

ICCTA Action ALERT

March 8, 2012

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned last week following a relatively light schedule and returned to Springfield on March 6 for a busier week. All non-appropriation bills that will receive further consideration must be passed out of committee by Friday, March 9. Most bills that do not come out of committees by then will not receive further consideration during the spring session. When the General Assembly concludes its business on March 9, it is scheduled to return to Springfield (after the general Primary Elections) on March 21.

On February 22, Gov. Pat Quinn delivered his proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget to the General Assembly, which marked the beginning of the most active part of the 2012 spring legislative session. The Governor's nearly \$34 billion austerity budget calls for the closure or consolidation of 42 state facilities, an additional 9 percent spending reduction in state agencies, and large reductions in Medicaid spending. Gov. Quinn also proposed level funding for education and a \$50 million increase in Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding. Community college funding would remain the same in FY 2013 as it was in FY 2012, except that \$750,000 is reduced from credit hour grant funding to be used for Performance Based Funding measures.

BILLS OF INTEREST TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**House Bill 1864 Equalization Funding Threshold Reduction (Lilly/Maloney)
ICCTA Position: SUPPORT**

Provides that as of July 1, 2012, a community college district must maintain a minimum required combined in-district tuition and universal fee rate per semester credit hour equal to 70% (instead of 85%) of the State-average combined rate in order to receive for equalization funding. Effective July 1, 2011.

Provides that after June 1, 2012, persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

HB 3838 **City Colleges of Chicago Curricula (Davis)**
ICCTA Position: **OPPOSE**

Provides that beginning January 2012, each community college within the City Colleges of Chicago shall offer degree-granting programs in nursing, cosmetology, and hospitality and culinary arts. Effective immediately.

Repeals provisions that permit the children of employees of a State university who have been employed by any one or by more than one State university for an aggregate period of at least 7 years to receive a 50% tuition waiver. Effective immediately.

HB 3887 Higher Education Abused Child Mandated Reporter (Kay)
ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act to add personnel of institutions of higher education, athletic program personnel, and early intervention providers to the list of mandated reporters under the Act. Effective immediately.



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HB 3898 Charter School on Community College Campus (Mitchell)

ICCTA Position: **OPPOSE**

Amends the School Code to prohibit the State Charter School Commission from reversing a local school board's decision to deny, revoke, or not to renew a charter if the campus of the charter school is to be located on a public community college campus. Effective immediately.

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that after June 1, 2012, persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

HB 3923 Open Meetings – Prepaid Tuition Fund (Durkin)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that the provision that authorizes closed meetings to be held to consider the sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts does not apply to meetings held to consider the investment of assets or income of funds deposited into the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund. Effective immediately.

HB 3941 **Elimination of General Assembly Scholarships (Crespo)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that after June 1, 2012, persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that after June 1, 2012 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

HB 4002 Property Tax For Vocational Education (Dugan)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that the school board of any district with a population of less than 500,000 that participates in a joint agreement for an area vocational education center may levy an annual property tax not to exceed 0.04%. Provides that the rate may be increased upon referendum approval to 0.08% in each eligible district.

HB 4080 **Abolishes ICCB and IBHE / Creates Department of Education (Davis)**

ICCTA Position: **OPPOSE**

Creates the Department of Education Act and amends the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, the School Code, the Board of Higher Education Act, and the Public Community College Act. Creates the Department of Education, with a Secretary of Education as its head. Provides that, in order to create continuity between all levels of education, the Department shall oversee the State Board of Education, the Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Community College Board and coordinate and streamline the functions of these boards until January 1, 2014. Provides that all of the rights, powers, duties, and functions vested by law in the State Board of Education (except the State Board of Education's duty under the Illinois Constitution to appoint a chief State educational officer), the State Superintendent of Education, the IBHE, and the ICCB are transferred to the Department of Education on January 1, 2014; abolishes the IBHE and ICCB on that date. Provides for the transfer of personnel and property.

HB 4543 MAP Grant Restrictions -- For-Profit Colleges (Sosnowski)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that for the purpose of meeting the definition of "qualified institution" as used in provisions concerning the Monetary Award Program, a for-profit educational organization is an educational organization located in this State if the organization's main campus is physically located in this State.

HB 4608 Property Tax Caps -- Declining EAV (Franks)

ICCTA Position: Presidents OPPOSE

Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code. Provides that, for all taxing districts located in whole or in part within a county with a population between 300,000 and 400,000, if the total equalized assessed value of all taxable property in the taxing district for the current levy year (excluding new property, recovered tax increment value, and property that is annexed to or disconnected from the taxing district in the current levy year) is less than the total equalized assessed value of all taxable property in the taxing district for the previous levy year, then the extension limitation is (a) 0% or (b) the rate of increase approved by voters (instead of the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12-month calendar year preceding the levy year or the rate of increase approved by voters). Effective immediately

HB 4672 Renewal of "6% Rule" Exemptions (Hammond)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Extends to July 1, 2016 certain exemptions from the requirement that an employer must pay to the System the present value of the increase in benefits resulting from the portion of any increase in earnings that exceeds 6 percent. Also includes a technical correction. Effective immediately.

HB 4996 Re-Employment of Retired Higher Education Personnel (Biss)

ICCTA Position: OPPOSE

Provides that if an employer notifies the State Universities Retirement System that it has employed an annuitant for more than 100 paid days or 500 paid hours in a school year, then the System shall certify to the employer the current value of the annual retirement annuity of that annuitant. Provides that if an employer receives such a certification, then the employer shall pay the certified amount to the System within one year after receiving the certification.

HB 5028 President Representative on ICCB (Beiser)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Provides that, after the effective date of the amendatory Act, one of the 11 members of the ICCB to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, must be a public community college president.

HB 5036 Higher Education Student Assistance Act (Biss)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Makes a technical change.

HB 5066 Elimination of General Assembly Scholarships (Sommer)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that after June 1, 2012 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provide for the issuance of Illinois Nurses license plates. Creates the Illinois Nurses Foundation Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Provides that the applicant shall pay an additional fee of \$35 for original issuance of the plates, of which \$20 shall be deposited into the Illinois Nurses Foundation Fund and \$15 shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund. Provides that an additional fee of \$22 shall be charged for each renewal, of which \$20 shall be deposited into the Illinois Nurses Foundation Fund and \$2 shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund. Provides that moneys in the Illinois Nurses Foundation Fund shall be paid as grants to the Illinois Nurses Foundation, to promote the health of the public by advancing the nursing profession in Illinois.

HB 5248 Community College Bidding Contracts (Cunningham)

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Provides that the provisions of a Section requiring the award of a contract to the lowest responsible bidder do not prevent a community college from complying with the terms and conditions of a grant, gift, or bequest that calls for the procurement of a particular good or service or the use of a particular contractor, provided that the grant, gift, or bequest provides all funding for the contract.

HB 5295 **Elimination of General Assembly Scholarships (Nybo)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that after June 1, 2012, persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

HB 5360 **University Leases (Rita)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that a lease entered into by the governing board of a public institution of higher education in connection with a transaction for the financing of buildings through the issuance of bonds by the Illinois Finance Authority is not subject to the provisions of an Article concerning real property and capital improvement leases.

HB 5361 **Illinois Procurement Policy Board (Currie)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that the Illinois Procurement Policy Board (now, the Executive Ethics Commission) shall appoint procurement compliance monitors to oversee and review the procurement processes. Provides that, after a hearing, the Board (now, the Commission) shall determine whether a procurement compliance monitor shall be removed. Provides that the determination shall be made upon a three-fifths vote of the Board. Effective July 1, 2012.

HB 5385 **Student Trustee for Each Campus (Morthland)**

ICCTA Position: **OPPOSE**

Provides that in multi-campus districts, one non-voting student member from each campus shall be selected to represent the campus instead of requiring one non-voting student member to be selected to represent all campuses; This would require City Colleges of Chicago to have seven student board members and Illinois Eastern Community Colleges to have four student board members serving on the board.

HB 5531 Repeal of University Employee Tuition Waivers (Arroyo)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Repeals provisions that permit the children of employees of a State university who have been employed by any one or by more than one State university for an aggregate period of at least 7 years to receive a 50% tuition waiver. Effective immediately.

HB 5593 Repeal of College Savings Program (Jakobsson)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Repeals a Section authorizing the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to develop and provide a program of college savings instruments to State residents. Effective immediately.

HB 5599 Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund Investments (Durkin)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act. Provides that ISAC, in investing amounts in the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund, shall abide by the same requirements that investment companies and management companies are required to abide by under Sections 30 and 32 of the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, related rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and related federal case law, with references to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission meaning the State Treasurer and references to an investment company or management company meaning the Commission. Authorizes the State Treasurer to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions. Effective immediately.

HB 5600 Administration of Illinois Prepaid Tuition Funds (Durkin)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act. Authorizes ISAC to enter into contracts only as specifically authorized by the Act for expenses associated with the administration of the Illinois prepaid tuition program (now, the Commission may enter into any contracts that are necessary to provide for the administration of the program). Deletes a provision that provides that charges and expenses shall be paid exclusively from the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund. Deletes a provision that provides that nothing with respect to the prohibition on delegating management functions shall preclude the Commission from subscribing to general investment research services available for purchase or use by others and providing compensation for accounting, computing, and other necessary services. Prohibits certain administrative and promotional expenses from being paid from moneys in the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund. Effective immediately.

HB 5671 MAP Grants (Pritchard)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires ISAC to establish a pilot program in 2013 to set aside \$50,000,000 in Monetary Award Program grant funds for the making of a second round of Monetary Award Program grants. Of the funds set aside, requires 75% to be awarded to public community college students and 25% to be awarded to independent college students attending other institutions. Provides that if the Commission determines that the pilot program is successful, then it shall recommend to the General Assembly that the program continue.

HB 5680 Higher Education Procurement Reports (Ford)

ICCTA Position:

Provides that each public institution of higher education shall provide the Chief Procurement Officer and the Procurement Policy Board (now, just the Chief Procurement Officer) with a report of, and, upon request, copies of, contracts that are related to the procurement of certain goods and services. Provides that certain procurements by or on behalf of public institutions of higher education shall be made in accordance with the requirements of the Code (now, in accordance with the requirements of the Code to the extent practical). Provides that the Chief Procurement Officer, with the approval of the Procurement Policy Board (now, approval of the Procurement Policy Board is not required), may waive registration, certification, and sole source hearing (now, and hearing) requirements for a public institution of higher education if compliance is impractical. Provides that the Chief Procurement Officer, with the approval of the Executive Ethics Commission and the Procurement Policy Board (now, just the approval of the Executive Ethics Commission), may permit a public institution of higher education to accept a bid or enter into a contract with a business that assisted the public institution of higher education in determining whether there is a need for a contract.

HB 5696 Prohibition of University Employee Tuition Waivers (Tryon)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that a university is prohibited from entering into a contract or agreement that offers its employees or contractors tuition waivers, grants, scholarships, or any other higher education benefits for the children, spouses, or other family members of the employees or contractors. Provides that nothing in this prohibition prevents or diminishes the right of a child, spouse, or other family member of an employee or contractor to borrow money for higher education expenses or apply for and be awarded a tuition waiver, grant, scholarship, or other award for higher education expenses, provided that there is no conflict of interest and no preference is given on account of the person being the child, spouse, or other family member of an employee or contractor. Provides that nothing in this prohibition shall diminish the value of contractual rights existing before the effective date of the amendatory Act that are enjoyed by employees and contractors of the university or their children, spouses, and other family members. Repeals provisions that permit the children of employees of a State university who have been employed by any one or by more than one State university for an aggregate period of at least 7 years to receive a 50% tuition waiver. Effective immediately.

HB 5744 **Teachers Re-Employment (Rita)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Chicago Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that a retired teacher may be re-employed as a teacher on a temporary and non-annual basis or on an hourly basis without loss of pension, so long as the person does not accept more than \$10,000 in gross compensation for that re-employment in a school year.

HB 5781 **Elimination of General Assembly Scholarships (Mitchell)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the School Code, the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, and the Illinois Youth and Young Adult Employment Act. Provides that after July 1, 2012 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after July 1, 2012. Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to receive and consider applications for scholarship assistance from participants in the Young Adult Component of the Illinois Conservation Corps enrolled or accepted for enrollment at a public university or community college in this State. Provides that a total of 100 scholarships shall be awarded each year. Provides that recipients shall be selected from among qualified applicants based upon academic excellence and an intent to study a natural resource or environment-related major field of study. Provides that preference may be given to previous recipients of assistance. Provides that each scholarship shall be in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees of the public university or community college at which the recipient is enrolled. Requires ISAC to administer the scholarship program. Provides that an enrollee of the Illinois Conservation Corps program shall not receive payment for work performed (instead of receiving at least the standard minimum wage) if he or she is or was a recipient of a scholarship. Effective immediately.

HB 5784 University Fixed Tuition Rates for Community College Transfers (Hatcher)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Authorizes the governing board of each public university to develop a fixed tuition rate program for qualified students who agree to transfer to the university within 12 months after successfully earning an associate's degree at a public community college in this State. Provides that under the program, the university must (1) guarantee to a participating student enrolled in an associate's degree program at a public community college, on successful completion of the associate's degree program, transfer admission to the university within the 12-month period; and (2) charge tuition to a participating student for any semester or other academic term during a period of at least 24 months following the student's initial enrollment in the university at the same rate the university would have charged to the student during the later of (i) the fall semester of the student's freshman year at the public community college had the student entered the university as a freshman student or (ii) the fall semester of the second academic year preceding the academic year of the student's initial enrollment in the university.

HB 5786 Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (Hatcher)

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Creates the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act. Provides that, commencing with the fall term of the 2014-2015 academic year, a community college student who enrolls in and subsequently earns an associate degree for transfer granted pursuant to the Act is deemed eligible for transfer into the baccalaureate program of a State university and must be considered to have fulfilled all lower division coursework in the major field of study. Requires each community college district to ensure that associate degrees for transfer adhere to the degree models under rules of the ICCB, which shall include specific lower division courses in the major field of study that are comparable to the lower division courses in the major field of study at State universities, as agreed to by the IBHE and the ICCB. Requires a State university to guarantee junior status to any community college student who is admitted under the provisions of the Act. Sets forth provisions concerning coursework, reviews and reports by the IBHE, and implementation of the Act. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

HB 5882 Non-Citizen Student Ineligibility for Public Aid (Rose)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that a post-secondary student who is not a United States citizen and who is enrolled in a public university, college, or community college in this State is ineligible for any public aid benefits provided under the Code. Prohibits a public university, college, or community college in this State from counseling or providing information to such a student on how or where to apply for any public aid benefits provided under the Code.

Senate Bill 59 Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (Silverstein)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Creates the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act. Provides that, commencing with the fall term of the 2013-2014 academic year, a community college student who is eligible to complete an associate degree for transfer is deemed eligible for transfer into the baccalaureate program of a State university and shall be considered to have fulfilled all lower division coursework. Provides that as a condition of receipt of State funds, a community college district shall ensure that associate degrees for transfer (i) are from 60 to 67 semester hours or the quarter-hour equivalent; (ii) shall include specified Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum credits and lower division courses in an identified major field of study as defined in the Illinois Articulation Initiative for that major; and (iii) may include any such additional courses as may be required by the respective community college district board of trustees. Provides that an associate of science degree shall be from 60 to 68 semester hours or the quarter-hour equivalent, shall include specified Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum credits and lower division courses in an identified major field of study; and may include any such additional courses as may be required by the respective community college district board of trustees. Requires a State university, upon admission, to guarantee admission with junior status to any community college student who meets all of the requirements of the Act. Sets forth provisions concerning coursework, reviews and reports by the IBHE, and implementation of the Act. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Committee on Assignments

ICCTA Position: **MONITOR**

Provides that after June 1, 2013 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2013. Effective immediately.

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the State Finance Act and Illinois Vehicle Code to provide for the issuance of Illinois Nurses license plates. Creates the Illinois Nurses Foundation Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Provides that the applicant shall pay an additional fee of \$35 for original issuance of the plates, of which \$20 shall be deposited into the Illinois Nurses Foundation Fund and \$15 shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund. Provides that an additional fee of \$22 shall be charged for each renewal, of which \$20 shall be deposited into the Illinois Nurses Foundation Fund and \$2 shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund.

ICCTA Position: **OPPOSE**

Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code. Provides that, if the total equalized assessed value of all taxable property in the taxing district for the current levy year (excluding new property, recovered tax increment value, and property that is annexed to or disconnected from the taxing district in the current levy year) is less than the total equalized assessed value of all taxable property in the taxing district for the previous levy year, then the extension limitation is (a) 0% or (b) the rate of increase approved by voters (instead of the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12-month calendar year preceding the levy year or (b) the rate of increase approved by voters). Effective immediately.

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that after June 1, 2012 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

SB 2929 Community Colleges Procurement - Made in USA Preferences (Noland)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Specifically includes the Procurement of Domestic Products Act as one of the laws (and related administrative requirements) that apply to the Public Community College Act.

SB 2932 **Elimination of General Assembly Scholarships (Radogno)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that after June 1, 2012 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012.

SB 2949 **Religious Observance in Higher Education** (Silverstein)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the University Religious Observances Act. Provides that any student in an institution of higher learning, other than a religious or denominational institution of higher learning, who is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination, study, or work requirement and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up the examination, study, or work requirement that he or she may have missed because of such absence on a particular day; provided that the make-up examination, study, or work does not create an unreasonable burden upon the institution. Prohibits fees of any kind from being charged by the institution for making available to the student such an opportunity. Provides that no adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his or her availing himself or herself of these provisions. Requires publication of these provisions.

SB 3369 **Elimination of General Assembly Scholarships (Frerichs)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

After June 1, 2012 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

SB 3397 Higher Education Procurement (Holmes)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. In a Section concerning the applicability of the Code to public institutions of higher education, includes the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in the definition of "public institution of higher education". Effective immediately.

SB 3428 **President Representative on ICCB (Maloney)**

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that, after the effective date of the amendatory Act, one of the 11 members of the ICCB to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, must be the president of a public community college. Effective immediately.

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

After June 1, 2012 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012. Effective immediately.

SB 3466 Illinois Green Economy Network Appropriation (Clayborne)

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Appropriates \$3,750,000 from the Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant to the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN). Effective July 1, 2012.

SB 3561 **Community College Technical Bill (Maloney)**

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Amends the Public Community College Act. This is a community college shell bill for future use.

SB 3635 **Community College Bidding (Maloney)**

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that the provisions of a Section requiring the award of a contract to the lowest responsible bidder do not prevent a community college from complying with the terms and conditions of a grant, gift, or bequest that calls for the procurement of a particular good or service or the use of a particular contractor, provided that the grant, gift, or bequest provides all funding for the contract. Effective immediately.

SB 3713 Supplemental Higher Education Retirement Plan (Harmon)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Authorizes the State Comptroller to create, administer, manage, and operate a supplemental employee deferral plan to supplement and enhance the retirement income of employees of public school districts and community colleges. Sets forth the requirements for a supplemental employee deferral plan.

HB 3803 **College Completion Report Card Act (Lightford)**

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Creates the College Completion Report Card Act. Provides that within 3 months after the effective date of this Act, the Illinois P-20 Council shall collaborate with the IBHE, ICCB and a consortia of private colleges and universities to convene a committee headed by the chairperson of the Joint Educational Leadership Committee, whose purpose shall be to advise the Illinois P-20 Council on the development of a template for a college completion report card. After development, the IBHE and ICCB shall collaborate to collect data annually and publicly report college completion metrics, as well as report to and advise the Illinois P-20 Council on progress. The report card must be (I) clearly linked to performance funding metrics and the goals of the Public Agenda and (ii) simple to read and clearly indicative of minority and low-income student access, student progress, and progress towards increasing college completion On or before September 30, 2014 and on or before September 30 of each year thereafter, the IBHE and ICCB shall prepare a State report card and completion report cards for each institution that enrolls one or more students who receive Monetary Award Program grants. Provides that the committee shall provide to the Illinois P-20 Council and the longitudinal data system recommendations for more detailed data report cards that shall be publicly available for use by college, university, and agency leaders to identify solutions to improving certificate or degree completion.

SB 3804 Articulation and Transfer Committee (Lightford)

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act and the Public Community College Act. Requires the IBHE, in conjunction with the ICCB, to establish a Statewide Articulation and Transfer Committee; sets forth the duties of the committee. Requires the IBHE to collaborate with the ICCB to recommend to the General Assembly a revised, statewide articulation agreement that shall govern the articulation and transfer of credit between and among this State's secondary and postsecondary institutions; sets forth related requirements. Requires the IBHE to establish limits on the number of credits that institutions are allowed to require transferring students to complete on campus for graduation in order to minimize the time needed to complete a transfer degree. Provides that the ICCB is authorized and it shall be its duty to periodically review student records from students who, having formerly studied at a State community college, have since transferred to a 4-year institution that is authorized to receive Monetary Award Program funds in order to produce a course articulation report and shall also support the IBHE in convening a Statewide Articulation and Transfer Committee.

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

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

June 14, 2012

SPRING SESSION UPDATE

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned the spring 2012 session on May 31. Lawmakers may return to Springfield during the summer to address unresolved public employee pension and health insurance issues. This was a particularly active spring session, where the Fiscal Year 2013 budget, pension reform, pension cost-shifting, retiree health insurance, and Medicaid reform were dominant issues affecting community colleges.

Budget

The FY13 budget of many state agencies (including community colleges) was reduced by 6.14%, compared to FY12 levels. The community college system budget from state General Revenue Funds was reduced by \$21 million.

Medicaid Reform

The General Assembly approved Medicaid reforms, resulting in \$2.7 billion in projected savings and new revenues. Passage of a \$1-per-pack cigarette tax is predicted to generate \$700 million in new revenues, while reforming eligibility and reducing other Medicare expenses could save \$2 billion annually. The Governor's office had estimated that if the Medicare reforms had not passed, education budgets would have been slashed by more than 18% for FY 2013. The community college system budget could have been slashed by \$66 million.

Pension Reform

Proposals to reduce the automatic annual Cost of Living increases (COLA) were the cornerstone of pension cost-cutting initiatives that appeared to be gaining traction during the final days of session. Pension reform included a choice that participants (active employees and retirees) would be required to make between receiving health insurance benefits or a COLA. Pension reform did not pass out of the General Assembly, however, possibly because of concerns arising from a proposal to shift the employer's cost of pensions to school districts, community college districts, and universities.

Pension Cost-Shifting

A proposal to shift the employer cost of pensions for the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) from the state to the actual employer was not called for a vote and therefore did not pass. In its most recent form, the proposal would have called for a gradual shift of the employer cost (that the state now pays) to the actual employer. The cost shift would have required school districts, community college districts, and universities to begin accepting an amount equal to 1% of payroll cumulative each year until the full cost of pensions is being paid by the actual employer. It has been estimated that, at this gradual rate, 15 or more years would be required to accomplish the full funding shift. This is a subject of continuing dialogue between the legislative leaders and the Governor. It is possible that the General Assembly could be called back into session during the summer to address this and other pension issues.

Retiree Health Insurance

Free health insurance for retired state and university employees was eliminated with the passage of Senate Bill 1313. The Department of Central Management Services will soon establish contribution rates that state and university retirees will pay for health insurance benefits going forward. In addition, health insurance premiums for community college retirees will likely increase if proposed legislation is passed as part of a pension reform choice option.

A total of \$36 million was appropriated to pay past-due bills in the College Insurance Program for retired community college employees. ICCTA promoted SB 2348, which was signed into law by Gov. Pat Quinn on June 7.



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Other Legislation Impacting Community Colleges

Legislation that passed both houses of the General Assembly either has been or will be sent to the Governor for his consideration. Gov. Quinn may make one of four decisions regarding legislation that is sent to him:

1. Approve the legislation by signing the bill. The bill then becomes law and receives a Public Act number;
2. Veto the legislation by signing a veto message. The bill is then returned to the General Assembly, where both houses must override the Governor's veto with a 3/5 majority vote if it is to become law;
3. Amendatorily veto the legislation by making recommendations for change. The bill then returns to the General Assembly, together with the Governor's recommended amendatory language. Both houses must vote to accept the Governor's amendatory language or the bill dies; or
4. Take no action. The Governor can choose not to do anything with the legislation, which then automatically becomes law. This is a rarely used and undesirable option.

The following is community college-related legislation that has passed both houses of the General Assembly:

House Bill 3810 Elimination of General Assembly Scholarships (Crespo / Cullerton)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that after June 1, 2012, persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2012.

HB 3887 Higher Education Abused Child Mandated Reporter (Kay / McCarter)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act to add personnel of institutions of higher education, athletic program personnel, and early intervention providers to the list of mandated reporters under the Act.

HB 3923 Open Meetings – Prepaid Tuition Fund (Durkin / Murphy)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that the provision that authorizes closed meetings to be held to consider the sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts does not apply to meetings held to consider the investment of assets or income of funds deposited into the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund. Effective immediately.

HB 4116 Prepaid Tuition - Use of Funds (Durkin / Dillard)

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

Requires members of the investment advisory panel created under the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act to file verified written statements of economic interests with the Secretary of State.

HB 4996 Re-Employment of Retired Higher Education Personnel (Biss / Steans)

ICCTA Position: OPPOSE

Requires notification and documentation of persons receiving a retirement annuity who are employed by a university or community college employer. Defines "affected annuitant" as a person who, while receiving a retirement annuity, has been employed by a university or community college employer for more than 18 paid months and has received earnings in one academic year of more than 40% of his or her highest annual rate of earnings. Provides that the employer of an affected annuitant must pay to SURS an employer contribution equal to the annuitant's annual retirement annuity. Provides procedures, payment deadlines, and penalties for noncompliance. Provides an exception for an annuitant who is paid only from federal, foundation, or trust funds that are contingent upon the employment of that specific annuitant. Authorizes SURS to audit employers.

HB 5914 Limitation of University Search Firms (Rose / Righter)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that charges for the services of an external hiring search firm may not be paid from any source of funds, except (i) in the hiring of the president of a university or (ii) in the case of when the president of the university and the board of trustees demonstrate a justifiable need for guidance from an individual or firm with specific expertise in the field of the hiring.

SB 1313 State Universities Health Insurance (Radogno / Cross)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 to eliminate automatic full health insurance coverage at no cost for state and university employees and requires the Department of Central Management Services to establish contributions that retirees shall be required to pay. Provides that contributions required of annuitants, survivors, and retired employees shall be the same for all retirement systems and shall also be based on whether an individual has made an election under a specific provision of the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Specifies that contributions may be based on annuitants', survivors', or retired employees' Medicare eligibility, but may not to be based on Social Security eligibility.

SB 2348 **College Insurance Program (Steans / Madigan)**

ICCTA Position: SUPPORT

This bill appropriates \$36 million for the payment of past due bills in the College Insurance Program. The payment of past due bills will reduce the current CIP payment delay from 440 days to less than 60 days. The language provides that the money is to be used for claims incurred on or before June 30, 2012. **Signed into law as Public Act 97-0685.**

SB 2443 FY13 Higher Education Budget (Kotowski / Madigan)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

This bill provided \$340.2 million for the state funding portion of community college budgets in FY13. This budget is a reduction of \$21 million below the FY12 budget.

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Provides that the provisions of the Procurement of Domestic Products Act shall apply to the Public Community College Act to the extent practicable, provided that the Procurement of Domestic Products Act must not be applied to the Public Community College Act in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements of the Public Community College Act.

SB 2949 University Religious Observances Act (Silverstein / Mathias)

ICCTA Position: MONITOR

Amends the University Religious Observances Act. Provides that any student in an institution of higher learning, other than a religious or denominational institution of higher learning, who is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination, study, or work requirement and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up the examination, study, or work requirement that he or she may have missed because of such absence on a particular day; provided that the make-up examination, study, or work does not create an unreasonable burden upon the institution. Prohibits fees of any kind from being charged by the institution for making available to the student such an opportunity. Provides that no adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his or her availing himself or herself of these provisions. Requires publication of these provisions.

SB 3244 High School Math Requirement (Frerichs / Chapa LaVia)

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Requires the State Board of Education to coordinate the acquisition, adaptation, and development of middle and high school mathematics curriculum models to aid school districts and teachers in implementing standards for all students. Provides that the acquisition, adaptation, and development process shall include the input of representatives of statewide educational organizations and stakeholders. Sets forth what the curriculum models must include, and provides that the curriculum models must be completed no later than March 1, 2013. Provides that the curriculum models and training programs must be made available to all school districts, which may choose to adopt or adapt the models in lieu of developing their own mathematics curricula. Requires the Illinois P-20 Council to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the extent and effect of utilization of the curriculum models by school districts. Provides that within 4 years after the effective date of the amendatory Act, state mathematics test results and higher education mathematics remediation data must be used to gauge the effectiveness of high school mathematics instruction and the extent of standards attainment and be used to guide the continuous improvement of the mathematics curriculum and instruction.

SB 3397 Cigarette Tax Allocation and Use (Stearns / Currie)

ICCTA Position: **MONITOR**

Provides that the maximum amounts of annual unpaid Medical Assistance bills received and recorded by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services on or before June 30 of a particular fiscal year attributable in aggregate to the General Revenue Fund, Healthcare Provider Relief Fund, Tobacco Settlement Recovery Fund, Long-Term Care Provider Fund, and the Drug Rebate Fund that may be paid in total by the Department from future fiscal year Medical Assistance appropriations to those funds are: \$700,000,000 for FY13 and \$100,000,000 for FY14 and each fiscal year thereafter. Makes other changes concerning fiscal year limitations relating to payments for medical care. Provides that this Act does not take effect at all unless both HB 5007 of the 97th General Assembly and SB 2840 of the 97th General Assembly become law.

SB 3428 President Representative on ICCB (Maloney / Mathias)

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that, after the effective date of the amendatory Act, one of the 11 members of the ICCB to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, must be the president of a public community college.

SB 3635 Foundation Gifts and Grant Bequests (Maloney / Cunningham)

ICCTA Position: **SUPPORT**

Allows a community college to comply with the terms and conditions of a grant, gift, or bequest that calls for the use of a particular contractor. With respect to a community college complying with the terms and conditions of a grant, gift, or bequest that calls for the procurement of a particular good or service, provides that the grant, gift, or bequest must comply with all applicable laws and must not interfere with or otherwise impair any collective bargaining agreements the community college may have with labor organizations.

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

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

November 29, 2012

FALL 2012 VETO SESSION UPDATE

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned today and completed the first week of the fall 2012 veto session. Both houses will return to Springfield on Tuesday, December 4, to continue with the second and final week of veto session.

The primary purpose of the veto session is to allow lawmakers to respond to the Governor's vetoes, amendatory vetoes, and budget-related vetoes. In order for the Governor's veto to be rejected on any legislation, both houses of the General Assembly must vote to override the Governor's veto. A three-fifths majority vote is required in each house to successfully override a governor's veto on most bills. Overriding some budget vetoes may require a simple majority vote in each house. If only one house votes to override a veto and the second house does not vote to override, the Governor's veto stands. Since the Governor vetoed very few bills from the 2012 spring session, the required legislative work load is relatively light.

General Assembly Approves Petition Filing Date Change

Senate Bill 3338 changes the last day for filing petitions for the April 2013 elections from December 24, 2012 to December 26, 2012. ICCTA supported this local-government initiative to amend the law to move the current petition filing deadline from Christmas Eve to the day after Christmas. The bill also establishes a special election date to fill the vacancy in the Second Congressional District resulting from the resignation of U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. SB 3339 was passed unanimously by both Houses and will soon be sent to the Governor for his approval.

Gov. Pat Quinn is expected to sign the legislation, which would then make the legislation effective immediately.

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