



Laborers' International Union of North America

Midwest Regional Office

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Illinois Legislative Update

October 30, 2017

Local Right to Work (for Less) Prohibition Comes Up 1 Vote Short; Another Vote Next Week

Supporters of workers and the unions that protect them last week fell one vote shy of overriding **Gov. Bruce Rauner's** veto of a bill that would prevent local governments from passing local Right to Work (for Less) laws. However, we will have one more opportunity to override the veto when lawmakers return to Springfield next week for the final week of Veto Session, November 7th through the 9th.

The Illinois Senate easily rejected Rauner's veto of **SB 1905** by a 42-13 vote on Tuesday. All 35 Democrats in attendance and voting supported the motion. In addition, seven Republican senators also supported the override, including: **Sens. Neil Anderson (R-Moline), Sam McCann (R-Jacksonville), Sue Rezin (R-Peru) and Paul Schimpf (R-Murphysboro)**.

But the biggest fight would be in the House where 71 votes are required to override a veto. When the bill passed in June all Democrats supported the bill (three were absent) and three Republicans joined them to bring the vote total to 67.

On Wednesday, 66 Democrats were in Springfield and, once again, all voted against Right to Work (for Less) by supporting the override motion. Three different Republicans joined them this time: **Reps. Terri Bryant (R-Murphysboro), John Cabello (R-Loves Park) and David Harris (R-Mt. Prospect)**. However, of the three GOP members who voted for the bill this summer, only one, **Rep. Dave Severin (R-Marion)**, voted for the override. **Rep. Jerry Lee Long (R-Streator)** – himself a 30-year member of the Teamsters union – changed his vote to 'no' and **Rep. Tony McCombie (R-Savanna)** did not cast a vote. As a result of their flip flops the override effort fell one vote short.

In addition to the typical (and completely false) arguments that Right to Work (for Less) laws attract businesses, here are the most common complaints we heard from opponents of SB 1905:

- **“SB 1905 would put local officials in jail.”**
 - 1) While the bill does contain a misdemeanor penalty if a local government illegally passes a local Right to Work (for Less) ordinance, the same penalty is typically applied to unions and employers who negotiate union security clauses in all statewide Right to Work (for Less) laws;
 - 2) an identical penalty was in the Village of Lincolnshire's local Right to Work (for Less) law, which was the reason that SB 1905 was drafted; and
 - 3) Despite that consistency, supporters of SB 1905 publicly committed during debate to eliminate the criminal penalty in future legislation. That legislation will be introduced and voted on in the House before the override motion receives another vote next week.

- **“SB 1905 is unnecessary because the courts threw out the Lincolnshire law.”**

- It is true that unions challenged Lincolnshire's local Right to Work (for Less) law in federal court and won. However, that case may be appealed to a higher court. That is exactly what happened in Kentucky and the higher court there ruled against organized labor in *UAW v. Hardin County* and found that local Right to Work (for Less) laws are legal.
- It is when there are conflicting rulings on the same topic that the US Supreme Court takes up cases. If that were to happen and the Supreme Court ruled that local Right to Work (for Less) laws were legal, Illinois would have a law on the books prohibiting them if the veto of SB 1905 was overridden.

CALL TO ACTION:

Please have as many of your members who live in the districts of these Republican State Reps. call and thank them for supporting the motion to override the veto of SB 1905, which would prohibit local Right to Work (for Less) laws:

Rep. Terri Bryant – 618/242-8115

Bryant represents Jefferson Co., Jackson Co. (outside of Carbondale), Union Co. (west of US 51), Perry Co. (east of US 51 & north of Pinckneyville) & southeastern Washington Co.

Rep. John Cabello – 815/282-0083

Cabello represents Loves Park, Machesney Park west to Meridian Rd. and eastern Rockford

Rep. Dave Severin – 618/440-5090

Severin represents Franklin Co., Williamson Co. and western Hamilton Co. (Flannigan Twp. and Knights Prairie Twp. and the west side of McLeansboro)

Also have members living in the districts of these Republican Reps. call and ask them to support SB 1905 (like they did this summer) and vote for the veto override:

Rep. Jerry Lee Long – 815/510-9689

Long represents Putnam Co., Bureau Co. (east of I-180) and most of LaSalle Co. (from Tonica to Mendota, Streator to US 52, Marseilles north of the Illinois River, and west of Sheridan)

Rep. Tony McCombie – 815/632-7384

McCombie represents most of Whiteside Co., Rock Island Co. (east of Milan, Silvis and Hampton), far northwestern Henry Co. (around Colona) and far western Carroll Co. (including Thomson and Savanna)