



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

JANE R. FLANAGAN
DIRECTOR

Warehouse Safety Standards Task Force

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 12, 2024
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Hybrid in-person: Illinois Department of Labor
524 S. 2nd Street, Suite 400 Springfield, IL
Virtual: By Webex webinar via video conference connection
(video)

Call to Order: 3:04 p.m. - Jane Flanagan, Director of IDOL (Chair)

Introduction of IDOL General Counsel, Dee Baker

Roll Call of Task Force Members:

Members Present:

Jane Flanagan, IDOL, Director (Chair) (in-person)
Representative Jeff Keicher (video)
Representative Dan Ugaste (video)
Representative Katie Stuart (in-person)
Alec Laird representing retail merchants (video)
Senator Christopher Belt (video)
Anna Brown, AFL-CIO (in-person)
Representative Kevin Olickal (in-person)
Senator Rachel Ventura (video)
Mayor Art Risavy representing mayors (video)
Marcos Cenicerós – (video) arrived at approx. 3:38 p.m.

Quorum established 10 out of 16 present

Others Present:

Clayton Cope family members: Alexandra Cope (video), Parents Lynn and Carla Cope (in-person)

Lincoln Tower Plaza
524 South 2nd Street, Suite 400
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(217) 782-6206
Fax: (217) 782-0596

Michael A Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle, Suite C-1300
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3150
(312) 793-2800
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Regional Office Building
2309 West Main Street, Suite 115
Marion, Illinois 62959
(618) 993-7090
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Greg Bryant, Masonry Structural Coalition (video)
Will Bower – reporter St Louis Public Radio (video)
Cameron Rodriguez - reporter New York Times (video)

IDOL Staff Present: Jason Keller, Assistant Director; Elizabeth Guerrero, Director of External Affairs & Community Engagement; Anna Koepfel, Legislative and Policy Director; Erik Kambarian, IDOL OSHA Division Chief; Dee Baker, General Counsel; Paul Cicchini, IDOL Public Information Officer.

Approval of 9/25/24 Minutes

- Motion by Representative Katie Stuart
- Second by Senator Ventura
- Motion passed

Approval of Quarterly Report

- Motion by Senator Ventura
- Second by Mayor Art Risavy
- Motion passed

Final Report Recommendations and Discussion–

1. Chair Flanagan: Discussion of utilizing Robert Rules of Order as guidance for discussion and approval of recommendations for final report. Consent will be used if there are no issues. There will be a second opportunity to review. Votes will be taken by voice vote.
2. Emergency Response: Recommendation #1 – 3.
 - Discussion: While MABAS is throughout states, it is not required.
 - Alec Laird: Are we discussing all 3 recommendations or one by one?
 - **Motion** - Adopt Recommendation #1 – Rep Katie Stuart to invest in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) with a continuing ongoing appropriation from the General Assembly and determine a formula for the distribution of such funds that takes into account the risk of tornado, the total square footage of warehouse space, and the human population of the warehouse areas during all working hours.
 - Second – Sen. Ventura
 - No public comments or further discussion
 - **Vote**- Passed
3. Safety Planning and Procedures for Warehouse Occupants: Recommendation #4 –11
 - Discussion –
 - A. Laird – it appears that all recommendations 4-11 relate to training, but one relates to equipment safety goes into basic operations and falls outside purview of what we are trying to do – recommendation #4
 - Sen Ventura – Recommendation#4, case where woman was not trained on device and perished, but how she had been trained about the hazardous alarms in her language is what we are trying to highlight. Example, military has running video before go on base to do work, has to watch

safety video, so warehouses could put together video or training so if temporary worker, have to have some basis understanding to know dangers.

- Rep Stuart – feels focus needs to be emergency response.
- Rep Keicher – My documents are not the same.
- Updated documents sent out. Same recommendation content, different format only.
- Rep. Stuart – Recommendation #5 and #8 made by Rep. Stuart can be amended paired down to eliminate, “for example,”
- Rep. Stuart **Motion**: Verbatim - “Require site specific emergency plans to be created for each unique warehouse location and require such plans to be shared with local emergency response teams. Such plans must include the floor plan of the warehouse, and information about the materials that will be stored in the warehouse and must be updated when substantial changes are made. Additionally, require additional safety drills and training, in a language or languages spoken by the employees..”
 - Second – Mayor Risavy
 - Discussion –
 - Rep Ugaste: Sounds reasonable, little concerned about “substantial changes” how defined. Should we put in adjustment.
 - Chair – these are recommendations for big pictures ideas and leave details to legislature

Rep Keicher – 3:36 p.m. had to leave

Marcos Cenicerros arrived

Vote – Passed.

4. Building Code Enforcement: Recommendations #12-19

- Discussion
- Sen. Ventura – **Motion** for #13 and #14 be combined as essentially same.
 - Second – Rep. Stuart
- Discussion- Rep Ugaste - could combine most into one recommendation #12 with #13 and 14 and allow to have independent contractor as long as certified and trained. So, would amend motion. -
- Sen. Ventura – having statewide standard for licensure is key as difference is local is setting it currently, so combined #13 and 14, but #12 allows local and not agreeable to that.
- Rep. Ugaste – Could be different from location to location.
- Sen. Ventura – But state could write that in.
- Rep. Ugaste – Opposed to statewide coding to that degree and my recommendation #12 would be separate then. No second.
- Chair – There is building code recommendations that we will address, next, these recommendations address inspectors.
- Rep. Ugaste – to have a state knowledge of code at certain levels require uniform code if codes are different. For storm or all purposes.
- Sen. Ventura – concern is if trained in Will County and go to Kankakee, then will not know local codes. If trained at state level, there is an understanding. We would have some exclusions.
- Rep. Stuart – If we are going to allow independent contractors, we have to have some statewide preparations, so licensure is statewide, just like we do

with barbers and architects.

Vote - Motion to combine #13 and #14 statewide certification and adopt – Passed.

5. Building Code Requirements: Recommendations #20-23

Discussion

- Rep. Ugaste – does #23 build to certain level or build storm shelter
- Chair – R #23 and #20 are similar to say we should increase to risk category 3
- Sen Ventura – specifically for newly built only. Question on R #21 where is overlap for school buildings for category risk 2 or 3?
- Chair – may need to pause, but recollection Risk Category is entire structure, but believes Rep Stuart’s is about storm structure itself that could be category 2.
- Sen Ventura – **Motion** to accept #20 and #23 appears to be same as increase storms having a single shelter is not as powerful to make sure building has higher risk. No Second.
- Rep Stuart- Question - The motion is for new construction only?
- Sen Ventura – correct. Could we modify #21 and #22 for existing buildings must have a storm shelter. So new construction risk 3, for old construction rep Stuart’s recommendation.
- Chair – Clarification -is the motion for older construction fit in definition of school buildings.
- Rep Stuart – I’m not asking for warehouses to tear down, so if new, built to higher standard, and if older, we need better inside protection of storm shelter combination.is what I would like to recommend
- Chair – so sounds like combination of #20 and #22.
- Rep. Stuart: Yes, but do not like the word “encourage,” in recommendation #22, but would want “require.”
- Chair: You can amend.
- Public – does category 3 require storm shelter?
- Chair – Did we lose quorum – will do research with building code expert on category risk 3 and we can take the motion up again.
- General Counsel Dee Baker – We still have quorum at 8 members. However, are we combining Senator Ventura’s motion with Rep. Stuart’ recommendations and tabling all recommendations?
- Sen Ventura - We are combining recommendations so when we bring them back next time, we will combine and be clearer.
- Greg Bryant, Masonry Structural Coalition – Could you restate questions to be clear on the question asking to attempt to get answer.
- Chair – the question we are seeking is what if any requirements are contained in risk category level 3 is there a requirement of designated shelter and the standards for the shelter.

Alec Laird left at 4:00 p.m.

Rep Ugaste left at 4:00 p.m.

Senator Belt left at 4:03 – quorum lost, no further recommendations considered

Chair – Will circulate poll for next meeting and will circulate draft recommendations. Will likely be virtual meeting.

Public Comment (4:05):

Lynn Cope – Color coating where have red or yellow flashing lights can designate other than signs for visual for action plans.

Motion to Adjourn: 4:10 p.m.

Rep Stuart

Second – Anna Brown

Motion Passes