



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Published for Labor Activists

March 2, 2007

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

Illinois AFL-CIO Elects Carrigan as President

Michael Carrigan was elected president of the Illinois AFL-CIO on February 28 by a unanimous decision of the State Federation Executive Board. He will serve out the remainder of the unexpired term of recently-retired president Margaret Blackshere,

which expires in October of 2008.

The executive board also voted to begin the process of filling the vacant secretary-treasurer position. Affiliated unions have approximately 45 days until the next scheduled meeting to identify potential candidates and introduce them to board members.

HB 677 - Health Insurance Choice

Sponsor: Rep. Mautino (D - Spring Valley)

OPPOSED

Creates the Health Insurance Choice Act. Requires certain small employer carriers to offer health insurance choice policies to employees of eligible employers, and requires eligible employers to facilitate insurers offering the coverage.

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

HB 719 - Utility Service Reliability

Sponsor: Rep. Smith (D - Peoria)

SUPPORT

Requires each electric utility to submit to the Illinois Commerce Commission a non-emergency vegetation management schedule for the utility's service areas that is no more than four years in duration and that ensures that trees in all parts of the utility's service areas are trimmed at least once every four years.

*Passed the House Consumer Protection Committee 7-4-1.
Second Reading.*

HB 814 - Power Procurement

Sponsor: Rep. Reitz (D - Peoria)

SUPPORT

Provides that an electric utility shall, prior to filing a tariff for the approval of

electric rates pursuant to an auction, issue requests for proposals seeking bids using specified guidelines.

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

HB 818 - Utilities Prohibition

Sponsor: Rep. Joyce (D - Sparta)

SUPPORT

Provides that no electric utility shall allow a retail customer or any person, corporation, or agent on behalf of such customer to install, operate, or maintain any electric distribution facility or equipment.

*Passed the House Consumer Protection Committee 8-4-0.
Second Reading.*

HB 985 - Prevailing Wage

Sponsor: Rep. Beiser (D - Alton)

SUPPORT

Provides that the public body or the Department of Labor shall make the revised prevailing rate of hourly wages available to the contractor and each subcontractor (rather than the public body being responsible to notify the contractor and each subcontractor of the revised rate.)

*Passed the House Labor Committee 14-7-0.
Second Reading.*

HB 1006 - Managed Care

Sponsor: Rep. Mautino (D - Spring Valley)

OPPOSE

Would impose a capitated managed care system for selected populations under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid.

*Passed the House Insurance Committee 14-2-0.
Second Reading.*

HB 1119 - Utility Contractors

Sponsor: Rep. Flider (D - Decatur)

SUPPORT

Provides that the General Assembly finds that it is necessary to assure that employees operating in the deregulated industry have the experience and competence to provide reliable and safe electrical service.

*Passed the House Consumer Protection Committee 7-4-1.
Second Reading.*

SB 479 - Successor Vendor

Sponsor: Sen. Forby (D - Benton)

SUPPORT

Requires that service contracts include a clause that a responsible bidder or offer or must certify (i) that it shall offer to assume the collective bargaining obligations of the prior employer and (ii) that it shall offer employment to any employees currently in any existing bargaining unit who perform substantially similar work.

*Passed the Senate State Government Committee 9-0-0.
Second Reading.*

U.S. HOUSE PASSES EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

On Thursday, the House of Representatives passed the most important labor law reform legislation in 70 years.

By a margin of 241-185, the House passed the Employee Free Choice Act, H.R. 800, which would level the playing field when workers seek to form a union and bargain. Thirteen Republicans joined 228 Democrats in voting for the bill. Two Democrats and 183 Republicans voted against the bill. The Illinois delegation voted with all Democrats voting for the measure. All Illinois Republicans voted against it.