



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Published for Labor Activists

February 23, 2007

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

The Second week of the 95th General Assembly kicked off with a flurry of hearings and bills moving to the floor. Next week will be much of the same. The House and Senate will be in Wednesday, February 28 - Friday, March 2.

HB 246 - Smoking Ban

Rep. Yarbrough (D - Broadview)

OPPOSED

Prohibits smoking in public places, places of employment, and governmental vehicles.

*Passed the House Environmental Health Comm. 9-0-3.
Second Reading.*

HB 742 - Expansion of Whistleblower Protections

Rep. Fritchey (D - Chicago)

SUPPORT (afl-cio initiative)

Expands whistleblower protections to educational employees who point out wrongdoing in elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools.

*Passed the House Local Government Comm. 10-0-0.
Second Reading.*

HB 743 - Contractor Prompt Pay

Rep. Fritchey (D - Chicago)

SUPPORT

Requires that in regards to all construction contracts, contractors and/or subcontractors shall be paid within 15 days of the approval of the contract.

*Passed the House Judiciary I - Civil Law Comm. 14-0-0.
Second Reading.*

HB 1683 - Paid Family Medical Leave

Rep. Hamos (D - Evanston)

SUPPORT

The Illinois AFL-CIO joined a coalition of 36 organizations to kick off a campaign for paid family medical leave legislation. There were over 2,000 post cards gathered from Illinois citizens and delivered to individual legislator's offices this week. This legislation establishes a Family Leave Insurance Program, administered by the Department of Employment Security, to provide paid leave to an employee who is unavailable to work as a result of a sick family member.

2/22/07 - Introduced in the House of Representatives

PRESIDENT BLACKSHERE RETIRES

Friday, February 16th was Retiring President Margaret Blackshere's (IFT) last day acting in her officer duties. Serving as Acting President is former Secretary-Treasurer Michael Carrigan (IBEW) from Decatur. There will be an Executive Board Meeting on February 28th in Springfield to formally elect a new President and Secretary Treasurer.

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE RALLY

On Friday, Feb. 23, the Labor unions of the West Central Illinois Labor Council and area workers held a rally calling for the passage of the federal Employee Free Choice Act that will soon be voted on in the U.S. House of Representatives. The legislation would provide for certification of a union as the bargaining representative if the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) finds that a majority of employees in an appropriate unit have signed union cards designating the union as its bargaining representative. Please reach out to your congressional representative and ask them to support the Employee Free Choice Act!

LABOR RECEPTION

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Illinois AFL-CIO
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Springfield, Illinois