



Laborers' International Union of North America

Midwest Regional Office

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Illinois

Legislative Update

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September looms and the General Assembly and the Governor have still not reached a budget agreement. The House continues to adopt 90-day FY16 appropriations packages without Republican support. The stumbling block of course is Rauner's demand to eliminate Prevailing Wage Act coverage on all local government projects, allow local governments to prohibit public employees from bargaining over even the most basic items like wages and benefits, and prevent thousands of injured workers from collecting workers' compensation benefits. The House is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, September 2 and the Senate will meet the following week on Wednesday, September 9.

Rauner's Anti-Labor Proposal has Nine Lives

Once again the Illinois House rejected Rauner's proposal to gut collective bargaining rights for public employees and force a pay cut for construction workers employed on local government construction projects this week for the ninth time. Every Democrat in attendance has voted against Rauner's anti-worker "Turnaround Agenda" items at every opportunity. *Rep. Don Moffitt* of Galesburg is the only Republican who has consistently voted "No".

House Approves Temporary Motor Fuel Tax Pass Through for Counties

On Tuesday the House voted to adopt an amendment that allows IDOT to transfer motor fuel tax money to counties for road districts. The amount is approximately \$24 million which is intended to cover what would have been appropriated (if there was a FY16 budget) for July 1 to September 30 for things like buying salt, and paying for oil and chip and pothole projects. The bill is on third reading in the House and will still have to be approved by the full House and Senate before counties can access those funds. Despite the fact that there is not a red cent of General Revenue included, not a single Republican voted in support of the pass-through. All Democrats present voted in favor of the measure.

Governor Signs Amendatory Veto to Reduce Weatherization Wage Rates

Last week the Governor signed an amendatory veto to *HB 3194* effectively reducing the wage standard for workers on weatherization projects to minimum wage. Under current law "weatherization workers" are paid prevailing wage (when there is public funding included). The original legislation reduced the wage rate required by referencing the federal Davis-Bacon Act wage rate for "weatherization workers" because that classification does not exist under the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act. Now, the Governor has used his veto powers to entirely exclude *all workers* on weatherization projects from protection under the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act.