

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



JOHN T. COLI, PRESIDENT

APRIL 2, 2014

Teamsters Joint Council 25 has taken positions on roughly two dozen bills during the 2014 Spring Session of Illinois' 98th General Assembly. Positions are organized by the trades and industries the bills may affect.

Teamsters Oppose Soda Tax Proposals Threatening Jobs

Teamsters Joint Council 25 is opposing two bills recently introduced in the Illinois legislature that would increase taxes on sodas and other beverages and negatively impact jobs in the process.

The identical proposals — House Bill 5690 and Senate Bill 3524 — are presented under the guise of reducing childhood obesity rates by using new taxes on beverage distributors to fund Medicaid and wellness programs. The soft drink industry has a major impact on Illinois' economy with more than 7,500 jobs, including hundreds of distribution drivers represented by Teamsters Local 710 and Teamsters Local 916. With soft drink consumption declining 12 percent in the past decade, higher taxes in the industry may only further curb production and slash current employment rates.

“While childhood obesity is a public health issue across the country, we cannot simply tax our way toward a solution,” said John T.

Coli, President of Joint Council 25. “Higher taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages in Chicago and other major cities are already driving down consumption. The misguided enactment of additional taxes will destroy good-paying distribution jobs that thousands of hardworking people rely on.”

Together with Teamsters from Chicago and Springfield, Joint Council 25 is actively lobbying against these proposals. Beyond distribution, the soft drink industry supports more than 32,000 jobs statewide at restaurants, movie theaters, supermarkets and other businesses.

In Chicago, where sugar-sweetened beverage taxes already exist, residents opposed new increases by a 3-to-1 margin in recent polling. In the past two years, Joint Council 25 and its local union affiliates effectively lobbied against similar soda tax proposals before the City Council, preventing increases while protecting jobs.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

LABOR AGREEMENT HEARINGS

HOUSE BILL 4268

REP. JEANNE IVES (R)

STATUS: Failed committee vote 8-12

JOINT COUNCIL 25: OPPOSES this bill

Requires public or educational employers to publish all terms of new collective bargaining agreements and hold open public meetings on the ratification of such agreements.

POLICE VEHICLE RIGHT-OF-WAY

HOUSE BILL 5416

REP. DAN BRADY (R)

STATUS: Passed House Transportation Cmte.

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Increases the penalty for failure to yield the right-of-way to emergency or police vehicles. Offense becomes Class B misdemeanor. If incident results in a death, offense becomes Class 4 felony.

TOLLYWAY VEHICLE LIGHTS

SENATE BILL 927

SEN. JOHN MULROE (D)

STATUS: With Senate Transportation Cmte.

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Clarifies the usage of flashing and rotating lights on vehicles used by the Illinois Tollway. Local 700 initiated



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this legislation to ensure workers can use the lights and are protected under Scott's Law, which requires vehicles to move over to avoid workers on duty.

CONFIDENTIAL LABOR EMPLOYEES SENATE BILL 3016

SEN. MICHAEL CONNELLY (R)

STATUS: With Senate Local Govt. Cmte.

JOINT COUNCIL 25: OPPOSES this bill

Provides that a secretary or assistant to a person who formulates labor relations policy is presumed to be a "confidential employee" under the Illinois Labor Relations Act.

REGISTERED FARM TRAILERS

SENATE BILL 3398

SEN. TOI HUTCHINSON (D)

STATUS: Passed Senate Transportation Cmte.

JOINT COUNCIL 25: OPPOSES this bill

Provides that when a truck less than 12,000 pounds is hauling a farm trailer, the truck itself is subject to the limitations on use as a farm vehicle. This could negatively impact federal funding and members of Local 916.

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

FAMILY CARE PROVIDER ACT

HOUSE BILL 4272

REP. ROBYN GABEL (D)

STATUS: Passed House Labor Cmte. 11-4

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Creates the Illinois Family Care

Provider Act requiring employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid family medical leave to an employee during any 12-month period for the birth, adoption or care of a grandchild. The act allows for unpaid leave for the care of a grandparent as well.

EARNED SICK TIME ACT

HOUSE BILL 4420

REP. MARIA ANTONIA BERRIOS (D)

STATUS: With House Labor & Commerce Cmte.

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Creates the Earned Sick Time Act requiring employees with 20 or more employees to provide paid sick time.

DOMESTIC WORKER BILL OF RIGHTS

HOUSE BILL 4714

REP. ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ (D)

STATUS: With Business Licenses Subcommittee

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Creates the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights Act requiring employers to make specific disclosures to domestic workers regarding terms of employment.

E-VERIFY EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

HOUSE BILL 4764

REP. ADAM BROWN (R)

STATUS: With House Rules Committee

JOINT COUNCIL 25: MONITORING this bill

Amends the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act. Requires employers, after hiring an employee, to verify the individual's employment eligibility through the state's e-verify program.

FUNERAL INDUSTRY

FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE

HOUSE BILL 4200

REP. DAN BRADY (R)

STATUS: With House Rules Committee

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Requires all funeral establishments in Illinois to be licensed by the state's Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. The measure enables funeral homes to better assist the department with tracking illegitimate funeral operations.

FUNERAL PRE-NEED SALES

HOUSE BILL 4201

REP. DAN BRADY (R)

STATUS: With House Rules Committee

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Requires pre-need sales of burials, funeral arrangements and cemetery plots to be sold exclusively by licensed funeral directors.

EMBALMING REQUIREMENTS

HOUSE BILL 4202

REP. DAN BRADY (R)

STATUS: With House Rules Committee

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Requires a body to be embalmed or refrigerated by the State of Illinois within 48 hours if no communications or specific instructions have been established with the family or relatives of the deceased.



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BURIAL FUNDS ACT: LOCKOUTS

HOUSE BILL 5609

REP. DAVID REIS (R)

STATUS: Failed to meet committee deadline
JOINT COUNCIL 25: OPPOSES this bill

Removes a provision from the Burial Funds Act allowing the State Comptroller to refuse to issue a pre-need license to any funeral employer engaged in a labor lockout.

MANUFACTURING

EPA COAL TAR BAN

HOUSE BILL 4599 & SENATE BILL 3431

REP. LAURA FINE (D)

SEN. TOM CULLERTON (D)

STATUS: Failed committee vote 8-8 and failed to meet Senate committee deadline
JOINT COUNCIL 25: OPPOSES these bills

Prohibits sales of coal tar sealant products manufactured by members of Teamsters Local 743. Joint Council 25 worked with a coalition of supporters to oppose this dangerous bill.

SWEETENED BEVERAGE TAX

HOUSE BILL 5690 & SENATE BILL 3524

REP. ROBYN GABEL (D)

SEN. MATTIE HUNTER (D)

STATUS: With House Revenue Committee and Senate Public Health Committee
JOINT COUNCIL 25: OPPOSES these bills

Creates the Sugar-Sweetened Beverages, Syrups and Powder Tax

Law to impose a tax on distributors of bottled sugar-sweetened beverages. See more in the summary on Page 1.

FILM INDUSTRY

REPEAL FILM PRODUCT TAX CREDIT

HOUSE BILL 5298

REP. BILL MITCHELL (R)

STATUS: Failed to meet committee deadline
JOINT COUNCIL 25: OPPOSES this bill

Repeals the Film Production Services Tax Credit Act of 2008.

LABOR EXPENDITURES FILM TAX

SENATE BILL 1816

SEN. PATRICIA VAN PELT-WATKINS (D)

STATUS: Passed Senate 47-6-0;

With House Rules Committee

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Extends the state's Film Tax Credit, which supports Teamster jobs, to include on-screen talent for productions filmed in Illinois.

CONSTRUCTION & WASTE HAULING

ROAD CONSTRUCTION BIDS

HOUSE BILL 5369

REP. LUIS ARROYO (D)

STATUS: With House Transportation Subcmte.
JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Requires bids for publicly funded road construction to include transportation costs itemized separately from goods

or materials being transported. Local 731 and Local 786 support this bill.

SOLID WASTE HAULING PROGRAM

HOUSE BILL 5666

REP. ANTHONY DELUCA (D)

STATUS: Passed House Cities & Villages Committee 14-2-0

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Requires county and municipal waste haulers to offer recyclables collection.

PARKING INDUSTRY

MUNICIPAL VALET REGULATION

SENATE BILL 3135

SEN. ANTONIO MUÑOZ (D)

STATUS: With Senate Local Govt. Cmte.

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Allows corporate authorities of Illinois municipalities to license, tax and regulate valets and potentially prescribe their compensation.

LABOR EDUCATION

HISTORY OF ORGANIZED LABOR

SENATE BILL 2682

SEN. MICHAEL HASTINGS (D)

STATUS: Passed Senate Education Cmte. 9-5

JOINT COUNCIL 25: SUPPORTS this bill

Requires school curriculum to include the study of organized labor in America and collective bargaining in U.S. history. This is an initiative of Local 710.