

## Illinois Community College Trustees Association Action Alert

June 22, 2007

### Overtime Session Update

The Illinois General Assembly has entered its third week of overtime session after failing to complete business by its scheduled May 31 adjournment date. The Illinois House of Representatives has scheduled every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during June to meet in Springfield, while the Illinois Senate is establishing a schedule on a daily basis.

By not completing its work by May 31, the voting requirement for the immediate passage of legislation changes from a simple majority to a 3/5 majority vote. This voting requirement significantly changes the political dynamics because Democrats (who maintain the majority in each chamber) do not have a 3/5 majority in the House. Therefore, Republican votes are now required for the immediate passage of legislation, including a Fiscal Year 2008 state budget. Prior to May 31, Republicans had not been formally included in budget negotiations and other significant legislative proposals.

June 30 marks the end of Fiscal Year 2007 and will be the next major deadline facing lawmakers. Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the legislative leaders in the House and Senate tentatively agreed yesterday (June 21) to adopt a **"bare bones" state budget for the month of July**, which would temporarily avoid a state government shutdown on July 1 and provide additional time for legislators to complete budget negotiations. If a state budget is not approved by both houses and the Governor by June 30, the state enters a time where it lacks legal authorization to make expenditures for payroll, certain grants, and payments to vendors.

The major issues before lawmakers continue to be: 1) the source of new state revenues, if any; 2) the FY 2008 budget; and 3) utility rate increases involving Ameron CILCO and Commonwealth Edison. Many observers believe that all issues must be resolved simultaneously in order for the General Assembly to complete its work. During the budget negotiating process, the governor has been scheduling additional meetings to talk about the Chicago Transit Authority, pension system problems, leasing the Illinois Lottery, and Cook County property tax assessment cap issues. While legislative leaders and the governor are meeting periodically to negotiate these issues, rank and file members are processing noncontroversial bills and resolutions that often times generate unanimous roll calls.

### Community College Bills of Interest

#### LEGISLATION OPPOSED BY ICCTA

**House Bill 1876 -- Kaskaskia College Subdistricts** (Granberg)

#### **ICCTA Position: OPPOSE**

While rank-and-file General lawmakers wait for negotiated agreements to be reached, it becomes possible for legislation to be considered that probably would not have been considered during the regular session. **House Bill 1876** provides that the Kaskaskia College district be divided into seven subdistricts and that board members must be elected from a subdistrict. The bill overrules the locally passed referendum that established Kaskaskia College and **does not submit the question to the voters of the district for approval**. ICCTA opposes this legislation because it also **diminishes local control** of the board by allowing the General Assembly to determine the subdistricts. Other units of local government always determine their own subdistricts.

**Status: Please contact your Senator and House member and ask them to OPPOSE HB 1876.**

- continued on next page -

**ICCTA Action Alert**  
**Page 2**  
**June 22, 2007**

**LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY ICCTA**

**House Bill 3504 -- Ethics Act / Local Control of Community Colleges** (Granberg / Forby)

**ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

This ICCTA bill amends the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act to classify community college districts as units of local government that must adopt resolutions regulating the political activities and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by their officials and employees (now, classified as state agencies subject to the entire Act's regulation and enforcement by the Executive Ethics Commission and the Governor's Executive Inspector General). Effective immediately. The bill is identical to Senate Bill 753 (Halvorson).

**Status: HB 3504 has passed both houses and was sent to Gov. Blagojevich on June 15. The Governor has 60 days in which to sign, veto or amendatorily veto this bill. ICCTA has asked the Governor to SIGN HB 3504.**

**HB 720 -- Community College Board Quorum** (Black / Demuzio)

**ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

This ICCTA bill amends the Public Community College Act and provides that for all meetings of a board of trustees, a quorum of members must be physically present at the location of the meeting. The bill clarifies language differences between the Open Meetings Act and the Public Community College Act.

**Status: HB 720 has passed both houses and was sent to Gov. Blagojevich on June 14. ICCTA has asked the Governor to SIGN HB 720.**

**HB 721-- Community College Board Meeting Schedules** (Black / Demuzio)

**ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

This ICCTA bill amends the Public Community College Act to provide that public notice of the schedule of regular meetings of a board of trustees for the next calendar year, as set at the organizational meeting of the board of trustees, must be given at the beginning of that calendar year. The bill clarifies language differences between the Open Meetings Act and the Public Community College Act. The bill is identical to SB 401.

**Status: HB 721 has passed both houses and was sent to Gov. Blagojevich on June 14. ICCTA has asked the Governor to SIGN HB 721.**

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

---

Michael S. Monaghan  
Executive Director  
Illinois Community College Trustees Association  
401 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701-1711  
1-800-454-2282 (office)  
217-528-8662 (fax)  
[msmonaghan@communitycolleges.org](mailto:msmonaghan@communitycolleges.org)