

JOINT COUNCIL 25 POLITICAL UPDATE



JOHN T. COLI, PRESIDENT

JEFF CRABTREE, POLITICAL DIRECTOR
MIKE CIACCIO, POLITICAL DIRECTOR

TEAMSTER ISSUES

Teamsters Joint Council 25 has been lobbying in support of the following issues:

HBs 289 & 210

Speaker Madigan*
(President Cullerton)†

Both bills comprise the \$3 billion capital bill, which will fund existing roads and bridges projects, as well as regional and mass transit construction projects. The bills are expected to generate an estimated 80,000 new jobs.

The bills authorize \$2 billion in road bonds and \$1 billion for mass transit, the stimulus package in its parts is aimed to support myriad statewide projects. IDOT is scheduled to receive \$450 million for projects this spring, while \$150 million is reserved specifically for state and local bridge and road repair.

HB 289 passed the Senate 59-0 and the House 116-0.

HB 210 passed the Senate 58-0 and the House 115-1.

HB 675

State Police Complaints

Rep. D'Amico* (Sen. Haine)†

Provides that any sworn complaint against a police officer that contains false information shall be turned over to the State's Attorney to be reviewed for prosecution.

The bill passed the House 111-0.

HB 2362

School Bus Contracts

Rep. Smith* (Sen. Cronin)†

Provides that student

transportation contracts for disabled students have to be considered in terms of safety of the students and driver training, not just the lowest bidder. HB 2362 will assist in Teamster organizing efforts, and open up more contracts for school bus companies that employ Teamsters.

The bill passed the House 114-0.

HB 2625

Teamster License Plates

Rep. Walker*
(Sen. Hutchinson)†

Creates a Teamster Specialty License Plate in Illinois. Applicants can receive the plate for a \$40 fee. Proceeds will be deposited into a special state fund, to be distributed to the Teamsters Joint Council 25 Charitable Trust.

The bill passed the House 103-14.

SB 43

Prevailing Wage

Sen. Clayborne*
(Rep. Fritchey)†

Expands Prevailing Wage to cover public works projects in TIFF Districts and Enterprise Zones. This represents a major expansion in Prevailing Wage. TIFF Districts and Enterprise Zones receive public funds for economic development, but projects in these areas are not currently covered by the

Prevailing Wage Act.

The bill passed the Senate 34-21.

SB 223

Prevailing Wage

Sen. Forby* (Rep. Miller)†

Provides that all projects funded through bonds, grants or loans issued by local governments are covered by Prevailing Wage. Although thought to be covered, this bill clarifies that these projects are subject to the Prevailing Wage Act.

The bill passed the Senate 55-2.

SB 1425

Illinois Law Enforcement

Sen. Demuzio*
(Rep. Chapa-Lavia)†

Provides that a requirement that a State Police applicant have certain collegiate education is deemed to be satisfied if the applicant has been honorably discharged and has an Afghan or Iraqi campaign medal awarded by one of the United States armed forces. This bill has the support of the Department of State Police, as well as various veterans' organizations. It is expected to cut through the red tape for those who've demonstrated the ability to do the job.

The bill passed the Senate 56-0.

**Denotes bill's legislative sponsor*

†Denotes bill's legislative sponsor in alternate chamber

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The 96th Session of the Illinois General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, April 21.

Gov. Signs \$3B "Mini" Capital Plan

Less than 12 hours after lawmakers passed HBs 289 and 210, Gov. Pat Quinn signed the "mini" capital plan on Friday. The bill is expected to generate 80,000 new jobs while providing \$3 billion in state projects.

Teamsters Join Agreed Bill Process on Unemployment Insurance

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama on Feb. 17 included Unemployment Modernization Act model reforms and provided states with \$7 billion in incentive funding to enact them.

Due to unemployment trends, an extended state benefits program will take effect to allow claimants additional weeks of benefits. Federal stimulus incentives could give Illinois 100 percent reimbursement for the benefits, plus \$300 million for the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, if changes to state law are enacted. Illinois qualifies for \$100 million in stimulus funding, but an agreed bill process is necessary to capture the the additional \$200 million.

The Illinois AFL-CIO has assembled a group of labor organizations to participate in the agreed bill process. Joint Council 25 is actively participating in all meetings.