



# Laborers' International Union of North America Midwest Regional Office

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

## Illinois Legislative Update *April 8, 2016*

*This week marked the first major milestone for this year's legislative process: bills that were not voted on in a committee by this week are dead – unless individual bills are granted deadline extensions. Bills that did pass out of committee have two scheduled weeks to receive a floor vote. There has been no reported movement towards a resolution to the budget impasse or comprehensive discussions regarding the next fiscal year. We've provided below a summary of some of the bills we are tracking.*

### **Re-Opening the Hardin County Work Camp**

HB 4326 (Rep. Phelps, D-Harrisburg & Sen. Forby, D-Benton) - Mandates the re-opening and operation of the Hardin County Work Camp, located in Cave-In-Rock, which had been closed as a result of cuts to the Dept. of Corrections' budget. Several ISEA Laborers' Local 2002 had been employed at the facility.

Laborers' Position: Support  
Bill Status: Passed House, 69-34-8  
Pending in Senate

### **Mandated Posting of Public Employee Contracts & Public Hearings**

HB 4583 (Rep. Ives, R-Wheaton) - Requires public bodies to share their pending collective bargaining agreements with the public for viewing and comment prior to ratification.

Laborers' Position: Oppose  
Bill Status: Held in House Committee

### **Prevailing Wage Act - \$20,000 Threshold**

HB 5041 (Rep. Stewart, R-Freeport) – Allows public bodies to opt out of paying Prevailing Wage on projects of \$20,000 or less.

Laborers' Position: Oppose  
Bill Status: Held in House Rules Committee

### **Statewide Responsible Bidder**

HB 5759 (Rep. Hoffman, D-Belleville) - Requires all contractors and subcontractors performing public works covered by the Prevailing Wage Act to also comply with Responsible Bidder provisions of the procurement code, which, among other things, requires contractors and subcontractors to participate in a certified apprenticeship program(s) necessary for the work.

Laborers' Position: Support  
Bill Status: Pending in House Committee (may receive a deadline extension)

### **Workers' Compensation Insurance Company – Public-Private Partnership**

HB 5925 (Rep. Fine, D-Glenview) & SB 2556 (Sen. Biss, D-Skokie) - Creates the Illinois Employers Mutual Insurance Company – a non-profit, independent public corporation dedicated exclusively to providing workers' compensation insurance and occupational disease insurance to Illinois employers; the company will compete with other carriers (after leveraging a small amount of state funds) to provide excellent and affordable plans, while partnering with policy holders to promote safe working conditions.

Laborers' Position: LIUNA Initiative, Support  
Bill Status: Pending in House/Senate Committee (may receive a deadline extension)



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## ***Apprentice Program Reporting - Penalties***

*HB 6262 (Rep. Jesiel, R-Gurnee) & SB 3104 (Sen. Althoff, R-McHenry)* - Creates a penalty for failure to submit the annually required apprenticeship reports to the Illinois Dept. of Labor. Currently, all apprenticeship programs – union and non-union, alike – must submit detailed information about their programs including apprentice racial and gender demographics, but there is no enforcement mechanism. These bills would levy a small fine on programs that fail to comply. A pending amendment requires IDOL to first issue a warning before levying graduated penalties.

*Laborers' Position: Support*  
*Bill Status: Pending on House/Senate Floor*

## ***Prevailing Wage – “False” Claims***

*SB 2253 (Sen. Althoff, R-McHenry)* – Allows contractors to file a lawsuit against a person who files a “false” Prevailing Wage complaint. This is an attempt to reduce the number of Prevailing Wage complaints that are filed with the threat of a lawsuit.

*Laborers' Position: Oppose*  
*Bill Status: Held in Senate Committee*

## ***State Fairgrounds Foundation***

*SB 2903 (Sen. Brady, R-Bloomington)* - An initiative of the Governor, creates the Illinois State Fairgrounds Foundation – a source for raising private funds for improvements and programs at the Springfield and DuQuoin state fairgrounds, including construction and maintenance of infrastructure. The bill requires projects to be covered by prevailing wage. However, a previous version of the proposal, sponsored by Sen. Manar (D-Bunker Hill), had also included responsible bidder requirements. The Governor has refused to add language we requested that would also include responsible bidder. LiUNA will oppose the bill until that language is added.

*Laborers' Position: Oppose*  
*Bill Status: Pending on Senate Floor*

## ***Prevailing Wage – Wage Determinations***

*SB 2964 (Sen. Harmon, D- Oak Park)* – Requires the Illinois Dept. of Labor to establish union wages and benefits as the prevailing wage if it is demonstrated that union collective bargaining agreements covered 30% or more of the public construction work in that county in the prior year.

*Laborers' Position: Support*  
*Bill Status: Pending in Senate Committee (may receive a deadline extension)*