

Illinois Community College Trustees Association **Action Alert**

October 5, 2007

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned Thursday and completed the first week of the fall 2007 veto session. Both houses will return to Springfield on Wednesday, October 10, to continue with the second and final week of veto session.

FY08 Budget

The primary purpose of the veto session is to allow the General Assembly 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.

The first order of business for the Illinois House was to override the Governor's item vetoes and item reduction vetoes to the Fiscal Year 2008 budget. The House voted in three separate motions to override the Governor's budget vetoes. House actions included restoration of \$10 million for community colleges that was cut by the Governor. On most votes in the House, four Democrat legislators voted not to override vetoes in support of the Governor.

The House's FY 2008 budget votes have now been sent to the Senate for consideration. The Senate must vote to override the Governor's vetoes using the same motions that were voted upon the House.

Local Control and the Ethics Act

Gov. Blagojevich's veto of **House Bill 3504** (which clarifies that community colleges are units of local government and are not under the jurisdiction of the State Inspector General) was **NOT** overridden. HB 3504's sponsor, Rep. Kurt Granberg, was one of the four lawmakers who consistently voted against overriding the Governor's vetoes and did not file a motion to override.

With the failure of the House to override the HB 3504 veto, the Governor's veto stands. Under the provisions of the Illinois Constitution, time has expired and **there are no remaining options to override this bill.**

Local Control Court Proceedings

ICCTA was recently informed that, in addition to filing an appeal to a recent circuit court decision favoring community colleges, the Illinois Inspector General has filed a motion with the Second Appellate Court requesting a Stay of the lower court's decision. The Appellate Court could rule on the motion to stay the decision within the next few weeks. A decision on the appeal of the lower court's decision could be handed down within the next 9 to 12 months.

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

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