



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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*The Illinois Senate adjourned yesterday, while the House completed its business today. Both chambers are scheduled to be in session next week Tuesday through Friday. March 22 is the deadline to pass substantive bills out of committee in their originating chamber. Labor was successful this week in stopping anti-prevailing wage legislation from passing in House Labor Committee. Next week we anticipate an amendment to increase the state minimum wage in Senate Executive Committee (SB 68).*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### HOUSE AND SENATE ACT ON PENSION BILLS

The House and Senate both took up the pension issue this week. The We Are One labor coalition opposed all bills, except SB 2404. The proposals that moved included:

- The House passed HB 1166 (Madigan) by a vote of 76-41-0. The bill broadly increases retirement ages between one and five years, depending on their age at the effective date of the act. It contains no "consideration" for employees with physically demanding professions, such as police officers, firefighters, correction officers and nurses. Representatives Jackson, Sims, and Hoffman switched from yes to no vote. This will not be reflected on the official roll call, however, they announced on the floor that it was their intent to vote no.
- HB 1154 (Madigan) passed the House by a vote of 115-3. It caps pensionable income at \$113,000.
- HB 3411 (Nekritz/Cross plan) passed the House Pensions Committee 9-1 (Poe being lone no vote) and would make it impossible for retirees to keep up with rising cost-of-living in retirement. Just through its COLA caps, the bill unconstitutionally cuts the value of a retiree's pension between 28% to 31% after twenty years in retirement.
- SB 1 (Cullerton) passed Senate Executive Committee 11-3-0, and is on third reading. It consists of two parts, (A) would unilaterally reduce the pension benefits of current workers and retirees in four of the five systems; and (B) allow a choice between health care, COLA, or future salary increase.
- SB 35 (Biss) passed Senate Executive committee by a vote of 11-4-0, and is on third reading. It would freeze COLA's for almost seven years, caps COLAs to the first \$25,000. It also raises employee contribution levels by 2%.

- SB 2404, the We Are One labor coalition pension proposal, passed out of Senate Executive Subcommittee on special issues by a vote of 2-1, it may receive a hearing before the full Senate Executive Committee next Wednesday. The proposal contains an ironclad state funding guarantee, pension stabilization fund, and a 2% employee contribution increase.

#### ***In other news this week:***

- Governor Quinn also signed HB 1560 (PA 98-0004), Authorizes an election authority, IN 2013 ONLY, to close an early voting place on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday (March 29-31), provided that the early voting place remains open 2 hours later on April 3, 4, and 5 of 2013. The election authority shall notify the state board of elections of any closure and provide notice to the public.
- HB 1047 (Durkin) – Would allow an employer to require an employee to disclose any username or passwords to business provided electronic devices or accounts. Prohibits an employer from asking for username or passwords to "personal online accounts". Allows an investigation to commence by an employer of an employee upon specific documentation that an employee may have disclosed confidential information. *Passed House Judiciary 12-1. Second Reading. Labor OPPOSED*

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- HB 1375 (Beiser) - Amends the Downstate Firefighter Article of the Illinois Pension Code. In certain cases where a deceased firefighter left a surviving minor child but no surviving spouse, increases the pension payable to the guardian of the child from 12% to 20% of the firefighter's monthly salary. *Passed House Pensions 10-0-0. Second Reading. Labor SUPPORTS*
- HB 2689 (Ives) – Would require any collective bargaining agreement reached by a public employer or school district and its employees to be posted online 14 days prior to ratification. *Failed in House State Government 6-14. Labor OPPOSED*
- HB 4148 (Zalewski/Hutchinson) - Amends the Illinois Municipal Code and the Counties Code. Provides that Chicago and Cook County are not prohibited from imposing a tax on the use of a parking lot, garage, or other parking facility for consideration. Effective immediately (PA 97-1168). A similar bill, HB 5547 (Zalewski/Hutchinson) was signed by the Governor this week (PA 97-1169).
- SB 622 (Cullerton/Madigan) – The Illinois House Executive committee approved legislation that will more than double the cost of a three-year physicians' license fees to \$700 (currently \$300). The fee hadn't been increased since 1987. It authorizes the Department of Financial and Professional Regulations to borrow \$6.6 million to immediately hire additional staff. The House changed the dates and the way the money is allocated. *Signed by Governor this week, PA 98-0003*
- HB 2529 (Lang) & SB 9 (Cullerton) - As amended both bills provide clarity and explicit statutory guidance to the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to bring it into compliance with Public Act 97-616 and Public Act 97-646 which enacted the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act (EIMA), otherwise known as the Smart Grid Bill. SB 9 passed the Senate 44-9-1. HB 2529 passed House Public Utilities 21-0. *Labor SUPPORTS*
- HB 922 (Lang) - Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Requires contractors to keep for 10, rather than 3, years payroll records of employees on a project. Requires the public body in charge of the project to keep for 10, rather than 3, years the records submitted by contractors. Provides that the Department of Labor shall determine the contractors who have violated the Act 2 times within 10, rather than 5, years and include those contractors on the quarterly list of violators. *Passed House Labor 12-8. Second Reading.*

## Executive Board Endorses Robin Kelly

*Reaffirms Hyatt Boycott & seeks to overturn Citizens United*

The Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board met on Monday, March 11th and unanimously endorsed Robin Kelly in the Special 2nd District Congressional Election on April 9th. President Carrigan told the Board that "Robin Kelly has a strong record of supporting working families. She had a 96% labor voting record as a State Representative and worked with Labor in her positions in the State Treasurer's Office and the Cook County Board President's Office. Robin Kelly will be a strong ally to working families in Congress." Kelly will face Paul McKinley (R) in the April 9th election.

The Board also adopted a UNITE HERE initiated resolution that reaffirmed the global boycott against Hyatt Hotels and a CWA initiated resolution in Support of a Constitutional Amendment to Overturn Citizens United v Federal Election Commission. Both resolutions can be found at <http://www.ilaf-cio.org/docs/20130315Resolution.pdf>.

## State Work Comp Insurance Fund Bill Passes Committee

House State Government passed HB 2919 (Fine) that would create a state work comp insurance fund by a vote of 13-7. The bill now goes to Second Reading. The legislation is one that will drive down Workers' Compensation costs in the state, by creating a free market system so that workers compensation insurance rates are more competitive. Labor gladly supports this legislation because it is making Illinois a more business friendly state. This is something that has the potential to impact all of our affiliates in a positive way.