

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.

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