

# JOINT COUNCIL 25

# POLITICAL UPDATE



JOHN T. COLI, PRESIDENT

PAGE 1 OF 2

## TEAMSTER LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Teamsters Joint Council 25 actively lobbied for and against multiple issues during the Illinois General Assembly's spring legislative session. The Joint Council initiated many legislative proposals throughout the session, in addition to working collaboratively with affiliated labor groups.

### » END OF SESSION REPORT

Both the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives went well into the evening on Sunday, May 31, emerging with a partial state operating budget and a lot of unanswered questions.

The Senate managed to pass a 2 percent income tax increase on Saturday, but the measure had no support in the House and was not called. A temporary 1.5 percent income tax increase negotiated between Gov. Pat Quinn and House Speaker Michal Madigan also came up short, receiving only 42 votes in the House, all from Democrats.

With no new revenue, the legislature was forced to send the Governor a partial budget covering only 50 percent of the state's operating costs for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Gov. Quinn has refused to sign the budget, opting instead to negotiate with all four legislative leaders over the next month to reach a compromise.

#### Capital Construction Bill

Recent developments place serious doubt on the future of the \$26 billion Capital Construction Plan passed two weeks ago in a joint labor/business lobbying effort. Gov. Quinn has said he would not sign the bill until a budget is passed and now claims he cannot obtain the necessary bonding to fund the plan—due to the state's poor credit rating—until he receives a balanced budget from the legislature.

#### State Employee Pension Cuts

For now, a coalition of unions representing state employees, including Teamsters Joint Council 25, AFSCME, SEIU, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Education Association and the AFL-CIO appears to have blocked Gov. Quinn's proposed reductions to state employee benefits.

Joint Council 25 and the coalition lobbied hard to prevent the adoption of Gov. Quinn's proposals. As a result, the benefit cuts never received serious consideration from the General Assembly. Discussion on the state pension systems remains a heated issue.

#### Campaign Finance Reform

The General Assembly enacted campaign finance reform legislation that, for the first

time, limits contributions to candidates.

The Governor is expected to sign HB 7, which passed both the House and the Senate with Democratic votes only, in short order. The legislation caps contributions from an individual to a candidate at \$10,000 annually, and from a corporation, association or labor organization to a candidate at \$20,000 annually; transfers from one political action committee to another is capped at \$90,000 annually.

#### Teamster License Plates

HB 2625, which creates specialty license plates for Joint Council 25, received final passage in the House on Saturday and was sent the Governor. The measure passed both chambers overwhelmingly and should be signed into law by the Governor soon.

The Secretary of State's office requires 1,500 applicants for the plate, which costs \$40, before the state will begin printing them. Joint Council 25's Political Department will be contacting Teamster members on how to obtain a license plate.

*The four legislative leaders are expected to meet with the Governor over the course of the summer, meaning more developments are on the way. Union members will be updated as events unfold.*

*Please note: If a bill passes both chambers, it is sent to the Governor within 30 calendar days. The Governor can veto a bill or sign it into law. However, if no action is taken, passed bills automatically become law within 60 days.*

#### HB 255

##### Capital Bill

Rep. Lang\*  
(Sen. Cullerton)†

The revenue portion of the capital bill, designed to raise more than \$1 billion of ongoing, annual revenue to support a state infrastructure and job creation program. The bill included provisions that would increase vehicle fees, eliminate sales tax loopholes on certain products, adjust tax rates on alcohol beverages and incorporate state regulation of video gaming. The bill was packaged with separate bills, including project funding and bonding authorization.

##### Teamster Supported

*The bill passed both chambers.*

#### HB 675

##### State Police Complaints

Rep. D'Amico  
(Sen. Haime)

Provides 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.

##### Teamster Supported

*The bill passed both chambers.*

# JOINT COUNCIL 25 POLITICAL UPDATE

JUNE 3, 2009



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PAGE 2 OF 2

## TEAMSTER LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, CONT.

### **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 by the lowest bidder. This bill will assist in Teamster organizing efforts and open more contracts up for school bus companies that employ Teamster drivers.

**Teamster Supported**

*The bill passed both chambers.*

### **HB 2445 Omnibus Collective Bargaining Act**

**Rep. LaVia  
(Sen. Sullivan)**

Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. Provides that public employees forming a union may sign either a union authorization card OR a majority interest petition. Establishes minimum staffing levels at each of the boards and requires each board to return decisions on certification of a union within 120 days.

**Teamster Supported**

*The bill passed both chambers.*

### **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.

**Teamster Supported**

*The bill passed both chambers.*

### **SB 43 Prevailing Wage**

**Sen. Clayborne  
(Rep. Fritchey)**  
Expands Prevailing Wage to cover public works projects in TIF Districts and Enterprise Zones. This represents a major expansion in Prevailing Wage. TIF Districts and Enterprise Zones receive public funds for economic development, but the Prevailing Wage Act does not currently cover these projects.

**Teamster Supported**

*The bill was held on the House calendar, order of 2nd reading.*

### **SB 223 Prevailing Wage**

**Sen. Forby  
(Rep. Miller)**  
Provides Prevailing Wage covers all projects funded, in whole or in part, through bonds, grants or loans issued by local governments. Although thought to be covered, this bill clarifies that these projects are subject to the Prevailing Wage Act.

**Teamster Supported**

*The bill passed both chambers.*

### **SB 1268 Aggregate Hauling**

**Sen. Link  
(Rep. Franks)**

Amended by Representative Jack Franks to establish a temporary exemption from Illinois truck weight regulations for out-of-state trucks hauling aggregate materials within a specified mile radius.

**Teamster Opposed**

*The bill failed to pass a House Committee, 1-9-1.*

### **SB 1350 Unemployment Insurance**

**Sen. Forby  
(Rep. Lang)**

Adopts several changes to current Illinois law that will allow for additional worker benefits, as well as provisions that would make Illinois eligible to receive \$200 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The bill was a product of a labor/business agreed bill process.

**Teamster Supported**

*The bill passed both chambers.*

### **SB 1425 Illinois Law Enforcement**

**Sen. Demuzio  
(Rep. Chapa-Lavia)**

Provides that a requirement that a State Police applicant have certain collegiate educational requirements is deemed to be satisfied if the applicant has been honorably discharged and has an Afghan or Iraqi campaign medal awarded by a branch of

the United States Armed Forces. This bill has the support of the Department of State Police, as well as various veterans' organizations. It will help cut through the red tape for men and women who've demonstrated the ability to do the job.

**Teamster Supported**

*The bill was held in the House Rules Committee.*

### **SB 1715 Initial Collective Bargaining Agreements**

**Sen. Harmon  
(Rep. Miller)**

Makes changes to the current Illinois Public Labor Relations Act with respect to collective bargaining of an initial agreement between non-public safety employees and an employer with fewer than 35 employees. Establishes a schedule for (i) commencing bargaining, (ii) mediation from the Illinois Public Labor Relations Board in the event of a dispute and (iii) arbitration provisions in the event of an impasse.

**Teamster Supported**

*The bill passed both chambers.*

\* Denotes bill's legislative sponsor  
† Denotes bill's legislative sponsor in alternate chamber

*For more information on Teamster Legislative Updates, contact Joint Council 25 Political Directors Mike Ciaccio or Jeff Crabtree at (312) 421-2600.*