

February 14, 2006

The following legislative alert was prepared by the Illinois Presidents Council.

**ICCTA note:**

To send an e-mail, fax or letter to your state legislator in support of the Disadvantaged Student Success Grant, click here:

<http://capwiz.com/we/issues/alert/?alertid=8472536&type=TA>

To read Women's Employed new report on the importance of student support services, click here:

<http://www.womenemployed.org/docs/SupportServicesReport.pdf>

To view the Fact Sheet on Disadvantaged Student Success Grants, click here:

<http://www.communitycolleges.org/SSGfactsheet206.pdf>

To view the news release on Disadvantaged Student Success Grants, click here:

<http://www.communitycolleges.org/SSGrelease21406.pdf>

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We are writing to ask that you contact your state legislators about the importance of restoring the Disadvantaged Student Success Grant prior to the Illinois Senate and House appropriations committee hearings on the IBHE budget, Wednesday, February 15 (Senate), and Thursday, February 16 (House). Legislator information is attached. Women Employed will be releasing the attached report, *Investing in Success: Educational Supports for Illinois Community College Students* on Tuesday, February 14. They have prepared a press release (with a quote from the appropriate college president in the targeted media areas), talking points, and a one-pager on the Grant. All these documents are attached and may provide good talking points with legislators. Legislators will want to hear specific information about the impact of the loss of the Grant at your college and what you could do with this funding to provide the support services to help students stay in school.

The attached Excel spreadsheet lists each college and the Senate and/or House Appropriations committee member. If your college doesn't have a committee member, please either call a legislator you know or call the committee chair (Senator Mattie Hunter, chair, Senate Appropriations III Committee, 312-949-1908 or 217-782-5966; and Rep. David Miller, chair, House Higher Education Appropriations Committee, 708-201-8000 or 217-782-8087). Please note that the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) legislators are listed under the CCC district office location. Individual CCC campuses may choose any of the legislators listed for advocacy contacts.

The IBHE budget currently contains \$3 million for the Grant. We are grateful to see this funding for the Grant, which restores an important program in the community college system that at one time was funded at \$13 million. However, the Presidents' Council and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association have unanimously endorsed a level of \$7.5 million, which is the level that Women Employed is also endorsing. In today's dollars, the FY03 level of \$13 million would be worth \$16 million. Because the IBHE budget will be part of an omnibus budget bill, it's important to ask legislators to bring the importance of funding the Grant at as high a level possible to the attention of their leadership.

Christine J. Sobek, Ed.D.

Chair, Legislative Committee, Illinois Council of Public Community College Presidents

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

**February 17, 2006**

The Illinois General Assembly completed its work for the week and adjourned on Thursday afternoon, February 16. This date coincides with the deadline for the passage of most bills out of committees in the house of origin. With the exception of appropriation bills and legislation that has received extended deadlines, bills that did not advance out of committees will probably not receive further consideration. Both the House and Senate are scheduled to return to Springfield on Tuesday, February 21, to begin floor actions on bills that passed out of committees.

On Wednesday, February 15, the Governor delivered his budget message to a joint session of the General Assembly. The Governor's \$55 billion budget provides a 2% increase in state funding for higher education. The community college system would receive an overall 1.9% increase in state support, while the universities would receive a 1.1% increase. A complete analysis of the community college system budget will be available when all of the details are known. The Governor's FY 07 budget recommendations are attached for review.

## **BILLS OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

*The following is a list of bills that are still advancing through the legislative process. Many initiatives will not be considered this spring due to a limit on the number of bills (3) that each legislator will handle during the session.*

## **House Bill 4209      Harper College Baccalaureate Degree Initiative (Bassi)**

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: SECOND READING in the House**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Allows William Rainey Harper College to create a pilot baccalaureate program under which the district may establish and offer bachelor's degrees in 2 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 district identify and document unmet workforce needs, (iii) that the degree programs not require any additional funding from local taxes or the State, (iv) that the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the offering of the degree programs, and (v) that the pilot program expire 4 years after the initial offering of the degree programs, unless otherwise extended by law. Effective immediately.

HB 4221 ISAC Student Loan Sales / Interest Fees (Jakobsson)

## ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

## **THIRD READING in the House**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that if any of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's student loans are sold or transferred to a private entity, then the private entity must offer an interest rate on the loan that is the same as or lower than the Commission offered at the time of sale or transfer and must offer the same fee reduction plan that was offered by the Commission at the time of sale or transfer. Effective immediately. (*ICCTA opposes the sale of ISAC's student loan portfolio and believes that passage of this legislation would remove incentives for potential buyers.*)

**-continued -**



ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

401 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200 ■ Springfield, IL 62701-1711

401 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200 • Springfield, IL 62701-1711  
1-800-454-2282 (phone) • 217/528-8662 (fax) • [ICCTA@communitycolleges.org](mailto:ICCTA@communitycolleges.org) (e-mail)  
[www.communitycolleges.org](http://www.communitycolleges.org) (web site)

## **HB 4339 Minority Transfer Centers for Chicago and Morton Colleges (Collins)**

## ICCTA Position: MONITOR

**Status: SECOND READING in the House**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Requires ICCB to establish a 3-year pilot program under which each community college in the City Colleges of Chicago and Morton College districts must employ one person as a coordinator and one person as a recruiter to assist inner-city students in transferring to public universities in Illinois. Provides that ICCB shall provide a grant to each of these districts to fund the positions. Sets forth responsibilities of the coordinator and recruiter. Requires ICCB to study the overall success of the pilot program and report its findings to the General Assembly. Provides that after the report is filed, the General Assembly may continue the program, increase funding for the program, or expand the program to all public community colleges in the State. Effective July 1, 2006. (*ICCTA has expressed concerns that if the legislation passes without an appropriation, then the affected colleges would be subject to an unfunded mandate.*)

**HB4406 Higher Education Grant for Child Raised by a Grandparent (Jones)**

## ICCTA Position: MONITOR

**Status: SECOND READING in the House**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. For his or her first year of full-time attendance at an institution of higher learning, provides that a person is entitled to a \$1,000 grant if he or she (i) is in the legal custody of his or her grandparent and receives public aid assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code, (ii) has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and (iii) has been recommended for the grant by the principal of his or her high school.

HB 4442 Open Meetings Act - 48 Hours Notice (Hannig)

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: SECOND READING in the House**

Amends the Open Meetings Act. With respect to posting meeting notices at the public body's principal office and at the meeting's location at least 48 hours before the meeting, requires that the notices be placed in locations visible and accessible by the public at all times the notice is posted.

HB 4453 Illinois Workforce Investment Board (McKeon)

**ICCTA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**STATUS:** PASSED House 113-0; FIRST READING in the Senate

Amends the Illinois Workforce Investment Board Act. Provides that the Illinois Workforce Investment Board shall develop a method for measuring Illinois' progress in transitioning to a high-skill, high-wage, and high-productivity economy at the State, regional, and local levels. Sets forth that the Board shall develop a set of benchmarks that measure whether Illinois is developing a globally competitive workforce that is aligned with the needs of the current and emerging economy. Requires the Board to report annually on Illinois' progress on each of the benchmarks and that the Board make changes to these benchmarks as necessary to improve measurement and reporting while, at the same time, maintaining consistency across annual reports to the General Assembly. Deletes specific benchmarks set forth in the Act.

**HB 4652 Baccalaureate Completion Matching Grants Act (McCarthy)**

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: SECOND READING in the House**

Amends the Illinois Financial Assistance Act for Nonpublic Institutions of Higher Learning. Changes the short title to the Baccalaureate Completion Matching Grant Act (and makes conforming changes in the School Code). Makes changes concerning the calculation of the grant formulae and the conditions of institutional eligibility. Effective July 1, 2006. Provides that (i) the participating institution shall determine student eligibility using the federal definition for need-based student aid, defined as the estimated family contribution subtracted from the institutional cost of attendance and (ii) a student shall be eligible for assistance if the institution determines that the student has remaining need, according to information provided by the student's completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid, as applied to the federal definition for need-based student aid.

**ICCTA Position:** SUPPORT

**Status:** HELD in House Rules Committee

Amends the Public Community College Act. Allows a board of trustees to provide or contract for residential housing for students and employees. In the Article concerning building programs, removes dormitories from the definition of "facilities". Effective immediately.

HB 5269 Community College Learn English Initiative (Coulson)

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: SECOND READING in the House**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Requires ICCB to establish and administer a "We Want to Learn English Initiative" to provide resources for immigrants and refugees in Illinois to learn English in order to move towards becoming full members of American society. Provides that each fiscal year, the Board shall include in its budget proposal \$25,000,000 in funding for the Initiative. Provides that no less than half of the funds appropriated for the Initiative each fiscal year shall be disbursed to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, immigrant social service organizations, faith-based organizations, and on-site job training programs. (*Similar legislation – SB 2376, sponsored by Sandoval – is on THIRD Reading in the Senate.*)

**SB 2225** **University Remediation (Maloney)**

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: SECOND READING in the Senate**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that if a public university admits a student who needs remedial coursework, then the university must require that the student complete the remedial coursework.

**SB 2778 Higher Education Emergency Worker Attendance (Sieben)**

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status: SECOND READING in the Senate**

Amends the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job Protection Act and various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Provides that no public university or community college attendance policy or attendance policy of a faculty member thereof may in any way penalize a student who is a volunteer emergency worker for absence from class caused by the performance of his or her duties as a volunteer emergency worker. Amends the Volunteer Fire Protection Association Act. Provides that no public university or community college attendance policy or attendance policy of a faculty member thereof may in any way penalize a student who is a volunteer fire protection association member for absence from class caused by the performance of his or her duties as a volunteer fire protection association member. Effective immediately.

## House Joint Resolution 24

## Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy)

## **ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

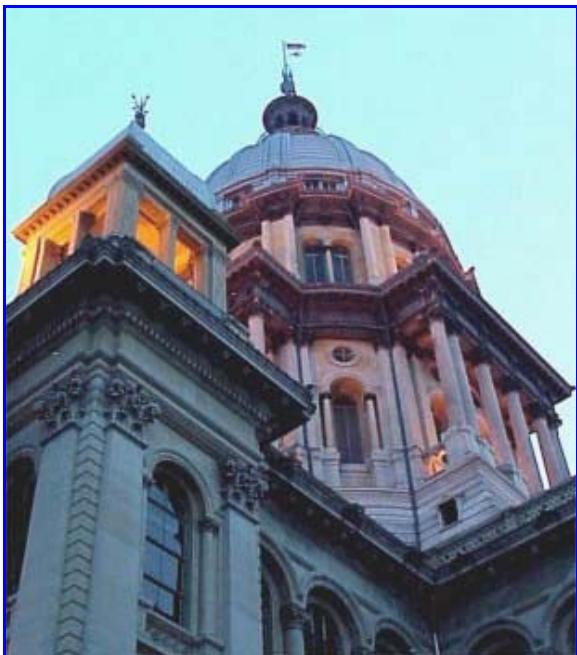
**Status:** Passed House 113-0; HELD in Senate Rules Committee

Creates a Joint Task Force on Community Colleges to review the present community college system and its future.

☛ Register for Community College Lobby Day on March 29 --  
call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 ☛

**I      C      C      T      A**

Illinois Community College Trustees Association  
**LOBBY DAY**



**ICCTA LOBBY DAY**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2006**  
**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

11 AM: ICCTA Executive Committee meeting  
Harry L. Crisp Community College Center

12 Noon: Legislative briefing (includes lunch)  
Harry L. Crisp Community College Center

1 PM: Legislative visits  
State Capitol Complex

*(See other side for directions and hotel information)*

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**2006 ICCTA LOBBY DAY REGISTRATION FORM**

*All Lobby Day activities are **FREE**. Advance registration is required to make certain we are able to accommodate everyone for lunch.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs? Please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this completed registration form by Monday, March 20, 2006 to:

Illinois Community College Trustees Association  
401 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701-1711  
217-528-8662 (fax)  
[iccta@communitycolleges.org](mailto:iccta@communitycolleges.org) (e-mail)

• *For more information, call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 •*

## **Directions to the Harry L. Crisp Community College Center**

*(4th and Capitol)*

The Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center is located two blocks east of the State Capitol and one block north of the Executive Mansion at 401 East Capitol Avenue in downtown Springfield.

### **From the North and East:**

From I-55 take Clear Lake exit.

From I-72 continue west on Clear Lake, which becomes Jefferson Street, turn south (left) on Fifth Street, and then Turn west (right) on Capitol Avenue for 1 block.

### **From the South and West:**

From I-55 or US-36, take Sixth Street exit traveling north, turn west (left) on Capitol Avenue for 2 blocks.

## **Hotel information**

The following hotels have rooms available on March 28 & 29:

Mansion View Inn & Suites - \$79.95 per night  
529 S. 4<sup>th</sup> • 217-544-7411

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel (formerly the Renaissance Hotel)- \$89  
701 E. Adams • 217-544-8800  
(Call or email Lisa Nardi at [lnardi@presidentabrahamlincolnhotel.com](mailto:lnardi@presidentabrahamlincolnhotel.com) to receive this special rate)

Springfield Hilton - \$159 per night  
600 E. Adams • 217-789-1530

The following budget summary was prepared by the Illinois Community College Board.

ICCB's website also includes a link to the Governor's FY07 budget recommendation for community colleges:

<http://www.iccb.state.il.us/HTML/pdf/sysfin/fy07GovBudgetRecommendations.pdf>

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From: Geoffrey Obrzut  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 4:33 PM  
To: PRESIDENT List  
Subject: Governor's Budget Message

Governor Blagojevich gave his Fiscal Year 2007 budget address to the General Assembly today. I am pleased to report that the Governor's budget includes an overall 1.9% increase for the Illinois Community College System. Most notable are increases in the Base Operating and Equalization Grants. The Base Operating Grant was increased due to a \$5.4 million reallocation of the former Funding Impact Grant line into the Base Operating line, plus a 1% (\$2.033 million) increase. The Funding Impact Grant was in its third and final year this year and no longer exists. The Equalization Grant was increased by 1%, or more than \$766,000. The budget also includes \$3 million for the Student Success Grant, while funding for the Workforce and P-16 grants remain at their current FY 2006 levels. Funding for Adult Education and Family Literacy also shows an increase in the Governor's budget of 2% (\$684,800). The Career and Technical Education grant line also increases by 2% (\$238,200). The Governor's budget also includes \$50 million for the replacement of temporary buildings on community college campuses, part of the original commitment for a total of \$250 million for these projects. There may also be capital renewal funds available. The General Assembly will still have input on the budget with member initiatives and possible adjustments in other line items.

As you are aware, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget has proposed some form of shared services that could affect the ICCB and other higher education agencies staff. At this time, the proposed services have been pared back and the ICCB budget and operations staff will remain intact, though some may be working on different projects.

Another topic of which you are aware is the sale of student loans from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to a private sector investment company. At this time, we have no direct knowledge that such a sale is taking place, or what form that sale may take.

I am testifying this afternoon before the Senate Appropriations III Committee on the ICCB budget, as are all the other higher education agencies and universities. We are still analyzing the Governor's budget proposal and will certainly communicate any details to you that will impact our community colleges.

Please feel free to contact me or Randy Barnette if you have any comments, questions, or concerns on the budget or other topics.

Geoffrey S. Obrzut  
President/Chief Executive Officer  
Illinois Community College Board  
401 East Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62701-1711  
voice: (217) 785-0013  
fax: (217) 785-7495  
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**Illinois Community College Board**  
**Table 1**  
**Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Grants**

<b><u>Grants</u></b>	<b>FY 2006</b>		<b>FY 2007</b>		<i>Difference from FY2006</i>	<i>Percent Difference</i>
	<b><u>Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	<b>Governors</b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>		
Base Operating Grant	\$ 191,837,100	\$ 199,318,000	\$ 7,480,900	\$ 7,480,900	\$ 7,480,900	3.9%
Small College Grant <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 780,000	\$ 840,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	7.7%
Funding Formula Impact Grant	\$ 5,507,500	\$ 0	\$ (5,507,500)	\$ (5,507,500)	\$ (5,507,500)	-100.0%
Equalization Grant	\$ 76,617,500	\$ 77,383,700	\$ 766,200	\$ 766,200	\$ 766,200	1.0%
City Colleges of Chicago Grant	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
<b>Unrestricted Grants</b>	<b>\$ 289,742,100</b>	<b>\$ 292,541,700</b>	<b>\$ 2,799,600</b>	<b>\$ 2,799,600</b>	<b>\$ 2,799,600</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Workforce Development Grant	\$ 3,311,300	\$ 3,311,300	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
P-16 Initiative Grant	\$ 2,279,000	\$ 2,279,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Disadvantaged Student Success Grant	\$ 0	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	—
Retirees Health Insurance Grant	\$ 626,600	\$ 626,600	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
<b>Restricted Grants</b>	<b>\$ 6,216,900</b>	<b>\$ 9,216,900</b>	<b>\$ 3,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,000,000</b>	<b>48.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>\$ 295,959,000</b>	<b>\$ 301,758,600</b>	<b>\$ 5,799,600</b>	<b>\$ 5,799,600</b>	<b>\$ 5,799,600</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Statewide Initiative &amp; Other Grants</b>						
East St. Louis Higher Education Center	\$ 1,589,100	\$ 1,589,100	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Lincoln's Challenge Grant	\$ 120,100	\$ 120,100	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Special Legislative Grants	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	—
<b>Total Statewide Initiatives &amp; Other Grants</b>	<b>\$ 2,309,200</b>	<b>\$ 2,309,200</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 298,268,200</b>	<b>\$ 304,067,800</b>	<b>\$ 5,799,600</b>	<b>\$ 5,799,600</b>	<b>\$ 5,799,600</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> The requested amount includes the additional small college grant award for those districts that qualify.

**Illinois Community College Board**

**FISCAL YEAR 2007**  
**ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET**

	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<i>Difference</i>	
	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Governor's Recommendations</u>	<i>from FY 2006</i>	<i>Percent Difference</i>
Basic Grants	\$ 15,829,600	\$ 16,146,200	\$ 316,600	2.0%
Public Assistance Grants	\$ 7,922,100	\$ 8,080,500	\$ 158,400	2.0%
Performance Grants	\$ 10,491,800	\$ 10,701,600	\$ 209,800	2.0%
GED Testing Administration	\$ 1,147,600	\$ 1,307,600	\$ 160,000	13.9%
Total State Resources	<u>\$ 35,391,100</u>	<u>\$ 34,928,300</u>	<u>\$ (462,800)</u>	<u>-1.3%</u>
Federal Grants	\$ 29,867,200	\$ 25,000,000	\$ (4,867,200)	-16.3%
Total	<u>\$ 65,258,300</u>	<u>\$ 59,928,300</u>	<u>\$ (5,330,000)</u>	<u>-8.2%</u>

	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<i>Difference</i>	
	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Governor's Recommendations</u>	<i>from FY 2006</i>	<i>Percent Difference</i>
Grants to Colleges & Universities	\$ 11,911,700	\$ 12,149,900	\$ 238,200	2.0%
Total State Resources	<u>\$ 11,911,700</u>	<u>\$ 12,149,900</u>	<u>\$ 238,200</u>	<u>2.0%</u>
Federal Perkins III Grant	\$ 22,207,100	\$ 23,607,100	\$ 1,400,000	6.3%
Total	<u>\$ 34,118,800</u>	<u>\$ 35,757,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,638,200</u>	<u>4.8%</u>

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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March 10, 2006

*The Illinois General Assembly is now at the halfway point of the spring 2006 legislative session. March 3 marked the deadline for bills to pass their house of origin. House bills that have passed out of the House will now receive consideration by the Senate, and Senate bills that have passed out of the Senate will be considered by the House. Both the House and Senate will return to Springfield on March 14 to finish the remaining four weeks of the session.*

*This year's session -- the second year of the 94th Illinois General Assembly -- continues to be low key. Legislative leaders have set April 7 as their final adjournment date, which is about seven weeks earlier than the typical end-of-May adjournment time. This is due primarily to the fact that 2006 is a statewide election year. There may also be a desire to clear the Capitol Building early so that new heating and air conditioning systems can be installed in the General Assembly chambers prior to the fall veto session.*

*Much of this year's budget was determined a year ago, when a two-year partial "pension holiday" of public employee pension contributions was approved. Approximately \$1.2 billion in state funds that would have been directed to the state's public pension funds (including the State Universities Retirement System) will instead be used for the state's budget for ordinary and contingent expenses. According to the Taxpayer's Federation of Illinois, "Gov. Rod Blagojevich's budget plan for fiscal year 2007 increases spending above more than \$2 billion in additional available revenues and requires him to resort to calling for additional tax increases on businesses. Those issues provide the bulk of controversy for the remainder of the spring."*

*The March 7 Taxpayer's Federation of Illinois' Report from the Capitol notes that the Governor has proposed the following increases in business taxes:*

- 1.1 cent tax on fuel stored in Illinois, but shipped out of state – \$45 million
- Expansion of the tax on computer software to licensed agreements – \$48 million
- Business loss audit periods – \$10 million
- Elimination of tax credit on landfills producing energy – \$25 million
- Expansion of taxation to companies with off shore operations – \$10 million
- Increase in the tax on cigars from 18 to 30 percent – \$10 million

*No language has been forthcoming yet on any of these proposals, so it is difficult to gauge their direct impact. Formal proposals are expected to emerge any time.*

## BILLS OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

<b>House Bill 4209</b>	<b>Harper College Baccalaureate Degree Initiative (Bassi)</b>
<b>ICCTA Position:</b>	<b>MONITOR</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>HELD in House Rules Committee (it had previously passed the House Higher Education Committee)</b>

Allows William Rainey Harper College to create a pilot baccalaureate program under which the district may establish and offer bachelor's degrees in 2 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 district identify and document unmet workforce needs, (iii) that the degree programs not require any additional funding from local taxes or the State, (iv) that the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the offering of the degree programs, and (v) that the pilot program expire 4 years after the initial offering of the degree programs, unless otherwise extended by law. Effective immediately.



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**HB 4339 Minority Transfer Centers for Chicago and Morton Colleges (Collins)****ICCTA Position: MONITOR****Status: PASSED the House 61-53; FIRST READING in the Senate**

Requires ICCB to establish a 3-year pilot program under which each community college in the City Colleges of Chicago district plus Morton College, Parkland College, Rock Valley Community College, and Kankakee Community College must employ one person as a coordinator and one person as a recruiter to assist inner-city students in transferring to public universities in Illinois. Provides that ICCB shall provide a grant to each of these districts to fund the positions. Sets forth responsibilities of the coordinator and recruiter. Requires ICCB to study the overall success of the pilot program and report its findings to the General Assembly. Provides that after the report is filed, the General Assembly may continue the program, increase funding for the program, or expand the program to all public community colleges in the State. Effective July 1, 2006. (*ICCTA has expressed concerns that if the legislation passes without an appropriation, then the affected colleges would be subject to an unfunded mandate.*)

**HB4406 Higher Education Grant for Child Raised by a Grandparent (Jones)****ICCTA Position: MONITOR****Status: PASSED the House 68-44-1; assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. For his or her first year of full-time attendance at an institution of higher learning, provides that a person is entitled to a \$1,000 grant if he or she (i) is in the legal custody of his or her grandparent and receives public aid assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code, (ii) has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and (iii) has been recommended for the grant by the principal of his or her high school.

**HB 4442 Open Meetings Act - 48 Hours Notice (Hannig)****ICCTA Position: MONITOR****Status: PASSED the House 113-0; FIRST READING in the Senate**

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**March 10, 2006**

Page 3

## **HB 4652 Baccalaureate Completion Matching Grants Act (McCarthy)**

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status:** HELD in House Rules Committee

Amends the Illinois Financial Assistance Act for Nonpublic Institutions of Higher Learning. Changes the short title to the Baccalaureate Completion Matching Grant Act (and makes conforming changes in the School Code). Makes changes concerning the calculation of the grant formulae and the conditions of institutional eligibility. Effective July 1, 2006. Provides that (i) the participating institution shall determine student eligibility using the federal definition for need-based student aid, defined as the estimated family contribution subtracted from the institutional cost of attendance and (ii) a student shall be eligible for assistance if the institution determines that the student has remaining need, according to information provided by the student's completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid, as applied to the federal definition for need-based student aid.

#### **ICCTA Position:**

**Status:** HELD in House Rules Committee

Amends the Public Community College Act. Allows a board of trustees to provide or contract for residential housing for students and employees. In the Article concerning building programs, removes dormitories from the definition of "facilities". Effective immediately.

HB 5269 Community College Learn English Initiative (Coulson)

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status:** PASSED the House 113-0; referred to Senate Rules Committee

Amends the Public Community College Act. Requires ICCB to establish and administer a "We Want to Learn English Initiative" to provide resources for immigrants and refugees in Illinois to learn English in order to move towards becoming full members of American society. Provides that each fiscal year, the Board shall include in its budget proposal \$25,000,000 in funding for the Initiative. Provides that no less than half of the funds appropriated for the Initiative each fiscal year shall be disbursed to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, immigrant social service organizations, faith-based organizations, and on-site job training programs. (*Similar legislation – SB 2376, sponsored by Sandoval – PASSED the Senate 38-16 and has been referred to the House Rules Committee.*)

HB 5767 Sale of ISAC Loans Prohibited (Myers)

**ICCTA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**Status:** HELD in House Rules Committee

Amends the Governor's Office of Management and Budget Act and the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission may not sell its loans or the attendant loan origination and servicing rights nor may any other State agency, including the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, or a State official sell the loans or the attendant loan origination and servicing rights. Provides that all student loans of the Commission and the attendant loan origination and servicing rights are inalienable and must remain as assets of the Commission. Effective immediately.

SB 2225 University Remediation (Maloney)

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status:** PASSED the Senate 52-0; FIRST READING in the House

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that if a public university admits a student who needs remedial coursework, then the university must require that the student complete the remedial coursework.

**March 10, 2006**

Page 4

SB 2376

Community College Learn English Initiative (Sandoval)

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status:** PASSED the Senate 38-16; referred to House Rules Committee

Amends the Public Community College Act. Requires ICCB to establish and administer a "We Want to Learn English Initiative" to provide resources for immigrants and refugees in Illinois to learn English in order to move towards becoming full members of American society. Provides that each fiscal year, the Board shall include in its budget proposal \$25,000,000 in funding for the Initiative. Provides that no less than half of the funds appropriated for the Initiative each fiscal year shall be disbursed to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, immigrant social service organizations, faith-based organizations, and on-site job training programs. The legislation is subject to appropriations by the General Assembly. (*Similar legislation – HB5269, sponsored by Coulson – PASSED the House 113-0 and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.*)

SB 2778

## Higher Education Emergency Worker Attendance (Sieben)

## ICCTA Position: MONITOR

**Status:** PASSED the Senate 57-0; assigned to the House Higher Education Committee

Amends the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job Protection Act and various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Provides that no public university or community college attendance policy or attendance policy of a faculty member thereof may in any way penalize a student who is a volunteer emergency worker for absence from class caused by the performance of his or her duties as a volunteer emergency worker. Amends the Volunteer Fire Protection Association Act. Provides that no public university or community college attendance policy or attendance policy of a faculty member thereof may in any way penalize a student who is a volunteer fire protection association member for absence from class caused by the performance of his or her duties as a volunteer fire protection association member. Effective immediately.

## **House Joint Resolution 24**      **Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy)**

## ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

**Status:** Passed House 113-0; HELD in Senate Rules Committee

## Creates

Creates a joint task force on Community Colleges to review the present community college system and its future.

☛ Register for Community College Lobby Day on March 29 --  
call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 ☛

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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April 10, 2006

*Although April 7 was the originally scheduled adjournment date for the Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois House and Senate are now scheduled to return to Springfield later this afternoon (April 10) to continue negotiations on the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. The next possible adjournment date is April 12, the last day before the start of the Passover and Easter holidays. Many observers predict that if the session continues beyond the religious holidays, that a long spring schedule could occur.*

## **FY07 BUDGET**

The primary focus of Democrat leaders is to reach a budget agreement for FY 2007. (Republicans are apparently not involved in negotiations at this point.) Although there appeared to be an early session budget arrangement between the House and Senate Democrats and the Governor, a key component of the plan did not win approval. The Governor's original budget plan called for spending increases that were built upon projected natural revenue growth of over \$800 million, proposed new tax and fee hikes totaling over \$400 million, and additional funds from the sale of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's student loan portfolio. The General Assembly ultimately did not approve the tax and fee increases, and the ISAC portfolio sale is unpredictable at this point. That leaves only the natural revenue growth source on which to build an FY07 budget -- resulting in as much as an \$800 million budget hole.

Much of the revenue side of the FY 2007 budget was dealt with a year ago, when a two-year partial "pension holiday" of public employee pension contributions was approved that provided relatively smooth sailing for the state's spending plan last year and this year. Approximately \$1.2 billion in state funds that would have been directed to the state-supported pension funds will again be used for the state's ordinary and contingent expenses.

The Speaker of the House recently suggested that the proposed FY07 state budget be returned to FY06 funding levels for purposes of new budget talks. The belief is that the available projected revenues cannot support the spending levels recommended in the Governor's proposed budget. Negotiations are now underway to determine where and how to add available revenues for a new spending plan. **At this point, the Fiscal Year 2007 state budget is very fluid.**

## **COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUDGET**

The Governor's proposed budget includes a 1.4% increase for higher education (excluding the State Universities Retirement System), and a recommended \$5.8 million (or 1.9%) increase for community colleges. The FY 07 community college budget, like all other state supported programs, is subject to final negotiations involving the entire state budget.

## **OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

Several bills of interest to community colleges have passed out of the General Assembly. ICCTA will report on these bills in our legislative wrap-up at the end of session.

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



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# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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April 13, 2006

The Illinois General Assembly has concluded its business for the week. The Senate adjourned on Tuesday afternoon, while the House adjourned on Wednesday morning in order to send members home for the religious holidays.

The House returns to Springfield on Tuesday, April 18, and the Senate has scheduled Tuesday, April 25 to return. Although April 7 had been the scheduled final adjournment date, an impasse in reaching an agreed budget plan for Fiscal Year 2007 is preventing the conclusion of the session.

Some members are predicting that the spring session will extend through early May, or about one month past the originally scheduled final adjournment schedule. Democrats, who hold the majority in each house, actually have until midnight, May 31, to craft a budget plan. After that, Republicans become involved in negotiations, because the Illinois Constitution requires that the number of votes to pass a budget on or after June 1 increases from a simple majority to a three-fifths (3/5) majority, which then requires Republican votes.

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association will provide periodic updates as the session nears final adjournment.

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



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# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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April 28, 2006

*The Illinois House of Representatives conducted business on Tuesday and Wednesday and adjourned Wednesday afternoon, while the Senate cancelled session this past week. Both houses are scheduled to return to Springfield on Tuesday, May 2.*

## **FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET**

Recent budget negotiations involving Democrat leaders and the Governor continued through Wednesday afternoon. Many observers believe that negotiators are inching closer to a budget deal that could come soon. There are indications that the Governor's tuition tax credit proposal for higher education students has been a discussion item, as well as other more minor issues. Budget negotiators are not predicting when a budget deal will be reached and therefore cannot say when the session will adjourn for the year.

## **PENSION LEGISLATION**

During the past week, House Speaker Michael Madigan has convened meetings to seek solutions for retirement issues generated from the unintended consequences of last year's pension "reform" legislation (Senate Bill 27). Currently, a tentative agreement has been reached (in the form of a proposed amendment to House Bill 1813) that would provide exceptions to stringent earnings limitations. It is possible that House Bill 1813 may be called for a vote in the House next week and would then move to the Senate for final consideration.

The pension legislation that was enacted last year created a 6% limitation on earnings increases that a participant in the State Universities Retirement system can receive during his / her final four years of employment. Salary increases above the 6% limitation are allowable, but the employer must pay the actuarial retirement impact if the increases occur during an employee's final four years of employment. Currently there are no exceptions to the 6% provision. Newly proposed legislation would adequately solve most of the issues identified by the higher education community following the passage of SB 27 last year. ICCTA views the current law as a personnel management issue that requires resolution.

Most exceptions to the 6% limitation embodied in the proposed amendment to HB 1813 apply to non-administrative positions at community colleges and universities. There are few exceptions included in the proposed legislation for administrative positions or persons moving into administration positions.

The following is a brief overview of the exemptions and changes to the current law that are currently proposed in HB 1813, which could be considered within the next few weeks. Vacation and sick leave issues were addressed earlier this year by SURS rulemaking and are no longer included as earnings. Nor are they subject to the 6% limitation. This applies to all employees, including administration positions.

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## Proposed Amendment to House Bill 1813

- **Part-time faculty moving to full-time faculty** are exempt.
- **Part-time faculty earnings increases** are exempt if the employee does not make more than he/she would have with the full-time employment.
- **Overload or overtime** is exempt when the employer certifies to SURS and SURS certifies that: (I) in the case of overloads (A) the overload work is for the sole purpose of academic instruction occurring during the academic year that the overload is paid; and (B) the earnings increases are equal to or less than the rate of pay for academic instruction computed using the participant's current salary rate and work schedule; and (ii) in the case of overtime, the overtime was necessary for the educational mission.
- **Summer school** loads would be treated in a similar way to overload.
- **Promotions for State Universities Civil Service System classifications and community college equivalent classifications** are exempt for: (i) a promotion for which the employee moves from one classification to a higher classification under the State Universities Civil Service System or (ii) a promotion in academic rank for a tenured or tenure-track faculty position; or (iii) a promotion that the Illinois Community College Board has approved for positions that have close similarities to positions recognized by the State University Civil Service System. These earnings increases shall be excluded only if the promotion is to a position that has existed and been filled by a member for no less than one complete academic year and the earnings increase as a result of the promotion is an increase that results in an amount no greater than the average salary paid for other similar positions.
- **Contracts and Collective bargaining agreements - Sunsetting dates** - excludes any salary increase given on or after July 1, 2011 but before July 1, 2014 under a contract or collective bargaining agreement entered into, amended, or renewed on or after June 1, 2005 but before July 1, 2011. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, any payments made or salary increases given after June 30, 2014, shall be used in assessing payment for any amount due.
- **Appeals** - Current law gives employers 30 days from the receipt of charges incurred for salary increases greater than 6%. An appeals process for employers may be established that could extend the payment to 90 days depending on the outcome of the appeal. Districts will have up to three years to pay the final bill, but after 90 days interest will be charged at the rate equal to the System's annual actuarially assumed rate of return on investments compounded annually.
- **Ten-year Limit** - Employers will not be liable for any salary increases given to employees who are 10 or more years from retirement eligibility.
- **Grants and Stipends** - Any grants or stipends that come from the state (i.e., N.B.P.T.S.) over which the employer has no control are exempt from the cap.

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

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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May 5, 2006

*The Illinois General Assembly adjourned its spring 2006 session on Thursday, May 4. The House concluded its business during the afternoon, and the Senate finished its business at 10 PM, Thursday evening. Both houses of the General Assembly will return to Springfield on November 14 to begin the fall 2006 veto session.*

*The last order of business for the General Assembly was to adopt a Fiscal Year 2007 operating budget for all agencies of state government. The budget was adopted by both houses with voting along partisan lines (Democrats voted for the budget and Republicans voted against it). In its final form, the approved FY 2007 budget is similar to the one proposed by Gov. Blagojevich during his February budget address, with some modifications.*

*The Governor is expected to approve the budget package that the General Assembly has sent to him, as well as pension legislation that ICCTA is supporting.*

## **FY 2007 BUDGET**

The \$56 billion FY 2007 budget includes increased funding for higher education as compared to the FY 2006 budget. Community colleges will receive a state budget that is similar to the Governor's budget recommendations, although some changes were made in some line items. Overall, **community colleges will receive a 1.9% increase in state funding** compared to the prior year.

Additional information will be provided next week after the entire state budget legislation is analyzed. The budget was contained in **Senate Bill 1520** and is 863 pages in length.

## **PENSION LEGISLATION**

One of the last orders of business was the approval of legislation to address issues that were created last year by the enactment of a "pension reform" package (SB 27). The General Assembly unanimously approved **SB 49**, which clarifies the 6% salary limitation put in place last year.

The pension legislation that was enacted last year created a 6% limitation on earnings increases that a participant in the State Universities Retirement System can receive during his / her final four years of employment. Salary increases above the 6% limitation are allowable, but the employer must pay the actuarial retirement impact if the increases occur during an employee's final four years of employment. Until passage of SB 49, there were no exceptions to the 6% provision. This newly proposed legislation would adequately solve most of the issues identified by the higher education community following the passage of SB 27 last year. ICCTA viewed the current law as a personnel management issue that required resolution. The Governor is expected to approve SB 49.

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## **Senate Bill 49 Provisions Exemptions to the 6% Salary limitations**

- **Part-time faculty moving to full-time faculty** are exempt.
- **Part-time faculty earnings increases** are exempt if the employee does not make more than he/she would have with the full-time employment.
- **Overload or overtime** is exempt when the employer certifies to SURS and SURS certifies that: (I) in the case of overloads (A) the overload work is for the sole purpose of academic instruction occurring during the academic year that the overload is paid; and (B) the earnings increases are equal to or less than the rate of pay for academic instruction computed using the participant's current salary rate and work schedule; and (ii) in the case of overtime, the overtime was necessary for the educational mission.
- **Summer school** loads would be treated in a similar way to overload.
- **Promotions for State Universities Civil Service System classifications and community college equivalent classifications** are exempt for: (i) a promotion for which the employee moves from one classification to a higher classification under the State Universities Civil Service System or (ii) a promotion in academic rank for a tenured or tenure-track faculty position; or (iii) a promotion that the Illinois Community College Board has approved for positions that have close similarities to positions recognized by the State University Civil Service System. These earnings increases shall be excluded only if the promotion is to a position that has existed and been filled by a member for no less than one complete academic year and the earnings increase as a result of the promotion is an increase that results in an amount no greater than the average salary paid for other similar positions.
- **Contracts and Collective bargaining agreements - Sunsetting dates** - excludes any salary increase given on or after July 1, 2011 but before July 1, 2014 under a contract or collective bargaining agreement entered into, amended, or renewed on or after June 1, 2005 but before July 1, 2011. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, any payments made or salary increases given after June 30, 2014, shall be used in assessing payment for any amount due.
- **Appeals** - Current law gives employers 30 days from the receipt of charges incurred for salary increases greater than 6%. An appeals process for employers may be established that could extend the payment to 90 days depending on the outcome of the appeal. Districts will have up to three years to pay the final bill, but after 90 days interest will be charged at the rate equal to the System's annual actuarially assumed rate of return on investments compounded annually.
- **Ten-year Limit** - Employers will not be liable for any salary increases given to employees who are 10 or more years from retirement eligibility.
- **Grants and Stipends** - Any grants or stipends that come from the state (i.e., N.B.P.T.S.) over which the employer has no control are exempt from the cap.

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

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

Summer 2006

## SPRING 2006 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

The Illinois General Assembly concluded its business in Springfield and adjourned the spring 2006 legislative session on May 4. Both houses of the General Assembly will return to Springfield on November 14 to begin the fall 2006 veto session.

This year's spring session was relatively low key at first when legislative leaders set April 7 as their final adjournment date - about seven weeks earlier than the typical end-of-May adjournment time. Most of the rationale for an early adjournment centered around 2006 as a statewide election year and a subsequent desire to address the FY 2007 state budget and not many other issues. Contributing to the proposed schedule were plans to begin a Capitol Building heating and air conditioning systems overhaul that requires gutting the House and Senate chambers. After several budget issues were resolved, the session adjourned about one month after the scheduled adjournment and about three weeks before the end of May constitutional requirements.

## BUDGET

The last order of business for the General Assembly was to adopt a Fiscal Year 2007 operating budget for all agencies of state government. The \$56 billion budget was adopted by both houses voting along partisan lines (Democrats voted for the budget and Republicans voted against it). In its final form, the approved FY 2007 budget is similar to the one proposed by Gov. Blagojevich during his February budget address, with some modifications. There was no funding approved for capital projects. **The Governor has approved the budget package sent by the General Assembly.**

Much of this year's revenue for the budget was determined last year, when a two-year partial "pension holiday" of public employee pension contributions was approved. Approximately \$1.2 billion in state funds that would have been directed to the state's payment into the public pension funds (including the State Universities Retirement System) was instead diverted for the state's budget for ordinary and contingent expenses this year (FY06) and approximately \$1.1 billion will be diverted in FY 07. State funding for community college grants increased by 1.7% over FY 06 but is still approximately 13% below state support for community colleges in FY 01.

## **BILLS OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES PASSED AND SENT TO THE GOVERNOR**

All legislation that is listed in this report was passed by both houses of the General Assembly and sent to the Governor for his action. Some bills of interest to community colleges did not pass both houses of the General Assembly and are not listed in this report. The Governor may sign the bill, veto it or amendatorily veto it.

**HB4406 Higher Education Grant for Child Raised by a Grandparent (Jones)**

## ICCTA Position: MONITOR

**Status:** PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. For his or her first year of full-time attendance at an institution of higher learning, provides that a person is entitled to a \$1,000 grant if he or she (i) is in the legal custody of his or her grandparent and receives public aid assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code, (ii) has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and (iii) has been recommended for the grant by the principal of his or her high school.



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HB5429 Mobile Response Workforce Training Program (Reis / Jones)

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status:** PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor

Requires the Illinois Community College Board to implement and administer a 3-year, mobile response workforce training pilot program at 3 community colleges to address the fact that businesses are struggling to recruit a qualified workforce because of the frequent emergence of new technologies in the workplace and subsequent skill set requirements. Sets forth requirements for the program. Sets forth the Board's powers and duties with respect to the program.

**ICCTA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**Status:** **PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the State University and Downstate Teacher Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Corrects most of the unintended consequences of the passage of pension reform legislation embodied in SB 27 last year. Sets forth procedures for calculating, reviewing, and collecting certain employer contributions based on excess salary, usually overtime and overload assignments, and permits exceptions to a 6% salary increase limitation in those cases. Provides that when assessing payment for when an employer must make certain contributions, the State Universities Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois shall exclude for a specified time period various salary increases and payments.

## **SB1827 Energy Conservation – Expands definition (Harmon / Mathias)**

**ICCTA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**Status:** **PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Local Government Energy Conservation Act, the School Code, the Public University Energy Conservation Act, and the Public Community College Act. Defines "energy conservation measure" to include energy conservation measures that reduce energy consumption or reduce operating costs, including future labor costs, future costs for contracted services, and related capital expenditures. Defines "related capital expenditures". Provides that a unit of local government, public university, or public community college district 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 costs or operational costs, or both, within a 20-year period (now, a 10-year period) from the date of installation, if the recommendations in the proposal are followed. Makes corresponding changes.

SB 2225 University Remediation (Maloney / McCarthy)

## ICCTA Position: MONITOR

**Status:** **PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that if a public university admits a student who needs remedial coursework, then the university must require that the student complete the remedial coursework.

**SB 2235** **Grow Your Own Teachers Act (Martinez / Golar)**

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status:** PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor

Amends the Grow Our Own Teacher Education Act. Changes the name of the Act to the Grow Your Own Teacher Act. Defines "developmental classes" and makes changes to the definition of "parent and community leaders" and "schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students". Replaces references to "student" and "participant" with "candidate" throughout the Act. Provides that the State Board shall establish criteria that address the inclusion in the planned program of strategies derived from community organizing that will help candidates develop tools for working with parents and other community members. Provides for partial loan forgiveness for shortened periods of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching positions.

SB 2286 Speech Pathology Associates Degree (Righter / Rose)

## ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

**Status:** PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor

Amends the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act. Provides that a person who, in addition to meeting certain other requirements, has received, prior to June 1, 2003, an associate degree from a speech-language pathology assistant program approved by the Illinois Community College Board is qualified to be licensed as a speech-language pathology assistant. Effective immediately.

**SB 2312** Non-traditional student added to BHE (Maloney / Joyce)

**ICCTA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**Status:** PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Adds an additional student member to the Board of Higher Education, which person must be a non-traditional undergraduate student who is at least 24 years old and represents the views of non-traditional students, such as a person who is employed or is a parent

**SB 2778** Non-traditional student added to BHE (Maloney / Joyce)

**ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status:** PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor

Amends the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job Protection Act and various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Provides that no public university or community college attendance policy or attendance policy of a faculty member thereof may in any way penalize a student who is a volunteer emergency worker for absence from class caused by the performance of his or her duties as a volunteer emergency worker.

## House Joint Resolution 122 Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy / Collins)

**ICCTA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**Status:** PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor

Creates a Joint Task Force on Community Colleges to review the present community college system and its future. the Joint Task Force on Community Colleges shall consist of the following members: 2 co-chairpersons, each a member of the General Assembly, with one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the President of the Senate; 2 spokespersons, each a member of the General Assembly, with one appointed by the Minority Leader of the House and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; 3 community college presidents appointed by an organization representing public community college presidents; 3 community college trustees appointed by an organization representing Illinois community college trustees; 2 community college faculty members appointed by the Chairperson of the Illinois Community College Board; 2 community college students appointed by the Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee; and 2 members appointed by the Chairperson of the Illinois Community College Board, one of whom is a nationally recognized community college expert.

Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy / Collins)

**ICCTA Position:** SUPPORT

**Status:** PASSED both houses, sent to the Governor

Creates the Joint Task Force on the College Insurance Program to review the Program and consider whether the City Colleges of Chicago should be included.

***ICCTA appreciates its many allies in the legislative arena.***

***Special thanks are due to the Illinois Presidents Council***

*and the Illinois Community College Board.*

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

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

August 2006

## SUMMER LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Although state lawmakers will not return to Springfield until after the November 7 general election, there are several ongoing public-policy issues of interest to community colleges.

## ETHICS ACT

In 2003, the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act revised Illinois laws regulating the ethical conduct, political activities, and giving and receiving of gifts by public officials and employees. One section of the Act specifically applies to "units of local government"; a different section pertains to state agencies and boards. Because Illinois community college districts are described as "units of local government" in the Illinois Constitution and in numerous citations throughout state law, the colleges have complied with the local government provisions of the Act and established their own local ethics codes and commissions.

On October 5, 2005, the Illinois Attorney General issued a legal opinion that community college districts fall within the definition of **state agencies** (rather than units of local government) and that their employees are **state employees** (rather than employees of units of local government) for purposes of the Ethics Act. As a result, community colleges and their employees are now unclear as to their status under the Act. To comply with the state-agency provisions of the Act, community colleges will find it necessary to follow the ethics requirements for state agencies as well as the state personnel policies established by the Illinois Community College Board, instead of the local ethics requirements and local personnel policies adopted by their own boards of trustees.

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association and the Illinois Presidents Council are working together on several legislative and judicial options to clarify the Ethics Act as it pertains to community colleges. Additional information will be available within the next few weeks.

# SALE OF ISAC STUDENT LOAN PORTFOLIO

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is considering selling or restructuring its student loan portfolio in order to fund the new \$34 million MAP Plus grant program. (MAP Plus is a one-time program to provide grants of up to \$500 to college sophomores, juniors and seniors with family incomes below \$200,000.) Many lawmakers and education advocates, including ICCTA, are concerned about the impact of such a sale on student loan interest rates and on other ISAC programs (such as its student counseling and College Zone outreach centers). ISAC is expected to announce its decision at its September 29 meeting in Chicago.

## NEW LAWS AFFECTING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**HB 4406 Higher Education Grant for Child Raised by a Grandparent (Jones)**

## ICCTA Position: **MONITOR**

**Status:** **Signed into law as Public Act 94-0968**

Provides a \$1,000 grant to a person for his or her first year of full-time attendance at an institution of higher learning if he or she (i) is in the legal custody of his or her grandparent and receives public aid assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code, (ii) has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and (iii) has been recommended for the grant by the principal of his or her high school.

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ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

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HB 5429 Mobile Response Workforce Training Program (Reis / Jones)

## **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

**Status:** Signed into law as Public Act 94-0890

Requires the Illinois Community College Board to implement and administer a 3-year, mobile response workforce training pilot program at three community colleges to address the fact that businesses are struggling to recruit a qualified workforce because of the emergence of new technologies and subsequent skill requirements.

**ICCTA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**Status:** **Signed into law as Public Act 94-1057**

Corrects most of the unintended consequences of last year's pension reform legislation (embodied in SB 27). Sets forth procedures for calculating, reviewing, and collecting certain employer contributions based on excess salary, usually overtime and overload assignments, and permits exceptions to a 6% salary increase limitation in those cases. Provides that when assessing payment for when an employer must make certain contributions, the State Universities Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois shall exclude for a specified time period various salary increases and payments.

SB 585 Illinois Open Meetings Act – Redefinition of a Public Meeting (Cullerton / Flider)

## ICCTA Position: MONITOR

**Status:** **Signed into law as Public Act 94-1058**

Amends the Illinois Open Meetings Act by redefining the definition of a public meeting to include all forms of electronic communication. SB 585 also 1) sets parameters for public officials when they choose to participate in an open meeting by video conference, telephone or other electronic means, and 2) requires that a quorum of members of a public body must be physically present in order for other members to participate in a meeting electronically. **For community college boards, four (4) members of the board would be required to be physically present to conduct a meeting, and up to three (3) members are permitted to connect to the meeting electronically.** Effective January 1, 2007.

**ICCTA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**Status:** **Signed into law as Public Act 94-1062**

Amends the Local Government Energy Conservation Act, the School Code, the Public University Energy Conservation Act, and the Public Community College Act. Defines "energy conservation measure" to include energy conservation measures that reduce energy consumption or reduce operating costs, including future labor costs, future costs for contracted services, and related capital expenditures. Provides that a unit of local government, public university, or public community college district 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 costs or operational costs, or both, within a 20-year period (now, a 10-year period) from the date of installation, if the recommendations in the proposal are followed.

SB 2225 University Remediation (Maloney / McCarthy)

## ICCTA Position: MONITOR

**Status:** Signed into law as Public Act 94-1056

Provides that if a public university admits a student who needs remedial coursework, then the university must require that the student complete the remedial coursework.

**SB 2235 Grow Your Own Teachers Act (Martinez / Golar)****ICCTA Position: MONITOR****Status: Signed into law as Public Act 94-0979**

Changes the name of the "Grow Our Own Teacher Education Act" to the "Grow Your Own Teacher Act." Defines "developmental classes" and makes changes to the definition of "parent and community leaders" and "schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students." Replaces references to "student" and "participant" with "candidate" throughout the Act. Provides that the State Board shall establish criteria that address the inclusion in the planned program of strategies derived from community organizing that will help candidates develop tools for working with parents and other community members. Provides for partial loan forgiveness for shortened periods of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching positions.

**SB 2286 Speech Pathology Associates Degree (Righter / Rose)****ICCTA Position: SUPPORT****Status: Signed into law as Public Act 94-0869**

Amends the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act. Provides that a person who, in addition to meeting certain other requirements, has received, prior to June 1, 2003, an associate degree from a speech-language pathology assistant program approved by the Illinois Community College Board is qualified to be licensed as a speech-language pathology assistant.

**SB 2312 IBHE Non-Traditional Student Member (Maloney / Joyce)****ICCTA Position: SUPPORT****Status: Signed into law as Public Act 94-0905**

Adds an additional student member to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The student must be a non-traditional undergraduate student who is at least 24 years old and represents the views of non-traditional students, such as a person who is employed or is a parent.

**SB 2778 Emergency Worker Attendance in College Classes (Sieben / Pritchard)****ICCTA Position: MONITOR****Status: Signed into law as Public Act 94-0957**

Amends the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job Protection Act and the Volunteer Fire Protection Association Act. Provides that no public university or community college attendance policy or attendance policy of a faculty member thereof may in any way penalize a student who is a volunteer emergency worker or volunteer fire protection association member for absence from class caused by the performance of his or her duties as a volunteer.

**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCES****House Joint Resolution 122 Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy / Collins)****ICCTA Position: SUPPORT****Status: ADOPTED by both houses**

Creates a Joint Task Force on Community Colleges to review the present community college system and its future. The task force will be facilitated by the Illinois Community College Board and report its findings to the Illinois General Assembly by December 31, 2006.

**Senate Joint Resolution 91 Joint Task Force on Community Colleges (McCarthy / Collins)****ICCTA Position: SUPPORT****Status: ADOPTED by both houses**

Creates the Joint Task Force on the College Insurance Program to review the Program and consider whether the City Colleges of Chicago should be included. The task force will be facilitated by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and report its findings to the Illinois General Assembly by October 31, 2006.

***ICCTA appreciates its many allies in the legislative arena. Special thanks are due to the Illinois Presidents Council, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education.***

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

# ICCTA ACTION ALERT

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December 6, 2006

## VETO SESSION UPDATE

The Illinois General Assembly has completed its work for the fall portion of the 2006 veto session. Very few issues affecting higher education were considered during the limited six-day session. Issues affecting community colleges and units of local government are listed later in this report.

Much of the veto session was focused on the issues of increasing the minimum wage and extending a 10-year utilities rate freeze. The utilities rate freeze did not pass and could be brought up for consideration in January 2007.

The House and the Senate will return to Springfield on January 7, 2007, for the final days of the 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Lawmakers may continue with the business of the 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly up until noon on January 10. When each house decides to conclude the business of the 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, all legislation that has not advanced through passage is declared "sine die" or dead. All retiring members of the General Assembly will then conclude their careers as legislators and must vacate their offices to make way for the newly elected members who will be seated for the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Upon the completion of the 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, new members elected during the November 2006 elections will be sworn in at noon on January 10, and the new two-year 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will commence.

In order to begin the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Illinois Constitution requires that the Secretary of State preside over the organization of the House, and that the Governor preside over the organization of the Senate, which occurs on January 10, 2007. Once the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House are elected, the balance of the organizational process is continued until completed. It is expected that Emil Jones will continue as the President of the Senate and Michael Madigan will continue as Speaker of the House.

Because the Illinois State Capitol Building has been undergoing extensive renovations, the House has been conducting its session days in the Old State Capitol Building in the House chamber that was in service during the mid 1800's. The Senate has been meeting in the room at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library where ICCTA held its June convention seminar. The General Assembly is scheduled to return to these locations to conduct the session during January and possibly February 2007. Completion of the construction work to the State Capitol Building is expected later in the spring 2007 session.

## LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES PASSED DURING THE VETO SESSION

*The following is a listing of legislation that passed both houses of the General Assembly during the veto session. These four bills will be sent to the Governor for his consideration.*

**House Bill 4173      Candidate Name Changes**  
**ICCTA Position:      MONITOR**

Amends the Election Code. Requires that if a candidate has changed his or her name during the 3 years before the deadline for filing nominating petitions, papers, or certificates, the candidate's name on his or her nominating petition, papers, or certificate and the ballot must include a reference to his or her former name or names and the date or dates of the name changes. Excludes certain name changes due to adoption or a change in marital status.

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**Senate Bill 1268      Minimum Wage Increase**

**ICCTA Position:      MONITOR**

Increases the minimum wage in Illinois from \$6.50 to \$7.50 on July 1, 2007, \$7.75 on July 1, 2008, \$8.00 on July 1, 2009, and \$8.25 on July 1, 2010. Provides that, in lieu of the minimum wage, an employer may pay an employee, during the first 90 consecutive calendar days after the employee is initially employed by the employer, a wage that is not more than 50¢ less than the minimum wage. Changes cross-references in provisions authorizing the Director of Labor to provide by regulation for the employment of learners at a subminimum wage so they refer to the regular minimum wage and the minimum wage for employees under 18 years of age. In the opinion of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, this bill creates a personal mandate for which reimbursement of 100% of the increased costs to units of local government is required under the State Mandates Act. Effective July 1, 2007.

**SB 1453      Bidding and Selection of Architects and Engineers**

**ICCTA Position:      OPPOSE**

Extends current state law to units of local government by requiring that the selection of architects and engineers be based upon the qualifications – not the cost – of their services. The bill specifically states, “In no case shall a political subdivision, prior to selecting a firm for negotiation under Section 7, seek formal or informal submission of verbal or written estimates of costs or proposals in terms of dollars, hours required, percentage of construction cost, or any other measure of compensation.”

**SB 1856      Adult Education Technical Changes**

**ICCTA Position:      SUPPORT**

This clean-up legislation removes the last of statutory language referring to the Illinois State Board of Education in terms of governance of the state's adult education programs. The Illinois Community College Board currently has governing authority over adult education programs.

***ICCTA appreciates its many allies in the legislative arena. Special thanks are due to the Illinois Presidents Council, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Women Employed.***

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