

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

June 3, 2008

The Illinois General Assembly completed its spring session several hours before a midnight, May 31 deadline for adjournment. The session focused on the creation of a Fiscal Year 2009 state budget, proposals for a capital construction program, and development of new revenues to pay for state spending. Lawmakers approved an FY09 budget on the final day of session and will send the measure to the Governor for his action. November 12 has been scheduled as the date for legislators to return to Springfield for the fall veto session.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET

An FY09 state budget was approved along partisan lines, totaling \$29.1 billion in General Revenue funds (an increase of about \$2.1 billion over the prior year). The approved budget includes **a \$15 million increase (about 5 percent) in state funding for community colleges**. Critics claim that the General Assembly-approved budget exceeds revenue expectations for FY09 and therefore is not balanced. Supporters of the approved budget maintain that the Governor can manage this budget by selectively vetoing and reducing line items to balance it. Budget highlights include:

- Community colleges receive a 5 percent or \$15 million increase above FY 2008 state funding.
- State universities receive a 2.8 percent operations increase.
- K - 12 schools receive funds to increase the per pupil foundation funding level by \$225 to \$5,959 per pupil.
- No new revenue sources were approved. Although the Senate had passed measures that provided new revenues from: 1) gaming expansion; 2) a \$16 billion pension bonding plan; 3) leasing the Lottery; and 4) authority to sweep" funds, the House did not consider the proposals .
- No capital appropriations were approved. Although the Senate approved a \$34.1 billion public works and capital spending bill, the House did not call the measure for a vote.
- The Governor has authority to selectively reduce this budget or veto it in its entirety.

LEGISLATION APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The following is a listing of legislation of interest to community colleges that was passed by the General Assembly and will be sent to the Governor for his action. Numerous additional bills impacting community colleges remain on legislative calendars and can still be considered later.

House Bill 4189 **Ethics Act – Community College Local Control** (Pritchard / Maloney)
ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**
Status: **Passed both Houses**

This high-priority ICCTA legislation clarifies that community colleges are units of local government (rather than state agencies) covered under the local government provisions of the Ethics Act. The bill also clarifies that, with respect to the State Employees Ethics Act, community colleges are under the jurisdiction of local ethics commissions, not the State Executive Inspector General.

HB 3677 **Sexual Assault Awareness Programs** (Jakobsson / Martinez)
ICCTA Position: **MONITOR**
Status: **Passed both Houses**

Amends the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act, various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois, and the Public Community College Act. Requires each public university and community college to provide some form of sexual assault awareness education to all incoming students, whether through a seminar, online training, or some other way of informing students. No funding was provided for implementation of these programs.

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HB 4567 Illinois State Scholars Study (Brady / Holmes)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Status: Passed both Houses

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to conduct a study detailing in 2008 and 2009 (1) the number of students designated State Scholars, (2) the number of State Scholars who applied to state universities, and (3) the number of State Scholars who were denied admittance into the state universities to which they applied. Requires the Commission to submit a report to the General Assembly concerning the findings of the study and the Commission's recommendations on how to make state universities more accessible to State Scholars.

HB 5074 Elimination of Obsolete Board Reorganization Language (Black / Demuzio)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed both Houses

This ICCTA-initiated legislation eliminates obsolete election language from the Illinois Public Community College Act. The eliminated language refers to the nonpartisan local community college board elections that occurred in November of odd-numbered years and the transition period that was in place to establish the current April election cycle.

House Joint Resolution 36 Creation of Dual Credit Task Force (Eddy / Righter)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Status: Passed both Houses

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education establish a task force to study issues related to dual credit. The task force shall report its findings to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2008.

SB 437 \$1,000 State Scholars Grants (Maloney / McCarthy)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed both Houses

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, each State Scholar who enrolls or is enrolled in an institution of higher learning in this state shall also receive a one-time grant of \$1,000 to be applied to tuition and mandatory fees and paid directly to the institution of higher learning. Provides that a student who has been awarded a Merit Recognition Scholarship under the Act may not be awarded a grant under the State Scholars program (although he or she may still be designated a State Scholar) and that a student who has received a grant under the State Scholar program is ineligible to receive a Merit Recognition Scholarship.

SB 1908 MAP Grant Increase (Maloney / Miller)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Status: Passed both Houses

Provides that the maximum grant amount for the Monetary Award Program must not exceed \$5,468 for FY09, \$5,968 for FY10, and \$6,468 for FY11, and each fiscal year thereafter (instead of \$4,968). Provides that the maximum grant amount for students not subject to this provision must be increased by the same percentage as any increase made by law to such provision. Removes the provision that limits the grant amount to an amount that equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters tuition and fees.

SB 2691 Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008 (Sullivan / Prichard)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed both Houses

Requires each public university, public community college, and independent, not-for-profit or for-profit higher education institution located in Illinois to (1) develop a National Incident Management System-compliant, all-hazards, emergency response plan in partnership with the institution's county or major municipal emergency management official, report the plan to this official, and have training and exercises for the plan annually at a minimum; and (2) develop an interdisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional campus violence prevention plan in partnership with the institution's county or major municipal emergency management official, report the plan to this official, and have training and exercises for the plan annually at a minimum. The program did not receive funding considerations for FY09.

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