



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Published for Labor Activists*

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

**HB 742 - Whistleblower Protections**  
Rep. Hamos (D - Chicago)  
**SUPPORT**

Expands whistleblower protections to public employees beyond those working for the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago.  
Passed the House 116-0-0. 1st Reading In the Senate.

**HB 825 - Electric Utilities**  
Rep. Phelps (D - Harrisburg)  
**SUPPORT**

Provides that the Illinois Commerce Commission shall conduct a comprehensive workforce study of electric utilities to determine the adequacy of the total staffing in each job classification critical to maintaining quality reliability and restoring service in the service territory.  
Passed the House 116-0-0.

**Retirement Reception for  
Margaret Blackshere - Friday,  
May 4th**

The IL AFL-CIO will host a reception for Margaret Blackshere honoring her years of service to working families in Illinois. The event is Friday, May 4th from 6-9 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. For ticket information please call Beth Spencer at 217.544.4014.

**HB 928 - Workers Compensation**  
Rep. Hoffman (D - Collinsville)  
**SUPPORT**

Provides that any condition or impairment of health of a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic that results directly or indirectly from any bloodborne pathogen, lung or respiratory disease shall be rebuttally presumed to be a workplace injury allowing a claim to be filed under the workers compensation act.  
Passed the House 70-46-0.

**HB 1347 - Privatization**  
Rep. Hannig (D - Litchfield)  
**SUPPORT**

HB 1347 would make sure that any effort to privatize public employee workers would undergo a thorough public review, requiring potential contractors to fully disclose the terms and conditions of their bid. Requires public notice to be given prior to seeking bids and a public hearing held before regularly scheduled board of education meetings to discuss the issue.  
Passed the House 76-37-3.

**IL AFL-CIO Job Opening**

The State Federation has an opening for a Field Services Director. The full-time position is based in Chicago. Job responsibilities include providing organizing support to affiliates, coalition building and community outreach on labor issues, lobbying on legislative issues, political action, coordinating the annual AFL-CIO Organizing Conference, among other responsibilities. Benefits and salary are according to union contract with Laborers Local 362. For more information please call Peggy Greenfield at 217.544.4014.

**HB 1847 - Consolidation**  
Rep. Phelps (D - Harrisburg)  
**SUPPORT**

Provides that when a new school district is formed through annexation or consolidation, the teachers affected must be granted employment in the new school district.  
Passed the House 112-4-0.

**SB 1734 - Public Employees**  
Sen. Cullerton (D - Chicago)  
**OPPOSE**

SB 1734 was designed to create rights for public employees against their unions. These rights extend well beyond rights private sector employees have under the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (Landrum-Griffin).  
Failed in the Senate 21-24-3.

## NATIONAL

### Federal Legislation Introduced to Expand OSHA

Legislation was introduced this week that will increase penalties for companies that violate workplace safety rules. The Protecting America's Workers Act would amend the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) to protect millions of employees currently not covered by the Act. It would also protect workers who blow the whistle on unsafe workplace conditions and improve public accountability. The bill is timely, being introduced just days before workers nationwide honor family and friends who have been injured or killed on the job on Workers' Memorial Day (April 28th).

The bill was introduced by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), chairwoman of the House Education and Labor Workforce Protections Subcommittee and Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL), member of the House Education and Labor Committee.