



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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On These and Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People

## HB 410 - Occupation Tax/Schools

Sponsors: Rep. Verschoore (D - Rock Island)/Sen. Jacobs (D - Moline)  
SUPPORT

Allows counties to levy a sales tax to fund the construction of schools.

*Passed the House 65-45.*

*Referred to Senate Rules.*

## 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. AFL-CIO initiative.

*Passed the Senate 56-0. Passed both chambers. Sent to Governor.*

## HB 825 - Electric Utilities

Sponsors: Rep. Phelps (D - Harrisburg)/Sen. Clayborne (D - East St. Louis)

SUPPORT

Requires the Illinois Commerce Commission to 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 58-0. Passed both chambers. Sent to Governor.*

## HB 920 - Film Production Tax Credit

Sponsors: Rep. Saviano (D - River Grove)/

Sen. Hendon (D - Chicago)

SUPPORT

Extends the date of the repeal of the Film Production Services Tax Credit Act to January 1, 2009.

*Passed the House 99-17.*

*Referred to Senate Rules.*

## HB 1119 - Utility Workers

Sponsors: Rep. Flider (D - Decatur)/

Sen. Forby (D - Benton)

SUPPORT

Directs the Illinois Commerce Commission to ensure that contractors, subcontractor, and employees of utility companies meet certain standards while installing and maintaining electric equipment.

*Passed the House 64-48.*

*Referred to Senate Rules.*

## 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 40-5-8. Passed both chambers. Sent to Governor.*

## 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 59-0. Passed both chambers. Sent to Governor.*

## SB 479 - Successor Contracts

Sponsors: Sen. Forby (D - Benton)/

Rep. Gordon (D - Coal City)

SUPPORT

Requires that service contracts include a clause that a responsible bidder 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 House Labor Committee 16-0-6. Second Reading.*

## SB 1249 - Fringe Benefits

Sponsors: Sen. Sullivan (D - Rushville)/

Rep. Flider (D - Decatur)

SUPPORT

Ensures that union members who are hired contractually to work at the State Fair and Department of Transportation day labor program, receive credits for pension and health insurance benefits.

*Passed the House Labor Committee 22-0. Second Reading.*

## Illinois Changes Primary Election Date

*How will it affect voters and candidates?*

This week, the Illinois Senate passed House Bill 426 – legislation that changes the Primary Election date from the third Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in February. Governor Blagojevich is expected to sign this bill in the very near future.

HB 426 permanently changes the Primary Election date beyond 2008.

For the 2008 Primary Election date on February 5, the following schedule applies:

- Candidates may begin petition circulation on August 7, 2007;
- Candidates may file petitions with the State Board of Elections or the Local Election Authority between October 29 and November 5;
- Early voting will begin on January 14, 2008 and end on January 31, 2008.

In addition to changing the Primary Election date, HB 426 also changes the dates for filing certain reports with the State Board of Elections for Political Action Committees.

The filing requirements for semi-annual D-2 reports are now July 20 of each year for the reporting period of January 1 through June 30 and on January 20 of each year for the reporting period of July 1 through December 31. Contributions of \$500 or more received by a Political Action Committee after January 1 through the Primary Election Day will be required to be reported to the State Board of Elections within two business days (was 28 days prior to the Primary Election).

If you have any questions please contact Illinois AFL-CIO Political Director, Bill Looby at 217/544-4014.