

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

May 27, 2009

The Illinois General Assembly is conducting business in what is scheduled to be the final week of the spring 2009 legislative session. Several major issues dominate the remaining days of the session, including several income tax increase proposals, approval of a state budget, public pension system reforms, and possible ethics reforms.

Last week lawmakers approved a \$29 billion capital construction program funded mostly by fee increases, expanding lottery sales, and legalizing video gaming. The capital program will provide community colleges with \$357 million in state construction funds if approved by the Governor. Final adjournment for the session is scheduled for May 31.

During the past few weeks, several bills affecting community colleges have been passed by both houses of the General Assembly and will be sent to the Governor for his consideration. Those bills are listed below.

NEW INCOME TAX PROPOSAL

While Gov. Quinn recently modified his proposal to increase the current 3% Illinois income tax rate to 4.5%, **Senate Bill 750** (sponsored by Senator James Meeks) passed the Senate Education Committee and is generating some attention. SB 750 increases the current 3% income tax rate to 5% and makes significant changes to tax and school funding:

- The bill reduces reliance on property taxes to fund schools by doubling the Illinois residential property tax credit.
- The Invest in Illinois Fund is created and funded with \$1 billion each year to provide funding for debt service and fees on bonds for capital projects, such as roads and schools, throughout the state.
- The bill also mandates a \$300 million annual appropriation (indexed for inflation) for grants to institutions of higher education.
- Increases for early childhood education are phased in, from \$45 million in FY 2010 to \$180 million in FY 2013.
- Increases to the foundation level are phased in, raising it to \$8,410 over four years (from \$5,959). The foundation level and supplemental General State Aid (Poverty Grants) are automatically tied to increases to the Employment Cost Index to control for inflation.
- Doubles the special education personnel reimbursement rate.
- Maintains and expands grants for high-poverty schools.
- Funds teacher and principal mentoring programs.
- Provides funding for science, math and technology programs.
- The personal income tax is increased to 5% (from 3%).
- Expands the sales tax base to include only what Illinois' neighbor states tax.
- A Family Tax Credit is provided to low and middle income taxpayers to help offset the income tax increase.
- Triples the Earned Income Tax Credit to offset any tax increase on the working poor.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATION APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Bill 336 **Higher Education Campus Security (Pritchard)**

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Amends the Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008. Provides that the inter-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional campus violence prevention plan shall also include coordination and communication with surrounding governmental agencies and school districts. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

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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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HB 437 Community College Health/Safety Tax Bonds (Bieser)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Allows Lewis and Clark and Southwestern Illinois community college districts to levy a tax or issue bonds for alteration or repair of physical facilities for certain health, safety, energy conservation, environmental protection, and handicapped accessibility purposes. Removes a provision allowing the district to borrow money not in excess of \$4.5 million in the aggregate at any one time. Provides that the district may borrow money if, among other conditions, a certified estimate of a licensed architect or engineer stating the estimated amount (instead of stating the estimated amount of not less than \$25,000) has been secured by the district.

HB 461 Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act (Jakobsson)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Provides that each publisher of college textbooks shall disclose, at that time and in writing, to the faculty member or, if applicable, the other adopting entity in charge of selecting textbooks for courses taught at a public institution of higher education (1) the copyright dates of the three previous editions of the textbook, if any; (2) a description of the substantial content changes made between the current edition of the textbook or supplemental materials and the previous edition, if any; and (3) the existence and price of alternative formats of the textbook or supplemental materials. Provides that publishers of college textbooks are required to offer all bundled textbooks for sale as individual unbundled textbooks and supplemental materials. Contains a provision concerning institutional autonomy and academic freedom. Effective July 1, 2010.

HB 615 Cosmetology School Refunds (Coulson)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, and Nail Technology Act of 1985. In a provision concerning school refund policies, provides that refunds shall be in accordance with the requirements of the school's regional or national accrediting agency, if any, or rules that the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation shall promulgate. Effective immediately.

HB 725 Sign Language Requirements (Watson)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the School Code to encourage school boards to implement American Sign Language (ASL) courses into school foreign language curriculum. Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. In provisions concerning admissions requirements, provides that ASL may constitute a foreign language for the purposes of meeting those requirements. Allows the governing board of each public university to award academic credit for the successful completion of any ASL course offered or approved by the university, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the university.

HB 862 Community College Electronic Bidding (Black)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

This ICCTA-initiated legislation provides that electronic bid submissions shall be considered a sealed document for competitive bid requests if they are received at the designated office by the time and date set for receipt for bids. Requires electronic bid submissions to be authorized by specific language in the bid documents in order to be considered and to be opened in accordance with electronic security measures in effect at the community college at the time of opening. Provides that unless the electronic submission procedures provide for a secure receipt, the vendor assumes the risk of premature disclosure due to submission in an unsealed form.

HB 898 Faculty / Staff Freedom of Expression (Jakobsson)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that all faculty and staff members of a university or community college are free to communicate their views on any matter of private or public concern to any member of the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of government, state or federal, without notice to or prior approval of the university or community college, so long as they do not represent that they are speaking for or on behalf of the university or community college.

HB 899 Political Paraphernalia on Campus (Jacobsson)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that a university or community college may not prohibit any faculty or staff member from (1) displaying political buttons, stickers, or patches while on university or community college property, provided that such display by any member of the faculty in an instructional setting is for a purpose relevant to the subject of instruction; (2) attending a partisan political rally, provided that the employee is not on duty; or (3) displaying a partisan bumper sticker on his or her motor vehicle.

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HB 972 Veterans Day Moment of Silence (Chapa La Via)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that if a public school, university, or community college holds any type of event at the institution on November 11, Veterans' Day, the governing board of the institution shall require a moment of silence at that event to recognize Veterans' Day.

HB 1013 Green Buildings Act (Boland)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the Green Buildings Act to require that state-funded building construction and major renovations of existing state-owned facilities must meet certain energy and environmental standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDS) program rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, or an equivalent rating system. Permits waiver of the standards by the Illinois Capital Development Board or another agency. Specifies the criteria for waivers. Requires the Board to analyze and evaluate the Act's green building standards after the earlier of five years or the completion of 10 Board green projects.

HB 1079 Dual Credit Quality (Eddy)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Requires the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education to develop policies to permit multiple appropriate measures using differentiated assessment for granting eligibility for dual credit to students (a dual credit course being a college course taken by a high school student for credit at both the college and high school level). Sets forth provisions concerning policies to protect the academic standing of students who are not successful in dual credit courses, standards that institutions of higher learning must meet if offering dual credit courses, oversight and review of dual credit programs, and a statewide longitudinal data system to identify high school students who participate in dual credit courses and track their success in high school and postsecondary education.

HB 2235 Faculty and Administrators Salary Reports (Davis)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the School Code and various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Requires the governing board of each school district, university, and community college to report to the State Board of Education or IBHE, on or before July 1 of each year, the base salary and benefits of all administrators and teachers or faculty employed by the school district, university, or community college district.

HB 2253 Community College Police Appointments (Pritchard)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Removes provisions allowing the board of trustees of a community college district to appoint persons to be members of the security department of the community college. Allows instead for the appointment of sworn and non-sworn members of the community college district police department, department of public safety, or security department. Sets forth requirements and other provisions concerning both law enforcement officers and non-law enforcement officers. Allows the board of trustees to establish regulations that are determined to be necessary for the protection of community college students, staff, visitors, properties, and interests or for the proper maintenance, operation, or development of any community college or colleges under the jurisdiction of the board and to prescribe fines and penalties for the violation of these regulations.

HB 2352 Student Credit Cards (Joyce)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Identical to **SB 1524**, this bill creates the Credit Card Marketing Act of 2009. Requires that institutions of higher education that enter into an agreement to market credit cards to students pursuing an education, or that allow their student groups, alumni associations, or affiliates to enter into agreements must make a financial education program available to all students. Contains provisions requiring institutions of higher education to disclose certain agreements with credit card companies. Prohibits certain gifts and inducements. Prohibits the distribution of personally identifiable student information for the purpose of marketing credit cards. Provides that the Attorney General may enforce the Act.

Senate Bill 204 Emergency Building Use (Demuzio)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires (instead of allows) a board of trustees of a community college district to make mutually agreed buildings of the college available for emergency purposes, 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. Adds a similar provision for universities. Provides that a school board shall make school buildings available for use as civil defense shelters for all persons; cooperate with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local organizations for civil defense, disaster relief organizations, and federal agencies concerned with civil defense relative thereto; cooperate with these agencies and organizations in the use of other resources, equipment, and facilities; and cooperate with these agencies and organizations in the construction of new buildings to the end that the buildings be so designed that shelter facilities may be provided.

SB 1485 Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act (Hunter)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act. Provides that when contacting or being contacted by prospective clients, each publisher of college textbooks shall disclose, at that time and in writing, to the faculty member or, if applicable, the other adopting entity in charge of selecting textbooks for courses taught at a public institution of higher education (1) the copyright dates of the 3 previous editions of the textbook, if any; (2) a description of the substantial content changes made between the current edition of the textbook or supplemental materials and the previous edition, if any; and (3) the existence and price of alternative formats of the textbook or supplemental materials. Provides that publishers of college textbooks are required to offer all bundled textbooks for sale as individual unbundled textbooks and supplemental materials. Contains a provision concerning institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

SB 1624 Higher Education Veterans Coordinator (Kotowski)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires all public colleges and universities to conduct a survey of the services and programs that are provided for veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families, at each of their respective campuses; sets forth the survey requirements. Requires each public college and university to appoint a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services on each campus of the college or university that has an onsite, daily, full-time student headcount above 1,000 students; sets forth requirements concerning the coordinator. Provides that IBHE and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs may issue a best practices report to highlight those programs and services that are most beneficial to veterans and active duty military personnel. Sets forth additional provisions concerning a college's or university's best efforts and the fiscal impact of programs and services.

SB 1796 Re-Enrollment of High School Dropouts (Lightford)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Establishes the Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education (IHOPE) Program to develop a comprehensive system in this state to re-enroll significant numbers of high school dropouts in programs that will enable them to earn their high school diploma. Requires the State Board of Education to implement and administer the IHOPE Program. Provides that the IHOPE Program shall award grants to educational service regions and the Chicago school district from appropriated funds to assist in establishing instructional programs and other services designed to re-enroll high school dropouts. Provides that the IHOPE Program shall provide incentive grant funds for regional offices of education and the Chicago school district to develop partnerships with school districts, public community colleges, and community groups to build comprehensive plans to re-enroll high school dropouts in their regions or districts. Sets forth requirements for programs funded through the IHOPE Program. Provides for an IHOPE Plan, sub-grants, how funding is distributed, state aid, categories of programming, the evaluation of programs, and rules.

SB 1828 Longitudinal Educational Data System (Stearns)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act. Requires the State Board of Education, ICCB, and IBHE to jointly establish and maintain a longitudinal data system by entering into one or more agreements that link early learning, elementary, and secondary school student unit records with institution of higher learning student unit records.

SB 1883

IBHE Baccalaureate Program Grants (Burzynski)

ICCTA Position:

SUPPORT

Provides that IBHE shall implement and administer the Collaborative Baccalaureate Degree Development Grant Program, to help deliver upper division courses and bachelor's degree programs offered by bachelor's degree-granting colleges and universities at a location geographically convenient to student populations currently being served by existing public community colleges. Provides that a grant application must be jointly submitted by one public community college and one or more public or private, not-for-profit, four-year colleges or universities. Provides that IBHE shall require that each partnering institution (both the community college and the four-year institution or institutions) must also invest in the partnership.

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