



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Published for Labor Activists

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On These and Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People

## HB 392 – Nursing Care

Sponsor: Rep. Flowers (D – Chicago)  
SUPPORT

Creates the Nursing Care and Quality Improvement Act. Provides that not later than one year after the Act's effective date, each hospital shall implement a written staffing plan that (i) provides for safe, therapeutic, and competent care services, (ii) protects patient safety; and (iii) is consistent with the requirements of the Act.

*Passed the House Health Care & Availability Access Committee 8-3.  
Second Reading.*

## HB 825 – Electric Utility Staffing

Sponsor: Rep. Phelps (D – Harrisburg)  
SUPPORT

Provides that the Illinois Commerce Commission shall conduct a comprehensive workforce analysis study of each electric utility to determine the adequacy of the total in-house staffing in each job classification or job title critical to maintaining quality reliability and restoring service in each electric utility's service territory.

*Passed the House Consumer Protection Committee 12-0. Second Reading.*

## HB 1795 – Employee Misclassification

Sponsor: Rep. Osterman (D – Chicago)  
SUPPORT

The Illinois AFL-CIO collaborated with the Illinois, Iowa, Indiana Foundation for Fair Contracting; Chicago & Cook County Building Trades and the Laborers to pass the employee misclassification bill that will help ease the problems of individuals being misclassified as "independent contractors" in the construction industry.

*Passed the House Labor Committee 13-9.*

*Second Reading.*

## SB 155 – Painter Licensing

Sponsor: Sen. Link (D – Lake Bluff)  
NEUTRAL

Creates the Painting, Drywall Finishing, and Glazing Contractor Licensing Act. Regulates painting, drywall finishing, and glazing contractors through licensure requirements.

*Passed the Senate Licensed Activities Committee 7-2.*

*Second Reading.*

## SB 322 – Medicaid Rates

Sponsor: Sen. Harmon (D – Oak Park)  
SUPPORT

Provides for an increase in Medicaid rates for nursing homes for the sole purpose of increasing wages or providing new or enhanced employee benefits for non-supervisory employees. Requires nursing homes to apply for the rate increase.

*Passed the House Human Services Committee 6-2.  
Second Reading.*

## SB 1237– Hospital Pricing

Sen. Delgado (D – Chicago)  
SUPPORT

Creates the Hospital Discriminatory Pricing Act. Prohibits a hospital that has provided health care services to an uninsured patient from collecting more from the uninsured patient than the Medicare reimbursement rate.

*Passed the Senate Public Health Committee 6-2.*

*Second Reading.*

## SB 1529 – Prevailing Wage

Sponsor: Sen. Forby (D – Benton)  
SUPPORT

Provides that a failure to provide prevailing wage information in certain project specifications, contracts, subcontracts, or notices does not excuse a contractor or subcontractor from paying the prevailing wage.

*Passed the Senate Labor Committee 6-4.  
Second Reading.*

## NATIONAL

### New UMW Report on the Sago Mine Disaster

A new report on the Sago mine disaster released yesterday (3-15-07) by the United Mineworkers confirms that the deaths of 12 miners at Sago on January 2, 2006, were unnecessary and totally preventable. The detailed report shows that substandard mine seals, lack of adequate oxygen, no safety chambers, no two-way communication, no tracking devices, and no onsite, experienced mine rescue teams all contributed to these tragic deaths.

The Sago disaster and other mine disasters in 2006, which claimed a total of 47 lives, led Congress to enact the first improvements in the mine safety law in 30 years.

## Transportation Funding Rally at the Capitol

"Move It or Lose It" was the theme as hundreds of union members and contractors gathered in front of the Capitol Wednesday to call attention to the need for state funding for Illinois' deteriorating and congested transportation network. Second Street was lined with massive earthmovers, cranes, backhoes and their operators signaling the need for work.

Union and business leaders as well as state officials called for the General Assembly and Governor to support a capital spending bill that would include long-overdue funding for roads and bridges, mass transit, freight and passenger rail service, and airports. It has been three years since Illinois has implemented a significant transportation funding package.

The rally was sponsored by the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, a group of labor and business leaders dedicated to securing state and federal funding for Illinois' infrastructure. Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan is the co-chairman of the coalition and Michael Zahn, business manager of Operating Engineers Local 965 serves as chairman of the State House Affairs Committee.