

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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January 23, 2008

*The Illinois General Assembly met last Thursday in a contentious session that resulted in final passage of a mass transit bailout program for the City of Chicago and surrounding areas. Lawmakers then adjourned until February 13, which will mark the "real" beginning of the 2008 spring legislative schedule. The General Assembly's published legislative calendar shows May 29 as the scheduled adjournment date for the spring session.*

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOCAL CONTROL AND ETHICS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

Last week ICCTA requested that legislators file bills that clarify issues regarding local control and ethics issues for community college districts throughout Illinois. **House Bill 4330** (sponsored by Rep. Art Turner) and **Senate Bill 1889** (sponsored by Sen. Ed Maloney) are identical bills to **House Bill 3504** (sponsored by Rep. Granberg), which was overwhelmingly approved by the General Assembly last year but vetoed by the Governor.

## NOMINATIONS MADE TO IBHE MASTER PLAN TASK FORCE

Pursuant to House Joint Resolution 69 approved last year, the Illinois Board of Higher Education is creating a Task Force on Higher Education and the Economy. Task force membership calls for the Governor to appoint one community college trustee and one community college president to serve on the 24-member panel.

ICCTA President Kathy Wessel has nominated Dr. Frank Barbre of Southeastern Illinois College to serve as the community college trustee member. Presidents Council chair Terry Bruce has nominated Dr. Margaret Lee of Oakton Community College to serve as the community college president member.

## BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION ACT (BIMP) BECOMES LAW

The long-awaited approval of Senate Bill 783 occurred last week when Gov. Blagojevich certified the bill known as the "BIMP" bill. The Budget Implementation Act is now Public Act 95-707 and provides for the distribution of state funds to various entities, tax law changes, and a variety of other items. Most notably, final approval of the BIMP bill was needed to correctly distribute approximately \$600 million in new state funds to school districts throughout the state.

**\* For additional updates, call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 \***



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