



# Laborers' International Union of North America

## Midwest Regional Office

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### Illinois Legislative Update

March 20, 2015

*Next week marks the midpoint of the legislative calendar. Bills that are not given committee hearings next week will not be voted on by the full chamber without a special deadline extension. After adjourning next Friday, the House and Senate will take a two-week break.*

#### **Right-to-Work FOR LESS Stalls in Committee**

This week we called you to action and you responded by calling Republican members of the House Labor Committee. Thank you. The right-to-work FOR LESS bill proposed by **Rep. Reggie Phillips (R-Charleston), HB 4139**, did not get a hearing this week. We've been told by the Chairman of the Labor Committee, **Rep. Jay Hoffman (D-Belleville)**, that the bill will be assigned to a subcommittee, where it will stay.

We still need to continue to educate our elected officials of the false promise of right-to-work FOR LESS and other anti-worker, anti-union proposals, so we'll be calling on you again to take action again soon.

#### **Fair Share Update**

**Governor Bruce Rauner (R)** faced push-back from **Comptroller Leslie Munger (R)** and **Attorney General Madigan (D)** when he issued his illegal Executive Order last month forbidding the collection of fair-share union fees from state employees. He issued a memo this week directing state agencies to set up two sets of accounting books in which the fair share money will remain in the agencies' operating funds rather than be directed to the unions as required by the legally binding contract.

#### **\$350 Million Road Fund Sweep Proposed**

Due to a decrease in tax revenue created by the expiration of the 4-year income tax hike, the state is facing a shortfall of \$1.6 billion dollars this fiscal year. Between now and the end of June, the Governor and the legislature must scramble to put together a plan for the state to continue operating.

One of the proposals to help plug the gaping budget hole that's unfortunately gaining traction is the removal of \$350 million dollars designated for roads and bridges. Gov. Rauner's budget office contends that the Road Fund can afford the loss because it has had historically high balances. What they neglect to say is that that a "high balance" is needed to pay for projects that started in prior years and will be needed to pay for projects that are scheduled to break ground. The bottom line is that a diversion of Road Fund money away from its intended purpose – without reimbursement or additional funding – will require the state to cut the number of road and bridge projects it lets in the years to come.

#### **LiUNA Supports Comprehensive Green Building Code**

**Rep. Emily McAsey (D-Romeoville)** introduced **HB 3541** providing for the state's adoption of a green building code. This would provide guidance to builders and owners on how to manage an environmentally friendly construction site – with little impact to habitat, soil, and water during site preparation all the way through to cleanup – and measures for resource conservation in the selection of building materials, design and use. The bill is currently being held in the House Labor Committee due to a claim by another union that adoption of this code is a power grab by the Laborers to steal work. This is a flat out false. The proposed green code is jurisdictionally neutral and would preserve traditional jurisdictions while allowing all skilled trades to build and maintain green installations involving new technology designed to conserve natural resources like water.

#### **Minimum Wage Hike Advances**

The House Labor Committee passed a \$1.75 per hour increase in the state's minimum wage this week (to \$10 per hour). **State Rep. Art Turner (D-Chicago)** is sponsoring **HB 3345** and passed it to the full House on a partisan vote; all Democrats voted for the bill while all Republicans opposed it. **State Sen. Kimberly Lightford (D-Westchester)** previously passed **SB 11**, a \$2.75 increase, out of the Senate to the House, where it is also sponsored by Turner.

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*Feel the Power*

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