



Laborers' International Union of North America

Midwest Regional Office

John F. Penn, LIUNA Vice President and Midwest Regional Manager

Illinois Legislative Update

October 10, 2017

“Veto Session” to Include Right to Work (for Less) Fight

When state lawmakers meet next week in their annual “Veto Session,” they will have the opportunity to defeat – permanently – the centerpiece of **Gov. Bruce Rauner’s** anti-worker/anti-union agenda: local Right to Work (for Less) zones.

In response to Rauner’s so-called “Turnaround Agenda,” Democrats in the Illinois Senate and House introduced legislation to prevent units of local government from adopting Right to Work (for Less) ordinances. That bill, **SB 1905**, sponsored by **Sen. Ira Silverstein (D-Chicago)** and **Rep. Marty Moylan (D-Des Plaines)**, passed through both chambers of the General Assembly earlier this year. Rauner, however, quietly vetoed it last month. The only opportunity to reject Rauner’s veto is during the upcoming two-week Veto Session.

The final version of SB 1905 received 40 votes in the Senate; four more than necessary to override the Governor’s veto. Republican **Sens. Neil Anderson (R-Moline), Dale Fowler (R-Harrisburg)** and **Sam McCann (R-Jacksonville)** joined every Democrat in rejecting local Right to Work (for Less) laws.

The bigger fight will be in the Illinois House where it received 67 votes, four fewer than needed for a veto override. Once again, all Democrats in attendance supported the bill. They were joined by **Reps. Jerry Lee Long (R-Streator), Tony McCombie (R-Savanna)** and **Dave Severin (R-Marion)**. So, even if all Democrats are in attendance and support an override along with those three GOP legislators, Right to Work (for Less) opponents would be one vote short of making this bill law.

However, due to a number of retirements and Rauner’s fading influence with Republicans, more GOP lawmakers may be willing to break with their party’s leader to kill one of his key, anti-union agenda items. If your local union is listed below, **please call – and have members call - these Republican state representatives and ask him or her to support the motion to override Rauner’s veto of SB 1905:**

Rep. John Cabello (L. 32) – 815/282-0083

Rep. Bill Mitchell (L. 159, L. 362 & L. 703) – 217/876-1968

Rep. Jerry Lee Long (L. 393) – 815/510-9689

Rep. Dave Severin (L. 773 & L. 1197) – 618/440-5090

Rep. Tony McCombie (L. 309 & 727) – 815/632-7384

Rep. Mike Unes (L. 165 & L. 231) – 309/620-8631

And, as always, it is always appropriate to call our Democratic friends and thank them for their support.

REMINDER: Candidate Petitions

As you recall, Vice President Penn sent each local union 5 pages of petitions for each of the LiUNA-supported candidates for statewide office: JB Pritzker and Juliana Stratton (Governor & Lt. Governor), Jesse White (Secretary of State), Susana Mendoza (Comptroller) and Michael Frerichs (Treasurer). He asked that the local unions bring these completed petitions to your October District Council meeting. Staff from the Regional Office will be there to collect and notarize them. We will then forward them to the appropriate campaigns. Thank you.