

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**Submitted for:** Information.

**Summary:** This report updates the Board on General Assembly activity and gubernatorial action, including a summary of bills of particular interest to higher education.

**Action Requested:** None.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Spring 2014 Session  
Summary of Legislation  
Illinois Board of Higher Education  
(Actions as of March 28, 2014)

**House Bill 3944, (amended) Jakobsson**

**Calendar Order, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provide that with regard to a release made on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act for a capital appropriation for new construction only, 10% of that appropriation release for a public university must be devoted exclusively to facility renovation at that particular university.

**House Bill 4225, (amended) Jakobsson**

**Calendar Order, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Amends the Private College Act and the Academic Degree Act. Provides that any employment data that a post-secondary educational institution regulated under either of Acts reports to the Board of Higher Education for the purpose of gaining or retaining required authorization or approval, uses for marketing, advertising, or statistical purposes, or conveys to existing or anticipated students in this State via the Internet or any of its publications or other written or oral communications must set forth the following data separately: (1) recent graduate employment lasting fewer than 3 months; (2) recent graduate employment lasting 3 months or more; (3) recent graduate employment of graduates who are employed on a temporary basis; (4) recent graduate employment of graduates who are employed on a permanent basis; (5) employment data from any of its campuses located within this State; and (6) employment data from any of its campuses located outside the territorial boundaries of this State. Sets forth provisions concerning noncompliance.

**House Bill 4359, Crespo**

**Assigned to Appropriations-Higher  
Education Committee**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, allocations to public universities based upon performance metrics shall not amount to less than 1% of the overall higher education budget amount for public universities from the General Revenue Fund.

**House Bill 4463, Kosel****Calendar Order, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, by rule, to determine standards for awarding Monetary Award Program grants and renewals based on financial need and academic qualifications. Provides that these rules must be adopted on or before January 1, 2015. Makes related changes concerning the eligibility of applicants. Provides that if grant assistance covers the cost of a course at an institution of higher learning and the student withdraws from or otherwise fails to complete the course prior to the end of the course, then the Commission shall proportionally reduce the amount of the grant awarded to the student or the Commission shall require the student to repay an equivalent amount to the Commission.

**House Bill 5679, (amended) Hammond****Calendar Order, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Amends the University of Illinois Act, the Southern Illinois University Management Act, the Chicago State University Law, the Eastern Illinois University Law, the Governors State University Law, the Illinois State University Law, the Northeastern Illinois University Law, the Northern Illinois University Law, and the Western Illinois University Law. Repeals corresponding provisions concerning a high school feedback system that monitors the academic progress and success of Illinois high school students enrolled at the university.

**House Resolution 832, Dunkin****Calendar Order of Resolutions**

Encourages the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee, and other student leaders, college officials, faculty, college bookstores, and publishers to discuss ways that college students may be better informed of these different textbook options and how access to them can be increased, without adversely impacting any existing textbook rental or already established access or affordability programs available to Illinois students.

**Senate Bill 2765 (amended), Righter (Hays)****Referred to House Rules Committee**

Amends the Eastern Illinois University Law. Makes changes in provisions concerning the tuition waiver limitation pilot program. Removes language referring to the program as a pilot program, terminating the program after the 2015-2016 academic year, and repealing the provisions on July 1, 2019. Provides for an institutional tuition waiver limitation of 10% in the fourth year of the program and thereafter (instead of 10% in the fourth year of the pilot program). Requires the Board of Trustees to report to the Board of Higher Education every 2 years instead of annually. Changes the name of the program from the tuition waiver limitation program to the tuition affordability discount program. Changes certain references from waivers to discounts; makes related changes.

**Senate Bill 2846 (amended), Haine****Calendar Order, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Amends the Private College Act and the Academic Degree Act. Provides that a nonprofit institution owned, controlled, and operated and maintained by a bona fide church, religious denomination, or religious organization comprised of multi-denominational members of the same well-recognized religion, lawfully operating as a nonprofit religious corporation pursuant to the Religious Corporation Act, is exempt from the Acts.

**Senate Bill 3306, Rose****Calendar Order, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. With respect to the Monetary Award Program, provides that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall, twice a year (instead of each year), receive and consider applications for grant assistance. Provides that the first application period for grants for the next academic year shall be open to all eligible students and the second application period shall occur no earlier than July 15 and shall be open only to (i) public community college students or (ii) public university students who missed the first application deadline for good cause shown, as defined by the Commission. Requires the Commission to apportion grant funds between persons who applied during the first application period and person who applied during the second application period, in such manner as the Commission shall determine.

**Senate Bill 3441, McGuire****Calendar Order, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

Creates the Higher Education Distance Learning Act. Provides that in recent years, distance education offered by institutions of higher learning has been increasing, with such distance education being offered on an interstate basis by many institutions. Provides that the provision of distance education is declared to affect the public safety and welfare and shall be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. Provides that the Board of Higher Education is authorized to participate in a state authorization reciprocity agreement on behalf of this State. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall be the lead agency in coordinating interstate reciprocity for distance learning for participating institutions in this State. Sets forth provisions governing agreements where Illinois is the home state or the reciprocal state. Provides that this Act applies only to distance learning programs and authorizes the Board of Higher Education to adopt rules for the execution of its powers and duties under the Act. Creates the Distance Learning Fund to supplement support for the administration and enforcement of the Act. Amends the State Finance Act to create the Distance Learning Fund.

**Senate Bill 3451, Frerichs****Calendar Order, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Requires the Board of Higher Education to create a pilot program called Pay Forward, Pay Back to replace the current system of charging undergraduate students tuition and fees and other educational expenses at a public institution of higher education. Requires the Board to identify one public institution of higher education to participate in the pilot program. Provides that the pilot program shall (1) allow undergraduate students to attend the institution without paying for tuition and fees, books and supplies, and room and board; (2) provide that, in lieu of paying, students must sign binding contracts to pay to the State of Illinois or the institution, for a specified number of years, a certain percentage of the student's annual adjusted gross income as soon as he or she earns an income after graduation from the institution, but in no event may payments begin to be made more than 10 years after graduation from the institution; (3) specify the number of years and the percentage of annual adjusted gross income for contracts and base the specifications on research to date; (4) guarantee graduation from the institution within 4 years after enrollment if the student makes sufficient educational progress and does not change his or her academic major or major concentration; and (5) establish an immediate funding source for the first 15 to 20 years of the pilot program and include the establishment of a revolving fund to deposit payments made under the pilot program. Requires the Board to submit reports to the General Assembly.

**Senate Joint Resolution 49, Frerichs**

**Calendar Order Secretary's Desk  
Resolutions**

Creates the Higher Education Prior Learning Assessment Task Force under the direction of the Board of Higher Education.

**Senate Resolution 903, Martinez**

**Calendar Order Secretary's Desk  
Resolutions**

Directs the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board to work along with the Illinois Latino Family Commission to develop a self-study guide on the current status and achievement levels for Latino students that will be distributed to all public universities and community colleges throughout the State of Illinois.