

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

July 16, 2007

OVERTIME SESSION UPDATE

The Illinois General Assembly is continuing its marathon overtime session. The Governor has called eight Special Sessions, one after the other, requiring legislators to be in Springfield nearly every day since July 5. An exception was made when a Special Session was not called for Sunday, July 15. Lawmakers have returned to Springfield today (Monday, July 16) for another Special Session.

The Governor has authority to call the General Assembly into session by calling for a Special Session and is using this authority in an attempt to resolve the current budget impasse. A temporary one-month budget for FY 2008 was earlier approved to prevent state government from shutting down during the extended negotiations between the Governor and legislative leaders. It is widely accepted that the temporary budget will enable state government to continue operating through the first week in August. There currently appears to be no end in sight for the budget impasse.

The following are the topics for each of the eight Special Sessions that have been called through July 14, 2007:

Special Session 1: Pensions

Special Session 2: Pensions funding resolutions

Special Session 3: State Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Special Session 4: Child Support Administrative Fund

Special Session 5: State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and State Judges Retirement System (JRS)

Special Session 6: State Universities Retirement System (SURS) / grant funding for sexual assault victims assistance

Special Session 7: Supportive Living Program

Special Session 8: Senate Bill 1007 (prohibits ammunition clips holding more than 10 rounds)

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

(In addition to legislation reported in prior ICCTA *Action Alerts*)

House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 24 -- 2/3 Majority Vote for Pension Legislation (Madigan)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

House Speaker Michael Madigan recently filed House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment (HJRCA) 24, which proposes a new provision in the Legislative Article of the Illinois Constitution that would require a 2/3 "super majority" vote in each chamber for passage of a bill "that would increase the benefits of members of any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof." Adoption of the resolution requires a 3/5 majority vote in each chamber in order for the proposition to be submitted to the electorate. A 3/5 majority vote is the highest current voting requirement in the General Assembly.

Senate Bill 1446 – We Want to Learn English Initiative (Sandoval)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that the Illinois Community College Board may establish and administer a "We Want to Learn English Initiative"; that ICCB may include \$15,000,000 or less in its budget proposal for the Initiative; that if ICCB decides to disburse the funds appropriated for the Initiative, then it must disburse no less than half of the funds appropriated each fiscal year to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, immigrant social service organizations, faith-based organizations, and on-site job training programs; and that funds may be used only to provide programs that teach English to United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and other persons residing in this state who are in lawful immigration status. **SB 1446 passed both houses on July 11 and will be sent to the Governor for consideration.**



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