



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Published for Labor Activists

March 9, 2007

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

HB 719 - Utilities and Vegetation

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 4 years in duration and that ensures that trees in all parts of the utility's service areas are trimmed at least once every 4 years.

Passed the House 84-28.

HB 743 - Contractor Prompt Pay

Sponsor: Rep. Fritchey (D - Chicago)
SUPPORT

Creates the Contractor Prompt Payment Act.

Passed the House 105-4.

Referred to Senate Rules.

HB 773 - Prevailing Wage

Sponsor: Rep. Fritchey (D - Chicago)
SUPPORT

Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Provides that the Act applies to maintenance, repair, assembly, or disassembly work performed on equipment whether owned, leased, or rented.

Passed the House Labor Committee 19-0.

Second Reading.

HB 880 - Power Procurement

Sponsor: Rep. Yarbrough (D - Chicago)
SUPPORT

Provides that beginning July 1, 2007, vendors of homemaker, chore, and housekeeping services shall receive a rate increase of \$1.70 per hour if at least \$1.00

of that increase is used to increase the wages of homemakers and chore housekeepers..

*Passed the House Aging Committee 10-2.
Second Reading.*

HB 1105 - Prevailing Wage

Sponsor: Rep. Gordon (D - Coal City)
SUPPORT

Covers workers who construct prefab buildings for public works projects under the Prevailing Wage Act. Also brings those who transport goods to public works projects under the Prevailing Wage Act.

*Passed the House Labor Committee 13-3.
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.
Second Reading.*

HB 1542 - Collective Bargaining

Sponsor: Rep. Dugan (D - Kankakee)
SUPPORT

Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Provides that the Act applies to maintenance, repair, assembly, or disassembly work performed on equipment whether owned, leased, or rented.

*Passed the House Labor Committee 13-2.
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.
Second Reading.*

SJR 22 - Employee Free Choice Act

Sponsor: Sen. Demuzio (D - Cicero)
SUPPORT

Urges U.S. House and Senate to pass federal legislation allowing for card check elections for collective bargaining.

Passed the Senate State Government Committee 5-3.

Placed on Calendar Order of Resolutions.

NATIONAL

Fair Currency Act Introduced in U.S. Senate

Prompted by an ever-escalating trade deficit with China, Senators Stabenow, Bunning, Bayh and Snow this week introduced the Fair Currency Act of 2007.

The Chinese government has violated international trade rules with respect to currency values by deliberately undervaluing its currency. The Chinese yuan has been pegged to the dollar at a fixed exchange rate since 1996. Underlying economic conditions have changed during that time, leading to a severe undervaluation of the exchange rate

The AFL-CIO and their business partners in the China Currency Coalition have long encouraged Congress to act and have pledged to work closely with these Senate sponsors and their counterparts in the House of Representatives for passage of the bill.

Transportation Funding Rally

Wednesday, March 14 • 12:30 pm

East Steps of State Capitol

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition - a coalition of labor and business supporting the improvement and maintenance of Illinois' transportation network - is holding a rally on Wednesday on the east steps of the Capitol to encourage lawmakers to pass a much-needed capital spending bill.

***Please plan to attend! Wear your union logo!
Let's show our solidarity for this important issue!***