



# Illinois Family Institute

# Springfield

## 2009 Update

As the month of May came to a close, so did the regular session of the Illinois General Assembly. While the state budget has still not been finalized, lawmakers did not have the political will to raise our taxes. They will have to go back to Springfield this summer to hammer out the budget.

**SB 1716 (HB 2234) — Civil Unions** — Sponsored by Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago). This bill grants marriage benefits to homosexual couples.

Status: These bills are dead; both sent back to House Rules Committee.

**NOTE:** This is great news despite the intense media push suggesting that it was imminent. Gay activists are, however, already regrouping and planning to make another push to pass this bill in the November Veto Session. Equality Illinois and the ACLU hired a number of high profile lobbyists, some from a powerful Chicago law firm, and we expect another “full court press” in the future.

A number of House secretaries said that the highest number of calls to their offices were against the income tax increase proposal and the civil union bill.

Your calls, emails and letters made a tremendous impact!!!

**HB 178 — Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Freedom Act** — Sponsored by Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago). This bill changes the current marriage statute and makes marriage between “two persons” rather than between a man and a woman, legalizing homosexual “marriages”.

Status: This bill is dead; sent back to House Rules Committee.

**HJRCA 2 — Marriage Amendment** — Sponsored by Rep. David Reis (R-Olney). This constitutional amendment defines marriage as between a man and a woman, and precludes anything else being called marriage or any recognition of either domestic partners or civil unions. Since 2004, House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) has refused to assign this legislation to a committee for a hearing. Unlike the same-sex “marriage” bill (HB 178) and the “civil unions” bill (HB 2234), both of which were placed in favorable committees where the “gay” sponsor chaired.

Status: Still in the Rules Committee.

**HB 2354 — State FOCA Bill, called the “Reproductive Health and Access Act”** — Sponsored by Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago). This legislation would remove all restrictions on abortion in Illinois.

Status: This bill is dead; sent back to House Rules Committee.

**NOTE:** Through IFT’s “Call to Action” email system, more than 5,000 emails and faxes were sent to Illinois lawmakers!

**SB 1338 — Ultrasound Opportunity Act** — Sponsored by Sen. Deanna Demuzio (D-Carlinville). This bill requires that a facility that performs abortions may not perform an abortion on a woman without first offering the woman an opportunity to receive and view an active ultrasound of her unborn child.

Status: Never came out of Senate Assignments Committee.

(continued...)

### **HJRCA 3 — The Equal Rights Amendment**

— Sponsored by Rep. Lou Lang (D-Chicago). This would amend the Illinois Constitution, making Illinois one of the three states needed to ratify a federal ERA. The so-called Equal Rights Amendment eliminates all gender ‘discrimination’. It would usher in same-sex marriage and abortion through all nine months. It would lower the age of consent to 12. It would prevent a widow from collecting her husband’s social security. The Girl and Boy Scouts and prisons would be forced to sex-integrate and women would be forced into military combat if the draft were reestablished. This is all according to Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

*Status: Never came out of House Rules Committee.*

### **HB 90 and SB 216 — The Communicable Disease Act - AIDS Reporting**

— Sponsored in the House by Rep. LaShawn Ford (D-Chicago) and in the Senate by Senator Kimberly Lightford (D-Westchester) — This bill would **repeal** the section of the Illinois Communicable Disease Prevention Act which requires the Illinois Dept. of Public Health or local health departments to give notice to a principal of the school in which a child is enrolled when a school-aged child has acquired AIDS or is HIV-positive.

*Status: This bill is dead; sent back to House Rules Committee.*

### **SB 1354 — The Vital Records Act - Gender Change**

— Sponsored by Senator Heather Steans (D-Chicago) — would amend the vital records act to allow the gender designation to be changed on a birth certificate if a physician certifies that a person had a “sex-change” operation.

*Status: This bill is dead; sent back to Senate Assignments Committee.*

### **SB 245 — The Pension Code-Domestic Partners**

— Sponsored by Senator Heather Steans (D-Chicago) and Senator David Koehler (D-Peoria). This legislation would amend the downstate and Chicago teacher pension code to allow homosexual “domestic partners” to qualify as a surviving “spouse” for purposes of survivor and death benefits.

*Status: This bill is dead; sent back to Senate Assignments Committee.*

### **SB1381 and HB 2514 — Medical Marijuana**

— Sponsored by Senator William Haine (D-Alton) and Senator Iris Martinez (D-Chicago). This legislation will allow anyone with an out of state registry identification card or its equivalent to possess 7 cannabis plants and 2 ounces of usable cannabis in Illinois without registering as a qualifying patient.

*Status: These bills are dead; sent back to Senate Assignments and House Rules Committees.*

### **SB 1298 — Internet Gambling on Horse Racing**

— Sponsored by Senator Terry Link (D-Lake Bluff). This legislation would expand gambling to the Internet and allows bets to be placed from any location via a telephone-type device or any other electronic means.

*Status: Passed both Houses; sent to Governor Quinn to sign.*

**HB 255 — Video Poker** — Sponsored by Rep. Lou Lang (D-Chicago). The bill legalizes video poker machines in neighborhoods statewide and Internet Lottery on computers and cell phones.

*Status: Passed both Houses; sent to Governor Quinn to sign.*

### **SB 1654 — Lottery sales on the Internet**

— Sponsored by Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park). This legislation would expand gambling in every home and office with a computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anyone 18 years of age or older could gamble from a cell phone/BlackBerry.

*Status: This bill is dead; sent back to Senate Assignments Committee.*

**HB 91 — Gambling Expansion** — Sponsored by Rep. Lou Lang (D-Chicago). This legislation will create more gambling spots in the state — including slot machines at race tracks, 4 more casinos, a land-based casino in Chicago, and more positions at existing casinos.

*Status: This bill is dead; sent back to House Rules Committee.*

