

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This report updates the Board on General Assembly activity as the spring 2010 gets underway. The report includes a summary of bills of particular interest to higher education.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The General Assembly returned to Springfield for a brief, but productive, January session, during which lawmakers sent to the Governor two significant pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening the state's application for \$400 million in federal grants.

In quick order, first the House and then the Senate approved Senate Bill 315, sponsored by Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia and Sen. Kimberly Lightford, to incorporate new criteria – the use of data and indicators of student growth – into teacher and school leader evaluations. Both chambers endorsed Senate Bill 616, sponsored by Rep. Chapa LaVia and Sen. James Meeks, which broadens the definition of entities permitted to offer alternative teacher certification programs to include not-for-profit organizations. Both measures were signed into law by Governor Quinn. The legislation was enacted to demonstrate the state's commitment to reform measures to bolster its application for federal Race to the Top grant funds.

The House returns to Springfield February 3rd and the Senate the following week. Measures affecting higher education that have been introduced so far include:

- House Bill 4906, sponsored by Rep. Rich Myers, to require public universities to develop annual academic, financial, and enrollment plans that outline tuition and fee estimates, enrollment projections, how they plan to meet state policy objectives, and their acceptance of accountability measures. The bill requires the Illinois Board of Higher Education to develop indicators to measure whether the universities are meeting state policy goals.
- House Bill 4905, also sponsored by Rep. Myers, requires IBHE to create an audit committee to examine any plan by a public university to increase tuition from the previous academic year by more than 10%.
- House Bills 4662 and 4622, sponsored by Rep. Bob Pritchard, provides for a tax amnesty period with the proceeds deposited in the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund.
- Several bills have been introduced to eliminate the General Assembly scholarship.

- Several measures are aimed at changing the makeup of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees to include faculty members from each of the U of I campuses, and return to an elected Board of Trustees for the university.

Summaries of legislation follow.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT
BILL SUMMARIES
96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

House Bill 4716 (Pritchard)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Higher Education Veterans Service Act. Provides that within one year after returning from deployment, a veteran of the armed forces who (i) was enrolled at a public college or university within one year prior to deployment, (ii) has returned from that deployment, and (iii) is seeking re-enrollment at that public college or university must be granted preference for re-enrollment by the public college or university and be reinstated as soon as possible during the current or next academic semester. Effective immediately.

Senate Joint Resolution 55 (Demuzio)

Received by 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.

House Joint Resolution 42 Smith (Lightford)

Referred to Senate Assignments

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.

Affordability

House Bill 4633 (Black)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the School Code. Provides that, beginning on July 1, 2011, no scholarships may be awarded under provisions that permit members of the General Assembly to award scholarships to persons for attendance at a State sponsored university. A scholarship awarded before July 1, 2011 is valid until its stated term expires, but may not be renewed. Effective July 1, 2011.

House Bill 4685 (Franks)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the School Code. Provides that after June 1, 2010 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Prevents both second nominations for any lapsed General Assembly scholarship and nominating persons to the unused or unexpired parts of any vacated General Assembly scholarship after June 1, 2010. Effective immediately.

House Bill 4697 (Franks)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Baccalaureate Savings Act. In a Section concerning the administration of a grant program, provides that no limit may be placed on the number of bonds that may be purchased under the program on an annual basis. Provides that while all grants awarded under the program are subject to annual appropriation of funds by the General Assembly, there shall be no expiration date placed on the grants and any person who is denied disbursement of a grant due to a lack of funding shall remain eligible for disbursement of that grant until such time as funding becomes available, provided that he or she properly applies for disbursement of the grant on an annual basis

House Bill 4906 (Myers)

Referred to Rules Committee

Creates the Accountability in Higher Education Act. Requires public universities in this State to develop annual academic, financial, and enrollment plans that outline (i) tuition and fee estimates, (ii) enrollment projections, (iii) how to meet State policy objectives, and (iv) accepting a number of accountability measures, including meeting benchmarks related to accessibility and affordability. Requires public universities to commit themselves formally to meeting specified State policy objectives. Requires the Board of Higher Education to be responsible for developing performance indicators to measure whether public universities in this State are meeting State policy objectives. Effective immediately.

Appropriations

House Bill 4841 (Bost)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the State Finance Act. Provides that the Comptroller must make all payments to State colleges and universities on no less than a quarterly basis. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2548 (Demuzio)

Referred to Assignments

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that the Illinois Community College Board shall certify, prepare, and submit monthly vouchers (rather than quarterly vouchers) to the State Comptroller setting forth an amount equal to one-twelfth (instead of 25%) of the grants approved by the State Board for base operating grants and equalization grants. Effective July 1, 2010.

Budget

House Bill 4622 (Pritchard)

Remains in Revenue & Finance Committee

Amends the Tax Delinquency Amnesty Act. Provides for an amnesty period from January 1, 2010, through February 15, 2010. Provides that interest and penalties for taxes due after June 30, 2002, and prior to January 1, 2010, shall be abated and not collected if those taxes are paid during the amnesty period. Provides that money collected during the amnesty period that would otherwise be deposited into the General Revenue Fund shall be deposited into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act to provide that a limitation on the amount that may be on deposit in the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund does not include moneys received as a result of the amnesty program. Effective immediately.

House Bill 4662 (Pritchard)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Tax Delinquency Amnesty Act. Provides for an amnesty period beginning on the effective date of the amendatory Act and ending 60 days thereafter. Provides that interest and penalties for taxes due after June 30, 2002 and prior to the effective date of the amendatory Act shall be abated and not collected if those taxes are paid during the amnesty period. Provides that money collected during the amnesty period that would otherwise be deposited into the General Revenue Fund shall be deposited into the Monetary Award Program Reserve Fund. Effective immediately.

House Bill 4905 (Myers)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Requires the Board to establish an audit committee to examine any plan by a public university to increase tuition from the previous academic year by more than 10%. Provides that the committee shall consist of no less than 3 members, designated by the Chairperson of the Board, to assist in the oversight of the financial reporting and audit processes of those universities whose rate of tuition is being increased from the previous academic year by more than 10%. Provides that the committee shall assist the Board in retaining an auditor through the Office of the Auditor General to conduct audits. Sets forth additional duties of the committee. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 642(amended) Haine

3rd Reading

Amends Southern Illinois University Management Act. Allows University to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of receiving tuition, payments from the State of Illinois, or other revenues or receipts of the University.

Capital

Filed with the Clerk by Rep. Dan Brady

House Joint Resolution 84 (Brady)

Approves projects on land or lands owned by the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University or privately owned land or lands, or both, and leased for the purpose of construction, maintenance, and operation of a residential housing complex for students of Illinois State University.

Com. Colleges

House Bill 4770 (Franks)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the School Code. Provides that upon request of a school, school district, community college district, or private school, any information obtained by a school district pursuant specified provisions concerning criminal history records checks within the last 5 years shall be made available to that school, school district, community college district, or private school.

Senate Bill 2538 (Maloney)

Referred to Assignments

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that as of July 1, 2011, a community college district must maintain a minimum required combined in-district tuition and universal fee rate per semester credit hour equal to 70% of the State-average combined rate, as determined by the State Board, or the total revenue received by the community college district from combined in-district tuition and universal fees must be at least 30% of the total revenue received by the community college district, as determined by the State Board, for equalization funding. Effective July 1, 2010.

Misc.

House Bill 4608 (Reis)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act, the Election Code, the University of Illinois Act, and the University of Illinois Trustees Act. Provides for a Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois consisting of 7 elected members (now, the Board consists of 9 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate), the Governor, and 3 student trustees. Effective immediately.

House Bill 4683 (Ford)

Referred to Rules Committee

Creates the African American Employment Plan Act. Provides that the purposes of the Act are to: (1) improve State services delivery to Illinois' African Americans; (2) increase the number of African Americans: who are employed throughout State government, who are promoted, and who are veterans who are hired by State government; (3) assist State agencies meet goals established by the African American Employment Plan; and (4) establish an African American Employment Plan Advisory Council. Effective immediately.

House Bill 4688 (Jakobsson)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the University of Illinois Trustees Act. Provides that the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall consist of the Governor and at least 15 (rather than 12) trustees. Provides that 3 additional trustees shall be faculty members, of whom one faculty member shall be selected from each University campus.. Creates the Trustees Selection Task Force (TRUST Force), which shall receive and review nominations for trustees for the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois and make a recommendation to the Governor concerning a nominee within 30 days after the Governor makes the nomination. Effective immediately.

House Bill 4706 (Winters)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends various Acts concerning State universities. Repeals provisions that permit the children of employees of an Illinois college or university who have been employed by any one or by more than one Illinois college or university for an aggregate period of at least 7 years to receive a 50% tuition waiver. Effective immediately.

House Bill 4872 (Golar)

Referred to Rules Committee

Amends the Election Code. Requires election authorities to conduct grace period registration, grace period voting, and early voting on public university, college, and community college campuses within their jurisdictions. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2465 (Jones)

Referred to Assignments

Amends the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act, the Election Code, the University of Illinois Act, and the University of Illinois Trustees Act. Provides for a Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois consisting of 7 elected members (now, the Board consists of 9 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate), the Governor, and 3 student trustees. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2472 (Brady)

Referred to Assignments

Amends the School Code. Provides that after June 1, 2010 persons may not be nominated for General Assembly scholarships and that General Assembly scholarships may not be awarded after that date unless the nomination is made prior to that date. Effective immediately.

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Senate Bill 315 (amended) Lightford (Chapa LaVia)

Public Act 96-0861

Amends the School Code. Changes provisions concerning the development of an evaluation plan for teachers and principals to incorporate the use of student growth data. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 616 (amended) Meeks (Chapa LaVia)

Public Act 96-0862

Amends the School Code. Provides that alternative certification programs may be provided by various types of qualified providers, including both institutions of higher education and other providers operating independently from institutions of higher education; provided however, that any and all programs must be approved by the State Board of Education in accordance with rules and regulations. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2537 (Maloney)

Referred to Assignments

Amends the School Code with respect to administrative certificates. Allows for a general administrative endorsement if, among other conditions, the certificate holder has 2 years of chief school business official experience (as an alternative to requiring 2 years of full-time teaching experience or school service personnel experience). Provides that an endorsement for a chief school business official endorsement must include the requirement that the certificate holder has 6 semester hours of internship in school business management. Allows for a superintendent endorsement if, among other conditions, the certificate holder has 2 years of chief school business official experience (as an alternative to requiring 2 years as an administrator or supervisor in the public schools).

Pensions

Senate Bill 2525 (Martinez)

Referred to Assignments

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Requires that every retirement system, pension fund or other system or fund established under the Code indemnify and protect the trustees, staff, and consultants against all damage claims and suits when damages are sought for negligent or wrongful acts alleged to have been committed in the scope of employment or under the direction of the trustees (indemnification was discretionary). Provides that a retirement system's, pension fund's, or investment board's goals for the management of assets in specific asset classes by emerging investment managers shall be based on the percentage of total dollar amount of assets to be managed for investment service contracts (rather than the percentage of total dollar amount of investment service contracts) let to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, and businesses owned by a person with a disability. In provisions concerning prohibition on gifts, provides that solicitation or acceptance of costs associated with educational purposes is not prohibited. Effective immediately.