

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This report updates the Board on action on legislation passed by the General Assembly in the 2011 veto session and the November 29 special session day.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The General Assembly met in fall veto sessions October 25-27 and November 8-10 as well as on a special session day on November 29.

Among bills passed by both Houses of the General Assembly during the veto sessions are:

- Senate Bill 1750 (Sen. Michael Frerichs / Rep. Naomi Jakobsson) exempts the state's public universities from the Illinois Procurement Act for certain expenditures related to: membership in professional, academic, or athletic associations, events paid exclusively by revenues, private grants or gifts, or donations, events for which specific vendor is mandated by the event sponsor, artistic or musical performances. The bill also gives the chief procurement officer the ability to waive certain requirements that hinder procurements for research, broadcast facilities, library materials, or grants.

Senate Bill 1795 (Sen. Kimberly Lightford / Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia) shifts regulatory oversight for private business and vocational schools (PBVS) from the jurisdiction of the Illinois State Board of Education to the Board of Higher Education. There are some 300 PBVS postsecondary schools in Illinois, ranging from bartending schools and pet-grooming academies to allied health fields and computer technology training. IBHE intends to streamline the application and review process to improve response times and apply greater scrutiny to institutions that have an effect on public health or safety. Fees charged to the schools will cover the expenses of regulation.

- HB 605 (Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia / Sen. Kimberly Lightford) creates a new school report card to be inaugurated in 2013. The impetus for the new report card came from the Illinois P-20 Council, and the movement involved dozens of education stakeholders from throughout the state. The new report card is designed to be an easy to comprehend assessment for parents and communities of key education checkpoints of school quality – school environment, student outcomes, student progress – and will contain comparisons of a school to similar schools and statewide averages.

All will be sent to the Governor and he is expected to sign them.

The General Assembly returned for an extra day on November 29 to complete action on the Fiscal Year 2012 budget, and also to consider a package of tax provisions. Proposals regarding pensions and gaming were not revisited during this special session day.

The following bills passed both Houses and will be sent to the Governor:

- SB 2412 (Sen. Heather Steans/ Rep. Michael Madigan) is an appropriations bill that redistributes funds among line items for the FY 12 budget in response to the Governor's budget vetoes. Among the items, those affecting higher education include:
 - \$550,000 in spending authority from the Private Business and Vocational Quality Assurance Fund to the IBHE for costs and expenses associated with the administration and enforcement of the Private Business and Vocational School Act, (SB 1795);
 - \$33.5 million appropriated to Illinois Student Assistance Commission from the Student Loan Operating Fund for expenses, awards, and grants. This funding will be used to supplement the Monetary Award Program (MAP) to help pay 2011-12 MAP awards; and
 - \$3.0 million (from \$4.3 million to \$7.3 million) in increased federal funds spending authority to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to support Longitudinal Data System(LDS) activities.
- SB 1311 (Sen. Heather Steans/ Rep. Barbara Currie) is the budget implementation bill for the FY 12 budget. Included is \$15.8 million to fully fund the Illinois State Scientific Surveys housed at the University of Illinois, allowing the Prairie Research Institute to continue operating.

Governor Quinn is expected to sign both budget bills.