

## Legislative Update to Local 604

The Illinois General Assembly ended its fall veto session the last week in November. Action was focused on overriding vetoes issued by outgoing Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner. Several bills of interest to the IFT were considered even though some weren't acted on in both chambers. Two additional days- January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019- will round out the 100<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. These days, considered "lame duck" session are not expected to see much action.

The legislative landscape is expected to change dramatically in January when Democrats will hold a supermajority in each legislative chamber and IFT-endorsed Governor-elect JB Pritzker will be sworn in as our new Governor. The new leadership provides an opportunity for changes in State Boards and Commissions – like the Illinois State Board of Education, Teachers Retirement System, and University Boards of Trustees and an opportunity to restore the functionality of State Government.

IFT legislative priorities are in development but our list for the spring session includes:

- Working to repeal of the 3 percent state liability limitation on end-of-career pay increases;
- Changing the PERA law to create meaningful teacher evaluation systems that provide feedback to teachers;
- Addressing college affordability challenges;
- Correcting the wrong direction on testing and accountability; and
- Addressing the root causes of the teacher shortage.

Highlights of the veto session week included:

### **Minimum teacher salary bill not called for an override**

Governor Rauner vetoed legislation to increase the minimum teacher salary and a motion to override the veto was not considered. The measure will be reintroduced in the next legislative session and, during the campaign, JB Pritzker pledged "I will sign this bill if I'm elected governor."

Under [SB 2892](#) (Manar) the state would phase-in updated minimum mandated salaries for teachers each year for the next four school years:

- \$32,076 for 2019-20
- \$34,576 for 2020-21
- \$37,076 for 2021-22
- \$40,000 for 2022-23

After that, increases would be based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and subject to review by the General Assembly. The IFT was a vocal advocate for SB 2892 and will support this initiative in the future.

### **Charter schools – Charter Commission Bill**

[HB 5175](#) (Hoffman) would create a charter school application process where only locally-elected school boards and parents could decide if a charter school is good for their community. The bill allows a charter applicant to appeal to the courts under judicial review if it is believed the application review process was not performed as outlined in statute.

The bill passed both the House and Senate in the Spring, then Gov. Rauner vetoed the measure in August. The House overrode the Governor's veto, but the override motion failed in the Senate.

### **3% Repeal Not Addressed**

The repeal of the 3% state liability limitation on end of career pay increases was not addressed during the final days of the 100th General Assembly. The IFT will re-introduced the measure in 2019.

### **State Board of Education to Include Educators**

The House and Senate overrode the Governor's veto of a bill to require that at least 3 members of ISBE be representatives of the education community. Currently, the 8-member board is appointed by the governor with consent from the Illinois Senate. The bill is [HB 4284](#). IFT supports this bill.

### **Override of Governor's Veto of Class size Goals Falls Short by One Vote**

A motion to override the Governor's veto of [HB 5481](#), a bill that would help the state gather better data related to class sizes, fell one vote short of passage in the House. The bill would require ISBE to report data concerning pupil-teacher ratios and set forth class size goals to be achieved by 2020-2021. The IFT supports this measure.

### **Financial Waivers Continue to be Reviewed by Legislative Leaders**

In 2017, PA 100-465 streamlined the school district waiver request process. Now, ISBE sends waiver requests to a panel of the four legislative leaders (rather than the entire General Assembly). [HB 1262](#) would require that any request to waive state mandates regarding maximum tax levy rates, interfund transfers, payments from taxes levied for operations and maintenance, or transportation must be considered by the full General Assembly rather than going through the streamlined process. IFT took a neutral position on the legislation.

## **Spring Legislative Session**

The legislative members of the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly will be sworn in on January 9<sup>th</sup> and the Governor and constitutional officers will be inaugurated on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The rest of January is pretty quiet with legislative work really kicking off in February. The Governor's budget address is scheduled for Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> and the date of the State of the State Address has not yet been released.

The new General Assembly will bring new Committee makeups and new relationships to be garnered with legislators on both sides of the aisle.

## **Election Recap**

The Democratic margin over Republicans in the House will be 74-44 and 40-19 in the Senate. The Democratic supermajority in the Senate matches the number of Senate Dems in 2012. The 40 seats is a record number of Democrats going back to at least 1836. Additionally, the number of women in the newly composed Senate will total 20, the most ever in Illinois' 200-year history.