

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

May 9, 2010

The Illinois General Assembly was unable to conclude the spring 2010 legislative session on Friday, May 7, as was planned. Although the Senate approved necessary components of a budget plan for Fiscal Year 2011, the House vote fell short of approval. Both houses adjourned the session without approving a budget and will return to Springfield when the Senate President and the House Speaker call their respective chambers back into session. It is anticipated that the session will resume before the end of May.

The proposed FY11 budget relied heavily upon increased borrowing, mandated furloughs, tobacco settlement funds, and a tax amnesty program. The dire condition of the state's declining revenue dominated fiscal decision-making. The proposed budget plan also enhanced the Governor's powers to manage state finances; this was a critical element because the state's declining revenue stream is not sufficient to fund the appropriated state budget.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATION PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES

Lawmakers did approve several pieces of legislation during the spring legislative session that impact community colleges. The following bills will be sent to Gov. Quinn for his consideration:

House Bill 4972 Community College Reimbursements to ICCB (Soto - Maloney)
ICCTA Position: MONITOR

In provisions concerning the compensation and expenses of members of the Illinois Community College Board, deletes language that provides that expenses incurred by any non-voting student member may, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board, be provided for by advance payment to such member, who shall account therefor to the Board immediately after each meeting. Deletes language that provides that members of advisory committees shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the administration of the Act.

Senate Bill 387 Reporting the Hiring of Hispanics (Berrios - Martinez)
ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires that each executive branch constitutional officer, each state institution of higher education, each public community college, and the Illinois Toll Highway Authority annually report to the General Assembly on its activities implementing strategies and programs, and progress, in hiring and promoting Hispanics and bilingual persons at supervisory, technical, professional, and managerial levels.

SB 642 University Borrowing Authorization (Haine - Bradley)
ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that the governing board of each public university shall have the power to borrow money, as necessary, from time to time in anticipation of receiving tuition, state payments, or other revenues or receipts of the university. Provides that the borrowing limit shall be capped at 100% of the total amount of payroll and other expense vouchers submitted and payable to the university for fiscal year 2010 expenses, but unpaid at the State Comptroller's office. Requires that any line of credit be paid in full one year after creation or within 10 days after the date the university receives reimbursement from the state for all submitted fiscal year 2010 vouchers, whichever is earlier. Requires that any promissory note be repaid within one year after issuance of the note. Effective immediately.

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ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION
401 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200 ■ Springfield, IL 62701-1711
1-800-454-2282 (phone) ■ 217/528-8662 (fax) ■ ICCTA@communitycolleges.org (e-mail)
www.communitycolleges.org (web site)

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SB 2548 Monthly Grant Payments for Community Colleges (Demuzio - Black)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

This ICCB-initiated bill amends the Public Community College Act to provide that ICCB shall certify, prepare, and submit monthly vouchers (rather than quarterly vouchers) to the State Comptroller setting forth an amount equal to one-twelfth (instead of 25%) of the grants approved by the State Board for base operating grants and equalization grants.

SB 2615 Community College Working Cash Line of Credit (Forby - Bradley)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

This ICCB-initiated bill allows the board of trustees of a community college district to establish a line of credit with a bank or other financial institution in an amount not to exceed (1) if anticipating state revenues due in the current fiscal year, 85% of the amount or amounts of the revenues due in the current fiscal year, as certified by the President/CEO of the ICCB or other official in a position to provide assurances as to the amounts; and (2) if anticipating state revenues expected to be due in the next subsequent fiscal year, 50% of the amount or amounts of the revenues due in the current fiscal year, as certified by the President/CEO of the ICCB or other official in a position to provide assurances as to the amounts. Provides that all moneys so borrowed shall be repaid exclusively from the anticipated revenues within 60 days after the revenues have been received. Requires that the borrowing bear interest at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate authorized by the Bond Authorization Act, from the date of issuance until paid. Provides for the authorization of borrowing by resolution.

SB 2801 Bonds for Kishwaukee Buildings (Burzynski - Pritchard)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Authorizes Kishwaukee Community College District No. 523 to issue bonds for building purposes for 25 years (instead of 20 years) if approved at referendum and specified conditions are met.

SB 3705 College and Career Readiness Program (Maloney - Farnham)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

This ICCB-initiated bill contains provisions concerning the College and Career Readiness Pilot Program. It provides that beginning July 1, 2010, the ICCB shall extend the current pilot project for 3 years subject to appropriation to include an additional 7 sites as evidenced by the effectiveness of the current program. Changes the criteria for ICCB's selection of 4 community colleges to participate in the original pilot program and 7 additional sites as part of the extension. Provides that each participating community college shall establish an agreement with a high school(s) to include the creation of a Readiness Plan (rather than Readiness Prescription) for each student. Changes provisions concerning the ICCB's work with participating community colleges and high schools to develop an appropriate evaluation process to measure effectiveness of intervention strategies. Changes provisions concerning the second and third year duties of the ICCB. Provides that at the end of the 3-year extension, ICCB shall prepare and submit a report outlining its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate by December 31, 2013.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATION PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The following legislation has been held for further deliberation by the General Assembly:

HB 5483 Open Meetings Act -- Meeting Minutes (Kosel - Garrett)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires that a public body approve minutes of its open meeting within 30 days after the meeting or at its next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever is later. Requires that a public body make its approved open meeting minutes available for public inspection and, if the public body has a website, post those minutes within 10 days (now, 7 days) after approval of the minutes. Requires that any person be permitted an opportunity to address public officials at meetings subject to the Act under rules established and recorded by the public body.

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SB 2538 Equalization Funding Qualifications (Maloney - Davis)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that as of July 1, 2011, a community college district must maintain a minimum required combined in-district tuition and universal fee rate per semester credit hour equal to 70% of the state-average combined rate, as determined by the State Board, or the total revenue received by the community college district from combined in-district tuition and universal fees must be at least 30% of the total revenue received by the community college district, as determined by the State Board, for equalization funding.

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