

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



JOHN T. COLI, PRESIDENT

MARCH 26, 2012

*Teamsters Joint Council 25 has taken positions on more than 35 bills during the 2012 Spring Session of Illinois' 97th General Assembly. Positions are organized by the trades and industries the bills may affect.*

## SCHOOL BUS BILL MOVES FORWARD

### Joint Council 25, Local 777 Introduce Legislation to Emphasize Safety in State School Bus Contracts

**T**ransportation safety for all Illinois public school students has moved one step closer to being the state's top priority in awarding school bus contracts.

Sponsored by Teamsters Joint Council 25 and Teamsters Local 777, **House Bill 4029** successfully passed the Illinois House on March 22 by a vote of 90-20. If the bill becomes law, the new legislation will force school districts statewide to consider school bus safety and comfort, and stable service from providers, before simply awarding contracts to the lowest bidder.

Illinois' School Code currently mandates such priorities only for the transportation of children with special needs.

"The Teamsters will continue to defend the current protections for special needs kids, but higher safer standards are something we need for all children in this state,"

said John T. Coli, President of Joint Council 25. "The new bill ensures that Teamster school bus drivers have more opportunity to showcase their superior skills over the latest fly-by-night contractors hoping to win with the lowest bid."

Carried in the Illinois House by Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia (D), HB 4029 may also afford Teamster school bus companies more security in long-term district contracts. The legislation would allow for one-year extensions to all contracts, maintaining provisions for rank-and-file members.

Sen. John Mulroe (D) is now carrying the bill in the state Senate.

"In addition to broadening the law for safe transportation, we want to establish as much job security as possible for Teamster drivers," said James T. Glimco, Joint Council 25 Trustee and Local 777 President.

"Our members are the very best school bus operators in the country, and we want every Illinois school district to know it."

Local 777 represents thousands of drivers, monitors and aides in the school bus industry around Chicago as part of the Teamsters' Drive Up Standards campaign.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS

SENATE BILL 3539

SEN. JOHN MILNER (R)

**STATUS:** In Senate Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Prohibits a municipality from entering into contracts for the disposal of recycled materials except for curbside recycling.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDING

HOUSE BILL 3944

REP. ELAINE NEKRITZ (D)

**STATUS:** Failed on 3rd Reading in the House 45-59-1

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Clarifies Illinois code making it lawful to record a peace officer who is performing his or her duties in a “public space.”

### LAW ENFORCEMENT STUN GUNS

HOUSE BILL 3961

REP. MONIQUE DAVIS (D)

**STATUS:** 3rd Reading in House, Lost 41-76-0

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Creates the Law Enforcement Officer Stun Gun and Taser Use Reporting Act. Requires enforcement agencies to record information regarding use of tasers on individuals.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISION

HOUSE BILL 4026

REP. PAUL EVANS (R)

**STATUS:** In House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Allows part-time police officers to supervise full-time police officers in municipalities of 1,500 people or less.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVITY

HOUSE BILL 5730

REP. MARY FLOWERS (D)

**STATUS:** 2nd Reading in the House

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Creates the Police Sensitivity Task Force Act to investigate instances of racial disparity in to traffic stops.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT LICENSING

SENATE BILL 3547

SEN. TIM BIVINS (R)

**STATUS:** In Senate Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Amends the Illinois Police Training Act. Defines “active licensed law enforcement officer” and “inactive licensed law enforcement officer.” Requires all officers to be licensed rather than certified. Provides power to require local governmental units to furnish personnel rosters, employment status reports and training plans. Sets procedures for permanent appointment of a county corrections officer. Provides that each officer, excluding any police chief, deputy chief or sheriff, shall complete a minimum of 32 hours of

in-service training every four years. Sets requirements for such training.

## PUBLIC PENSIONS

### COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

HOUSE BILL 5377

REP. MICHAEL TRYON (R)

**STATUS:** In House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Attempts to decrease cost-of-living adjustments for Illinois participants in the five state-funded retirement systems.

### PENSIONS: OVERTIME PAY

HOUSE BILL 4658

REP. JOHN CAVALETTO (R)

**STATUS:** In House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Amends the State Employee Article of Illinois Pension Code. Prohibits overtime pay from being included in total compensation for service after July 1, 2012.

### PENSIONS: SICK/VACATION TIME

SENATE BILL 3569

SEN. MATT MURPHY (R)

**STATUS:** In Senate Pensions Subcommittee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Prohibits used sick or vacation time from being included to calculate pensionable earnings for any new participants of various Illinois public pension funds.



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## WATER DISTRICT PENSIONS

HOUSE BILL 4513

REP. ELAINE NEKRITZ (D)

**STATUS:** In House Pensions Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Increases pension contributions for participants in the Illinois Metropolitan Reclamation District pension fund. Makes other changes concerning the funding of the pensions moving forward.

## COOK COUNTY PENSION FUND

SENATE BILL 3630

SEN. KWAME RAOUL (D)

**STATUS:** Passed Senate Pensions Committee, 2nd Reading in the Senate

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Provides that any member of the Cook County Pension Fund is eligible for an annuity if a disability credit runs out. New Tier II provisions for retirees are silent on this matter.

## HIGHWAY / TOLLWAY

## PRIVATIZATION OF HWY. SERVICES

HOUSE BILL 4502

REP. ELAINE NEKRITZ (D)

**STATUS:** In House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Inserts new provisions into the Illinois public/private partnership law allowing for privatization of highway maintenance services. Potential exists to effect maintenance jobs statewide.

## HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL 3216

SEN. HEATHER STEANS (D)

**STATUS:** 3rd Reading in the Senate

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** NEUTRAL on this bill

Identical proposal to House Bill 4502.

## MANUFACTURING

## MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS

SENATE BILL 3509

SEN. PAMELA ALTHOFF (R)

**STATUS:** In Senate Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Authorizes county officials throughout the state to prohibit the use of a coal tar pavement product on all county roadways. Many Illinois Teamsters currently work at plants that manufacture these and similar products. Joint Council 25 is actively working with supporters in Springfield to oppose this bill.

## FUNERAL INDUSTRY

## FUNERAL LICENSES

HOUSE BILL 5772

REP. ROBERT RITA (D)

**STATUS:** Re-referred from House Licenses Committee to House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Renews the funeral director and embalmers licensing code. Joint Council 25 is working with all

interested parties to ensure renewal and changes will protect Teamster jobs.

## FUNERAL PICKETING

HOUSE BILL 3802

REP. JERRY COSTELLO (D)

**STATUS:** In Senate Assignments Committee, Passed the House 116-0-1

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Prohibits pickets at funeral sites within one hour before a service (currently 30 min.) and increases the prohibited distance from 300 feet to 1000 feet.

## FILM INDUSTRY

## ANIMATED PRODUCTIONS

SENATE BILL 1286

SEN. JACOBS (D) & REP. VERSCHOORE (D)

**STATUS:** 2nd Reading in the House

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Adds "animated productions" to the list of eligible applicants for the Illinois Film Tax Credit.

## TRANSPORTATION

## SNOW REMOVAL PERMISSIONS

HOUSE BILL 5144

REP. JIM SACIA (R)

**STATUS:** In House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Allows non-highway vehicles the ability to remove snow on county or township roadways.



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## VEHICLE MIRRORS

HOUSE BILL 4539

REP. KELLY CASSIDY (D)

**STATUS:** In House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Requires motor vehicles in excess of 26,000 pounds to be equipped with convex mirrors on the front. The requirements will increase costs, including costs for local municipalities.

## MIXER WEIGHT LIMITS

SENATE BILL 3505

SEN. JOHN JONES (R)

**STATUS:** 3rd Reading in the Senate

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Increases weight limits for three-axle mixers. Teamster-impact under review.

## HEAVIER FARM VEHICLES

HOUSE BILL 5146

REP. JIM SACIA (R)

**STATUS:** 2nd Reading in the House

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Authorizes the use of heavier trucks for farm vehicles on Illinois roads, under certain conditions.

## SEMI-TRAILER LIMITS

HOUSE BILL 4446

REP. DAVID REIS (R)

**STATUS:** In House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Provides that the length limits for the distance between the kingpin and the

center of the rear axle of semitrailers longer than 48 feet shall not apply to trailers used for transport of livestock.

creating hundreds of jobs statewide. Joint Council 25 is working closely with the proponents to ensure passage.

## SCHOOL BUS INDUSTRY

### STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL 4029

REP. CHAPA LAVIA (D) & SEN. MULROE (D)

**STATUS:** 1st Reading in the Senate

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

An initiative of Teamsters Local 777. In addition to lowest bid, provides for safety and other criteria to be considered when schools pick contracts for transportation. Ensures responsible bidding and secure long-term contracts.

### SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

HOUSE BILL 4061

REP. ROGER EDDY (D)

**STATUS:** In House Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Prohibits anyone with a history of diabetes from obtaining a bus permit.

## GAMING INDUSTRY

### NEW GAMING FACILITIES

SENATE BILL 1849

SEN. TERRY LINK (D) & REP. LOU LANG (D)

**STATUS:** Postponed consideration in House

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Creates new gaming facilities in Illinois including slots at racetracks, while

## CONSTRUCTION

### CELL PHONE USE

SENATE BILL 2488

SEN. SUSAN GARRETT (D)

**STATUS:** 1st Reading in the House

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Prohibits anyone from using a cell phone while driving through highway construction or maintenance zones. Will ensure safer working environments for all men and women on public roads.

### AGGREGATE HAULING

SENATE BILL 1550

SEN. WILLIAM HAINE (D)

**STATUS:** In Senate Assignments Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

A continued effort of Teamsters Joint Council 25. Pursues coverage of aggregate hauling under the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act.

### PREVAILING WAGE

SENATE BILL 2551

SEN. RON SANDACK (R)

**STATUS:** In Senate Executive Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Prohibits a prevailing wage from being paid on projects undertaken with privately funded sales tax rebates.



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## SNOW PREVAILING WAGE

SENATE BILL 3639

SEN. GARY FORBY (D)

**STATUS:** In Senate Rules Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Requires that a prevailing wage be paid to workers engaged in snow plowing.

## PREVAILING WAGE PAYROLLS

SENATE BILL 3695

SEN. MICHAEL FRERICHS (D)

**STATUS:** 2nd Reading in the Senate

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Requires more categories in contractor payroll reports. Authorizes IDOL to require electronic filing for payrolls.

## WORKERS COMPENSATION

### CONSTRUCTION COMPENSATION

SENATE BILL 3808

SEN. EDWARD MALONEY (D)

**STATUS:** In Senate Executive Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Changes how construction employers are charged for workers compensation insurance by considering wages and number of hours worked.

### COMPENSATION CHARGES

SENATE BILL 3807 (SEN. EDWARD MALONEY)

**STATUS:** In Senate Executive Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Identical to SB3808 but for all employers.

## WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND

SENATE BILL 3825

SEN. KWAME RAOUL (D)

**STATUS:** In Senate Executive Committee

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Creates a workers compensation insurance fund that would compete with for-profit insurance companies to make coverage more affordable and available to Illinois workers.

## COMPENSATION RATING BUREAU

SENATE BILL 3826

SEN. KWAME RAOUL (D)

**STATUS:** 2nd Reading in the Senate

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Creates the Illinois Compensation Rating Bureau. Attempts to provide more accurate, verifiable and easily accessible information for reimbursement of workers compensation cases.

## PARKING INDUSTRY

### CHICAGO-AREA PARKING TAXES

HOUSE BILL 5547

REP. MICHAEL ZALEWSKI (D)

**STATUS:** 2nd Reading in the House

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** SUPPORTS this bill

Authorizes the ability for the City of Chicago and Cook County to implement parking taxes on a percentage basis. An initiative of the Parking Industry Labor Management Committee.

## TEAMSTERS RAIL DIVISION

### RAILROAD ACCIDENTS

HOUSE BILL 4022

REP. ELAINE NEKRITZ (D)

**STATUS:** In House Transportation Committee, 3rd Reading in the House

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** Monitoring this bill

Requires annual accident counseling updates for rail carriers. An initiative of the Illinois Teamsters Rail Division.

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

### PUBLIC SECTOR BARGAINING

SENATE BILL 3777

SEN. BILL BRADY (R)

**STATUS:** In Subcommittee on State Operations

**JOINT COUNCIL 25:** OPPOSES this bill

Would require approval by the General Assembly of all publicly bargained union contracts. Expires upon the governor's term limit.

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