader Christine Radogno, Lemont,  
Committee co-vice chair  
Dan Duffy, Lake Barrington  
Kirk W. Dillard, Hinsdale

## Rep. Graham Appointed to Chicago City Council

Mayor Richard Daley on Tuesday appointed State Representative Deborah Graham (D-78) to serve as the 29<sup>th</sup> Ward alderman on the Chicago City Council. The appointment needs full council approval which will likely happen at the April 14 council meeting. Graham replaces Isaac Carothers, who resigned early last month after pleading guilty in federal court to taking a bribe from a business developer in his ward.





## IBEW in Springfield this week

Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan speaks at the IBEW State Conference meeting on Thursday in Springfield.

## UAW in Springfield this week

Senate President Cullerton speaks at the UAW conference in Springfield. Seated are Illinois AFL-CIO Vice President Mark Haasis and Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan.



## Michael Carberry State Representative- 36th District



State Representative Michael Carberry was sworn into office in March 2010, replacing retiring state Representative Jim Brosnahan to represent the people of the 36<sup>th</sup> Representative District.

Prior to his appointment, Carberry help found CECO Inc., a signature contractor for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134.

Carberry made it his priority to provide union jobs, working both with IBEW 134 and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 399. One of his top priorities as a lawmaker will be to promote economic development that will create good paying jobs for the 36<sup>th</sup> District residents.

Carberry and his wife, Michelle, have active roles in the education system. Carberry has coached 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football at St. Catherine's grammar school for 13 years and Michele is a Chicago public school teacher. They are the proud parents of Mary Kate, Claire and Sean.