

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** ▪



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