

**95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPRING 2007 SESSION
LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This report updates the Board on General Assembly activity at the mid-point of the spring legislative session. The report includes a summary of bills passed or still under consideration by the General Assembly.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPRING 2007 SESSION
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The 95th General Assembly is nearing its April recess with much disquiet about proposed tax increases, the fiscal 2008 budget, and several issues that are making a reprise from previous sessions. Between them, the House and Senate have introduced nearly 6,000 bills this year.

Topics of particular significance to higher education include affordability, P-20 education, state funding of veterans' grants, and permission for a community college to offer baccalaureate degrees.

Representative David Miller, Chairman of the House Appropriations-Higher Education Committee, has made affordability a priority on his legislative agenda. Representative Miller has been instrumental in past sessions in achieving increases for the need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP). This session he has sponsored House Bill 703 to increase the maximum MAP award to \$5,466 from \$4,968, the current statutory maximum. The measure also would provide commensurate percentage increases for students not eligible for the maximum award (because they attend a community college, for instance).

Representative Miller also has introduced House Bill 330, which has passed the House, to calculate eligibility of independent students for need-based aid on "expected family contribution." And House Joint Resolution 32 directs the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to document the overall financial need of independent students in Illinois and assess the degree to which that need is being met.

While Representative Miller has focused on need-based aid, other legislation has proposed funding for merit scholarships based on academic performance. The state has one such program – the Merit Recognition Scholars, which gives \$1,000 to students in the top 5 percent of the class who attend college in Illinois – but it has not been funded since fiscal 2005.

- House Bill 14 (Lou Lang) would, as introduced, have provided scholarships to students based on grade point average, but the sponsor has passed the measure out of committee as a shell bill.
- Senate Bill 437 (Edward Maloney) would provide a \$1,000 scholarship to students designated as Illinois State Scholars, which is determined by ISAC based on class rank and scores on college admissions exams.
- Senate Bill 1455 (Martin Sandoval) would establish a revolving loan fund for students who maintained a 3.0 grade point average in high school or their first semester of college.

Several legislators have discussed the possibility of revamping the current MAP-Plus program to include a component of academic performance and to target students with financial need.

A study conducted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) on the cost of textbooks and the feasibility of implementing textbook rental programs at all public colleges and universities has generated a package of bills sponsored by Senator Mattie Hunter, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations III Committee.

- Senate Bill 325 would establish textbook advisory committees on each public community college and university campus to oversee textbook policies and procedures aimed at reducing costs for students. The committees would set and enforce deadlines for faculty to select textbooks to maximize opportunities for students to purchase cheaper used texts. The bill also mandates the publication of information about required textbooks so students can comparison shop.
- Senate Bill 326 would create the Textbook Consumer Information Act, requiring that publishers reveal to faculty the wholesale cost and revision history of textbooks being considered for adoption. It also directs faculty to provide a written statement that specifies which course materials are required and those that may only be recommended for a course.
- Senate Bill 327, as introduced, would have eliminated the 5 percent state sales tax on textbooks, but the sponsor moved the bill from committee as a shell bill for later amendment.

Funding of Illinois Veterans Grants also has an impact on affordability. Community colleges and public universities are mandated by statute to waive tuition and fees for veterans, Illinois National Guard and Naval Militia grants, and MIA/POW scholarships. However, funding of the grants has not kept pace with the demand for tuition and fee waivers nor with increases in tuition and fees. House Bill 479 (William Black) would require a general fund appropriation adequate to reimburse institutions for the cost of veterans and military programs.

After striking out the past two years, Harper College could score this session with a proposed pilot program to grant bachelor's degrees. House Bill 1434 (Fred Crespo) would permit Harper College to offer baccalaureate degrees in two disciplines – public safety management/homeland security and technology management. The degree programs, which would be subject to approval by the Illinois Community College Board and IBHE, could only be offered if they did not compete with similar programs at a nearby public university, met a documented workforce need, and did not require state or local tax funding.

An issue with growing traction in the General Assembly is P-20 education. Although there has been no concerted or widespread push for a P-20 agenda, pockets of interest have emerged. The notion that education policy should span preschool to grad school is embodied in House Bill 1648, sponsored by Representative Jerry Mitchell. The measure would create a P-20 council to develop and unify policies for P-12 and higher education, including college readiness, curriculum alignment, and coordination of programs and resources.

Senate Bill 1500 (Dan Cronin) contains a number of proposals related to performance-based teacher compensation, a salary incentive program for hard-to-staff schools, high school

graduation requirements, charter schools, and an enhanced role for the Board of Higher Education in teacher and principal preparation programs.

One impetus for an increased focus on P-20 schooling is growing concern over college preparation and remedial coursework in college. Senator Maloney, Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, has resurrected two proposals from the 94th General Assembly. Senate Bill 313 would mandate that public universities require students who need remediation to take such coursework before beginning their major course of study. Under Senate Bill 433 community colleges would require all new full-time students to meet with a faculty adviser to discuss course selection at least once in their first year of college.

House Joint Resolution 32 (Roger Eddy) would direct IBHE to conduct a study of dual credit programs involving high schools and community colleges and report its findings to the General Assembly in 2008.

Finally, two bills have resurfaced from the 2006 spring session that affect the Board of Higher Education. Senate Bill 1305, sponsored by Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg, amends the state Ethics Act and would make the IBHE responsible for appointment of the chief procurement officer for higher education. That position is presently appointed by the Governor, and the function resides at the University of Illinois.

Senate Bill 162, sponsored by Senator Maloney, would add psychology and other mental health programs to the list of disciplines eligible for grants under the Health Services Education Grants Act, which is administered by IBHE.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT
BILL SUMMARIES**

**95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Affordability

House Bill 14 (amended), Lou Lang

2nd Reading, House

Creates the Higher Education Scholarship Act to provide scholarships to students at Illinois public and private colleges based on grade point average. Amendment 1 made this a shell bill.

Senate Bill 325 (amended), Mattie Hunter

3rd Reading, Senate

Creates the Textbook Advisory Committee Act and amends the State Mandates Act. SB325 requires all public institutions of higher education to establish a textbook advisory committee comprised of cross-disciplinary teams of faculty and representatives of the administration, representatives of the bookstore or bookstores that provide textbooks, and students. The Committee must be established in the office of the provost or chief academic officer. The Committee is required to establish the following guidelines and policies: setting deadlines for faculty to notify a bookstore or bookstores of textbooks selected for the pending semester or other term; posting of the title, author, International Standard Book Number, and retail price of new and used textbooks “with reasonable expediency” after they become available; prohibiting employees from demanding or receiving any present or promised gift, payment, loan, subscription, advance deposit of money, services, or other thing of value as an inducement for the selection of any specific textbook or supplemental material; fostering the establishment of textbook reserves; and encouraging buy-back programs and providing support for campus bookswaps. Committees are required to report to IBHE or ICCB on the measures undertaken to reduce textbook costs and provide students with cost-saving alternatives.

Senate Bill 326 (amended), Mattie Hunter

3rd Reading, Senate

Creates the Textbook Consumer Information Act. The Act requires publishers to disclose the price of textbooks and supplementary learning materials and the history revisions for these products to faculty members or other entity in charge of selecting textbooks. The Act requires faculty members to provide a written statement detailing all textbooks and supplementary learning materials required for each course to the college bookstore or bookstores placing an order for textbooks, all textbooks and supplementary learning materials suggested for each course, and the earliest edition of any required textbook that may be purchased by a student for that course. Requires college bookstores to post a listing of all textbooks and supplementary learning materials required for courses. As amended, the bill excludes public institutions with a textbook rental program. Requires institutions to publish on their websites or at other appropriate venues the title, author, International Standard Book Number (ISBN), and the retail price of new and used textbooks.

Senate Bill 327 (amended), Mattie Hunter

3rd Reading, Senate

The bill as introduced removed the state portion of the sales tax on required textbooks and other course materials. The bill has been amended to create a shell bill as the sponsor ponders alternative approaches.

Senate Bill 1455 (amended), Martin Sandoval

2nd Reading, Senate

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act and the State Finance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to implement and administer a higher education revolving loan program for the cost of attending a public or private institution of higher education in Illinois.

House Bill 330, David E. Miller

Passed House, Referred to Senate Rules Committee

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act to change the Monetary Award Program (MAP) formula that determines eligibility for need-based financial aid. The bill mandates that “expected family contribution” be factored into the eligibility formula for independent students.

Senate Bill 437 (amended), Edward Maloney

3rd Reading, Senate

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act to provide that, subject to appropriation, each State Scholar who enrolls or is enrolled in an institution of higher learning in this state shall also receive a one-time grant of \$1,000 to be applied to tuition and mandatory fees and paid directly to the institution of higher learning. As amended, the bill would prohibit students who receive grants under the Merit Recognition Scholarship from also receiving grants under this new program.

House Bill 479 (amended), William B. Black

2nd Reading, House

As amended, creates the Appropriation for Military Scholarship Act. Requires the Governor's General Revenue Fund recommendations to include adequate appropriations to reimburse institutions of higher education tuition and fees under the Illinois Veteran Grant, the Illinois National Guard and Naval Militia Grant, and the MIA/POW Scholarship Program.

House Bill 703 (amended), David E. Miller

2nd Reading, House

As amended, the bill increases the statutory maximum for MAP grant to \$5,466 per academic year (from \$4,968). Awards for students who are not eligible to receive the maximum award would be increased by the same percentage increase as any increase made to the maximum award in law. Fully funding this award increase would cost an estimated \$49 million.

Senate Bill 387, William Haine

3rd Reading, Senate

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. Provides that under the program, for each year that a qualified applicant practices full time in this State in a designated shortage area as a dentist, the Department shall, subject to appropriation, award a grant to that person in an amount equal to the amount in dental school loans that the person must repay that year. Provides that the total amount in grants that a person may be awarded under the program must not exceed \$25,000. Provides that the Department shall require recipients to use the grants to pay off their dental school loans. Provides that loan repayment recipients who fail to practice full-time in this State for 3 years shall repay the Department a sum equal to 3 times the amount received under the program.

House Joint Resolution 32, David Miller

Order of Resolutions

Directs the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, in cooperation with concerned parties and representatives of organizations representing working women and private colleges and universities, to document the overall financial need of independent students in Illinois and the degree to which they are served by the Monetary Award Program in a report due to the General Assembly by December 31, 2007.

Senate Bill 1224 (amended), Linda Holmes

3rd Reading, Senate

Creates the Teacher Homebuyer Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois House Development Authority to establish a program to provide down payment assistance to public school teachers who teach in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff positions for purchasing residences within the school district. The assistance shall be in the form of deferred payment, low-interest loan at up to 5% interest annually. If a teacher has continuously taught in the position for five years, the loan is forgiven. Subject to appropriation.

Budget

House Bill 936, William B. Black

Passed House, Referred to Senate Rules Committee

Amends the State Finance Act. Excludes the State College and University Trust Fund and the University Grant Fund from administrative charge-backs. The fund holds proceeds from the sale of collegiate license plates and finance student scholarships. The bill would prohibit sweeps of this fund to deposit the money in the state general fund.

Community Colleges

House Bill 720, William Black

Passed House, Referred to Senate Rules Committee

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, William Black

Passed House, Referred to Senate Rules Committee

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 414 (amended), Aaron Schock

2nd Reading, House

Allows a community college board of trustees to provide or contract for residential housing for students and employees. Removes dormitories from the definition of “facilities.” As amended, the bill limits the effect only to community college districts that encompass, in whole or in part, 8 or more counties.

House Bill 1434, Fred Crespo

2nd Reading, House

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 (Harper College) may create a pilot baccalaureate program in two fields of study if certain conditions are met, including : (i) requiring that the degree programs not compete with any nearby public university, (ii) requiring that the district identifies and document unmet workforce needs, (iii) requiring that the degree programs not require any additional funding from local taxes or the State, (iv) requiring that the Illinois Community College Board and the Board of Higher Education approve the offering of the degree programs, and (v) requiring that the pilot program expire 4 years after the initial offering of the degree programs, unless otherwise extended by law.

House Bill 3476, Linda Chapa LaVia

2nd Reading, House

Amends the School Code. Provides that a General Assembly scholarship may be used at a public community college, not just at a State university. Provides that the General Assembly scholarship must be used at a public community college located in the legislative district of the legislator making the scholarship nomination. With respect to a scholarship nominee changing her or his residence to a location outside of the legislative district from which she or he was nominated, adds a reference to a non-community college residence.

House Bill 3504, Kurt Granberg

2nd Reading, House

Amends the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. Classifies community college districts as units of local government that must adopt resolutions regulating the political activities and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts by their officials and employees (now, classified as State agencies subject to the entire Act’s regulation and enforcement by the Executive Ethics Commission and the Governor’s Executive Inspector General).

House Joint Resolution 36, Roger Eddy

House Rules Committee

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education establish a task force to study issues related to dual credit, which the task force shall report its findings to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2008.

Senate Bill 433, Edward Maloney

Passed Senate, 1st Reading, House

Provides that the board of each community college district shall require all of its full-time students who are in their first year of attendance at the community college, including transfer students, to meet with a guidance counselor or academic advisor at the community college to discuss course selection at least once during the student's first year of attendance, preferably during the first semester of attendance.

Senate Bill 1446 (amended), Martin Sandoval

3rd Reading, Senate

Provides that the Illinois Community College Board may, subject to appropriation, establish and administer a "We Want to Learn English Initiative". Provides that the Board may include in its budget proposal \$25 million in funding for the Initiative, to be disbursed by the Board. Provides that the Board may decide to disburse no less than half of the funds appropriated for the Initiative to community-based, not-for-profit organizations, immigrant social service organizations, faith-based organizations, and on-site job training programs.

Universities

House Bill 658 (amended), Dan Brady

2nd Reading, House

As introduced, the bill would have allowed any student designated as an Illinois State Scholar to be admitted to any public university in the state without any other conditions on admission. As amended, it directs the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to conduct a study to determine the number of Illinois State Scholars who are denied admission to public universities.

House Bill 659, Dan Brady

2nd Reading, House

Amends the State Treasurer Act. Requires that the Office of the State Treasurer by rule to develop, implement, and administer a program of low-interest loans to postsecondary educational institutions to assist with the cost of installing fire sprinklers in student dormitories. Requires that the loans be funded through a revolving fund consisting of transferred or appropriated moneys, interest on the fund, and loan repayments.

House Bill 1313, Jay Hoffman

Passed House

Amends the Southern Illinois University Management Act. 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. Sets forth the purposes and goals of the Center.

Graduation

Senate Bill 313 (amended), Edward Maloney

3rd Reading, Senate

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

Health

Senate Bill 162, Edward Maloney

Passed Senate, Referred to House Rules Committee

Amends the Health Services Education Grant Act (HSEGA) by adding psychology and other physical and mental health related programs to the fields of study eligible for funding. HSEGA provides grants to not-for-profit independent institutions for programs in medical, dental, pharmacy, optometry, and nursing.

Miscellaneous

Senate Bill 46, Susan Garrett

Passed Senate, Referred to House Rules Committee

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 are voluntary.

House Bill 166 (amended), JoAnn D. Osmond

2nd Reading, House

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 the advice of physician, and where it could reasonably be accommodated.

House Bill 231, Mary Flowers

2nd Reading, House

Requires testing for HIV and other infections for inmates committed to the Department of Corrections. Requires the Department to provide educational programs leading to an associate, bachelor's, or higher degree for inmates with high school diploma or equivalent.

House Bill 246 (amended), Karen Yarbrough
House

3rd Reading,

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.

House Bill 324, Chapin Rose

3rd Reading, House

Amends the State Finance Act. The bill requires that individuals who pay a fee imposed by the State or by a State agency during the current fiscal year must be notified at time of payment if during the preceding year money was transferred from the fund.

House Bill 574, Ruth Munson

Passed House, Referred to Senate Rules Committee

Amends the Social Security Number Protection Task Force Act. Provides that the Task Force is created within the Office of the Attorney General. Requires the Task Force to explore the technical and procedural changes that are needed 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 IBHE, appointed by the executive director, as well as several other new members.

House Bill 682 (amended), Naomi Jakobsson

2nd Reading, House

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. As amended, the bill exempts public institutions of higher education from the requirement that a State agency include in materials it publishes certain information concerning State authorization, publication date, number of copies printed, and printing order number if the publication is not paid for by State appropriation.

House Bill 1663, Marlow Colvin

2nd Reading, House

Requires the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy to establish the I-Connect Computer Technology Program to provide 6th grade students and select teachers of participating schools with personal portable computers with age-appropriate and subject-appropriate learning software, professional development, and repair and warranty services. Creates an I-Connect Computer Technology Board. Provides for a report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

House Bill 3567, Mike Bost

3rd Reading, House

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code provision regarding education license plates. Provides that 5% of funds in the Illinois Teacher Corps Scholarship Fund shall be appropriated to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (rather than the State Board of Education) for grants to the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

Senate Bill 1304, Jeffrey Schoenberg

Passed Senate, Referred to House Rules Committee

Requires that, to the extent allowable by federal law and regulation, the Department of Central Management Services must allow employees of State colleges and universities to participate in the Department's flexible spending programs for dependent care assistance and medical care assistance.

Senate Bill 1305 (amended), Jeffrey Schoenberg

3rd Reading, Senate

Amends the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act, the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, the Lobbyist Registration Act, the Illinois Procurement Code, and the Illinois Pension Code. Makes changes with respect to the following: statements of economic interests; ultimate jurisdictional authorities; ethics training; ethics officers; the revolving door prohibition; public service announcements; collective bargaining; lobbying; emergency procurements; holdover leases; contract disclosures; the Illinois Procurement Bulletin; lease renewals; State contract conflicts of interests; bond issuances; and investment advisers, fiduciaries, and prohibited activities relating to pension funds, retirement systems, and the Illinois State Board of Investment. Directs that the Board of Higher Education, rather than the Governor, appoint the chief procurement officer for higher education, and further stipulates that person cannot be an employee of a public university.

Senate Bill 729, Susan Garrett

Passed Senate, Referred to House Rules Committee

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 non-campus-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; and provides for the awarding of attorney's fees. Allows for discipline for unprotected speech.

Senate Bill 500, Terry Link

3rd Reading, Senate

Creates the Smoke 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. Provides that the Department of Public Health, State-certified local public health departments, and local law enforcement agencies shall enforce the provisions of the Act. Prohibits smoking within a minimum distance of 15 feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited. Repeals the Illinois Clean Indoor Air Act.

Senate Bill 511, John Cullerton

3rd Reading, Senate

Creates the Information Technology Accessibility Act. Requires the Department of Human Services to convene an advisory working group and to develop accessibility standards for electronic and information technology for State entities so that persons with disabilities may access the technology.

House Joint Resolution 35, Roger Eddy

House Rules Committee

Creates a task force to study the costs and other issues associated with providing health insurance to part-time and graduate employees and graduate assistants of public community colleges and public universities in Illinois.

Senate Resolution 52, Deanna Demuzio

Adopted in Senate

Creates the Senate Task Force on the Illinois Procurement Code to examine the bidding process on State contracts. The Task Force is to report it's finding to the Senate by December 31, 2008.

P-20

House Bill 232 (amended), Monique D. Davis

2nd Reading, House

As amended, the bill prohibits charter schools, school boards, and the State Board of Education from establishing any virtual school or classes for elementary or secondary students in Illinois on or after the effective of the amendatory act, unless there are extenuating circumstances such as autistic students. Creates the Virtual Education Advisory Committee to monitor curriculum and assess test results with respect to virtual schools during the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. The committee shall report its findings to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2010.

House Bill 1141, Charles Jefferson

2nd Reading, House

Requires the State Board of Education to establish and administer a program that provides stipends to teachers who choose to teach at hard-to-staff public school in Illinois. Provides that a teacher must have at least 2 years of experience at a recognized school. Provides that the \$20,000 stipend shall be a total over 5 years.

House Bill 1648, Jerry L. Mitchell

2nd Reading, House

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. These will include: coordinating P-20 education in Illinois; beginning the process of aligning educational programs; articulating the framework for systemic education improvement enabling every student to meet or exceed Illinois Learning Standards and be college and/or workforce ready; and coordinating and leveraging strategies, actions, legislation, and resources. Abolishes the JEC.

House Bill 1977 (amended), Linda Chapa LaVia

2nd Reading, House

Amends the School Code. Requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to establish a 4-year pilot program in Aurora West and Aurora East districts to achieve a ratio of high school students to certified school counselors of 250 to 1. The ISBE will work with the Illinois Association for College Admissions Counselors and local counseling directors for data collection. The ISBE shall report statistics to General Assembly 2 and 4 years after the pilot program has been established. Funding not to exceed \$750,000.

Research/Economic Development

House Bill 138 (amended), Tom Cross

Passed House, Referred to Senate Rules Committee

Creates the Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning Prohibition Act. Requires the Department of Public Health to develop and administer the Illinois Regenerative Medicine Institute program to provide grant awards to Illinois medical research institutions. Creates the Illinois Regenerative Medicine Institute Oversight Committee. Prohibits cloning or attempts to clone a human being. Prohibits the purchase or sale of embryonic or cadaveric fetal tissue for research purposes (Class A misdemeanor for the first conviction and a Class 4 felony for subsequent convictions).

Teacher Preparation

House Bill 223 (amended), Patricia Reid Lindner

2nd Reading, House

Amends the Education Partnership Act to allow pre-service teacher candidates providing district tutorial services to receive compensation for such tutorial services while also receiving academic or clinical experience credit or both.

Senate Bill 395 (amended), Michael Frerichs

3rd Reading, Senate

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 incorporate existing subjects taught in the universities.

Senate Bill 446, Iris Y. Martinez

Passed Senate, 1st Reading, House

Amends the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act. Modifies the definition of a "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. Rewards requests for waivers and deferrals of forgivable loans. Allows any member of a consortium to offset the costs of child care and other indirect expenses necessary to permit candidates to maintain class schedules.

House Bill 1007 (amended), Frank J. Mautino

2nd Reading, House

Provides guidelines for certificate renewal for Type 73 school service personnel such as school nurses, social workers, school psychologists, school counselors and speech pathologists. Personnel must complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional development approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for certificate renewal.

House Bill 1922 (amended), Donald Moffitt

Passed House

Requires the Illinois State Board Education to develop an agricultural science teacher training continuum, beginning at the secondary level, and provide incentive funding grants to the agricultural education teacher educational 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 science teacher education course of study be eligible for funding.

House Bill 2003 (amended), Michael K. Smith

2nd Reading, House

Amends the Teacher Certification article of the School Code. Removes four provisions. Removes provision that a person holding a valid and comparable out-of-state certificate is not required to take tests of basic skills and subject matter knowledge. Removes provision requiring a provisional certificate holder to pass exams set forth by the Illinois State Board of Education within 9 months. Removes provision providing failure to pass tests of basic skills and subject matter knowledge will result in cancellation of provisional certificate. Removes provision providing that continuing professional development activities may include continuing education units.

House Bill 2007, Michael K. Smith

2nd Reading, House

Amends the Teacher Certification Article of School Code, repeals the Alternative Teacher Certification Program and the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification Program, and establishes a single alternative certification program entitled Alternative Route to Teacher Certification. Repeals provisions concerning resident teacher certificates and the Illinois Teacher Corps. Provides instead that the Illinois State Board of Education establish and implement a Resident Teacher Certification program under which persons who meet requirements and successfully complete the program and serve as a resident teacher for 4 years shall be issued a standard teaching certificate.

House Bill 3654 (amended), Esther Golar

2nd Reading, House

Amends Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act. 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 that grant funds may be used by any member of the consortium to offset the costs of child care and other direct expenses.

Workforce

House Bill 182 (amended), Patricia Bellock

Passed House, 1st Reading, Senate

Creates the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Act. Establishes a Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine to expand its focus on enrolling, training, and graduating forensic mental health professionals. 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). The amended bill adds Southern Illinois University College of Medicine and clarifies that the implementation of the act is subject to appropriation (75% of the appropriation to UIC and 25% to SIU).

Senate Bill 1606, Gary Dahl

3rd Reading, Senate

Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to conduct a study to identify current and projected shortages in critical occupations and specific skill sets within Illinois businesses and industries and to devise strategies to alleviate any identified shortages. Requires all State agencies to cooperate with the Department in conducting the study. Requires the Department to report the results of its study and its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than February 1, 2008.