

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

**RONALD E. KASTNER**  
President-Business Manager &  
Financial Secy

**KEVIN CURRAN**  
Vice President  
Assistant Business Manager



**LINDA COX**  
Recording Secretary

**JACQUIE FIELDS**  
Treasurer

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:**

**June 19, 2007**

**Contact: Kevin Curran, 630.960.4466 ext. 307**

**630.222.9118 (Cell)**

## **States Largest Telecom Union to Gain Thousands of New Jobs**

**Illinois Senate Bill 678 Passes in Springfield, Cable Competition on the Way**

(Chicago, IL) – The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 21 is pleased to report that Illinois Senate Bill 678 (SB 678) overwhelmingly passed today by a vote of 54-0. Once the Governor signs the Bill into law, this important legislation will add thousands of new union jobs at AT&T in Illinois. In addition, Illinois consumers will benefit by having a real choice of providers with the new cable competition.

Ronald Kastner, President-Business Manager of IBEW Local 21 in Illinois and NW Indiana said, “Passage of this bill puts Illinois on the leading edge of making change in this country of ours, by growing jobs and sparking competition.” Kastner continued, “Our organization supported this legislation because it is great for Illinois consumers, brings almost a billion dollars into the States economy, and will create good union jobs that support Illinois families.”

Passage of SB 678 is the first step in modernizing Illinois telecommunications laws to take account of the greater possibilities and the far reaching benefits of competition. The bill grants state-wide operating authority to new video providers, allows competition to develop to the greatest extent possible, and ensures that all technologies face a level playing field.

Over 500 telecom workers converged on the State Capitol on April 24, 2007 to gain support for legislation that eventually became SB 678. Traveling from every corner of Illinois, members of IBEW Local Union 21 traveled by car and bus, using the opportunity to contact and lobby their own legislators to pass new Cable and Video Competition Law. Photos of the April 24<sup>th</sup> event are available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjJCEw3kJHE&mode=related&search=&v2>

###

### Background

*Local Union 21 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW – an affiliate of the AFL-CIO) is made up of 11,200 members working mostly in Illinois and NW Indiana. Working under dozens of contracts, Local Union 21 members largely work in skilled jobs in the telecommunications industry. IBEW Local Union 21, headquartered in Downers Grove, IL, is the largest IBEW communications union in the United States and Canada and the fourth largest local union in the IBEW.*

