

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
STATE PANEL**

State of Illinois, Department of Central)	
Management Services (Department of)	
Healthcare and Family Services),)	
)	
Petitioner)	
)	
and)	Case No. S-DE-14-234
)	
American Federation of State, County)	
and Municipal Employees, Council 31,)	
)	
Labor Organization-Objector)	
)	

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S
RECOMMENDED DECISION AND ORDER**

Section 6.1 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act, 5 ILCS 315/6.1 (2012) added by Public Act 97-1172 (eff. April 5, 2013), allows the Governor of the State of Illinois to designate certain public employment positions with the State of Illinois as excluded from collective bargaining rights which might otherwise be granted under the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. There are three broad categories of positions which may be so designated: 1) positions which were first certified to be in a bargaining unit by the Illinois Labor Relations Board on or after December 2, 2008, 2) positions which were the subject of a petition for such certification pending on April 5, 2013 (the effective date of Public Act 97-1172), or 3) positions which have never been certified to have been in a collective bargaining unit. Only 3,580 of such positions may be so designated by the Governor, and, of those, only 1,900 positions which have already been certified to be in a collective bargaining unit.

Moreover, to be properly designated, the position must fit one of the following five categories:

- 1) it must authorize an employee in the position to act as a legislative liaison;
- 2) it must have a title of or authorize a person who holds the position to exercise substantially similar duties as a Senior Public Service Administrator, Public

Information Officer, or Chief Information Officer, or as an agency General Counsel, Chief of Staff, Executive Director, Deputy Director, Chief Fiscal Officer, or Human Resources Director;

- 3) it must be designated by the employer as exempt from the requirements arising out of the settlement of Rutan v. Republican Party of Illinois, 497 U.S. 62 (1990), and be completely exempt from jurisdiction B of the Personnel Code, 20 ILCS 415/8b through 8b.20 (2012), see 20 ILCS 415/4 through 4d (2012);
- 4) it must be a term appointed position pursuant to Section 8b.18 or 8b.19 of the Personnel Code, 20 ILCS 415/8b.18, 8b.19 (2012); or
- 5) it must authorize an employee in that position to have “significant and independent discretionary authority as an employee” by which the Act means the employee is either
 - (i) engaged in executive and management functions of a State agency and charged with the effectuation of management policies and practices of a State agency or represents management interests by taking or recommending discretionary actions that effectively control or implement the policy of a State agency; or
 - (ii) qualifies as a supervisor of a State agency as that term is defined under Section 152 of the National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. 152(11), or any orders of the National Labor Relations Board interpreting that provision or decisions of courts reviewing decisions of the National Labor Relations Board.

Section 6.1(d) creates a presumption that any such designation made by the Governor was properly made. It also requires the Illinois Labor Relations Board to determine, in a manner consistent with due process, whether the designation comports with the requirements of Section 6.1, and to do so within 60 days.¹

As noted, Public Act 97-1172 and Section 6.1 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act became effective on April 5, 2013, and allow the Governor 365 days from that date to make such designations. The Board promulgated rules to effectuate Section 6.1, which became effective on

¹ Public Act 98-100, which became effective July 19, 2013, added subsections (e) and (f) to Section 6.1 which shield certain specified positions from such Gubernatorial designations, but none of those positions are at issue in this case.

August 23, 2013, 37 Ill. Reg. 14,070 (Sept. 6, 2013). These rules are contained in Part 1300 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, 80 Ill. Admin. Code Part 1300.

On March 18, 2014, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS), on behalf of the Governor, filed the above-captioned designation pursuant to Section 6.1 of the Act and Section 1300.50 of the Board's Rules. CMS' petition designates the exclusion of the following Public Service Administrators employed at the Department of Healthcare and Family Services based on Section 6.1(b)(5) of the Act:

Public Service Administrator, Option 1
Working Title: Supervisor
Employed at Department of Healthcare and Family Services

<u>Position No.</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
37015-33-15-220-00-61	Vacant
37015-33-16-120-00-61	Vacant
37015-33-17-110-00-21	Vacant
37015-33-17-130-00-61	Phronsie L. Spaulding
37015-33-17-415-00-21	Vacant
37015-33-19-420-00-61	Vacant
37015-33-19-110-00-21	Julie Sakoda
37015-33-19-410-00-62	Michelle Cebuhar

In support of its petition, CMS submitted job descriptions (CMS-104s) for each position, affidavits and a summary spreadsheet. The spreadsheet identifies position numbers, titles, name of the incumbents, bargaining unit, certifications date and case number, statutory category of designation and a list of job duties that support the presumptions that the positions are supervisory or managerial. The positions at issue were certified into the RC-63 bargaining unit on January 20, 2010 in Case No. S-RC-08-036. On March 31, 2014, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) filed timely objections to the designation.

Based on my review of the designation, the documents submitted as part of the designation, the objections, and the arguments submitted in support of those objections, I have determined that the objections have failed to raise an issue that would require a hearing.

I find the designation to have been properly submitted and consistent with the requirements of Section 6.1 of the Act. Therefore, I recommend that the Executive Director certify the designation of the positions at issue in this matter as set out below and, to the extent

necessary, amend any applicable certifications of exclusive representatives to eliminate any existing inclusion of these positions within any collective bargaining unit.

I. ISSUES AND OBJECTIONS

AFSCME makes several general objections to the petition. AFSCME argues that Section 6.1 of the Act violates due process, the separation of powers doctrine in the Illinois Constitution, equal protection under Article I, Section 2 of the Illinois Constitution, and the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and impairs the contractual right of the employees prohibited by the impairment of contract clause in the Illinois Constitution.

AFSCME specifically objects to the designated positions arguing that they do not possess significant and independent discretionary authority to be either supervisory or managerial as set forth in Section 6.1(c) of the Act. AFSCME also maintains that the vacant position of Fraud Science Team Supervisor position performs complex data analysis and not any executive or management functions and only has one subordinate employee. AFSCME further contends that that the functions of the vacant position of Supervisor of Prosecutions is not accurately described in the affidavit submitted and its position description indicates that the position's duties include investigation of records and analysis of data, which are not executive or management functions. Lastly, according to her written statement, Michelle Cebuhar states that she does not perform any supervisory function with the exception of work assignment and AFSCME argues that these assignments are merely based on geography. AFSCME maintains that Cebuhar has no involvement in either the creation or implementation of policies or recommends any actions that control policy.

AFSCME contends that the position descriptions submitted by CMS are not evidence to support the contention that any of the designated positions have supervisory authority. Therefore, AFSCME concludes that the Board should dismiss the petition or schedule a hearing on the designated positions.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

According to the job descriptions, CMS' affidavits and Michelle Cebuhar's statement (included with AFSCME's objections) the designated employees serve as working supervisors who assign and review work, provide guidance and training to assigned staff, counsel staff regarding work performance, reassign staff to meet day-to-day operating needs, establish annual goals and objectives, approve time off and prepare and assign performance evaluations.

Michelle Cebuhar admits that she has three subordinates that directly report to her and she assigns them welfare fraud cases to investigate. AFSCME admits that the Central Region Bureau of Investigations Supervisor also performs the same or similar duties as Cebuhar. That position is currently vacant but is authorized to supervise approximately eight subordinates. Both the Fraud Science Team Supervisor and the Supervisor of Prosecutions have at least one subordinate and AFSCME has not provided evidence to refute that these positions also assign and review their subordinates' work, approve time off, provide guidance and training or perform any other supervisory indicia in accordance with their job descriptions, with the requisite authority.

II. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

a. Procedural Objections

First, the Board has held that it is beyond its capacity to rule on the constitutional allegations made by AFSCME. Specifically, it is beyond the Board's purview to rule whether the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act, as amended, violates provisions of the United States and Illinois constitutions. The Board noted that administrative agencies have no authority to declare statutes unconstitutional or even to question their validity and in doing so, their actions are null and void and cannot be upheld. State of Illinois, Department of Central Management Services, Case No. S-DE-14-005 (IL LRB-SP Oct. 7, 2013) (citing Goodman v. Ward, 241 Ill. 2d. 398, 411 (2011)). As such, I will not address the constitutional objections in this decision.

The Board has also expressed its concern with AFSCME's due process arguments but maintains that it has taken necessary measures to prevent such a violation. Therefore, the Board held that consistent with judicial precedent it has "insured that the individual employees as well as their representative and potential representative receive notice soon after designation petitions are filed, usually within hours, and have provided for redundant notice by means of posting at the worksite....we provided them an opportunity to file objections, and where they raise issues of fact or law that might overcome the statutory presumption of appropriateness, an opportunity for a hearing, [and]...require a written recommended decision by an administrative law judge in each case in which objections have been filed." State of Illinois, Department of Central Management Services, Case No. S-DE-14-005 (IL LRB-SP Oct. 7, 2013) (citing Arvia v. Madigan, 209 Ill. 2d 520 (2004), and Gruwell v. Ill. Dep't of Financial and Professional Regulations, 406 Ill. App. 3d 283, 296-98 (4th Dist. 2010)). Additionally, the Board found that

it has “allowed an opportunity to appeal those recommendations for consideration by the full Board by means of filing exceptions,...doubled the frequency of our scheduled public meetings in order to provide adequate review of any exceptions in advance of the 60-day deadline and... issu[e] written final agency decisions which may be judicially reviewed pursuant to the Administrative Review Law”, in an effort to adhere to due process. State of Illinois, Department of Central Management Services, Case No. S-DE-14-005 (IL LRB-SP Oct. 7, 2013).

Moreover, in administrative hearings, failing to go to an oral hearing is not necessarily the denial of a hearing where submission of written documents could suffice as a hearing. Department of Central Management Services (Illinois Commerce Commission) v. Illinois Labor Relations Board, State Panel, 406 Ill. App. 3d 766, 769-70 (4th Dist. 2010). Therefore, AFSCME’s due process rights have not been violated by the Board following the policies and procedures mandated by the legislature and I find there is no issue of law or fact warranting a hearing.

Regarding the burden of proof, AFSCME has the burden to demonstrate that the designation is not proper. The Act is clear in that “any designation made by the Governor...shall be presumed to have been properly made,” 5 ILCS 315/6.1 (2012). Therefore, the burden of proof shifts to the objector to prove that the designation is, in fact, improper.

Lastly, Illinois Appellate Courts have held that the Board’s consideration of job descriptions alone, is an adequate basis upon which to evaluate an exclusion. See Village of Maryville v. Illinois Labor Relations Board, 402 Ill. App. 3d 369 (5th Dist. 2010); Ill. Dep’t of Cent. Mgmt. Servs. V. Ill. Labor Rel. Bd., 2011 Ill App. (4th Dist.) 090966; but see Vill. of Broadview v. Ill. Labor Rel. Bd., 402 Ill. App. 3d 503, 508 (1st Dist. 2010); see also Ill. Dep’t of Cent. Mgmt. Servs. v. Ill. Labor Rel. Bd., 382 Ill. App. 3d 208, 228-29 (4th Dist. 2008); City of Peru v. Ill. Labor Rel. Bd., 167 Ill. App. 3d 284, 291 (3d Dist. 1988). Accordingly, the Board has sufficient evidence from which to establish whether the designation is proper.

b. Designations under Section 6.1(b)(5)

As stated above, a position is properly designated if, amongst other reasons, it was first certified to the bargaining unit by the Illinois Labor Relations Board on or after December 2, 2008, and it authorizes an employee in the position to have “significant and independent discretionary authority as an employee” as defined by Section 6(c) of the Act. Moreover, designations made by the Governor are presumed proper under Section 6.1 of the Act.

It is undisputed that the positions at issue were certified into bargaining unit RC-63 on January 10, 2010 in Case No. S-RC-08-036. At issue is whether the petitioned-for positions have significant and independent discretionary authority as described in Section 6.1(c), to be designated as supervisory or managerial under the Act.

Section 6.1(b)(5) allows the Governor to designate positions that authorize an employee to have “significant and independent discretionary authority.” 5 ILCS 315/6.5(b)(5). The Act provides three tests by which a person can be found to have “significant and independent discretionary authority.” Section 6.1(c)(i) sets forth the first two tests, while Section 6.1(c)(ii) sets forth the third.² I find the employees are properly designated under Section 6.1(c)(ii) of the Act, therefore I will not address their authority under Section 6.1(c)(i).

The third test under Section 6.1(c)(ii) states that under the NLRA, a supervisor is an employee who has “authority, in the interest of the employer, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or responsibly to direct them, or to adjust their grievances, or effectively to recommend such action, if in connection with the foregoing the exercise of such authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment.” 29 U.S.C.A. § 152(11).

In other words, “employees are statutory supervisors if (1) they hold the authority to engage in any one of the 12 listed supervisory functions, (2) their ‘exercise of such authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment,’ and (3) their authority is held ‘in the interest of the employer.’” NLRB v. Kentucky River Comm. Care, Inc. (“Kentucky River”), 532 U.S. 706, 713 (2001) (quoting NLRB v. Health Care & Retirement Corp. of America, 511 U.S. 571, 573-574 (1994); See also Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. v. United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (“Oakwood Healthcare”), 348 NLRB 686, 687 (2006). A decision that is “dictated or controlled by detailed instructions, whether set forth in company policies or rules, the verbal instructions of a higher

² Section 6.1(c) provides that a person has significant and independent discretionary authority as an employee if he or she (i) is engaged in executive and management functions of a State agency and charged with the effectuation of management policies and practices of a State agency or represents management interests by taking or recommending discretionary actions that effectively control or implement the policy of a State agency or (ii) qualifies as a supervisor of a State agency as that term is defined under Section 152 of the National Labor Relations Act or any orders of the National Labor Relations Board interpreting that provision or decisions of courts reviewing decisions of the National Labor Relations Board.

authority, or in the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement” is not independent. Oakwood Healthcare, 348 NLRB at 689.

It is clear by the designated employees’ job descriptions that they have the requisite authority to assign and direct their subordinate employees. Even though Cebuhar denies performing any other supervisory authority other than assigning work, she does not deny that she uses independent judgement when doing so. AFSCME also provided no evidence that the designated employees do not have the requisite independent and discretionary authority when assigning and directing their subordinate staff. Instead AFSCME specifically denies their managerial authority. As such, I find that AFSCME has not overcome the presumption and the designations in this matter are proper.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The designations in this case are properly made.

IV. RECOMMENDED ORDER

Unless this Recommended Decision and Order Directing Certification of the Designation is rejected or modified by the Board, the following positions are excluded from the self-organization and collective bargaining provisions of Section 6 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act:

**Public Service Administrator, Option 1
Working Title: Supervisor
Employed at Department of Healthcare and Family Services**

<u>Position No.</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
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37015-33-19-110-00-21	Julie Sakoda
37015-33-19-410-00-62	Michelle Cebuhar

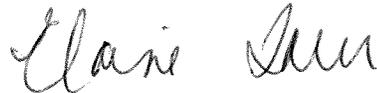
V. EXCEPTIONS

Pursuant to Section 1300.90 and 1300.130 of the Board’s Rules and Regulations, 80 Ill. Admin. Code Parts 1300, parties may file exceptions to the Administrative Law Judge’s

recommended decision and order, and briefs in support of those exceptions, no later than 3 days after service of the recommended decision and order. All exceptions shall be filed and served in accordance with Section 1300.90 of the Board's Rules and Regulations. Exceptions must be filed by electronic mail sent to ILRB.filing@illinois.gov. Each party shall serve its exceptions on the other parties. If the original exceptions are withdrawn, then all subsequent exceptions are moot. A party not filing timely exceptions waives its right to object to the Administrative Law Judge's recommended decision and order.

Issued at Chicago, Illinois this 7th day of April, 2014

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elaine L. Tarver".

Elaine L. Tarver, Administrative Law Judge