



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Published for Labor Activists

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On These and Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People

## HB 374 - Family Medical Leave

Sponsors: Rep. Franks (D - Woodstock)/  
Sen. Link (D - Lake Bluff)  
SUPPORT

Creates the Illinois Family Medical Leave Act. Inserts identical provisions from the Federal FMLA, but would allow you to take leave to take care of your son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, and mother-in-law.  
*Passed the Senate Labor Committee 6-4. 2nd Reading.*

## HB 742 - Whistleblower Protections

Sponsors: Rep. Hamos (D - Chicago)/  
Sen. Frerichs (D - Champaign)  
SUPPORT  
Expands whistleblower protections to public employees beyond those working for the State of Illinois.  
*Passed the Senate Labor Committee 9-0. 2nd Reading.*

## HB 825 - Electric Utilities

Sponsors: Rep. Phelps (D - Harrisburg)/  
Sen. Clayborne (D - East St. Louis)  
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 Senate Environment & Energy Committee 11-0. 2nd Reading.*

## HB 928 - Workers Compensation

Sponsor: 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 Senate Labor Committee 6-1-3. 2nd Reading*

## HB 985 - Prevailing Wage

Sponsors: Rep. Beiser (D - Alton)/  
Sen. Forby (D - Benton)  
SUPPORT  
Provides that the prevailing wage applies to

any maintenance, repair, assembly, or disassembly work performed on equipment.  
*Passed the Senate Labor Committee 10-0. 2nd Reading.*

## HB 1347 - School Privatization

Sponsors: Rep. Hannig (D - Litchfield)/  
Sen. Harmon (D - Oak Park)  
SUPPORT  
This legislation helps ensure that public school services are: Performed by the highest quality workforce compensated at a reasonable level and cost to taxpayers; Completed in a manner that promotes and protects the safety of students; Bid using a standard process that establishes requirements of accountability.  
*Passed the Senate Education Committee 6-4. 2nd Reading.*

## HB 1743 - Human Rights

Sponsors: Rep. Soto (D - Chicago)/  
Sen. Martinez (D - Chicago)  
SUPPORT  
Provides a remedy to workers who are discriminated against by their employers in violation of non-discrimination requirements of the Basic Pilot program.  
*Passed the Senate Executive Committee 7-0-4. 2nd Reading.*

## HB 1744- Right to Privacy in Workplace

Sponsors: Rep. Soto (D - Chicago)/  
Sen. Martinez (D - Chicago)  
SUPPORT  
Prohibits employers from enrolling in the voluntary Basic Pilot (employment-verification) program until the program is accurate and reliable so it does not interfere with the rights of US citizens and work-authorized immigrants to obtain work in Illinois.  
*Passed the Senate Executive Committee 11-0. 2nd Reading.*

## HB 1847 - School Annexation and Consolidation

Sponsors: Rep. Phelps (D - Harrisburg)/  
Sen. Demuzio (D - Carlinville)  
SUPPORT  
Provides seniority transfer rights for educational support personnel in the event of an annexation or school consolidation and would allow dedicated employees who are familiar with the students and staff to

continue their service in the annexed or consolidated district.  
*Passed the Senate Education Committee 7-2. 2nd Reading.*

## SJR 40 - C-17 Globemaster Planes

Sponsor: Sen. Haine (D - Alton)  
SUPPORT  
Urges support for (i) federal legislation to procure additional C-17 Globemasters beyond the current number authorized, (ii) putting a stop to the erosion of jobs in the United States, and (iii) for our uniformed men and women in the military.  
*Passed the Senate State Government Committee 10-0. Calendar Order of Resolutions.*

## President Carrigan, Labor Leaders Testify in Support of GRT

Michael T. Carrigan was one of several Labor Leaders called to testify before the House Committee of the Whole on Wednesday concerning the Governor's proposed Gross Receipts Tax - a much-needed revenue source for the state's fiscal budget.

"The Gross Receipts Tax will level the playing field so that working families will have a partner in the corporate community to share the burden of paying for vital services like health care, public education and capital investment," Carrigan told the legislators. "Between 1997 and 2004, nearly half of all corporations that made \$50 million or more paid no income tax," added Carrigan. "The Illinois AFL-CIO is supporting the GRT to ensure that all taxpayers - individuals as well as corporations are treated fairly."

Ed Smith, LIUNA Midwest Region; Keith Kelleher, SEIU Local 1; and Hank Scheff, AFSCME Council 31 also testified on the panel with President Carrigan.

After a full day of testimony from both proponents and opponents, a non-binding vote was taken by the full House on the Gross Receipts Tax. The measure failed, but talks continue to try and establish effective legislation that will close corporate tax loopholes and force large companies to pay their fair share of Illinois' income taxes.