



Laborers' International Union of North America

Midwest Regional Office

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SB 1767 (Rep. Greenwood) - Prevailing Wage Act Payroll Database **LIUNA Midwest Region Position: SUPPORT**

What the Bill Does:

SB 1767 amends the Prevailing Wage Act to require a limited amount of information from the payroll records submitted by construction contractors on publicly-funded construction projects to be made available to the public on the Illinois Department of Labor's website.

Background:

In 2019, Gov. Pritzker signed SB 203 into law (PA 100-1177) amending the Prevailing Wage Act to, among other things, require the IDOL to create a database of payroll records (called "certified payrolls") for all public works construction projects. It was assumed that this database would be available to the public so that it may search payroll records to ensure that proper wages and benefits are being paid. That assumption, however, was incorrect; the database currently only allows contractors to submit their payroll records electronically.

Why this Bill is Needed:

SB 1767 clarifies that IDOL must make its database of certified payrolls searchable by the general public by January 1, 2022. This will:

- Provide for greater transparency on government construction contracts;
- Relieve the IDOL of the burden of responding to FOIA requests for payroll records; and
- Expedite enforcement of the Act;
 - Unions and like-minded groups are, typically, the first to identify potential violations and payroll records are an essential component in doing so.

What the Bill Does:

SB 1767 stipulates that IDOL must make a limited amount of certified payroll information available on its website. **Workers' names, addresses and other personal information will NOT be on the website:**

- The database would be searchable by:
 - Public body name, contractor name, project name and county where the work is performed; and
- The IDOL must post payroll records by the 16th day of the month in which the records are received.

More extensive certified payroll information is currently available under FOIA. SB 1767 simply makes it easier for the public to see, thus saving IDOL time from responding to FOIA requests.

The IDOL is neutral on the bill.