

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

November 4, 2005

The Illinois General Assembly completed its work in the fall veto session and adjourned early Friday afternoon. Prior to adjournment, the schedule for the spring 2006 legislative was released that calls for members to return to Springfield on January 11, 2006. The schedule also announces plans for an April 7, 2006 adjournment, which is about seven weeks earlier than the constitutional deadline of May 31.



The 2006 spring session calendar presents a new and challenging dynamic to the legislative process. Not only does the compacted schedule call for earlier than expected deadlines for the various parts of the session, but legislation will first be processed through a Rules Committee to determine the emergency nature of a legislative proposal. Additionally, House members have already been informed that each member will be limited to advancing no more than three bills.

Many associations and organizations are finding that scheduling adjustments in the year 2006 must be made to meet the requirements of the 2006 legislative calendar. For example, ICCTA will not be able to hold its annual Lobby Day as it is currently scheduled on May 3, 2006.

Issues of interest to community colleges were addressed during the six-day fall veto session, but none of the issues were passed.

Ethics

Ethics reform legislation was passed out of the House but was not called in the Senate for consideration. Senate Bill 1879 includes provisions impacting higher education in the areas of naming rights for buildings and procurement. Many higher education concerns have been satisfactorily resolved in the legislation that passed out of the House. This legislation can again be advanced beginning in January 2006.

Pension Reform

Numerous bills have been filed and continue to be filed that address many of the issues that grew out of the passage of pension reform last spring. The legislative proposals addresses the unintended consequences of a 6% limitation on earnings increases that was put in place for the calculation of pension benefits.

Community College Study

House Joint Resolution 24, which calls for a comprehensive study of the community college system, was not advanced through the Senate. The resolution has already passed out of the House.



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