

POLITICAL UPDATE



JOHN T. COLI, PRESIDENT

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The 96th General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on Sunday, May 31.

TEAMSTER LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Illinois General Assembly enters its last two weeks before the scheduled spring adjournment on May 31. There are still several issues to be considered, including the budget and capital construction program.

Joint Council 25 will be reporting on new developments as they occur.

CAPITAL BILL CONSIDERATION POSSIBLE NEXT WEEK

Legislative leaders are discussing a comprehensive capital construction program that would improve Illinois' failing infrastructure, create thousands of jobs and provide much needed economic stimulus. The plan is expected to be a \$26 billion comprehensive capital construction plan. Thus far, revenue sources being discussed include increased vehicle registration and license fees, elimination of sales tax loopholes on certain products, taxes on wine and spirits, improvements to the Illinois lottery and ending Road Fund diversions. The Senate is expected to hear a revenue proposal early next week.

Various labor and business groups have formed a coalition and are lobbying members of the General Assembly to gather support for the plan. Teamsters Joint

Council 25 is organizing a lobby effort next week to urge lawmakers to support a capital plan that provides jobs to thousands of Illinoisans.

STATE BOARDS, COMMISSION INFORMATION NOW ONLINE

Governor Pat Quinn has created a website that provides information regarding Illinois Boards and Commissions and how individuals can apply for such positions. Learn more by visiting appointments.illinois.gov.

Union members are invited to learn more about current legislative issues impacting Illinois labor by visiting the URLs above or contacting the Joint Council directly with any questions.

For more information, contact Joint Council 25's Political Directors at (312) 421-2600.

Public Employees Face Drastic Changes to Pension System

A pension reform proposal advanced in a House committee this week. Senate Bill 1292, sponsored by Representative Kevin McCarthy, D-Orland Park, would essentially create a two-tiered pension system that drastically reduces benefits for all newly hired employees effective August 1, 2009. The proposal would lessen benefits, including eligibility requirements and contribution levels, for new hires. Joint Council 25 has joined many AFL-CIO public sector affiliates to oppose this legislation.

Reforming the pension system in Illinois has been a critical component of Governor Pat Quinn's 2010 budget proposal.

A recent study by the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability recommends that the reform measures offered in Governor Quinn's proposal are not appropriate to ensure proper funding of Illinois' pension system. A copy of the study can be found at ilga.gov/commission/cgfa2006.