



Laborers' International Union of North America

Midwest Regional Office

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Illinois Legislative Update

April 17, 2015

Another week in the books and Gov. Bruce Rauner has still not introduced the anti-worker, anti-union legislation that he has promoted since taking office. Next Friday is the scheduled deadline to pass legislation from one chamber to the other.

Rauner's "Turnaround Agenda" Meets Stiff Resistance in Local Meetings

Local governments around the state are taking up consideration of **Gov. Bruce Rauner's (R)** "Turnaround Agenda" resolution and it is not going as the governor had expected.

Dozens – and in some cases hundreds – of union members are attending their city council, county and village board meetings to show their opposition to Rauner's agenda that turns its back on working people and openly attacks their unions. Rauner's resolution calls for support of local right to work (for less) laws, elimination of the family-supporting wages provided to construction workers through the Prevailing Wage Act, and allowing local governments to prohibit their employees from bargaining over the most basic things, like wages and benefits.



Last night, more than 400 union members attended the Livingston County Board meeting (pictured above). The turnout was so great that the Board moved to a larger meeting room across the street before adjourning until a later date.

House OK's Stiffer Penalties for Wage Theft

State Rep. Jack Franks (D-McHenry) successfully moved a proposal increasing the penalty for employers who steal wages from their employees through the House this week.

HB 2698 increases existing penalties for wage theft from a misdemeanor to a Class 4 felony. Repeat offenses within five years would be subject to a Class 3 felony. The maximum penalty for a misdemeanor is a year in jail and a \$1,500 fine. HB 2698 bumps that up to 3 years in jail and a \$25,000 fine (\$50,000 for corporations).

The bill passed by a vote of 68-46 with all but one Democrat supporting the measure and all but one Republican opposing it. It now moves to the Senate where it will be sponsored by **State Sen. Gary Forby (D-Benton)**.

Back Pay for State Employees Advances

The State of Illinois has owed thousands of its employees millions in back pay since 2011 when union negotiated raises went unfunded and, therefore, unpaid. Despite court rulings and interest that has been accruing since, the wages have gone unpaid.

That would change if the Senate follows this week's House action in passing **HB 3763** authorizing spending for the final \$63 million. The bill, sponsored by **State Rep. Sue Scherer (D-Decatur)**, passed 88-23 with a strong, bi-partisan majority.

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LIUNA!

Feel the Power

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