

Illinois Community College Trustees Association Action Alert

May 13, 2008

LOCAL CONTROL BILL PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE

ICCTA's legislative initiative to address local board control and community college ethics issues is embodied in **House Bill 4189**. The bill amends the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act to replace ambiguous language in the current law. The current law has been construed to designate community colleges as state agencies and its employees as state employees with respect to the Ethics Act. HB 4189 clearly defines community college districts as units of local government and treats community colleges like all other units of local government under the Ethics Act.

HB 4189 passed out of the House several weeks ago on a vote of 91-14-0. The bill was heard before the Senate Executive Committee on May 8 and was approved by a unanimous vote. The bill has advanced to second reading in the Senate and could come up for a final vote this week. There is no apparent opposition to this bill in the Senate.

At exactly the same time that the Senate Executive Committee was deliberating HB 4189, a different Senate Committee was deliberating **HB 1434**, which would create a pilot program to enable William Rainey Harper College to offer baccalaureate degrees in certain disciplines and under some restrictions. The committee narrowly rejected the proposal by a vote of 4 to 5. HB 1434 was held in the Senate committee. It is possible for the proposal to receive another hearing.

We will prepare a full report for all community college trustees and the community college system later this week as legislation continues to advance.

For additional legislative updates, contact ICCTA at iccta@communitycolleges.org or 1-800-454-2282.

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