

Governor Approves Community College Legislation

On October 3, 2008, Gov. Rod Blagojevich approved two bills impacting community colleges.

Senate Bill 2293 (Maloney / Chapa Lavia) -- **Increase in minimum bid thresholds**
ICCTA Position: SUPPORT
Status: Signed into law as Public Act 95-0990

ICCTA initiated **Senate Bill 2293** to increase the minimum threshold for going out to bid from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for the purchase of supplies and materials at community colleges and school districts. It also increases the minimum threshold for going to bid on small construction projects from \$15,000 to \$50,000. In addition, SB 2293 permits a board to establish a policy that establishes lower minimums than provided in this legislation. Sponsored by Senator Ed Maloney and Representative Linda Chapa LaVia, this bill becomes effective immediately.

ICCTA last achieved increasing the minimum required bidding thresholds in 1998 when inflation factors established the \$10,000 and \$15,000 amounts respectively. Rapidly increasing education and construction inflation factors were used to determine new thresholds. ICCTA protected the local control authority of boards by including provisions in the new law that allow boards to establish policies that set lower bidding thresholds than allowed in this legislation.

The pertinent sections of the bill are stated as follows:

"To award all contracts for purchase of supplies, materials or work involving an expenditure in excess of \$25,000 or a lower amount as required by board policy ~~\$10,000~~ to the lowest responsible bidder ..."; and

"All competitive bids for contracts involving an expenditure in excess of \$25,000 or a lower amount as required by board policy ~~\$10,000~~ must be sealed by the bidder and must be opened by a member or employee of the board at a public bid opening at which the contents of the bids must be announced."; and

"j) contracts for repair, maintenance, remodeling, renovation, or construction, or a single project involving an expenditure not to exceed \$50,000 ~~\$15,000~~ and not involving a change or increase in the size, type, or extent of an existing facility;"

Senate Bill 2690 (Maloney / Yarbrough) -- **Emergency use of community college facilities**
ICCTA Position: SUPPORT
Status: Signed into law as Public Act 95-0997

SB 2690 makes a technical change to provide that the board of trustees of a community college district has the power to make the buildings of a community college available for emergency purposes not only to civil defense entities but also 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 (previously, the board has the power to make the buildings of a community college available for use as civil defense shelters for all persons and to cooperate with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local organizations for civil defense, and federal agencies concerned with civil defense in all matters). This Act becomes effective immediately.

For more information, contact ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282or iccta@communitycolleges.org.