

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

May 11, 2005

The Illinois General Assembly returned to Springfield yesterday (Tuesday, May 10) to work toward the conclusion of its spring 2005 session. The session's scheduled adjournment date is May 27, although few observers predict that adjournment on that date will be met.

For any business conducted through the end of May 31, a simple majority of votes is needed to pass a bill in either the Senate or the House. If the General Assembly does not adjourn before June 1, the Illinois Constitution requires a 3/5 majority vote for passage of legislation with effective dates prior to June 1, 2006. This means that passage of legislation (including a budget for Fiscal Year 2006) would require at least 36 affirmative votes in the Senate and 71 affirmative votes in the House. The Democrats hold the majority in both houses, with 32 members in the Senate and 65 members in the House. On partisan roll calls after May 31, therefore, Republican votes will be required for passage of legislation.

Although lawmakers are considering numerous issues, most attention continues to be centered on the creation of an FY 2006 budget, budget-related issues, and revenue issues.

The following listing of bills affecting higher education and community colleges in particular are moving through the process:

BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Senate Bill 226 **Agenda / Minutes Postings on Web Site (Cullerton)**
ICCTA Position: **MONITOR**

With respect to a public body that has a website maintained by the public body's full-time staff, requires that the public body post on the website (i) notice of any agenda of a regular meeting of the public body's governing body, (ii) notice of all meetings of the governing body, and (iii) beginning July 1, 2006, minutes of regular meetings of the governing body open to the public. Specifies how long the postings must remain on the website. Provides that failure to post on the website does not invalidate meetings or actions of the governing body.

STATUS: Passed both houses; awaiting Governor's signature.

SB 2112 **Faculty Member Appointment to ICCB (Demuzio)**
ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Provides that beginning on July 1, 2005, one of the 11 members appointed to the Illinois Community College Board by the Governor must be a community college board member. Additionally, requires that one of the 11 members appointed to the Illinois Community College Board by the Governor must be a community college faculty member at an Illinois public community college. This bill originally was an initiative of the Illinois Federation of Teachers and was amended by ICCTA to include the "board member" requirement. (SB 2112, which is identical to **House Bill 1487**, was one of ICCTA's priority issues during the association's May 4 Lobby Day in Springfield.)

STATUS: Passed both houses; awaiting Governor's signature.

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OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

House Bill 715 Student Voter Registration (Chapa LaVia)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Election Code. Requires public institutions of higher learning to post voter registration forms on their websites, include voter registration information and forms in Illinois student registration mailings, and provide voter registration forms at in-person student registration.

STATUS: Passed the House; awaiting 3rd (final) reading in the Senate.

HB 1051 Teacher Scholarship Program (Mendoza)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Makes changes concerning Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarships with respect to exceptions to the teaching obligation requirement. Makes changes concerning the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program with respect to the teaching obligation requirement. Makes changes concerning special education teacher scholarships with respect to eligibility, certification of applicants, and the teaching obligation requirement. Repeals the Child Development Teacher Scholarship Act.

STATUS: Passed the House; awaiting 3rd (final) reading in the Senate.

HB 1487 Faculty Member Appointment to ICCB (McCarthy)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Provides that beginning on July 1, 2005, one of the 11 members appointed to the Illinois Community College Board by the Governor must be a community college board member. Additionally, requires that one of the 11 members appointed to the Illinois Community College Board by the Governor must be a community college faculty member at an Illinois public community college. This bill originally was an initiative of the Illinois Federation of Teachers and was amended by ICCTA to include the "board member" requirement. (*HB 1487, which is identical to SB 2112, was one of ICCTA's priority issues during the May 4 Lobby Day in Springfield.*)

STATUS: Passed the House, 3rd (final) reading in the Senate.

HB 2421 Tuition Assistance for TANF Recipients (Schock)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a pilot program to provide TANF recipients with assistance in obtaining a post-secondary education degree. Provides that this assistance may include moneys for the payment of tuition, but the Department may not use any moneys appropriated for the operation of the TANF program to pay for tuition under the pilot program. Requires the Department to enter into an interagency agreement with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for the administration of the pilot program.

STATUS: Passed the House; awaiting 3rd (final) reading in the Senate

HB 2435 Demuzio Governmental Intern Program (Demuzio)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Southern Illinois University Management Act. Subject to appropriation, requires the president of the University to create the Vince Demuzio Governmental Internship Program for full-time undergraduate students. Sets forth goals for the program. Provides that participating students shall receive academic credit and be compensated financially.

STATUS: Passed the House; awaiting 3rd (final) reading in the Senate.

HB 2515 Transfer Courses Posted on the Web (Schock)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Requires the Board of Higher Education to implement and administer a statewide program, using the World Wide Web, to assist students, advisors, faculty, and administrators from public and private institutions of higher education in obtaining consistent and accurate information about transfer courses and their applicability towards degree completion by publishing course equivalency guides, academic programs, courses offered, transfer course evaluations, and degree requirements. The initiative is subject to appropriation.

STATUS: Passed the House; awaiting 3rd (final) reading in the Senate.

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HB 3724 Military Service / Higher Education (Jenish)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires public institutions of higher education to allow a currently enrolled student who is called to active military service to complete any unfinished courses at a later date at no additional charge, unless course credit has already been given or the student received a full refund upon withdrawing from the course (in which case the student's record shall reflect that the withdrawal is due to active military service). Provides that the student must be given priority over other students in re-enrolling in the course or courses.

STATUS: Passed the House; awaiting 3rd (final) reading in the Senate.

Senate Bill 2 Education Funding Reform (Del Valle)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the Education Funding Reform Act of 2005. This shell bill could be used to promote advances in an initiative to revamp education funding.

STATUS: SB 2 has not passed the Senate but may be amended onto other bills later in the session.

SB 445 Use of Social Security Numbers (Martinez)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Prohibits private and public universities, colleges community colleges and private business and vocational schools from printing an individual's social security number on any card or other document required for the individual to access products or services provided by the institution.

STATUS: Passed the Senate; awaiting 3rd (final) reading in the House.

SB 463 GED Transfer to the ICCB (Maloney)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the School Code and the Public Community College Act. Transfers all powers and duties of the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Education with regard to high school equivalency testing and certificates under the School Code to the Illinois Community College Board.

STATUS: Passed the House; awaiting 3rd (final) reading in the Senate.

SB 750 School Funding Reform (Meeks)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides for school funding reform initiatives that were advanced last year. This bill as amended currently contains no content and is filed as a mechanism to continue conversations.

STATUS: SB 750 has not passed the Senate but may be amended onto other bills later in the session.

SB 1484 Property Tax / Income Tax Swap (Winkel)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Similar to SB 750 and HB 750, this bill attempts to provide for an increase from 3% to 5% in the Illinois income tax rate and a decrease in local property taxes levied for the operations of school districts. The bill currently contains no content and is filed as a mechanism to continue conversations.

STATUS: SB 1484 has not passed the Senate but may be amended onto other bills later in the session.

SB 1628 Higher Education Inspector General (Maloney)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act and does not affect public community colleges. Creates the Higher Education Inspector General, appointed by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, for the public institutions of higher education (now, under the Executive Inspector General appointed by the Governor).

STATUS: SB 1628 has not passed the Senate. Deadline for passage has been extended to May 31.

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SB 1857 Review of Closed Session Minutes (Cullerton)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that a public body's failure to strictly comply with the requirements of the semi-annual review of closed meetings minutes does not make the minutes or verbatim recordings open to the public or available in judicial proceedings (other than those for violations of the Act) if the public body, within 60 days of the discovery of its failure, conducts the review and reports in an open meeting that the need for confidentiality remains or no longer exists.

STATUS: Passed the Senate; awaiting 2nd reading in the House.

House Joint Resolution 24 Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Creates a Joint Task Force on Community Colleges to review the present community college system and its future. The task force names legislators and community college people to be members.

STATUS: Placed on calender order of resolutions.

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