

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

January 8, 2010

LAWMAKERS BEGIN 2010 SESSION

State legislators will return to Springfield next Tuesday, January 12, to begin the 2010 session of the 96th Illinois General Assembly. Governor Pat Quinn is scheduled to present his **State of the State** message to a joint session of lawmakers in the House of Representatives chambers at Noon on Wednesday, January 13. After adjourning on Thursday, January 14, the General Assembly will return to Springfield after the February 2 primary election to engage in what promises to be a complicated legislative session and not a very happy new year for state government.

Although there are a number of important issues to address in the spring session, none is more urgent than the state's grim and ever-worsening financial picture. The state's general revenue collections through the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010 are significantly below last year's collections (which were below the prior year collections), while the mound of unpaid bills currently exceeds \$5 billion. According to Comptroller Dan Hynes, the total debt owing to unpaid bills and state borrowing now exceeds \$13 billion. The state's FY 2010 General Revenue Fund budget is approximately \$26 billion, compared to \$31 billion in FY 2008.

The Comptroller is currently managing the state's General Revenue Fund by delaying the payment of bills by 105 business days (5½ months) after he receives the request for payment. Much of the borrowing and interest payments must be paid this spring, when the Governor and the General Assembly will be working to plug the holes in the FY 2010 budget and fashion the FY 2011 budget.

Further complicating the spring session will be the influence of the upcoming November 2010 elections. Offices up for election include Governor, all seats in the House, and some seats in the Senate. Those members and the governor elected in November 2010 will have the responsibility of drafting Illinois' new legislative and congressional district boundaries based upon the 2010 U.S. Census. The drafting of new districts, which will determine which seats will be filled at the November 2012 election and the following 10 years, will be the General Assembly's most intense and partisan activity in spring 2011.

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association continues to be actively engaged in the legislative processes and advocating for community colleges. Please contact ICCTA if you have questions.

▪ **Call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 for legislative updates** ▪



ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

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ICCTA ACTION ALERT

March 3, 2010

The Illinois General Assembly is in the full swing of conducting business for the spring 2010 legislative session. Both the House and Senate are conducting hearings on filed legislation, and deadlines for committee approval of bills are approaching. Committee-approved legislation must then be approved (3rd reading) by the house in which it was introduced before the General Assembly begins its spring break on March 29 through April 13.

*The condition of state finances continues to dominate the legislative agenda. Governor Pat Quinn is scheduled to deliver his Fiscal Year 2011 budget address to the General Assembly on **Wednesday, March 10**. The Governor has outlined his budget plan and it can be viewed on the web at <http://www2.illinois.gov/budget/Pages/default.aspx>. The plan calls for about \$3 billion in spending reductions from the state's General Revenue Fund (excluding pension funding), compared to the current fiscal year. Under the Governor's plan, education funding from the General Revenue Fund will be reduced by \$2.2 billion.*

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATION UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Bill 4872 Elections on College Campuses (Golar) **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

Identical to Senate Bill 2925, this bill amends the Election Code to require election authorities to conduct grace period registration, grace period voting, and early voting on public university, college, and community college campuses within their jurisdictions.

HB 4972 Community College Reimbursements to ICCB (Soto) **ICCTA Position: MONITOR**

In provisions concerning the compensation and expenses of members of the Illinois Community College Board, deletes language that provides that expenses incurred by any non-voting student member may, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board, be provided for by advance payment to such member, who shall account therefor to the Board immediately after each meeting. Deletes language that provides that members of advisory committees shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the administration of the Act.

HB 5025 Bonds for Kishwaukee Buildings (Pritchard) **ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

Identical to SB 2801, this bill amends the Local Government Debt Reform Act and the Public Community College Act to authorize Kishwaukee College District No. 523 to issue bonds for building purposes for 25 years (instead of 20 years) if approved at referendum and specified conditions are met.

HB 5288 Community College Trustees Blogging (Bost) **ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

ICCTA requested this legislation, which amends the Open Meetings Act to provide that communications by and among community college trustees on an Internet blog do not constitute a meeting under certain circumstances.

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HB 5294 Community College Student Trustee Terms (Black)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

ICCTA requested this legislation, which amends the Public Community College Act and provides that student members on each local community college board shall serve a term of one year beginning on March 1 (instead of April 15) of each year, except that the student member initially selected shall serve a term beginning on the date of selection and expiring on the next succeeding June 30. The bill is identical to SB 3013.

HB 5483 Open Meetings Act -- Meeting Minutes (Kosel)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Open Meetings Act to require a public body to make proposed minutes of an open meeting available for public inspection within 8 business days after the meeting to which the minutes relate and make approved minutes of an open meeting available for public inspection within 5 business days after approval (currently 7 business days after approval).

HB 6174 Higher Education Institutional Grants (Golar)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year, the Illinois Board of Higher Education shall award institutional grants, subject to appropriation, to public institutions of higher education to assist efforts in strengthening the retention and graduation rates of their nontraditional student population. Provides that grants shall be awarded according to a formula based on the specified factors. Provides that the Board shall make awards to eligible institutions for special services, programs needed, or for the performance of other tasks to meet the State's higher education needs

Senate Bill 17 Green Technology Use Act (Cullerton)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the Green Technology Use Act. This is a shell bill that contains only a short title provision.

SB 1373 Community College Employee Residency (Kotowski)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Public Community College Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the employment of personnel.

SB 2548 Monthly Grant Payments for Community Colleges (Demuzio)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

This ICCB-initiated bill amends the Public Community College Act to provide that ICCB shall certify, prepare, and submit monthly vouchers (rather than quarterly vouchers) to the State Comptroller setting forth an amount equal to one-twelfth (instead of 25%) of the grants approved by the State Board for base operating grants and equalization grants.

SB 2615 Working Cash Line of Credit (Forby)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

This ICCB-initiated bill allows the board of trustees of a community college district to establish a line of credit with a bank or other financial institution in an amount not to exceed (1) if anticipating State revenues due in the current fiscal year, 85% of the amount or amounts of the revenues due in the current fiscal year, as certified by the President/CEO of the ICCB or other official in a position to provide assurances as to the amounts; and (2) if anticipating State revenues expected to be due in the next subsequent fiscal year, 50% of the amount or amounts of the revenues due in the current fiscal year, as certified by the President/CEO of the ICCB or other official in a position to provide assurances as to the amounts. Provides that all moneys so borrowed shall be repaid exclusively from the anticipated revenues within 60 days after the revenues have been received. Requires that the borrowing bear interest at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate authorized by the Bond Authorization Act, from the date of issuance until paid. Provides for the authorization of borrowing by resolution.

SB 2801 Bonds for Kishwaukee Buildings (Burzynski)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Identical to HB 5025, the bill authorizes Kishwaukee Community College District No. 523 to issue bonds for building purposes for 25 years (instead of 20 years) if approved at referendum and specified conditions are met.

SB 2925 Elections on College Campuses (Frerichs)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Identical to HB 4872, the bill amends the Election Code to require election authorities to conduct grace period registration, grace period voting, and early voting on public university, college, and community college campuses within their jurisdictions.

SB 3013 Community College Student Trustee Terms (Demuzio)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Identical to HB 5294 and requested by ICCTA, this bill provides that student members on each community college board shall serve a term of one year beginning on March 1 (instead of April 15) of each year, except that the student member initially selected shall serve a term beginning on the date of selection and expiring on the next succeeding June 30.

SB 3242 Higher Education Revolving Loan Program (Sandoval)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the State Finance Act to create the Higher Education Revolving Loan Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Provides that all repayments of loans under the amendatory provisions shall be deposited into the Fund. Provides that all money in the Fund shall be used, subject to appropriation, by the Commission for making loans under the amendatory provisions. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, subject to appropriation, to implement and administer a higher education revolving loan program to provide loans to eligible students for the costs of attending an institution of higher learning in this State. Provides that the loans must be offered at a low interest rate to be determined by the Commission. Provides that an individual may not receive loans in excess of \$5,000 or the student's tuition and mandatory fees, whichever is less, per academic year. Provides that loan funds must be paid directly to the institution of higher learning. Provides that the repayment period for a loan may not exceed 15 years.

SB 3316 New Jobs Training Program (Garrett)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Public Community College Act. Allows a board of trustees of a community college district to enter into an agreement with an employer concerning an arrangement to provide new jobs training program services, including (1) new jobs training; (2) adult basic education and job-related instruction; (3) vocational and skill-assessment services and testing; (4) training facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies; and (5) on-the-job training. Requires the agreement to provide for program costs that may be paid from property taxes, tuition, student fees, or special charges. Allows the board to borrow money and issue and sell certificates payable from a sufficient portion of the future receipts of payments authorized by the agreement to provide funds for the present payment of the costs of a new jobs training program. Provides that the board shall, by resolution, provide for the assessment of an annual levy of a standby tax upon all taxable property within the community college district to further secure the payment of the certificates.

SB 3532 Inclusion of City Colleges Retirees in College Insurance Plan (Trotter)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 and the State Pension Funds Continuing Appropriation Act. Beginning July 1, 2011, requires the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to administer a program of health benefits coverage for retirees, and their dependents, of the City Colleges of Chicago (who currently do not participate in the Community College Health Insurance Security Fund). Beginning January 1, 2011, provides for the collection and use of contributions. Beginning July 1, 2010, establishes a committee to advise the State on the program and necessary adjustments in funding sources. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

SB 3705 College and Career Readiness Program (Maloney)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

This ICCB-initiated bill contains provisions concerning the College and Career Readiness Pilot Program. It provides that beginning July 1, 2010, the ICCB shall extend the current pilot project for 3 years to include an additional 7 sites as evidenced by the effectiveness of the current program. Changes the criteria for ICCB's selection of 4 community colleges to participate in the original pilot program and 7 additional sites as part of the extension. Provides that each participating community college shall establish an agreement with a high school or schools to include the creation of a Readiness Plan (rather than Readiness Prescription) for each student. Changes provisions concerning the ICCB's work with participating community colleges and high schools to develop an appropriate evaluation process to measure effectiveness of intervention strategies. Changes provisions concerning the second and third year duties of the ICCB. Provides that at the end of the 3 year extension, ICCB shall prepare and submit a report outlining its findings and recommendations to the Senate and the House of Representatives by filing a copy of its report with the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives no later than December 31, 2013.

▪ Call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 for legislative updates ▪

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

May 9, 2010

The Illinois General Assembly was unable to conclude the spring 2010 legislative session on Friday, May 7, as was planned. Although the Senate approved necessary components of a budget plan for Fiscal Year 2011, the House vote fell short of approval. Both houses adjourned the session without approving a budget and will return to Springfield when the Senate President and the House Speaker call their respective chambers back into session. It is anticipated that the session will resume before the end of May.

The proposed FY11 budget relied heavily upon increased borrowing, mandated furloughs, tobacco settlement funds, and a tax amnesty program. The dire condition of the state's declining revenue dominated fiscal decision-making. The proposed budget plan also enhanced the Governor's powers to manage state finances; this was a critical element because the state's declining revenue stream is not sufficient to fund the appropriated state budget.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATION PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES

Lawmakers did approve several pieces of legislation during the spring legislative session that impact community colleges. The following bills will be sent to Gov. Quinn for his consideration:

House Bill 4972 Community College Reimbursements to ICCB (Soto - Maloney)
ICCTA Position: MONITOR

In provisions concerning the compensation and expenses of members of the Illinois Community College Board, deletes language that provides that expenses incurred by any non-voting student member may, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board, be provided for by advance payment to such member, who shall account therefor to the Board immediately after each meeting. Deletes language that provides that members of advisory committees shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the administration of the Act.

Senate Bill 387 Reporting the Hiring of Hispanics (Berrios - Martinez)
ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires that each executive branch constitutional officer, each state institution of higher education, each public community college, and the Illinois Toll Highway Authority annually report to the General Assembly on its activities implementing strategies and programs, and progress, in hiring and promoting Hispanics and bilingual persons at supervisory, technical, professional, and managerial levels.

SB 642 University Borrowing Authorization (Haine - Bradley)
ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that the governing board of each public university shall have the power to borrow money, as necessary, from time to time in anticipation of receiving tuition, state payments, or other revenues or receipts of the university. Provides that the borrowing limit shall be capped at 100% of the total amount of payroll and other expense vouchers submitted and payable to the university for fiscal year 2010 expenses, but unpaid at the State Comptroller's office. Requires that any line of credit be paid in full one year after creation or within 10 days after the date the university receives reimbursement from the state for all submitted fiscal year 2010 vouchers, whichever is earlier. Requires that any promissory note be repaid within one year after issuance of the note. Effective immediately.

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ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Authorizes Kishwaukee Community College District No. 523 to issue bonds for building purposes for 25 years (instead of 20 years) if approved at referendum and specified conditions are met.

SB 3705 College and Career Readiness Program (Maloney - Farnham)

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATION PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The following legislation has been held for further deliberation by the General Assembly:

HB 5483 Open Meetings Act -- Meeting Minutes (Kosel - Garrett)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Requires that a public body approve minutes of its open meeting within 30 days after the meeting or at its next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever is later. Requires that a public body make its approved open meeting minutes available for public inspection and, if the public body has a website, post those minutes within 10 days (now, 7 days) after approval of the minutes. Requires that any person be permitted an opportunity to address public officials at meetings subject to the Act under rules established and recorded by the public body.

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SB 2538

Equalization Funding Qualifications (Maloney - Davis)

ICCTA Position:

SUPPORT

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that as of July 1, 2011, a community college district must maintain a minimum required combined in-district tuition and universal fee rate per semester credit hour equal to 70% of the state-average combined rate, as determined by the State Board, or the total revenue received by the community college district from combined in-district tuition and universal fees must be at least 30% of the total revenue received by the community college district, as determined by the State Board, for equalization funding.

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Illinois Community College Trustees Association ACTION ALERT
May 25, 2010

The Illinois House of Representatives reconvened the session in Springfield late Monday afternoon to attempt to approve a Fiscal Year 2011 budget. The Senate, which has already approved an FY 2011 budget, is scheduled to return to Springfield on Wednesday afternoon. Both the Senate and House must agree on a budget in order to approve it and send it to the Governor.

On Tuesday, several House Democrats offered amendments that attempted to reduce the Senate approved budget by \$1.3 billion. One of the proposed amendments reduced state funding of higher education by \$100 million and failed in committee on a vote of 3 - 10. Under the proposal, community college funding would have been reduced by over \$17.5 million or 5.7%. ICCTA and the Illinois Community College Board were present during the hearing to successfully oppose the amendment and the reduction.

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