

Item #9  
August 14, 2007

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**Submitted for:** Information.

**Summary:** This item summarizes major legislative items on substantive bills for the spring session of the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**Action Requested:** None.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**95<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPRING 2007 SESSION**  
**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

The 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly's record overtime session has been a productive and successful one for higher education. Measures to develop a long-term plan for higher education in the state, promote affordability, increase college readiness, and foster greater cooperation among all levels of education have been approved, most of them since the legislature passed the May 31 deadline for its regular session.

A separate report to the Board will detail the FY 2008 state budget.

The Board was successful in passing many of its key legislative priorities and building ever-stronger relationships with committee chairs and members. These include:

**Creating Higher Education Policy for the Future**

House Joint Resolution 69, sponsored by Representative Kevin McCarthy and Senator Edward Maloney, will develop a long-term, comprehensive master plan for higher education in Illinois. The resolution directs the Board to undertake the master plan through creation of the Task Force on Higher Education and the Economy, chaired by IBHE Chairwoman Carrie Hightman. The master plan will help ensure that the state's higher education system is preparing an ever-more diverse student population for the increasingly competitive job market. The plan will also highlight successful policies that the state could adopt or expand on and promote effective use of state funds. The joint resolution has been adopted by both houses.

**Fostering a Coordinated Education System from Preschool through Graduate School**

House Bill 1648 creates a P-20 (Preschool through Grade 20) Council, which will be responsible for establishing a statewide agenda that better integrates all levels of learning in Illinois. The bill was sponsored by Representative Jerry Mitchell and Senator Deanna Demuzio. The Council will recommend best practices, focusing on opportunities for P-12 educators and postsecondary educators to work more closely together and better prepare students for success. The bill has been sent to the Governor. In addition, House Resolution 491, sponsored by Representative Sandra Pihos, provides that the Council's duties shall include proposing recommendations concerning accountability in education. The resolution has passed the House.

**Increasing College Readiness**

Research shows that lack of academic preparation – not affordability – is the single biggest barrier to college enrollment. Many students graduate high school without the skills needed to do college-level work. Senate Bill 858, the College and Career Readiness Pilot Program sponsored by Senator Maloney and Representative David Miller, creates teams of advisers from high schools and community colleges who will assess ACT scores and help students select classes that meet college admissions requirements or the demands of the modern workplace. Teams will also work to better match high school curriculums with the expectations

for college-level work. This pilot program will better prepare students for the rigors of college and the workplace. Senate Bill 858 has passed both houses.

### **Developing Strong School Leaders**

Quality teachers significantly improve students' chances of success, and research shows that well-prepared principals and superintendents help teachers excel. To ensure our schools are being led by highly-qualified leaders, House Joint Resolution 66, sponsored by Representative Mike Smith and Senator Demuzio creates a task force to recommend improvements in training and supporting these leaders. The task force will develop strategies for implementing various recommendations of the Commission on School Leadership as outlined in its report to the Board last August, "School Leader Preparation: Blueprint for Change." The state has also expanded mentoring programs for superintendents, which helps keep the most innovative educators working in our public schools. The joint resolution has been adopted in each house.

### **Reining in Textbook Costs**

Many students struggle to pay for increasingly expensive college textbooks. Senate Resolution 298, sponsored by Senator Mattie Hunter, resolves that each public university and community college must undertake measures to reduce textbook costs. Institutions must document measures taken to curb textbook expenses and report progress to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board, which in turn will brief the General Assembly. A package of bills, based on an IBHE study of textbook costs, that would have created textbook advisory committees at community colleges and public universities, provided a tax break for purchase of required course materials, and disclosed information to help students be more savvy consumers, passed the Senate but was not acted on in the House. SR 298 resolution has been adopted by the Senate.

Other legislative action – or, as the case may be, inaction – of note includes:

- Senate Joint Resolution 59, sponsored by Senator Maloney, proposes that educators and policymakers use *existing* test results to guide students toward using their senior year to improve college readiness. The resolution, sponsored in the House by Representative Miller, also requires policymakers to develop an improved high school feedback report. The revised report will help educators, students, and parents better understand students' academic progress and will highlight effective programs that could be expanded to benefit more students. The resolution has passed the Senate but, as of this report, has not been heard in the House.
- An amendment drafted to House Bill 824 would assign the responsibility for chief procurement officer for higher education to IBHE. The bill, sponsored by Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg and Representative Elaine Nekritz, amends the state ethics act with several provisions affecting pensions systems, and efforts to work out an acceptable amendment have so far proved unsuccessful.
- House Bill 574 creates the Social Security Number Task Force within the Attorney General's Office. The task force, which includes the IBHE Executive Director or designee, is to consider measures to protect citizen privacy through limiting access to social security numbers used by state and local governments for various purposes. The bill, sponsored by Representative Ruth Munson and Senator Susan Garrett, has passed both houses.

- House Bill 3504, sponsored by Representative Kurt Granberg and Senator Gary Forby, classifies community colleges as units of local government for purposes of regulating political activities and acceptance and solicitation of gifts. The legislation, which has been sent to the Governor, relates to a controversy that blossomed after the Attorney General ruled that community colleges are subject to the state ethics act.
- House Bill 1313, sponsored by Representative Jay Hoffman and Senator William Haine, directs the Illinois Ethanol Research Advisory Board to establish and operate, subject to appropriation, the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville as a State Biorefining Center of Excellence. The measure has passed both houses.
- House Bill 182 creates forensic psychiatrist fellowship training programs at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU) in Springfield. The program is subject to appropriation, which would be split 75-25 between UIC and SIU. The bill, sponsored by Representative Patricia Bellock and Senator Hunter, has been signed by the Governor.
- Senate Bill 1446 provides that the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) may undertake the We Want to Learn English Initiative aimed at supporting local programs to teach English to U.S. citizens and others with lawful immigration status. If funding is included in the ICCB budget, then no less than half the funds must be disbursed to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, immigrant social service agencies, and on-site job training programs. The bill, which has been sent to the Governor, is sponsored by Senator Martin Sandoval and Representative Elizabeth Hernandez.
- Senate Bill 776 amends the Department of Human Services Act to create the Task Force on the Condition of African American Men, which will determine the causal factors for the condition of African American men, inventory state programs and initiatives aimed at improving that condition, and identify gaps in services to African American men. The task force is to be comprised of legislators and representatives of various state agencies, including IBHE. The bill, sponsored by Senator Kwame Raoul and Representative Marlow Colvin, has passed both houses.
- House Bill 1434 would have established pilot baccalaureate completion programs at Harper College. Sponsored by Representative Fred Crespo and Senator Garrett, the bill passed the House but was never called for a vote in the Senate. This is the third year similar legislation has been considered, but not passed, by the General Assembly.
- Senate Bill 162, sponsored by Senator Maloney, would have added psychology to the list of disciplines eligible for funding through the Health Services Education Grants Act. Representative McCarthy sponsored the measure in the House, which did not take up the legislation.



**LEGISLATIVE REPORT  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**95<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**Affordability**

**House Bill 376, Franks (Clayborne)**

**Public Act 95-0023**

Amends the State Treasurer Act. Removes the requirement that the State Treasurer adjust each account at least annually to ensure compliance with the requirements of the College Savings Pool. Provides that the Treasurer shall limit the contributions that may be made on behalf of a designated College Savings Pool beneficiary based on the limitations established by the Internal Revenue Service. Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act.

**House Bill 486 (amended), Watson (Kotowski)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the University of Illinois Act. In a Section concerning scholarships for children of veterans, adds any time on or after September 11, 2001 and until Congress or the President orders that persons in service are no longer eligible for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal to the list of periods of hostilities for which each county shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship in the University. Adds Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (instead of any time on or after September 11, 2001 and until Congress or the President orders that persons in service are no longer eligible for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal) to the list of periods of hostilities for which each county shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship in the University.

**House Bill 1656 (amended), Burke (Watson)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act. Provides that the intent of the Act is to both encourage and better enable Illinois families to help themselves finance the cost of higher education through a program that provides Illinois families with a method of State tax-free and federally tax-deferred, tax-exempt savings (instead of just tax-deferred savings) for higher education (instead of for college tuition). Removes a provision that provides that once a partial benefit of a prepaid tuition contract has been disbursed, any tax liability attributable to the contract and its assets becomes a tax liability of the qualified beneficiary, unless otherwise specified in the contract. Provides that the intent of the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act is to both encourage and better enable Illinois families to help themselves finance the cost of higher education through a program that provides Illinois families with a method of State tax-free and federally tax-exempt savings (rather than federally tax-deferred, tax-exempt savings) for higher education.

**Senate Bill 8 (amended), Kotowski (Chapa LaVia)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Creates the Veterans' Home Nurses' Loan Repayment Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to establish a program to award grants of up to \$5,000 per year to nurses

who commit to working in veterans' homes in Illinois. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to require (instead of encourage) grant recipients to use the grant to repay educational loans.

**Senate Resolution 298, Hunter**

**Resolution Adopted**

Resolves that each public university and community college shall undertake measures to reduce the cost of textbooks to students. The institutions are to report to IBHE and ICCB on steps they have taken, and the two agencies are in turn to report to General Assembly.

**Senate Bill 497, Cullerton (Fritchey)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the State Treasurer Act to provide that moneys held in an account invested in the Illinois College Savings Pool shall be exempt from all claims of the creditors of the participant, donor, or designated beneficiary of that account, except for non-exempt College Savings Pool transfers to or from the account. Provides that moneys held in an account invested in the Illinois College Savings Pool of which the debtor is a participant or donor is personal property that is exempt from judgment, attachment, or distress from rent except for: (i) contributions to the account made with the intent to hinder, delay, or defraud any creditor, (ii) certain contributions to the account made during the 365 day period prior to the date of the debtor filing for bankruptcy in excess of the annual gift tax exclusion; or (iii) certain contributions to the account made during the 730 to 366 day period prior to the date of the debtor filing for bankruptcy in excess of the annual gift tax exclusion.

**Community Colleges**

**House Bill 720, Black (Demuzio)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Requires that for all meetings of a community college board of trustees, a quorum of the board must be physically present at the location of the meeting.

**House Bill 721, Black (Demuzio)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Requires a community college board of trustees to post its meeting schedule for the entire year when it adopts the schedule at its organizational meeting.

**House Bill 1348, Hannig (Demuzio)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Public Community College Act with respect to the trustee districts in Community College District No. 526. Provides that all counties, townships, census tracts, block groups, blocks, annexations, and natural boundaries are those that appear on maps published by the United States Bureau of the Census for the 2000 census and maps produced by the Department of Revenue (instead of providing that all counties, townships, census tracts, block groups, and blocks are those that appear on maps published by the United States Bureau of the Census for the 2000 census). Provides that the State Board of Elections shall adjust census tract boundaries, municipal and township annexations, and natural boundaries to make compact and contiguous districts.



**House Bill 3504, Granberg (Forby)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. For purposes of this act, defines community colleges as units of local government and requires the adoption of policies regulating political activities by community college officials and employees. Removes the definition of community colleges as state agencies under this Act.

**Senate Bill 402, Demuzio (Black)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that for all meetings of a board of trustees, a quorum of members must be physically present at the location of the meeting. Effective July 1, 2007.

**Senate Bill 843 (amended), Lightford (Moffitt)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Allows school districts and community college districts to own and operate wind generation turbine farms that directly or indirectly reduce energy or other operating costs. Provides that the school district or the community college district may ask for the assistance of any State agency in obtaining financing options.

**Diversity**

**House Joint Resolution 1 (amended), Clayborne (Meyer)**

**Adopted Both Houses**

Creates a Joint Task Force on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Options.

**Senate Bill 776 (amended), Raoul (Colvin)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Creates the Task Force on the Condition of African American Men in Illinois to determine the causal factors for the condition of African American men; to inventory State programs and initiatives that serve to improve the condition of African American men; to identify gaps in services to African American men; and to develop strategies to reduce duplication of services and to maximize coordination between State agencies, providers, and educational institutions, including developing benchmarks to measure progress. Requires the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2008.

**Senate Bill 1446 (amended), Sandoval (Hernandez)**

**Passed Both Houses**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Allows the Illinois Community College Board to establish and administer a We Want to Learn English Initiative to provide resources for immigrants and refugees to learn English. Provides that each fiscal year, the Board may include in its budget proposal \$15 million in funding for the Initiative. Provides that no less than half of the funds appropriated for the Initiative each fiscal year may be disbursed to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, immigrant social service organizations, faith-based organizations, and on-site job training programs.

**Senate Bill 1746 (amended), Delgado (Soto)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Creates the Illinois Latino Family Commission Act and the Illinois Latino Family Commission. Sets forth the purpose and the composition of the Commission. Provides for the funding of the Commission. Provides that the Commission shall annually report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Commission's progress towards its goals and objectives. Effective immediately.

**Graduation**

**Senate Bill 858 (amended), Maloney (Miller)**

**Passed Both Houses**

Create the College and Career Readiness Pilot Program, which would set up College Readiness Teams at 4 pilot community college sites, to: 1) work with ACT to correlate the ACT exam to readiness for specific college courses; 2) then use the results of the ACT to ascertain the status of students in high school(s), and work with local high school to provide remedial coursework as needed.

**Senate Bill 313 (amended), Maloney (Myers)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Requires public universities to require students who need remedial coursework to take such coursework before proceeding with her or his course of study.

**Miscellaneous**

**House Joint Resolution 69 (amended), McCarthy (Maloney)**

**Adopted Both Houses**

Requires IBHE to create a master planning task force to develop a comprehensive higher education policy agenda.

**House Resolution 187, Hoffman**

**Resolution Adopted**

Congratulates Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville on its 50th anniversary and proclaims September 24, 2007 as Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Day in the State of Illinois.

**House Resolution 533, Madigan**

**Resolution Adopted**

Congratulates the Chicago State University Foundation on its 13th Annual Friends of CSU Awards Gala, and Larry Richman on being the recipient of the Friends of CSU Award.

**House Bill 166 (amended), Osmond (Bond)**

**Public Act 95-0025**

Makes it a civil rights violation for a public employer to refuse temporary transfer of a pregnant peace officer to less hazardous or less strenuous duty for duration of pregnancy, if she requests; with advice of physician and where it could reasonably be accommodated.

**House Bill 237, Dunn (Hultgren)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Sets forth procedures under which a library may publish or make any information contained in its records available to the public if the information is requested by a sworn law enforcement officer who represents that it is impractical to secure a court order as a result of an emergency where the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that there is an imminent danger of physical harm. Provides that these procedures shall not alter any right to challenge the use or dissemination of patron information that is otherwise permitted by law.

**House Bill 470, Jakobsson (Frerichs)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the State Universities Civil Service Act. Authorizes a hearing officer (in addition to a hearing board) appointed by the University Civil Service Merit Board to preside over demotion, removal, and discharge hearings. Makes technical changes. Effective immediately.

**House Bill 574 (amended), Munson (Garrett)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Social Security Number Protection Task Force Act. Provides that the Task Force is created within the Office of the Attorney General and that the Attorney General is responsible for administering the activities of the Task Force. Requires the Task Force to explore the technical and procedural changes that are needed in order to implement a unique identification number system to replace the use of social security numbers by State and local government agencies. Increases the membership of the Task Force and provides that the member appointed by the Attorney General shall serve as chairperson of the Task Force. Adds a representative from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, appointed by the Executive Director, as well as several other new members.

**House Bill 634, Winters (Frerichs)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Permits a 5 percent preference to be given to bidders who will use biobased products, except for Capital Development Board or Department of transportation contracts.

**House Bill 680 (amended), Nekritz (Garrett)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Creates the Biomonitoring Safety Net Act. Provides that the purpose of the Act is for the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health, to conduct an environmental contaminant biomonitoring feasibility study (instead of program) that proposes the best ways to monitor the presence and concentration of designated chemicals in the bodies of the people of this State.

**House Bill 682 (amended), Jakobsson (Frerichs)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Exempts public institutions of higher education from the requirement that a State agency include on materials it publishes certain information concerning State authorization, publication date, number of copies printed, and printing order number. Effective immediately.

**House Bill 724, Dunkin (Hunter)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Removes the dates on which an educational institution must have enrolled a majority of its students in degree programs and maintained an accredited status in order to not be considered to be a private business and vocational school under the Act.

**House Bill 742 (amended), Hamos (Frerichs)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Whistleblower and the Whistleblower Reward and Protection Act. Expands the definition of employer by including the following: a political subdivision of the State and a unit of local government, school district, or authority including board, commission, department, division, or other agency of these entities; any person acting within scope of her or his authority; school district or combination of school districts; a community college district, State college or university and any State agency with a primary function of providing educational services. Prohibits state and local government employers from retaliating against an employee who discloses information (which the employee has reasonable cause to believe discloses a violation of a State, federal law, regulation or rule) to a government or law enforcement agency or in an administrative hearing, legislative commission or committee, court, or any other proceeding. Fines any person taking adverse employment action against an employee who discloses information to law enforcement agencies or government in an administrative hearing, court or legislative committee or commission.

**House Bill 978, Hannig (Schoenberg)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Permits a State agency to renew or extend a lease of real property or capital improvements without using the request for information selection process if it is in the State's best interest and the Procurement Policy Board does not object (now, permitted only for renewal or extension of leases in effect before July 1, 2002). Effective July 1, 2007.

**House Bill 1384 (amended), Krause (Kotowski)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Provides that all executive branch State agencies shall strive to reduce energy use in State facilities by 10% within 10 years after the effective date of this Act. Provides that State agencies shall work with the Department of Central Management Services in achieving the goal. Provides that all requests for new construction or renovation to State facilities shall implement design criteria that exceeds contemporary standards for energy efficiency. Provides that if the Department finds that implementation costs of the Act exceed energy savings, the Department shall request approval from the General Assembly to terminate implementation of the provisions under the Act.

**House Bill 1460 (amended), Boland (Garrett)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Government Buildings Energy Cost Reduction Act of 1991. Provides that all buildings owned or operated by the State shall use fluorescent, rather than incandescent, light bulbs.

**House Bill 2194 (amended), Poe (Demuzio)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Southern Illinois University Management Act. Provides that the Board of Trustees has the power and duty to conduct health care programs in furtherance of its teaching, research, and public service functions; sets forth what that includes. Provides that the Board has the power and duty to administer a plan or plans established by the clinical faculty of the School of Medicine for the billing, collection, and disbursement of charges for services performed in the course of or in support of the faculty's academic responsibilities (instead of for the billing, collection, and disbursement of charges made by individual faculty members for professional services performed by them in the course of or in support of their academic responsibilities). Removes a provision that provides that charges established pursuant to this plan must be itemized in any billing and any amounts collected that are not used to off-set the cost of operating or maintaining the activity that generated the funds collected must be accounted for separately. Provides that audited financial statements of the plan or plans must be provided to the Legislative Audit Commission annually (now, the accounting must clearly show the use and application made of the funds and the Board must report such accountings for the previous fiscal year to the Legislative Audit Commission annually by December 31 of each fiscal year). Effective immediately.

**Senate Joint Resolution 2 (amended), Martinez (Colvin)**

**Adopted Both Houses**

Sets forth clauses concerning membership of the Joint Task Force on the College Insurance Program and the authority, duties, and purposes of the Joint Task Force. Resolves that the Joint Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2008.

**Senate Bill 46, Garrett (Nekritz)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Creates the Green Governments Illinois Act. Provides for the creation of the Green Governments Coordinating Council and sets out the composition and responsibilities of the Council. Gives the Council the authority to solicit and receive grants to fulfill the Council's functions and to solicit, use, and publish advice and information to assist in the Council's duties. Provides that participation in the Green Governments Illinois program by units of State and local government and educational institutions is voluntary. Sets out responsibilities of State agencies under the Act. Provides that a member of the Lieutenant Governor's staff shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a Green Governments Illinois website with specified content. Effective immediately.

**Senate Bill 110, Trotter (Jakobsson)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the State Universities Civil Service Act. Authorizes a hearing officer (in addition to a hearing board) appointed by the University Civil Service Merit Board to preside over demotion, removal, and discharge hearings. Makes technical changes. Effective

**Senate Bill 308 (amended), Sullivan (Tracy)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Department of Transportation Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Department of Transportation shall evaluate, fund, repair, and upgrade the entrances to public educational facilities that border State highways.

**Senate Bill 394, Frerichs (Jakobsson)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Requires training offered by the Police Training Institute to be under the direction of the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Previously, supervision of training had been under the Division of University Extension Services at the University.

**Senate Bill 401, Demuzio (Black)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Provides that public notice of the schedule of regular meetings of a board of trustees for the next calendar year, as set at the organizational meeting of the board of trustees, must be given at the beginning of that calendar year. Effective July 1, 2007.

**Senate Bill 479 (amended), Forby (Gordon)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Requires that service contracts include a clause that a responsible bidder or offeror must certify (i) that it shall offer to assume the collective bargaining obligations of the prior employer and (ii) that it shall offer employment to any employees currently in any existing bargaining unit who perform substantially similar work.

**Senate Bill 500, Link (Yarbrough)**

**Public Act 95-0017**

Prohibits smoking in public places, places of employment, and governmental vehicles. Requires "No Smoking" signs to be posted in each public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited. Requires ashtrays to be removed from any area where smoking is prohibited. Prohibits smoking in student dormitories, including, but not limited to, sleeping rooms, dining areas, restrooms, laundry areas, lobbies, and hallways, of a building used in whole or in part as a student dormitory that is owned and operated or otherwise utilized by a public or private institution of higher education.

**Senate Bill 511 (amended), Cullerton (Feigenholtz)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Requires the State, units of local government, and service providers paid with public funds to make their visual-based, electronic information technology accessible to blind and visually impaired employees, program participants, and members of the public through the use of nonvisual technology. Establishes procurement standards and applies to the purchase of new technology and the upgrading of software, hardware, and websites.

**Senate Bill 729 (amended), Garrett (Jakobsson)****Sent to the Governor**

Creates the College Campus Press Act. Provides that all campus media produced primarily by students at a State-sponsored institution of higher learning is a public forum for expression by the student journalists and editors at the particular institution. Provides that campus media, whether campus-sponsored or noncampus-sponsored, is not subject to prior review by public officials of those institutions. Provides that collegiate student editors of campus media are responsible for determining the news, opinions, feature content, and advertising content of campus media. Provides for an exception for teaching professional standards of grammar and journalism. Prohibits a collegiate media adviser from being terminated, transferred, removed, otherwise disciplined, or retaliated against for refusing to suppress protected free expression rights of collegiate student journalists and of collegiate student editors. Allows a collegiate student or collegiate media advisor to commence a civil action to obtain appropriate injunctive and declaratory relief; provides for the awarding of attorney's fees. Distinguishes campus policy. Allows for discipline for unprotected speech. Contains a severability clause. Provides that a State-sponsored institution of higher learning shall be immune from any lawsuit arising from expression actually made in campus media, with the exception of the institution's own expression.

**Senate Bill 1183 (amended), Harmon (Jakobsson)****Sent to the Governor**

Provides that a unit of local government, school district, area vocational center, community college district, or public university may enter into an installment payment contract or lease purchase agreement with a qualified provider or third-party lender (instead of just a qualified provider) for the purchase and installation of energy conservation measures by a qualified provider (instead of just the purchase and installation of energy conservation measures).

**Senate Bill 1304, Schoenberg (Pritchard)****Sent to the Governor**

SB1304 amends the Department of Central Management services Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. SB1304 requires the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to allow employees of Illinois public institutions of higher education to participate in the department's flexible spending program which includes the dependent care assistance plan and the medical care assistance plan.

**P-20****House Joint Resolution 66, Smith (Demuzio)****Adopted Both Houses**

Directs IBHE, ISBE, and the Governor's office to appoint a Task Force that will make recommendations for improving school leadership preparation in Illinois, based on the measures detailed in the report, "School Leadership Preparation: Blueprint for Change."

**House Bill 1648 (amended), Mitchell (Demuzio)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the School Code and the Board of Higher Education Act for the State Board of Education to create a P-20 Council. Establishes the membership of the Council and the issues to be addressed by the Council, including coordination of P-20 education in Illinois, alignment of curriculum, and articulation of a framework for systemic improvement preparing every student for academic success.

**Senate Bill 841 (amended), Munoz (Mendoza)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Requires the State Board of Education to create, under the College and Career Success for All Students program, a program in public schools where at least 40 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches whereby fees charged by the College Board for Advanced Placement exams are waived by the school, but paid for by the State, for those students who do not qualify for a fee waiver provided by federal funds or the College Board.

**Pensions**

**House Bill 857 (amended), Molaro (Raoul)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. In provisions concerning service for employment in public schools and other public employment, replaces references to service in the military forces with references to service in a capacity essentially similar or equivalent to that of a teacher. Deletes a provision requiring the Board of Trustees of the State Universities Retirement System to have the System's actuary prepare a report showing the actual rate of participation in the self- managed plan and the extent to which employee optional retirement plan participation has reduced the State's required contributions to the System.

**House Bill 1960 (amended), Poe (Bomke)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Provides that a member who participated in the University of Illinois Government Public Service Internship Program may establish creditable service for up to 2 years of that participation. Exempts the changes from provisions concerning new benefit increases. Effective immediately.

**Research and Economic Development**

**House Bill 1313, Hoffman (Haine)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Provides that the Illinois Ethanol Research Advisory Board shall establish and operate, subject to specific appropriation for the purpose of providing facility operating funds, the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville as a State Biorefining Center of Excellence.



## **Teacher Preparation**

### **House Bill 1922 (amended), Moffitt (Sullivan)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends School Code. Requires the Illinois State Board Education to develop an agricultural education teacher training continuum and provide incentive funding grants to the agricultural education teacher education programs at Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and Western Illinois University. Also provides that community colleges that provide an articulated agricultural education teacher education course of study are also eligible for funding.

### **House Bill 3654 (amended), Golar (Martinez)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act with three provisions: consortium will guarantee support for admitted cohort for that fiscal year (instead of providing support through cohort's full period of training; makes changes concerning expenditures with regard to requests to waive the teaching obligation or to defer repayment; provides grant funds may be used by any member of consortium to offset the costs of child care and other direct expenses.

### **Senate Bill 395 (amended), Frerichs (Jakobsson)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Provides that safety education for teachers shall be required in teacher preparation curriculum at all State universities rather than an elective course. This instruction may be by specific courses in safety education, or may be incorporated in existing subjects taught in the universities. Effective immediately.

### **Senate Bill 446 (amended), Martinez (Golar)**

**Sent to the Governor**

Amends the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act. Modifies the definition of "hard to staff" school. Changes the cohort support guarantee from the full duration of the training period to a specific fiscal year. Makes expenditure changes by rewording requests for waivers and deferrals of forgivable loans.

## **Workforce**

### **House Bill 182 (amended), Bellock (Hunter)**

### **Public Act 95-0022**

Creates the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Act. Establishes a Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and the Southern Illinois University College of Medicine to expand its focus on enrolling, training, and graduating forensic mental health profession. Requires that the curriculum developed for this program be in accordance with criteria established by the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

### **Senate Bill 387 (amended), Haine (Beiser)**

### **Sent to the Governor**

Creates the Loan Repayment Assistance for Dentists Act. Requires the Department of Public Health to establish an educational loan repayment assistance program for dentists who practice in designated shortage areas in this State for 3 years and who accept certain medical payments under the Illinois Public Aid Code.