

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This report updates the Board on General Assembly activity through the end of July. The report includes a summary of bills of particular interest to higher education that passed during this legislative session.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The spring 2008 session of the General Assembly borrowed a few days from summer to complete their work, with the House returning for special session in July; first to consider revenue bills passed earlier by the Senate (none passed), then to vote on override motions of gubernatorial vetoes of the budget bills passed by the legislature.

Although House members overrode some vetoes (none related to higher education), the Senate has not returned to Springfield to take up those bills, and indications are now that neither chamber will show up at the Capitol until the November veto session.

Meanwhile, the Governor is considering several substantive bills sent to him by the General Assembly. A listing of that legislation follows.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT
BILL SUMMARIES**

**95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Affordability

House Bill 4567, Brady (Holmes)

Public Act 095-0760

Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to conduct a study of the college application and admission patterns for students designated as Illinois State Scholars in 2008 and 2009.

Senate Bill 1908 (amended), Maloney (Miller)

Sent to the Governor

Increases the maximum Monetary Award Program award by \$500 in each of the next three years (FY09, FY10, FY11). The bill also guarantees that students who aren't eligible for the maximum award will receive an increase of the same percentage by which the maximum is increased. Senate amendment provides that the maximum grant amount is subject to appropriation and restores the provision that limits the MAP grant amount to an amount that equals 2 semesters or 3 quarters tuition and fees.

Community Colleges

House Bill 4189, Pritchard (Maloney)

Sent to the Governor

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. Community college districts are currently 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 Bill 5074, Black (Demuzio)

Sent to the Governor

Amends the Public Community College Act, with respect to the requirement that following each election and canvass, a new board of trustees shall hold its organizational meeting on or before the 28th day after the election.

House Joint Resolution 36 (amended), Eddy (Richter)

Adopted Both Houses

Directs the Illinois Board of Higher Education to establish a task force to study issues related to dual credit and requires the task force to report the findings to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2008.

Miscellaneous

House Bill 3286 (amended), Coulson (Schoenberg)

Sent to the Governor

Creates the Illinois Health Policy Center Act. Creates the Illinois Health Policy Center within the University of Illinois, to be sponsored by the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs. Provides that

the goals of the Center are to support legislators and other government officials in developing and implementing health policy to address critical issues facing the State of Illinois and to focus on identifying “best practices” appropriate for Illinois through review of the latest scientific research and comparative analyses of other states’ policies. Creates the Illinois Health Policy Center Advisory Panel, appointed by the legislative leaders and the Governor, to provide advice and oversight concerning the creation and operation of the Illinois Health Policy Center.

House Bill 3677, Jakobsson (Martinez)

Signed by the Governor

Amends the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act, various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois, and the Public Community College Act. Provides that a comprehensive health education program shall include sexual assault awareness in secondary schools. Requires each public university and community college to provide some form of sexual assault awareness education to all incoming students, whether through a seminar, online training, or some other way of informing students.

House Bill 5905 (amended), Schock (Hultgren)

Sent to the Governor

Amends Acts relating to governance of public universities. Beginning with the 2009-2010 academic year, provides that the person on active military duty who has been stationed in Illinois for at least 3 years immediately prior to being reassigned out-of-state is entitled to in-state tuition rates, along with his or her dependents.

House Resolution 853, William Davis

Resolution Adopted

Urges the Governor’s Travel Control Board to negotiate with Amtrak for a special travel rate for part-time student employees of State universities between Chicago and specified Illinois cities.

House Resolution 1019, Pritchard

Resolution Adopted

Mourns the victims of the tragic events at Northern Illinois University on February 14, 2008.

Senate Bill 2691 (amended), Sullivan (Pritchard)

Sent to the Governor

Amends the Campus Security Act. Requires each public university, community college, and independent, not-for-profit or for-profit higher education institution to develop a National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant, all-hazards, emergency response plan and an inter-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional campus violence prevention plan in partnership with the institution’s county or major municipal emergency management official. Requires annual exercises of the emergency plans. Requires county and major municipal emergency managers and Illinois Emergency Management Agency regional coordinators to assist in the planning and training process for the plans with all resources available to them and to provide the higher education institutions with appropriate standards and guidelines, training, and exercises for these plans.

Senate Joint Resolution 75, Maloney(McCarthy)

Adopted Both Houses

Recognizes international education as an essential component of higher education.

Senate Bill 2887, Schoenburg (Hannig)

Sent to the Governor

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code to specify that the 10-year maximum duration for contracts be inclusive of proposed contract renewals.

Research/Economic Development

House Bill 4216 (amended), Fortner (Bond)

Sent to the Governor

Creates the Illinois Science and Technology Commission. Sets forth the purpose of the Commission and the appointing authority and terms of the members.

House Joint Resolution 82, Fortner (Hultgren)

Adopted Both Houses

Urges Congress to restore the fiscal 2008 federal funding of the State's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory to the level requested in the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request.