

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

March 4, 2005

The 94th Illinois General Assembly has completed its first month with the passing of the deadline for the introduction of bills. All House and Senate committees have been organized and are conducting hearings on the 6,183 bills that were filed.

On February 16, Gov. Rod Blagojevich delivered his proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2006 to a joint session of the General Assembly. The Governor has proposed the same level of funding in FY 2006 for community colleges as they received in FY 2005. State funding for universities would also remain the same in FY06 as it was in FY05.



Bills of Interest to Community Colleges

The following is a listing of bills with ICCTA staff-recommended positions (support, oppose or monitor). The ICCTA Board of Representatives will consider these staff recommendations at its March 11-12 meeting in Lisle.

House Bill 152 **Freedom of Information Act - Delays (Froehlich)**

ICCTA Position: **OPPOSE**

Amends the Freedom of Information Act. Authorizes a court to award reasonable attorney fees and costs and assess a fine not to exceed \$1,000 if it finds that a public body denied or delayed access to a public record on improper or unreasonable grounds or for the sole purpose of delaying access without good cause. **HB 152 has been held in committee.**

HB 158 **Property Tax Cap - Changes CPI to ECI (Eddy)**

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code. Provides that "extension limitation" means (a) the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Employment Cost Index or, upon referendum approval, the Consumer Price Index during the 12-month calendar year preceding the levy year, or (b) the rate increase approved by the voters. Defines "Employment Cost Index" as the Employment Cost Index for total compensation for civilian, state and local government workers published by the U.S. Department of Labor. Sets forth referendum procedures to allow for the calculation of the extension limitation based upon the CPI.

HB 545 **Student Voter Registration (Black)**

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Permits an election authority to consider specified factors when determining the residence of a college student applying for voter registration.

HB 581 **College Payments by Credit Card (Feigenholtz)**

ICCTA Position: **MONITOR**

Provides that any unit of local government and any community college district that has the authority to accept the payment of funds for any purpose shall (currently, "is authorized, but not required to") accept payment by credit card. Makes corresponding changes. Preempts home rule. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

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HB 715 Student Voter Registration (LaVia)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Election Code. Requires each public university and college in Illinois, at the beginning of each academic year, to ask each student who is an Illinois registered voter if the student wishes to change his or her voter registration address. If so, requires the school to submit those changes to the appropriate election authorities electronically. Requires election authorities to accept such changes of student address and waives any signature requirement for a change of address with respect to those students.

HB 718 Energy Conservation - Colleges and Universities (Osterman)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that a unit of local government, public university, or public community college may enter into a guaranteed energy savings contract if it finds that the amount it would spend on the energy conservation measures recommended in the proposal would not exceed the amount to be saved in either energy or operational costs, or both, within a 20-year period (currently, "within a 10-year period") from the date of installation, if the recommendations in the proposal are followed.

HB 724 Community College Board Elections (Granberg)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Makes a technical change in the Public Community College Act concerning the election of board of trustee members.

HB 750 / School Funding Reform (Miller)

(Also Senate Bill 750 – Meeks)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides for school funding reform initiatives that were advanced last year. This bill contains content and is filed as a mechanism to continue conversations.

HB 972 Capital Projects Continuing Appropriations (Granberg)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the Capital Project Continuing Appropriation Act. Provides a continuing appropriation from the General Revenue Fund for certain capital projects that have been begun or authorized but are not funded in the state budget as it becomes law. Requires certification of the amount of the continuing appropriation by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. Authorizes GOMB to direct reimbursement of the General Revenue Fund from other sources of funding that may become available. Amends the State Budget Law to require the Governor to include in the proposed budget funding for certain ongoing and newly authorized capital projects.

HB 1041 Property Tax Referendum Disclosure on Ballot (Franks)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that the ballot question concerning increasing or decreasing a rate limit shall include the purpose for the rate change and shall reference the resolution of the taxing district adopting the rate change. Provides that the ballot shall have printed thereon, but not as part of the proposition submitted, an estimate of the approximate amount to be levied upon a residence in the taxing district with a market value of \$100,000 under the current rate and under the proposed rate.

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.

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HB 1057 Open Meetings Act - Definition (Flider)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Redefines a "meeting" to include gatherings, whether in person or by telephone call, electronic means, or other means of interactive communication, of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business (now, "a gathering of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business").

HB 1361 Energy Management Reporting Requirement (McCarthy)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires each public university and community college district to submit an annual report to the Illinois Board of Higher Education or Illinois Community College Board detailing the university's or district's plan and progress for demand-side energy management. Provides that this report must be posted on the university's or district's Internet website, if any. Requires the IBHE and ICCB to publish on their Internet websites a comparison of demand-side energy management programs so a user can easily identify which energy management programs are most effective.

HB 1373 Community College Shell Bill (McCarthy)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Public Community College Act. Makes a technical change in a section concerning state grants. This is an ICCB shell bill for future use.

HB 1374 Equalization Grant Formula (McCarthy)

(Also **SB 472 – Trotter**)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT (provisional)

Amends the Public Community College Act to make changes concerning equalization grants to community college districts. Provides that equalization grants shall be distributed to districts based upon the higher of (i) an EAV-based equalization calculation using the equalized assessed valuation of property within the district or (ii) a PTE-based equalization calculation using the property tax extension within the district. This ICCB bill is intended to be advanced only if an appropriate level of state funding is available.

HB 1461 Energy Conservation Plan (Flider)

ICCTA POSITION: MONITOR

Requires each public university and community college district to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for energy conservation at the university or community college by January 1, 2007.

HB 1474 City College of Chicago Collective Bargaining (Delgado)

ICCTA Position: OPPOSE

Provides that the collective bargaining between the City Colleges of Chicago and an exclusive representative of its employees may include certain subjects. Removes certain management rights gained by the City Colleges of Chicago in the 1993 Chicago school reform initiative.

HB 1487 Faculty Member Appointment to ICCB (McCarthy)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that beginning July 1, 2005, one of the 11 members appointed to the ICCB by the Governor must be a faculty member at an Illinois public community college. This bill is an initiative of the Illinois Federation of Teachers.

HB 2515 Transfer Courses Posted on the Web (Schock)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Requires IBHE 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 (see HB 2534).

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HB 2534 Appropriation for Transfer Course Initiative (Schock)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Appropriates \$350,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the IBHE for a course transferability program created in HB 2515.

HB 2570 Community College Fund Transfers (Phelps)

(Also SB 1836 – Althoff)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that a community college district may, by proper resolution of the board following a public hearing set by the board or chairperson of the board, permanently transfer moneys from the Working Cash Fund to the fund of the district most in need of the funds being transferred so long as the aggregate amount of transfers from the working cash fund in any fiscal year does not exceed 90% of the maximum amount credited to the working cash fund during the fiscal year.

HB 3686 ICCTA Shell Bill (McCarthy)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Public Community College Act. Make a technical change in a section concerning nominating board of trustee members. This is an ICCTA shell bill available for future use if necessary.

HB 3720 Construction Bidding Preferences in District (Lyons)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Public Community College Act to provide that in awarding contracts involving an expenditure in excess of \$10,000, the board of trustees of a community college district shall comply with the same requirements that apply to the awarding of state contracts under the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act. Provides that at least 5% less than the percentage preference given under the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act shall be established as a goal to be awarded to businesses located within the community college district. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

HB 3722 Transfer of GED Functions to ICCB (Brady)

(Also SB 463 – Maloney)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

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

HB 3869 Career Pathways Partnership (Myers)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT (if amended)

Requires the IBHE, in consultation with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, to develop a regional education and career pathways partnership program to target high-wage jobs in key economic sectors and address business and industry needs by providing employers with a well-prepared workforce. Provides that after the program is developed, but no later than January 1, 2007, the Board shall file a report with the General Assembly describing the program and estimating the cost of the program. Provides that the Board may not implement the program until after this report has been filed and funding to implement the program has been appropriated. ICCTA is recommending that the bill be amended to include ICCB in consultation.

SB 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.

SB 131 Baccalaureate Degrees at Harper College (Garrett)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that the Board of Trustees of William Rainey Harper Community College may create a pilot baccalaureate program under which the district may establish and offer bachelor's degrees in two fields of study if certain conditions are met, including requiring (i) that the degree programs not compete with any nearby public university, (ii) that the college has identified and documented unmet workforce needs, (iii) that the degree programs not require any additional funding from local taxes or the state, (iv) that the ICCB and IBHE approve the offering of the degree programs, and (v) that the pilot program expire four years after the initial offering of the degree programs, unless otherwise extended by law. **SB 131 is in a Senate subcommittee for study.**

SB 226 Open Meetings Act - 72 Hours Notice (Cullerton)

ICCTA Position: OPOUSE

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Requires that public bodies with websites maintained by their own staff must post on their websites the following information, for the specified periods, with respect to their meetings: (I) the agenda of a regular meeting, until the meeting is conducted; (ii) the annual schedule of regular meetings, until public notice of another schedule is approved; (iii) notice of a regular meeting, until the meeting is conducted; and (iv) minutes of an open meeting, for at least 60 days after posting. Changes the deadline for any type of public notice of the agenda of a regular meeting from 48 to 72 hours before the meeting.

SB 445 Limited Use of Social Security Numbers (Martinez)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Prohibits private and public universities, 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. Provides criminal penalties.

SB 463 Transfer of GED Functions to ICCB (Maloney)

(Also HB 3722- 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 under the School Code to the Illinois Community College Board. **SB 463 is on 2nd reading in the Senate.**

SB 472 Equalization Funding Formula (Trotter)

(Also HB 1373 – McCarthy)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT (provisional)

Amends the Public Community College Act. Makes changes concerning equalization grants to community college districts. Provides that equalization grants shall be distributed to districts based upon the higher of (I) an EAV-based equalization calculation using the equalized assessed valuation of property within the district or (ii) a PTE-based equalization calculation using the property tax extension within the district. This ICCB bill is intended to be advanced only if an appropriate level of state funding is available.

SB 750 School Funding Reform (Meeks)

(Also HB 750 – Miller)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides for school funding reform initiatives that were advanced last year. This bill contains content and is filed as a mechanism to continue conversations.

SB 1399 ICCB FY 2006 Budget (Trotter)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Makes appropriations for the ordinary and contingent expenses of ICCB for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005.

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SB 1484 Property Tax / Income Tax Swap (Winkel)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides 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. Additionally provides additional state grant funding for universities and community colleges.

SB 1487 SURS – Restoration of Two Years of Sick Leave Credit (Clayborne)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that an employee is entitled to receive service credit for up to 2 years (now, up to one year) of unused sick leave.

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 IBHE, for the public institutions of higher education (now, under the Executive Inspector General appointed by the Governor).

SB 1836 Transfer Working Cash Funds (Althoff)

(Also HB 2570 – Phelps)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that a community college district may, by proper resolution of the board following a public hearing set by the board or chairperson of the board, permanently transfer moneys from the Working Cash Fund to the fund of the district most in need of the funds being transferred so long as the aggregate amount of transfers from the working cash fund in any fiscal year does not exceed 90% of the maximum amount credited to the working cash fund during the fiscal year.

SB 1857 Open Meetings Act - Review (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.

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 representatives as members.

**☞ ICCTA Lobby Day is May 4 –
call 1-800-454-2282 to register today ☞**