



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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On These and Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People

Week Ahead

Following Memorial Day Weekend, the General Assembly will return to Springfield late Monday afternoon and work toward scheduled adjournment on May 31st.

The Illinois AFL-CIO and its affiliated Unions will be monitoring the following outstanding issues:

- The funding of State Government to deliver needed services to Illinois tax payers and the funding of State pension and health care programs.
- The funding to create a needed capital improvement program.
- The funding of a transportation program including protecting pensions and benefits of Mass Transit workers.
- Working to ensure all Illinoisans have access to affordable and quality health care.
- Monitoring riverboat and racetrack gambling expansion to ensure these profitable companies pay adequate wages and benefits.
- Ensuring that Union Jobs are created and protected in Cable Television competition.

HB 928 - Workers' Compensation

Sponsors: Rep. Hoffman (D - Collinsville)/
Sen. Link (D - Lake Bluff)
SUPPORT

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 33-17-3.
Passed both chambers. Awaits Governor's Signature.*

HB 985 - Prevailing Wage

Sponsors: Rep. Beiser (D - Alton)/
Sen. Forby (D - Benton)
SUPPORT

Prevailing Wage on public works jobs applies to any maintenance, repair, assembly, or disassembly work performed on equipment whether owned, leased, or rented. Effective immediately.

Passed the Senate 47-6. Passed both chambers. Awaits Governor's signature.

HB 1017 - Firefighter Promotion

Sponsors: Rep. McCarthy (D - Orland Park)/Sen. Jacobs (D - Moline)
SUPPORT

Persons assigned to grade firefighters'

promotion exams are required to undergo training to be certified assessors and that standards for certification be established by a Joint Labor and Management Committee.
Passed the House 109-0. Referred to Senate Rules.

HB 1744 - Right to Privacy in Workplace

Sponsors: Rep. Soto (D - Chicago)/
Sen. Martinez (D - Chicago)
SUPPORT

Prohibits employers from using the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's 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 42-8-1. Passed both chambers. Awaits the Governor's signature.

SB 448 - Roofers' Licensing

Sponsors: Rep. Moffitt (D - Galesburg)/
Sen. Sandoval (D - Cicero)
SUPPORT

Makes it easier for currently licensed individuals who allow their license to expire, to simply reapply. Stiffens penalties for those who operate a roofers' contracting business without a license.

Passed the House 114-0. Passed both chambers. Awaits Governor's Signature.

SJR 22 - Employee Free Choice Act

Sponsors: Sen. Sandoval (D - Cicero)/
Rep. Chapa LaVia (D - Aurora)
SUPPORT

Urges Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act which would restore to workers' the freedom to join a union free of employer abuses.

Passed the Senate 34-19. In House Rules.

SJR 40 - C-17 Globemaster Planes

Sponsors: Sen. Haine (D - Alton)/
Rep. Hannig (D - Gillespie)

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.

Resolution adopted in Senate. In House Rules.

HB 1347 - School Privatization

Sponsors: Rep. Hannig (D - Litchfield)/
Sen. Harmon (D - Oak Park)

Behind the disguise of saving money, some school districts in Illinois have privatized historic "collective bargaining work" in order to pay lower wages and benefits to school district personnel. Despite the promise of cost savings, taxpayers are often left with paying a higher price for privatized service at a much lower quality. HB 1347 will ensure that public school services are performed by the highest quality workforce compensated at a reasonable level and cost to taxpayers and completed in a manner that promotes and protects the safety of students;

- No contract with a third-party may be entered into during the life of a collective bargaining agreement between a board of education and school district employees.
- A comparable benefits package for employees must be provided by the private company.
- Requires the board of education to provide a cost comparison.
- Requires that the subcontractor provide evidence that each of its employees has undergone a criminal background check to ensure the safety of children.
- Requires that review and consideration of bids take place in open session of school board meetings.

House Bill 1347 will ensure school district employees that School Districts maintain quality job standards for School District Personnel.

Passed the Senate 35-16-1. Passed both chambers. Awaits Governor's signature.

HB 1795 - Employee Misclassification

Sponsors: Sen. Halvorson (D - Crete)/
Rep. Osterman (D - Chicago)
SUPPORT

The Illinois AFL-CIO joined with a broad coalition of groups for an effort that has taken over two years to ban the practice of misclassification of construction workers. This week, HB 1795 passed the Senate by a margin of 38-19. It now awaits the Governor's signature in the coming weeks. Workers were directly impacted by being denied the protection of various employment laws and by being forced to pay costs normally borne by employers. Misclassification also imposes additional costs on honest employers who play by the rules, on taxpayers, and the public at large.