



# Laborers' International Union of North America

## Midwest Regional Office

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

### Illinois Legislative Update

May 23, 2015

#### ***Rauner Files Anti-Worker Bills***

**Gov. Bruce Rauner (R)** formally introduced his anti-union, anti-worker agenda after the Illinois legislature adjourned for the holiday weekend Friday in what amounts to a “news dump.”

Rauner has been on an anti-worker, anti-union crusade for four months and has only now, with seven scheduled session days left, officially filed portions of his “Turnaround Agenda” in bill form. He enlisted the top Republican leaders in the House and Senate to introduce a series of bills that strip construction workers of Prevailing Wage protections on all local government projects, prevent local government employees from bargaining over such basic things as wages and benefits and deny tens of thousands of injured workers – particularly older workers and those with pre-existing conditions – workers’ compensation benefits.

**House Republican Leader Jim Durkin (R-Burr Ridge)** and **Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno (R-Lemont)** introduced the following identical bills:

#### **HB 4224 & Senate Amendment #1 to SB 1046**

- Amends the Prevailing Wage Act to eliminate community wage standards on all local government, school district and community college construction projects.
- Amend the Public Labor Relations and Educational Labor Relations Acts to prevent local government and school employees from freely bargaining over basic wage, benefit and working conditions.

County boards would be able to limit bargaining rights of all local government employees in the county, cities could do so for all governments entirely within city boundaries and school districts and smaller units of local government could do so for their own employees. Local officials could:

- Restrict raises to limits established by local ordinance (including limiting raises to 0%);
  - Prevent bargaining over health insurance coverage;
  - Prohibit negotiations over privatizing government services;
  - Eliminate bargaining over staffing levels;
  - Deny union stewards from work on union matters;
  - Prevent union contracts from addressing the use of personnel evaluations.
- The bill also freezes property taxes.

The Senate bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Revenue committee on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. The following downstate Republican senators signed on as co-sponsors of SB 1046 after the amendment was filed: **Sen. Sue Rezin (R-Morris)**, **Sen. Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington)**, **Sen. Dale Righter (R-Mattoon)**, **Sen. Kyle McCarter (R-Vandalia)**, and **Sen. Darin LaHood (R-Peoria)**.

#### **HB 4223 & Senate Amendment #1 to SB 994**

- Establishes a “causation” standard requiring injured workers to prove that an injury was caused by their job. This means that any worker who injured a part of the body at work that was injured previously (a “pre-existing condition”) could be prohibited from getting medical and wage replacement benefits while out of work.
  - This would also have a tremendous impact on older workers as their bodies will, invariably, show signs of aging, like arthritis, that could bar them from compensation.

**In addition to the same co-sponsors of the attack on Prevailing Wage and bargaining rights**, the following are co-sponsors of SB 994: **Sen. Chapin Rose (R-Champaign)**, **Sen. Dave Luechtefeld (R-Okawville)**, **Sen. Tim Bivins (R-Dixon)** and **Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Rockford)**. Coincidentally, **House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago)** filed legislation making similar changes to the Workers’ Comp Act to show Rauner that there was no support for them in the Illinois House. The bill was defeated in the Illinois House on Friday with all Democrats, including Madigan, opposing it.