

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

April 8, 2009

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned last week after completing the halfway point for the spring 2009 session. Senate bills that passed out of the Senate now go to the House for further consideration, and House bills that passed out of the House now go to the Senate for review. Both the Senate and the House broke for a two-week spring break and are scheduled to return to Springfield on April 21. Final adjournment for the spring session is scheduled for May 30.

PENSION REFORM AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

Before adjourning for spring break, the General Assembly passed the following measures of interest to many in state government:

Senate Bill 364, a pension reform bill sponsored by Senator Jeff Schoenberg and House Speaker Michael Madigan, is the first product of the Joint Committee on Government Reform, which is co-chaired by Speaker Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton. The legislation calls for the removal of all of the board members of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) and the removal of all previous gubernatorial board appointees and the Executive Director of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), State Employees Retirement System (SERS), and the Illinois State Board of Investment. The bill passed the General Assembly on April 2 and was signed by Governor Pat Quinn the next day. It is now **Public Act 96-0006**. The Speaker has referred to this and future "house cleaning" as "fumigating state government."

On April 2, the General Assembly also passed a \$3 billion mini-capital package, of which \$2 billion would be used for road and bridge maintenance projects, while \$1 billion would be used for mass transit. **House Bill 289**, sponsored by Speaker Madigan and Senator John Sullivan, is the bonding portion of the mini-capital bill.

LEGISLATION IMPACTING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The following is a list of legislation impacting community colleges. Included are staff recommendations for ICCTA positions on each bill; the recommendations are based upon historical ICCTA positions and the actual issues.

HB 150 **21st Century Scholars Program (Miller / Maloney)**
ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Creates the 21st Century Scholars Act to provide an incentive for low-income students in the 8th grade to improve their academic preparation for post-secondary education. Sets forth provisions concerning annual tuition scholarships to applicants who qualify; requiring the state, the participating school district, and the student to enter into a three-part compact; rules to implement the Act; and reporting to the General Assembly on awards. **Passed the House 115-0-0.**

HB 336 **Higher Education Campus Security (Pritchard)**
ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Amends the Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008. Provides that the inter-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional campus violence prevention plan shall also include coordination and communication with surrounding governmental agencies and school districts. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. **Passed the House 102-0-0.**

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HB 437 Community College Health/Safety Tax Bonds (Bieser)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Allows Lewis and Clark and Southwestern Illinois community college districts to levy a tax or issue bonds for alteration or repair of physical facilities for certain health, safety, energy conservation, environmental protection, and handicapped accessibility purposes. Removes a provision allowing the district to borrow money not in excess of \$4.5 million in the aggregate at any one time. Provides that the district may borrow money if, among other conditions, a certified estimate of a licensed architect or engineer stating the estimated amount (instead of stating the estimated amount of not less than \$25,000) has been secured by the district. **Passed the House 75-41-0.**

HB 461 Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act (Jakobsson)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Provides that each publisher of college textbooks shall disclose, at that time and in writing, to the faculty member or, if applicable, the other adopting entity in charge of selecting textbooks for courses taught at a public institution of higher education (1) the copyright dates of the three previous editions of the textbook, if any; (2) a description of the substantial content changes made between the current edition of the textbook or supplemental materials and the previous edition, if any; and (3) the existence and price of alternative formats of the textbook or supplemental materials. Provides that publishers of college textbooks are required to offer all bundled textbooks for sale as individual unbundled textbooks and supplemental materials. Contains a provision concerning institutional autonomy and academic freedom. Effective July 1, 2010. **Passed the House 109-0-0.**

HB 615 Cosmetology School Refunds (Coulson)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, and Nail Technology Act of 1985. In a provision concerning school refund policies, provides that refunds shall be in accordance with the requirements of the school's regional or national accrediting agency, if any, or rules that the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation shall promulgate. Effective immediately. **Passed the House 113-0-1.**

HB 656 Harper College Baccalaureate Degree (Crespo)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Identical to **Senate Bill 244** (which did not pass in the Senate), this bill provides that William Rainey Harper College may establish and offer a pilot program under which the district may offer bachelor's degrees in two fields of study if: (1) the degree programs do not compete with any nearby public university and the public universities in Illinois have the right of first refusal to offer the Bachelor of Applied Science Degree programs on the community college campus or a community college extension site, (2) that the district identify and document unmet workforce needs, (3) that the degree programs not require any additional funding from local taxes, the state, or the community college students not enrolled in the program, (4) that the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the offering of the degree programs, and (5) that the pilot program expire four years after the initial offering of the degree programs, unless otherwise extended by law. Prohibits Harper College from becoming a primarily baccalaureate degree-granting, four-year institution of higher learning. Effective July 1, 2009. **Passed the House 69-47-0.**

HB 725 Sign Language Requirements (Watson)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the School Code to encourage school boards to implement American Sign Language (ASL) courses into school foreign language curriculum. Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. In provisions concerning admissions requirements, provides that ASL may constitute a foreign language for the purposes of meeting those requirements. Allows the governing board of each public university to award academic credit for the successful completion of any ASL course offered or approved by the university, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the university. **Passed the House 114-0-0.**

HB 862 Community College Electronic Bidding (Black)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Identical to **Senate Bill 277**, this ICCTA-initiated legislation provides that electronic bid submissions shall be considered a sealed document for competitive bid requests if they are received at the designated office by the time and date set for receipt for bids. Requires electronic bid submissions to be authorized by specific language in the bid documents in order to be considered and to be opened in accordance with electronic security measures in effect at the community college at the time of opening. Provides that unless the electronic submission procedures provide for a secure receipt, the vendor assumes the risk of premature disclosure due to submission in an unsealed form. **Passed the House 106-0-0.**

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HB 898 Faculty / Staff Freedom of Expression (Jakobsson)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that all faculty and staff members of a university or community college are free to communicate their views on any matter of private or public concern to any member of the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of government, state or federal, without notice to or prior approval of the university or community college, so long as they do not represent that they are speaking for or on behalf of the university or community college. **Passed the House 115-0-1.**

HB 899 Political Paraphernalia on Campus (Jacobsson)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that a university or community college may not prohibit any faculty or staff member from (1) displaying political buttons, stickers, or patches while on university or community college property, provided that such display by any member of the faculty in an instructional setting is for a purpose relevant to the subject of instruction; (2) attending a partisan political rally, provided that the employee is not on duty; or (3) displaying a partisan bumper sticker on his or her motor vehicle. **Passed the House 115-1-0.**

HB 972 Veterans Day Moment of Silence (Chapa La Via)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that if a public school, university, or community college holds any type of event at the institution on November 11, Veterans' Day, the governing board of the institution shall require a moment of silence at that event to recognize Veterans' Day. **Passed the House 114-0-0.**

HB 1013 Green Buildings Act (Boland)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the Green Buildings Act to require that state-funded building construction and major renovations of existing state-owned facilities must meet certain energy and environmental standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDS) program rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, or an equivalent rating system. Permits waiver of the standards by the Illinois Capital Development Board or another agency. Specifies the criteria for waivers. Requires the Board to analyze and evaluate the Act's green building standards after the earlier of five years or the completion of 10 Board green projects. **Passed the House 114-0-0.**

HB 1079 Dual Credit Quality (Eddy)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Requires the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education to develop policies to permit multiple appropriate measures using differentiated assessment for granting eligibility for dual credit to students (a dual credit course being a college course taken by a high school student for credit at both the college and high school level). Sets forth provisions concerning policies to protect the academic standing of students who are not successful in dual credit courses, standards that institutions of higher learning must meet if offering dual credit courses, oversight and review of dual credit programs, and a statewide longitudinal data system to identify high school students who participate in dual credit courses and track their success in high school and postsecondary education. **Passed the House 116-0-0.**

HB 2235 Faculty and Administrators Salary Reports (Davis)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the School Code and various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Requires the governing board of each school district, university, and community college to report to the State Board of Education or IBHE, on or before July 1 of each year, the base salary and benefits of all administrators and teachers or faculty employed by the school district, university, or community college district. **Passed the House 116-0-0.**

HB 2253 Community College Police Appointments (Pritchard)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Removes provisions allowing the board of trustees of a community college district to appoint persons to be members of the security department of the community college. Allows instead for the appointment of sworn and non-sworn members of the community college district police department, department of public safety, or security department. Sets forth requirements and other provisions concerning both law enforcement officers and non-law enforcement officers. Allows the board of trustees to establish regulations that are determined to be necessary for the protection of community college students, staff, visitors, properties, and interests or for the proper maintenance, operation, or development of any community college or colleges under the jurisdiction of the board and to prescribe fines and penalties for the violation of these regulations. **Passed the House 116-0-0.**

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HB 2330 Student Trustee Term of Office (Black)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Identical to **SB 1580**, this ICCTA shell bill currently provides that the student member of the board of trustees of a community college district may serve for only one term. This bill will be held in the Senate, pending other uses for which ICCTA may wish to use the bill. **Passed the House 103-13-0.**

HB 2352 Student Credit Cards (Joyce)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Identical to **SB 1524**, this bill creates the Credit Card Marketing Act of 2009. Requires that institutions of higher education that enter into an agreement to market credit cards to students pursuing an education, or that allow their student groups, alumni associations, or affiliates to enter into agreements must make a financial education program available to all students. Contains provisions requiring institutions of higher education to disclose certain agreements with credit card companies. Prohibits certain gifts and inducements. Prohibits the distribution of personally identifiable student information for the purpose of marketing credit cards. Provides that the Attorney General may enforce the Act. **Passed the House 115-0-1.**

HB 4122 Community College Peace Officers (Chapa LaVia)

ICCTA Position: OPPOSE

Amends the Criminal Code to provide that it is unlawful for any institute of higher learning that employs peace officers to prohibit a peace officer from carrying a firearm in the performance of his or her duties, unless the peace officer fails to qualify with the firearm, is declared unfit for duty, and is unable to be armed. **Passed the House 92-21-3.**

SB 204 Emergency Building Use (Demuzio)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires (instead of allows) a board of trustees of a community college district to make mutually agreed buildings of the college available for emergency purposes, upon the request of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency or the state-accredited emergency management agency with jurisdiction, and to cooperate in all matters with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local emergency management agencies, state-certified, local public health departments, the American Red Cross, and federal agencies concerned with emergency preparedness and response. Adds a similar provision for universities. Provides that a school board shall make school buildings available for use as civil defense shelters for all persons; cooperate with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local organizations for civil defense, disaster relief organizations, and federal agencies concerned with civil defense relative thereto; cooperate with these agencies and organizations in the use of other resources, equipment, and facilities; and cooperate with these agencies and organizations in the construction of new buildings to the end that the buildings be so designed that shelter facilities may be provided. **Passed the Senate 59-0-0.**

SB 277 Community College Electronic Bidding (Demuzio)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Identical to **HB 862**, this ICCTA-initiated legislation provides that electronic bid submissions shall be considered a sealed document for competitive bid requests if they are received at the designated office by the time and date set for receipt for bids. Requires electronic bid submissions to be authorized by specific language in the bid documents in order to be considered and to be opened in accordance with electronic security measures in effect at the community college at the time of opening. Provides that unless the electronic submission procedures provide for a secure receipt, the vendor assumes the risk of premature disclosure due to submission in unsealed form. **Passed the Senate 59-0-0.**

SB 1485 Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act (Hunter)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act. Provides that when contacting or being contacted by prospective clients, each publisher of college textbooks shall disclose, at that time and in writing, to the faculty member or, if applicable, the other adopting entity in charge of selecting textbooks for courses taught at a public institution of higher education (1) the copyright dates of the 3 previous editions of the textbook, if any; (2) a description of the substantial content changes made between the current edition of the textbook or supplemental materials and the previous edition, if any; and (3) the existence and price of alternative formats of the textbook or supplemental materials. Provides that publishers of college textbooks are required to offer all bundled textbooks for sale as individual unbundled textbooks and supplemental materials. Contains a provision concerning institutional autonomy and academic freedom. **Passed the Senate 57-0-0.**

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SB 1524 Student Credit Cards (Trotter)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Identical to **HB 2352**, this bill creates the Credit Card Marketing Act of 2009. Requires that institutions of higher education that enter into an agreement to market credit cards to students pursuing an education, or that allow their student groups, alumni associations, or affiliates to enter into agreements must make a financial education program available to all students. Contains provisions requiring institutions of higher education to disclose certain agreements with credit card companies. Prohibits certain gifts and inducements. Prohibits the distribution of personally identifiable student information for the purpose of marketing credit cards. Provides that the Attorney General may enforce the Act.

SB 1570 Wind Solar Generation Program (Pankau)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Creates the School Wind and Solar Generation Program to fund wind generation projects and solar generation projects for school districts and community college districts. Requires the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement and administer the program; allows DCEO to award full or partial grants for, without limitation, engineering studies, feasibility studies, research studies, and construction costs. For each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014, requires the State Treasurer to transfer \$5 million to the School Wind and Solar Generation Fund, a special fund in the state treasury. Provides that all money in the Fund must be used for the purposes of the program. Allows school districts and community college districts to own and operate solar generation turbine farms (not just wind generation turbine farms) that directly or indirectly reduce energy or other operating costs. **Passed the Senate 54-0-0.**

SB 1580 Student Trustee Term of Office (Demuzio)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Identical to **HB 2330**, this ICCTA-initiated shell bill currently provides that the student member of the board of trustees of a community college district may serve for only one term. **The bill has been held in the Senate pending ICCTA future plans.**

SB 1624 Higher Education Veterans Coordinator (Kotowski)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires all public colleges and universities to conduct a survey of the services and programs that are provided for veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families, at each of their respective campuses; sets forth the survey requirements. Requires each public college and university to appoint a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services on each campus of the college or university that has an onsite, daily, full-time student headcount above 1,000 students; sets forth requirements concerning the coordinator. Provides that IBHE and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs may issue a best practices report to highlight those programs and services that are most beneficial to veterans and active duty military personnel. Sets forth additional provisions concerning a college's or university's best efforts and the fiscal impact of programs and services. **Passed the Senate 55-0-1.**

SB 1796 Re-Enrollment of High School Dropouts (Lightford)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Establishes the Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education (IHOPE) Program to develop a comprehensive system in this state to re-enroll significant numbers of high school dropouts in programs that will enable them to earn their high school diploma. Requires the State Board of Education to implement and administer the IHOPE Program. Provides that the IHOPE Program shall award grants to educational service regions and the Chicago school district from appropriated funds to assist in establishing instructional programs and other services designed to re-enroll high school dropouts. Provides that the IHOPE Program shall provide incentive grant funds for regional offices of education and the Chicago school district to develop partnerships with school districts, public community colleges, and community groups to build comprehensive plans to re-enroll high school dropouts in their regions or districts. Sets forth requirements for programs funded through the IHOPE Program. Provides for an IHOPE Plan, sub-grants, how funding is distributed, state aid, categories of programming, the evaluation of programs, and rules. **Passed the Senate 53-0-0.**

SB 1828 Longitudinal Educational Data System (Stearns)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act. Requires the State Board of Education, ICCB, and IBHE to jointly establish and maintain a longitudinal data system by entering into one or more agreements that link early learning, elementary, and secondary school student unit records with institution of higher learning student unit records. **Passed the Senate 56-0-0.**

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SB 1847 Community College Construction Act (Harmon)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Creates the Community College Construction Act. Contains only a short title provision. This is a shell bill for community college use. **Passed the Senate 58-0-0.**

SB 1883 IBHE Baccalaureate Program Grants (Burzynski)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Provides that IBHE shall implement and administer the Collaborative Baccalaureate Degree Development Grant Program, to help deliver upper division courses and bachelor's degree programs offered by bachelor's degree-granting colleges and universities at a location geographically convenient to student populations currently being served by existing public community colleges. Provides that a grant application must be jointly submitted by one public community college and one or more public or private, not-for-profit, four-year colleges or universities. Provides that IBHE shall require that each partnering institution (both the community college and the four-year institution or institutions) must also invest in the partnership. **Passed the Senate 58-0-0.**

SB 2044 Whistleblower Act Referendum (Kotowski)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Whistleblower Reward and Protection Act. Provides that the electors of any school district, public community college district, municipality, municipal corporation, or unit of local government may pass, by initiative petition and referendum, a binding ordinance adopting the provisions of the Act (at present, these entities may adopt the provisions of the Act by ordinance or resolution). Provides the requirements for filing a petition and hearing an objection to a petition. **Passed the Senate 59-0-0.**

House Resolution 97 Sustainability Network (Reitz)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Urges the U.S. Congress to fund the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network's request for \$648.6 million from the federal government for the training and development of a green-collar workforce and the creation of green-collar jobs through community college renewable energy and energy conservation projects. **Adopted by the House.**

**** ICCTA Lobby Day is April 29 – register today by calling 1-800-454-2282 ****