



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

The Illinois General Assembly will return Tuesday May 8th. Both chambers will convene at noon.

HB 2071 - Electric Utilities

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

Requires electric utilities to go through a stringent process at the ICC if they wish to displace, fire, or layoff workers.

Passed the House 67-44-3. 1st Reading In the Senate.

SB 1314 - Staffing Service Agencies

Sponsor: Sen. Jacobs (D - East Moline)
OPPOSE

Would allow Staffing Service Agencies to NOT provide their workers with a detailed showing of hours worked. Thus, making it more difficult for those workers to be paid their fair wage.

Held in Senate Labor Committee.

SB 1529 - Prevailing Wage

Sponsor: Sen. Forby (D - Benton)
SUPPORT

Two or more hearings under the prevailing wage act establishing a wage for a new craft or type of worker shall be consolidated in a single hearing before the Department of Labor.

Passed the Senate Labor Committee 6-0-1. Second Reading.

LEGISLATION ASSIGNED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Several important bills were released from the Senate Rules Committee this week and assigned to Senate Labor.

- HB 1795, the Employee Misclassification bill, an AFL-CIO initiative that has been long sought, would end the practice of misclassifying employees as "independent contractors".
- HB 742, a whistleblower protection bill for local government and educational employees.
- HB 1105, regarding prevailing wage being paid to aggregate material haulers for their round trip to the job site.

We will be contacting members of the Senate Labor Committee this week and next week to urge them to vote yes on these bills.

Illinois' State Labor Organization Backing Governor's Tax Plan

The Illinois AFL-CIO today announced their full support for Governor Blagojevich's Fiscal Year 2008 Investing in Families budget proposal.

The budget includes the Illinois Covered plan to provide affordable comprehensive insurance to all Illinoisans, the Helping Kids Learn plan to invest an additional \$10 billion in Illinois schools over the next four years, the Tax Fairness Plan that requires wealthy businesses to pay their fair share and gives the middle class the relief it deserves, a transportation plan to improve Illinois' roads and rail systems and create jobs, and a plan to address the state's long-time pension deficit.

"Labor leaders and union members have long fought for health care for all, good-paying jobs, strong, well-funded public schools, secure retirement plans, and a fair tax system," said Michael T. Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO. "So we are enthusiastic and united in our support of the Governor's budget proposal, a plan that addresses these core issues for working families in this state. We will be reaching out to our members to educate them on the merits of this budget proposal and encouraging them to contact their legislators to ask them to support the plan."

"The governor's plan provides desperately needed revenue that will greatly improve educational opportunities for our students," said James Dougherty, IFT president. The IFT strongly supports this effort."

To date, more than 250 organizations, elected officials, and businesses throughout Illinois have voiced support for the Governor's Investing in Families budget.

"For too long, it's been the middle class and working families

of Illinois that have shouldered more and more of the tax burden. And while they have paid more, the wealthiest corporations in our state have paid less and less. It's a system that for decades has been unfair to the small and medium-sized companies across the state that don't have a staff of accountants or powerful lobbyists. We have a unique opportunity to fundamentally reform the way state government meets its responsibilities so that middle class and working families are at the center of what we do. We are so proud that the Illinois AFL-CIO is joining our fight to make this plan a reality," said Gov. Blagojevich.

Highlights of the 2008 Investing in Families budget proposal include:

- An historic Tax Fairness Plan that closes corporate loopholes and gives the middle class the relief it deserves;
- A record new investment of \$10 billion in schools over the next four years - nearly three times bigger than any increase in state history - and property tax relief for homeowners across the state;
- "Illinois Covered," an affordable, reliable healthcare plan to cover the 1.4 million uninsured adults in Illinois and provide assistance to millions of middle-income families and small businesses struggling to keep up with health insurance costs;
- Addressing the state's long-time pension deficit and ensuring secure retirements for thousands of workers by leasing the Illinois Lottery and investing the proceeds toward the pension debt; and,
- A Capital Budget to make important investments in schools, roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure.