

ICCTA ACTION ALERT

January 14, 2011

96th General Assembly ends / 97th General Assembly begins

At 1:20 AM on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, the 96th Illinois General Assembly adjourned *sine die*. No legislation directly involving higher education was enacted during the final hours of the 96th General Assembly. However, just hours before the session was scheduled to expire, both houses approved **Senate Bill 2505**, which increases the Illinois income tax rate from 3 percent to 5 percent. The Governor signed the bill on January 13. Any other bills that were introduced during the 96th General Assembly and not processed can no longer be considered, since all of its business for the two-year session has been concluded.

At noon on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, both houses of the 97th General Assembly were organized after members elected in the November 2010 election were seated and sworn in. Democrats remain in the majority in both the House and Senate, although compared to the previous session they make up a smaller majority in each chamber. The Illinois Senate is composed of 35 Democrat members and 24 Republican members. The House of Representatives is composed of 64 Democrat members and 54 Republican members. Michael Madigan was elected to his 14th two-year term as the Speaker of the House, while John Cullerton was elected to his second two-year term as the President of the Senate.

The General Assembly concluded its business of organizing and adjourned on Thursday, January 13. Both chambers are scheduled to return to Springfield in early February. The scheduled session dates for the spring 2011 session appear below. Dates to note are: the Governor's Fiscal Year 2012 budget address is scheduled for February 16; ICCTA Lobby Day is scheduled on May 4, and adjournment is scheduled for May 31.

Scheduled Session Dates:

- * February 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
- * March 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30, 31
- * April 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 28, 29
- * May 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

ICCTA will formally adopt its 2011 legislative agenda at its February 14 board meeting in Washington D.C. That meeting will be held in conjunction with the February 13-16 Community College National Legislative Summit.

**For more information on the upcoming legislative session,
call ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282**



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