

Illinois Community College Trustees Association Action Alert

August 8, 2007

Kaskaskia College subdistricting bill passes Senate

The Illinois Senate has approved a measure that would require Kaskaskia College to divide its community college district into seven geographic subdistricts. **House Bill 1876** passed on a vote of 32 to 23 in the Senate and now must be returned to the House for a final vote. If approved, each Kaskaskia trustee would then be required to stand for election from a specific subdistrict.

The sponsors of HB 1876 stated during Senate debate that this legislation should be ***extended to apply to the entire state and each community college***. It is entirely possible that HB 1876 could soon be returned to the House for final action.

Attached is a flyer that ICCTA and the Illinois Presidents Council are circulating in the State Capitol regarding this issue.

Please contact your State Representatives (in the House only) on Thursday and ask them to OPPOSE passage of HB 1876. This legislation could establish a precedent to provide individual member subdistricts for all Illinois community colleges. Worse, the legislation requires that the Illinois General Assembly determine where the subdistricts shall be drawn and overrides the board's local authority.

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

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Vote No on Senate Amendment #1 to HB 1876

HB 1876 is on the order of Concurrence in the House. There is significant opposition to Senate Amendment #1.

Senate Amendment #1 is a 618 page amendment that became the bill. Amendment #1 attempts to create subdistricts for only one community college district in the state.

Currently only two of the 39 community college districts have subdistricts. One of those, Southwestern Illinois College, adopted the subdistrict structure by referendum of the voters of the district. The other, Lincoln Land Community College, was established by legislation without objection of the college.

The only community college affected by Senate Amendment #1, Kaskaskia College, **strongly objects** to the effort to create subdistricts. To this date, there have been no public requests for the subdistricts from any person or group of persons in the district. No input from the community or the college has been sought.

Additional reasons to vote NO to Concur to Senate Amendment #1 to HB 1876:

- This amendment would override local control of a unit of local government
- The General Assembly does not normally determine local district boundaries for units of local government
- If there is a public outcry for subdistricts (which there is not), the Illinois Public Community College Act provides a mechanism (110 ILCS 805/3-7c) to create subdistricts.
- The amendment is technically flawed in that it uses census track data which does not fit into community college districts well. Community College districts were originally based on high school or unit school district boundaries.

Please join the groups listed on the back side of this sheet in opposing Senate Amendment #1 to HB 1876.