



Laborers' International Union of North America

Midwest Regional Office

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Illinois

Legislative Update

August 6, 2015

The state legislature has continued to meet at least one day a week since its customary adjournment date of May 31 to resolve the differences between the budgetary priorities of the majority Democrats and the non-budgetary demands of Republican Governor Bruce Rauner. Rauner continues to hold the budget process hostage until he gets what he wants: eliminating Prevailing Wage Act coverage on all local government projects, allowing local governments to prohibit public employees from bargaining over even the most basic items like wages and benefits, and preventing thousands of injured workers from collecting workers' compensation benefits. The House is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, August 11 but the Senate will not meet again until Wednesday, August 19.

Legislature Rejects Rauner's Anti-Labor Proposals... 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 seventh time - a roll call has been taken on this proposal three times since our last update.

Every Democrat in attendance has voted against Rauner's anti-worker "Turnaround Agenda" items at every opportunity. Only four House Republicans have voted 'no' more than twice: **Rep. Don Moffitt (R-Galesburg)** voted against the provisions every time, and **Rep. Raymond Poe (R-Springfield)**, **Rep. Mike Unes (R-Pekin)**, and **Rep. Bill Mitchell (R-Decatur)** voted against it three times.

Governor Vetoes Temporary Interest Arbitration Option for State Employees

Last week Rauner vetoed **SB 1229** (Sen. Don Harmon, D-Oak Park & Rep. Mike Smiddy, D-Port Byron) a measure proposed by the state's public employee unions and supported by LIUNA on behalf of Laborers' ISEA Local 2002. The bill temporarily protects state employee bargaining units who are not already subject to interest arbitration (public safety employees) from a lock-out or the need to strike by allowing instead for the Governor and the unions to select a mutually agreed upon arbitrator to step in and craft a solution when the Governor and the bargaining unit have reached an impasse. The Governor in his veto message and some newspaper editorial boards have made a number of misrepresentations and inaccurate claims about **SB 1229**. The fact is, this legislation provides a responsible path - should it become necessary - to ensure the stability of public services and to promote a constructive resolution that is fair to state employees and their fellow taxpayers. State employee unions are pushing for a vote to override the Governor's veto. The Senate passed the bill with 38 votes; the real challenge will be in the House where it will take 71 votes to override, the House passed **SB 1229** with just 67 votes.

LIUNA Officials Tour the State Promoting Prevailing Wage

LIUNA Midwest Region representatives and Local business managers have been traveling the state talking to newspapers about the benefits of the Prevailing Wage Act, which protects the pay & benefits of construction workers. The goal is to inform the public of the benefits of paying construction workers family-supporting wages, but also to discredit the myths and correct the misinformation promoted by the Governor and proponents of repealing the Act. Several papers have published articles after having met with LIUNA including *The Southern Illinoisan*, *Alton Telegraph*, *Pekin Times*, *Peoria Journal Star*, and *Ottawa Times*.