

**96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPRING 2009 SESSION
LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This report updates the Board on action in the General Assembly. The report includes a summary of bills passed or still under consideration.

Action requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPRING 2009 SESSION
LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

The 96th General Assembly may or may not have adjourned its spring session as this report is presented. It may or may not have passed a budget to fund state operations through fiscal 2010. If it passed a budget, the spending plan may or may not be balanced, include an income tax increase, include deep spending cuts, include a significant capital plan, or get the state all the way through the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Other than that, the General Assembly's spring session could be considered a success, particularly for higher education, and more particularly for the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

As of Friday, May 29, when this report was written, here is what we *do* know – both houses of the legislature had passed:

Senate Bill 1828 (Sen. Heather Steans/Rep. Michael Smith), which will create a comprehensive, P-20 longitudinal student data system. This is a landmark measure that, pending the Governor's approval, will link the K-12 school system with community colleges and public and private colleges and universities to enable schools, colleges, state agencies, and policymakers to track student mobility, performance, and educational attainment from preschool to graduate school. It is arguably the premier legislative initiative for implementation of the Illinois Public Agenda in the legislature's spring session.

Senate Bill 1883 (Sens. Bradley Burzynski and Deanna Demuzio/Rep. Michael Fortner), which would establish a baccalaureate completion grant program to encourage partnerships between community colleges and public or nonprofit private four-year institutions to bring bachelor's degree programs to community college campuses. The bill is a key strategy for implementing Goals 1 and 3 of the Illinois Public Agenda.

House Bill 1079 (Rep. Roger Eddy/Sen. Demuzio), which would create the Dual Credit Quality Act, codifying standards now applied by the Illinois Community College Board through administrative rule to evaluate community college dual credit programs and extending the standards to four-year colleges and universities that have dual credit agreements with high schools. This legislation addresses action steps proposed for Goals 1 and 3 of the Public Agenda.

House Bill 382 (Rep. Jim Brosnahan/Sen. Ed Maloney), which sets up a new nurse educator grant program at the Illinois Department of Public Health. One of the major barriers to increasing the number of nurses in Illinois is the shortage of nursing faculty. This bill would require graduates to work as nurse educators for two years for each year they received a scholarship. The bill helps fulfill recommendations of Goal 3 of the Public Agenda.

Other legislation that passed includes:

Senate Bill 1453 (Sen. Maloney/Rep. Lou Lang), which would add psychology and other mental health disciplines to the list of programs eligible for grants under the Health Services Education Grant Act. Funding for HSEGA grants was vetoed from the FY09 budget and a supplemental appropriation to restore the state support, also sponsored by Sen. Maloney, did not get out of Senate committee.

Senate Bill 325 (Sen. Maloney/Rep. David Miller) has been signed into law. It gives the Illinois Student Assistance Commission authority to issue up to \$50 million in state-backed bonds to move defaulted loans through a rehabilitation process.

House Bill 2235 (Rep. Monique Davis/Sen. Kim Lightford), which would require community colleges and public universities to report salary and benefits information for administrators, faculty, and staff to the Board of Higher Education.

House Bill 1200 (Rep. Naomi Jakobsson/Sen. Jeffrey Schoenberg), expands the use of certificates of participation as a financing mechanism available to public universities for capital needs.

House Bill 2352 (Rep. Kevin Joyce/Sen. Donne Trotter), would place restrictions on credit card marketing to students on college and university campuses.

House Bill 4094 (Rep. Kay Hatcher/Sen. Maloney), would specify that the IBHE master planning responsibility include measures to ensure affordability and accessibility.

One major proposal related to the Illinois Public Agenda that has been moribund for the spring session was the 21st Century Scholars legislation. House Bill 150 (Rep. Miller/Sen. Maloney) passed the House unanimously, but was stalled in the Senate when several senators raised questions about the cost and long-term commitment of funds. The proposal would have put into place an early intervention program to attract low-income middle schoolers into a pledge to take a rigorous high school curriculum in exchange for the promise of substantial financial aid for college when they graduate. A similar measure, Senate Bill 37 (Sen. Maloney/Rep. Karen Yarbrough) passed the Senate as a shell bill and was not considered in the House.

Still pending as this report is prepared are:

- Senate Bill 1333 (Speaker Madigan/President Cullerton) – the legislation to remove hundreds of state employees and members of boards and commissions.
- House Bill 656 (Rep. Fred Crespo/Sen. Michael Noland) – the measure to give Harper College authority to offer two pilot baccalaureate programs. Based on an apparent agreement between Harper College and Northern Illinois University for NIU to provide the bachelor's degrees sought by Harper, Sen. Noland has indicated he will postpone consideration of the bill until later.
- House Joint Resolution 54 (Rep. Cynthia Soto) – a resolution calling for IBHE, ISAC, and the Illinois Community College Board to conduct a study of college affordability and consider various recommendations of the Illinois Public Agenda for making college more affordable and institutions more efficient. This proposal stems from action steps recommended in Goal 2 of the Illinois Public Agenda.

- House Joint Resolution 42 (Rep. Smith), which has passed the House, and Senate Joint Resolution 55 (Sen. Demuzio), which has passed the Senate – companion resolutions directing the Illinois State Board of Education and IBHE to prepare recommendations for the General Assembly to restructure school leader preparation and certification programs in Illinois.
- Senate Bill 51 (Sen. Schoenberg/Speaker Madigan) – a major ethics reform measure that would significantly revise state procurement structures and procedures. The higher education chief procurement officer (CPO), who is now appointed by the Governor and is a financial officer at the University of Illinois, would be appointed by the Executive Ethics Commission under SB 51. The legislation also states the higher education CPO should have an office at IBHE unless located elsewhere by the Executive Ethics Commission.

Brief summaries of bills related to higher education and their status follow.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BILL SUMMARIES

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Goal 1: Increase educational attainment to match best performing states and countries

Senate Bill 1828 (amended), Steans (Smith)

Passed Both Houses

Creates the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act. Requires the State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Board of Higher Education to jointly establish and maintain a longitudinal data system by entering into one or more agreements that link early learning, elementary, and secondary school student unit records with institution of higher learning student unit records. Subject to appropriation. Effective immediately.

House Bill 150, Miller (Maloney)

Referred to Senate Assignments

Creates the 21st Century Scholars Act to provide an incentive for low-income students in the 8th grade to improve their academic preparation for postsecondary education. Sets forth provisions concerning annual tuition scholarships to applicants who qualify; requiring the State, the participating school district, and the student to enter into a 3-part compact; rules to implement the Act; and reporting to the General Assembly on awards.

**Senate Bill 37 (Amended), Maloney
(Yarbrough)**

House Rule 19(a)/Re-referred to Rules

Creates the 21st Century Scholars Act. Senate Amendment 1 shells the bill.

**Senate Bill 1883 (amended), Burzynski
(Fortner)**

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall implement the Collaborative Baccalaureate Degree Development Grant Program, to help deliver upper division courses and bachelor's degree programs offered by bachelor's degree-granting colleges and universities at a location geographically convenient to student populations currently being served by existing public community colleges. Provides that a grant application must be jointly submitted by one public community college and one or more public or private, not-for-profit, 4-year colleges or universities.

**House Bill 1079 (amended), Eddy
(Demuzio)**

Passed Both Houses

Creates the Dual Credit Quality Act. Requires the Illinois Community College Board and the Board of Higher Education to develop policies to permit multiple appropriate measures using differentiated assessment for granting eligibility for dual credit to students (a dual credit course being a college course taken by a high school student for credit at both the college and high school level). Sets forth provisions concerning standards that institutions of higher learning must meet if offering dual credit courses, oversight and review of dual credit programs. Provides that instructors teaching credit-bearing college-level courses for dual credit must meet the same academic credential requirements as faculty teaching on campus and need not meet certification requirements set out specified provisions. Provides that the State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Board of Higher Education shall include information regarding student participation and performance in dual credit programs and their success in postsecondary education in a statewide longitudinal data system.

**Senate Bill 1796, (amended), Lightford
(Mitchell)**

Passed Both Houses

Amends the School Code. Establishes the Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education (IHOPE) Program to develop a comprehensive system to re-enroll significant numbers of high school dropouts in programs that will enable them to earn their high school diploma. Requires the State Board of Education to implement and administer the IHOPE Program.

House Bill 3999, Flowers (Martinez)

Passed Both Houses

The Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC) program would be phased out and funding diverted instead to the private Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program. Both programs are intended to increase the state's supply of well-qualified teachers, especially working in difficult-to-staff schools and subjects.

House Bill 392, Golar (Martinez)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act. Makes changes concerning the purposes and goals of Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative, the definitions of certain terms, supportive services, the program of forgivable loans, the award of grants under the Initiative, the inclusion of certain costs in program budgets, and funds to cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

House Bill 4117, Mulligan (Althoff)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act. Provides that preparing highly skilled, committed teachers to teach in hard-to-staff schools includes the Department of Juvenile Justice School District.

House Bill 168, Coulson (Luechtefeld)

Passed Both Houses

Allows ISAC to award need-based grants to cover students' fees for participation in the SIU Achieve Program, subject to appropriation. Achieve provides academic support to students diagnosed with learning disabilities and/or ADD.

House Bill 1035, Flider (Hutchinson)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the School Code and various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Requires the State Board of Education to promote an annual campaign about disability history and awareness in this State. Requires a school district to provide instruction on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement. Requires the regional superintendent of schools to monitor a school district's compliance. Allows each public university to conduct and promote activities that provide education on, awareness of, and an understanding of disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement.

House Joint Resolution 42 (Smith)

Passed the House

Senate Joint Resolution 55 (Demuzio)

Sent to the House

Resolves that the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Board of Higher Education, shall prepare legislative recommendations to restructure school leader preparation and certification programs in this State.

Goal 2: Ensure Affordability for students, families and taxpayers

Senate Bill 1828 (See summary in Goal 1)

House Bill 150 (See summary in Goal 1)

House Bill 1079 (See summary in Goal 1)

House Bill 168 (See summary in Goal 1)

Senate Bill 325 (amended), Maloney

Public Act.....96-0006

Provides that bonds issued in accordance with the Higher Education Student Assistance Act may be designated by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission as guaranteed by the State of Illinois. The bill stipulates that any bonds designated pursuant to these provisions shall be issued by December 31, 2009 and shall be limited in aggregate principal issuance amount to not greater than \$50 million.

**Senate Bill 1698 (amended), Kotowski
(Hamos)**

Passed Both Houses

Creates the Task Force on Higher Education Private Student Loans Act to investigate the rates, fees, and terms associated with private student loans .

**House Bill 1143 (amended), Coulson
(Collins)**

Passed Both Houses

Establishes the Mental Health Graduate Scholarship Program, to be administered by the Department of Human Services. The program would provide scholarships to students in graduate level mental health programs who agree to work in human services in Illinois in a designated shortage area.

House Bill 4094, Hatcher (Maloney)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Requires the Board of Higher Education's master plan to include higher education affordability and accessibility measures.

House Joint Resolution 54, Soto

Adopted by House

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education, working in concert with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and the Illinois Community College Board, shall undertake a study of college affordability and funding.

Goal 3: Increase the number of quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy

Senate Bill 1828 (See summary in Goal 1)

Senate Bill 1883 See summary in Goal 1)

Senate Bill 1796 (See summary in Goal 1)

House Bill 1143 (See summary in Goal 2)

House Bill 3999/Senate Bill 1926 (See summary in Goal 1)

Senate Bill 1453, Maloney (Lang)

Sent to the Governor

Amends the Health Services Education Grants Act to provide that grants may be made to psychology and other physical and mental health-related schools and programs.

House Bill 382, Brosnahan (Maloney)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Nursing Education Scholarship Law. Requires the Department of Public Health to provide nurse educator scholarships, to be awarded for a period of up to 3 years.

Affordability

House Bill 174, Burke (Bond)

3rd Reading, Senate

Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act to require taxation of the amount previously contributed to a tax-exempt college tuition savings program if the money, when taken out of the program, is used for purposes other than qualified educational expenses.

House Bill 364, Reis (Frerichs)**Passed Both Houses**

Creates a Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program to be operated by the University of Illinois. For each year in which they receive a grant under this Act, recipients must work for one year in (i) a veterinary practice primarily devoted to large agricultural animal care or (ii) regulatory veterinary medicine that supports public health and safety, livestock biosecurity, or diagnosis of food animal diseases. Awards are to be for \$20,000 per recipient per year.

House Bill 461 (amended), Jakobsson (Hunter)**Passed Both Houses**

Creates the Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act. Provides that when contacting or being contacted by prospective clients, each publisher of college textbooks shall disclose, (1) the copyright dates of the 3 previous editions of the textbook, if any; (2) a description of the substantial content changes made between the current edition of the textbook or supplemental materials and the previous edition, if any; and (3) the existence and price of alternative formats of the textbook or supplemental materials. Provides that publishers of college textbooks are required to offer all bundled textbooks for sale as individual unbundled textbooks and supplemental materials. Contains a provision concerning institutional autonomy and academic freedom. Effective July 1, 2010.

House Bill 574 (amended), Turner (Schoenberg)**Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence
Senate Amendment(s) 2**

Creates a loan repayment assistance program, subject to appropriation, for Illinois-licensed attorneys working in the public sector. A single recipient may not receive more than \$60,000 through the program over his or her lifetime. Each year, the grant would equal 10% of the amount of law school loans that the applicant would be expected to repay in that year.

House Bill 4039, Stephens (McCarter)**Passed Both Houses**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. With respect to the State scholar program, provides that an applicant is eligible to be designated a State Scholar if he or she is a resident of this State attending a Department of Defense school. Effective July 1, 2009.

House Resolution 374, Davis

Placed on Calendar Order of Resolutions

Urges Congress to consider requiring that students be offered interest rates on college loans that do not exceed 1%.

**Senate Bill 266(amended), Schoenberg
(Hoffman)**

**Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence
House Amendment(s) 1,2**

Establishes a Public Interest Attorney Loan Repayment Assistance Program administered by ISAC in cooperation with an advisory committee made up of lawyers and law school representatives. Disbursement of awards would be in the form of forgivable loans.

**Senate Bill 77 (amended), Clayborne, Jr.
(Verschoore)**

Passed Both Houses

Creates a new tax incentive for employers and their employees to contribute to the State of Illinois' college savings and prepaid tuition programs.

Senate Bill 81, Bond (Burke)

Passed Both Houses

Allows taxation of the amount previously contributed to a tax-exempt college tuition program administered by the State of Illinois if the money, when taken out of the program, is used for purposes other than qualified educational expenses and if the nonqualified expenses were not due to the death or disability of the beneficiary.

**House Bill 2352 (amended), Joyce
(Trotter)**

Passed Both Houses

Creates the Credit Card Marketing Act of 2009. Requires that institutions of higher education that enter into an agreement to market credit cards to students, or that allow their student groups, alumni associations, or affiliates to enter into agreements must make a financial education program available to all students. Contains provisions requiring institutions to disclose certain agreements with credit card companies. Prohibits certain gifts and inducements. Prohibits the distribution of personally identifiable student information for the purpose of marketing credit cards. Provides that the Attorney General may enforce the Act.

Appropriations

House Bill 278 (amended), Bellock (Dillard)

Assigned to Appropriations II

Appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the University of Illinois for a forensic psychiatry fellowship training program at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, and Southern Illinois University.

House Bill 2132 (amended), Madigan (Sullivan)

Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading

Makes various FY10 appropriations relating to higher education, providing GRF and ARRA funds to all public universities and to ICCB for distribution to public community colleges. Effective July 1, 2009.

Budget

Senate Bill 750, Meeks

Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading

Creates the Education Investment and Revenue Reform Act.

Campus Security

House Bill 336 (amended), Pritchard (Hutchinson)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008. Provides that the inter-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional campus violence prevention plan includes communication with governmental agencies and school districts contiguous to the higher education institution's boundaries (instead of surrounding governmental agencies and school districts).

House Bill 2507, Pihos (Dillard)**Passed Both Houses**

Amends the Private College Campus Police Act. With respect to the members of a campus police department having the powers of municipal peace officers and county sheriffs, provides that the powers are for the protection of students, employees, visitors and their property, and the property, branches, and interests of the college or university in the county where the college or university is located (instead of requiring that these powers be exercised only on college or university property); makes related changes. Also gives members of the campus police department the ability to regulate and control traffic on the public way contiguous to the college or university property. Provides that the uniforms, vehicles, and badges of the campus police department officers shall be distinctive from those of the local law enforcement agency where the main campus (instead of just campus) is located.

House Bill 4122 (amended), Chapa LaVia (Holmes)**2nd Reading, Senate**

Amends the Criminal Code of 1961. Provides that it is unlawful for any institution of higher learning that employs peace officers to prohibit a peace officer from carrying a firearm in the performance of his or her duties, unless the peace officer fails to qualify with the firearm, is declared unfit for duty, and is unable to be armed.

Senate Bill 204 (amended), Demuzio (Hoffman)**Passed Both Houses**

Amends the School Code, various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois, and the Public Community College Act. Requires (instead of allows) a board of trustees of a community college district to make mutually agreed upon buildings of the college available for emergency purposes, upon the request of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency or the State-accredited emergency management agency with jurisdiction, and to cooperate in all matters with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local emergency management agencies, State-certified, local public health departments, the American Red Cross, and federal agencies concerned with emergency preparedness and response.

Capital

House Bill 255 (amended), Lang (Cullerton)

Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence Senate Amendment(s) 1, 3

Creates the tax and fees increases for the Capital Projects Funds. and requires transfers to GRF and to require the Fund to be used for capital projects and debt service. Also amends the University of Illinois Act to require the University to conduct a study on the effect on Illinois families of members of the family purchasing Illinois Lottery tickets and to report its findings. Provides that the bill does not take effect unless House Bill 312 of the 96th General Assembly, as amended, becomes law.

House Bill 312 (amended), Lang (Cullerton)

Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence Senate Amendment(s) 1, 2

Provides \$1.4 billion for higher education for FY2010 Capital Bill. Highlights include:

- ✓ Funding for projects that *mirrors the IBHE's FY10 recommendations* including increases over the Governor's recommendation for community college projects and private colleges and universities;
- ✓ \$90 million for deferred maintenance (Capital Renewal) which is the IBHE recommended level, an increase of \$40 million over the Governor's FY10 introduced budget;
- ✓ Funding for *all college and university capital projects in the IBHE FY10 recommendations*, at the IBHE recommended funding level;
- ✓ \$134.5 million for the Community College temporary facility replacement program;
- ✓ \$25 million to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency for Campus Security;
- ✓ \$60 million to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the University of Illinois Petascale Facility (Computing facility that will house the IBM Blue Waters supercomputer); and,
- ✓ \$300 million for private colleges and universities (\$200 million over the Governor's FY10 introduced budget).

House Bill 2400 (amended), Lang (Cullerton)

Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence Senate Amendment(s) 1, 2

Amends the State Finance Act. Provides that money in the Capital Projects Fund shall, if and when the State of Illinois incurs any bonded indebtedness in the amendatory Act.

**House Bill 1200 (amended), Jakobsson
(Schoenberg)**

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Creates the State University Certificates of Participation Act. Empowers the board of trustees of any State university to financing agreements in connection with the financing of capital improvements by selling certificates of participation in the installment payments made under such financing agreements.

**Senate Bill 2009 (amended), Righter
(Rose)**

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Public University Energy Conservation Act to provide that "energy conservation measure" includes a renewable energy center pilot project at Eastern Illinois University.

Community Colleges

House Bill 437 (amended), Beiser (Haine)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Public Community College Act with respect to a provision allowing a community college district to borrow money not in excess of \$4,500,000 in the aggregate at any one time, except allows Community College District No. 522 and Community College District No. 536 to borrow money not in excess of \$20,000,000.

House Bill 656, Crespo (Noland)

3rd Reading, Senate

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 (Harper College) may offer a pilot program of bachelor's degrees in 2 fields of study if certain conditions are met.

**House Bill 862 (amended), Black
(Demuzio)**

Passed Both Houses

Amends Public Community College Act to provide that electronic bid submissions shall be considered a sealed document for competitive bid requests if they are received at the designated office by the time and date set for receipt of bids. Provides that bids for construction purposes are prohibited from being submitted electronically.

**House Bill 2253 (amended), Pritchard
(Maloney)**

Passed Both Houses

Provides that law enforcement officers of a community college district police department must complete the minimum basic training requirements of a police training school under the Illinois Police Training Act.

**House Joint Resolution 26 (amended),
Miller**

Resolution Adopted by House

Provides for a bipartisan task force that shall hold public hearings, gather evidence, develop, and propose legislation and ultimately furnish a report concerning business and job development in Illinois. Provides that the departments of State government and the Illinois Community College Board shall work cooperatively to provide administrative support for the task force, and the Departments of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Employment Security, subject to appropriation for that purpose and the limits of each agency's statutory authority, shall be the primary agencies in providing that support.

Senate Resolution 190, Clayborne, Jr.

Placed on Order of Resolutions

Urges the U.S. Congress to fund the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network's request for \$648,600,000 from the federal government for the training and development of a green-collar workforce and the creation of green-collar jobs through community college renewable energy and energy conservation projects.

Health

House Bill 2661, Coulson (Frerichs)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Illinois Health Policy Center Act. Provides that in implementing the Act, the University of Illinois may (instead of shall) consult with and seek the participation of all other public universities in the State. Makes changes concerning the membership of the Illinois Health Policy Center Advisory Panel, including adding 12 members.

Senate Bill 1453, Maloney (Lang)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Health Services Education Grants Act to provide that grants may be made to psychology and other physical and mental health-related schools and programs (instead of to other health-related schools and programs).

Miscellaneous

House Bill 35 (amended), Tryon (Garrett)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Department of Central Management Services Law. Requires the Department to establish and maintain a website known as the Illinois Accountability Portal. The website shall provide direct access to information concerning State employees and individual consultants, State expenditures, State tax credits, State contracts, and revocations and suspensions of occupation and use tax certificates of registration and professional licenses.

House Bill 547, Pihos (Radogno)

Passed Both Houses

Creates the Identity Protection Act. Prohibits a State or local government agency from using an individual's social security number in certain ways, subject to various exceptions. Requires each State or local government agency to develop and implement an identity protection policy.

House Bill 725 (amended), Watson (Hultgren)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the School Code to encourage school boards to implement American Sign Language (ASL) courses into school foreign language curriculum. Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. In provisions concerning admissions requirements, provides that ASL may constitute a foreign language for the purposes of meeting those requirements. Allows the governing board of each public university to award academic credit for the successful completion of any ASL course offered or approved by the university, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the university.

House Bill 793 (amended), Winters (Burzynski)

Placed on Calendar Order of Non-Concurrence Senate Amendment(s) 1

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Permits a public body with statewide jurisdiction or with jurisdiction over more than 4,500 square miles to include members participating in a video or audio conference at specified locations when determining the physical presence of a quorum at an open meeting (now, a public body with statewide jurisdiction may include members participating in a video conference at specified locations when determining the physical presence of a quorum at an open meeting). Provides that the requirement that members of a public body with less than statewide jurisdiction be physically present at a closed meeting is limited to public bodies with jurisdiction over 4,500 or fewer square miles. Effective immediately.

House Bill 898, Jakobsson (Frerichs)**Passed Both Houses**

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Provides that all faculty and staff members of a university or community college are free to communicate their views on any matter of private or public concern to any member of the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of government, State or federal, without notice to or prior approval of the university or community college, so long as they do not represent that they are speaking for or on behalf of the university or community college.

House Bill 899, Jakobsson (Frerichs)**Passed Both Houses**

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Provides that a university or community college may not prohibit any faculty or staff member from (i) displaying political buttons, stickers, or patches while on university or community college property, provided that such display by any member of the faculty in an instructional setting is for a purpose relevant to the subject of instruction; (ii) attending a partisan political rally, provided that the employee is not on duty; or (iii) displaying a partisan bumper sticker on his or her motor vehicle.

House Bill 972, Chapa LaVia (Munoz)**Passed Both Houses**

Amends the School Code, various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois, and the Public Community College Act. Provides that if a public school, university, or community college holds any type of event at the institution on November 11, Veterans' Day, the governing board of the institution shall require a moment of silence at that event to recognize Veterans' Day.

House Bill 1013, Boland (Sullivan)**Passed Both Houses**

Creates the Green Buildings Act, requiring that State-funded building construction and major renovations of existing State-owned facilities must meet certain energy and environmental standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program rating system, the Green Building Initiative's Green Globes rating system, or an equivalent rating system. The bill permits waiver of the standards by the Capital Development Board or another agency and specifies the criteria for waivers.

House Bill 1060, Coulson (Radogno)**Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence
Senate Amendment(s)**

Amends State Lobbyist Registration Act to apply the law to lobbying of state boards and commissions. Exempts from the Act a person who, without compensation and without making reportable expenditures, appears before a board or commission for the purpose of explaining or arguing for or against issues or matters within the jurisdiction of the board or commission.

House Bill 2235, Davis (Lightford)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the School Code and various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Requires the governing board of each school district, university, and community college to report to the State Board of Education or Board of Higher Education, on or before July 1 of each year, the base salary and benefits of all administrators and teachers or faculty employed by the school district, university, or community college district.

House Bill 2437, May (Wilhelmi)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Department of Central Management Services Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Department must require every State-owned building to establish a green cleaning policy whereby the building buys and uses only environmentally-sensitive cleaning products. Effective immediately.

**House Bill 2573 (amended), Mell
(Martinez)**

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Illinois Human Rights Act. Provides that every institution of higher education shall post in a prominent and accessible location a poster stating sexual harassment laws and policies.

**House Bill 2686 (amended), Leitch
(Cronin)**

**Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence
Senate Amendment(s)**

Amends the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Act. Provides that, from funds appropriated for the purposes of the Act, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Southern Illinois University may enter into cooperative agreements with the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria or Northwestern University or both for the purpose of funding forensic psychiatric fellowship training programs at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria and Northwestern University. Effective July 1, 2009.

House Resolution 74, Rose

Placed on Calendar Order of Resolutions

Urges Governor Quinn to return to the practice of selecting State university trustees from a list provided by and vetted by the alumni association of the State university in question.

House Resolution 97, Reitz**Resolution Adopted**

Urges the U.S. Congress to fund the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network's request for \$648,600,000 from the federal government for the training and development of a green-collar workforce and the creation of green-collar jobs through community college renewable energy and energy conservation projects.

House Resolution 240, W. Davis**Resolution Adopted**

Recognizes the month of April of 2009 as the Month of the African-American Male in Illinois Higher Education.

House Resolution 393, Stephens**Assigned to Higher Education Committee**

Asks that universities be fiscally conservative now and set an example consistent with the business world by either eliminating sabbaticals or sharply cutting them back.

House Resolution 444, Rose**Referred to Rules Committee**

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education (i) develop a model trustee curriculum for public university board of trustee members, (ii) conduct mandatory training for current and future trustees on the proper role of a trustee, and (iii) report to the General Assembly on a set of expectations for an appropriate procurement policy for each public university.

**Senate Bill 51(amended), Schoenberg
(Madigan)****Passed Both Houses**

Ethics reform measure making significant changes to procurement policies, structures, and procedures. Mandates that higher education Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) be appointed by the Executive Ethics Commissioner (rather than the Governor) and be housed at IBHE unless Commissioner suggest different venue. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 206 (amended), Bond (Riley)**Passed Both Houses**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Requires that a preference equal to 10% of the contract amount be granted to an otherwise qualified State contract bidder that is a qualified "service" disabled veteran. Defines a qualified "service" disabled veteran as a business entity 51% or more owned by one or more "service" disabled veterans.. Requires that the Department of Central Management Services report annually to the General Assembly on the attainment of the percentage goal, based on information reported by chief procurement officers.

**Senate Bill 263 (amended), Frerichs
(Jakobsson)**

Passed Both Houses

Amends the University of Illinois Act. Removes a provision that prohibits a student from being admitted to instruction in any of the departments of the University who has not attained the age of 15 years and who has not previously undergone a satisfactory examination in each of the branches ordinarily taught in the common schools of this State. Effective immediately.

**Senate Bill 1333 (amended), Cullerton
(Madigan)**

**Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence
House Amendment(s) 1, 2**

Creates the Officials and Employees Termination Act of 2009. Provides for the termination of certain designated officials and employees, those requiring confirmation of the Senate and exempted from protection of Rutan decision and civil service code. All members of boards and commissions would be affected.

Senate Bill 1570, Pankau (Kosel)

**Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence
House Amendment(s) 1**

Creates the School Wind and Solar Generation Program to fund wind generation projects and solar generation projects for school districts and community college districts.

Senate Bill 1624, Kotowski (Walker)

Passed Both Houses

Creates the Higher Education Veterans Campus Service Act. Requires all public colleges and universities to conduct a survey of the services and programs that are provided for veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families, at each of their respective campuses. Requires appointment of a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services on each campus of the college or university that has an onsite, daily, full-time student headcount above 1,000 students. Provides that the Board of Higher Education and the Department of Veterans' Affairs may issue a best practices report to highlight those programs and services that are most beneficial to veterans and active duty military personnel.

**Senate Bill 2045 (amended), Jacobs
(McAuliffe)**

Passed Both Houses

Creates the Blind Vendors Act. Creates the Business Enterprise Program for the Blind. Provides that the Program must provide that: priority is given to blind vendors in the operation of vending facilities on State property; tie bid preference is given to blind vendors in the operation of cafeterias on State property unless the cafeteria operations are operated by employees of a State agency; vending machine income from all vending machines on State property is assigned as provided in the Act.

Senate Resolution 29, Maloney

Placed on Calendar Order of Resolutions

Establishes the Unemployment Insurance for Contingent Academic Workers Task Force to (1) estimate costs to higher education institutions of a change in law that allows contingent academics to collect unemployment insurance and (2) examine the growth of employment of part-time contingent faculty over the past 10 years.

P-20

House Resolution 50 (amended) Miller

Placed on Calendar Order of Resolutions

Resolves that this State make it a priority that up to 2 years of postsecondary education or training for all Illinoisans.

House Resolution 56, Ford

Placed on Calendar Order of Resolutions

Urges the State Board of Education to establish a comprehensive plan to close the student achievement gap by the 2010-2011 school year.

Pensions

House Resolution 63, Jakobsson

State Government Administration

Senate Resolution 54, Frerichs

Resolution Adopted

Instructs the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to study the economic impact on central Illinois of the number of jobs that would be eliminated due to the consolidation of investment authority in the State Universities Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of State of Illinois.

House Bill 2557(amended), Bradley (Silverstein)

Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence Senate Amendment(s) 1, 3

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that it is the public policy of the State of Illinois to encourage the pension funds, and any State agency investing funds on behalf of pension funds, to promote the economy of Illinois through the use of economic opportunity investments to the greatest extent feasible within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence.

Senate Bill 364, Schoenberg (Madigan)

Public Act 96-0006

Amends the Illinois Ethics Act concerning various pension funds and amends the Illinois Pension Code provisions concerning the boards of trustees of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois and the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). The Chairperson of the Illinois Board of Higher Education will chair the SURS Board of Trustees. Also provides for the boards to be reconstituted 90 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act.

Senate Bill 1440 (amended), Raoul (Miller)

Passed Both Houses

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that each pension fund or retirement system operating under this Code may, and to the extent required by federal law shall, at the request of any person entitled to receive a refund, lump-sum benefit, or other nonperiodic distribution from the pension fund or retirement system, pay the distribution (rather than pay the taxable portion of that distribution) directly to any entity that (1) is designated in writing by the person, (2) is qualified under federal law to accept an eligible rollover distribution from a qualified plan, and (3) has agreed to accept the distribution. Amends provisions concerning retirement and survivor benefits under the portable benefit package in the State Universities Article, makes various technical changes, including referring to the optional benefit choices as optional forms of payment. Effective immediately.

Teacher Prep

**House Bill 3600 (amended), Beaubien, Jr.
(Sullivan)**

Passed Both Houses

Amends the School Code with respect to agricultural (instead of agriculture) science teacher education. Provides that the State Board of Education shall provide grants to (1) institutions of higher education that offer State-approved agricultural science teacher preparation programs; and (2) public community colleges in this State that provide an articulated agricultural science teacher education course of study (instead of providing incentive funding grants to the agriculture science teacher education programs located at Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, and Western Illinois University and to public community colleges in this State that provide an articulated agriculture science teacher education course of study). Makes changes concerning the activities for which the funds may be used. Effective immediately.