

## 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**

**99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Spring 2016 Session  
Summary of Legislation  
Illinois Board of Higher Education  
(Actions as of February 26, 2016)**

**APPOINTMENT MESSAGES**

[Appointment Message 990222, Muñoz](#)

**Assigned to Executive Appointments**

Nominates Alice Marie Jacobs to be a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

[Appointment Message 990389, Muñoz](#)

**Assigned to Executive Appointments**

Nominates Max Coffey to be a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

**HOUSE BILLS**

[House Bill 811, Drury](#)

**Placed on Second Reading**

Amends the School Code. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the State Board of Education.

[House Bill 2404, Willis](#)

**Placed on Second Reading**

Amends the School Code and the Smoke Free Illinois Act. Provides that specified provisions concerning cigarettes apply also to electronic cigarettes. Defines "electronic cigarette" as any electronically actuated device which in operation causes the user to exhale any smoke, vapor, or other substance other than those produced by unenhanced human exhalation.

[House Bill 4300, Franks](#)

**To Sales and Other Taxes Committee**

Creates the FY2016 and FY2017 Budget Implementation (Revenue) Act. Among other provisions, after July 1, 2016, the Board of Higher Education, and the public universities trustees shall serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for expenses incurred as a Board member or trustee.

[House Bill 4312, Martwick](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides for the election (instead of appointment) of members of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 508 (City Colleges of Chicago). Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4329, Batinick](#)

**Assigned to Executive Committee**

Creates the Illinois College Procurement Clarification Act and amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Allows the governing body of a public university to provide by resolution that, in the case of the expenditure of any federal grant, it shall be the policy of the university that federal procurement law and administrative rules supersede and have priority over the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall administer the Act and may adopt any rules necessary to implement and administer the Act.

[House Bill 4330, Wheeler](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the School Code. For admissions purposes, requires each public university in this State to accept the State Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent to 2 years of foreign language coursework taken during high school if a student's high school transcript indicates that he or she will be receiving or has received the State Seal of Biliteracy. Provides that each public community college and public university in this State shall establish criteria to translate a State Seal of Biliteracy into course credit based on foreign language course equivalencies identified by the community college's or university's faculty and staff and, upon request from an enrolled student, the community college or university shall award foreign language course credit to a student who has received a State Seal of Biliteracy. Requires the State Board of Education's rules to ensure that the criteria that pupils must achieve to earn a State Seal of Biliteracy meet the course credit criteria. Requires students enrolled in a public community college or public university who have received a State Seal of Biliteracy to request course credit for their seal within 3 academic years after graduating from high school.

[House Bill 4333, Currie](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Re-enacts a provision concerning the applicability of the Illinois Procurement Code to public institutions of higher education. Defines "master contract" and "multiple award". Sets forth provisions concerning multi-step sealed bidding, competitive sealed proposals, small purchases, sole source procurements emergency purchases, and multi-step sealed proposals. Sets forth provisions with respect to a bidder or offeror's noncompliance with the registration requirements as of the date bids or proposals are due. Removes provisions with respect to the competitive request for proposal process. Makes other changes. Amends the Small Business Contract Act. Makes conforming changes. Amends the Governmental Joint Purchasing Act. Provides that each chief procurement officer may authorize the purchase or lease of personal property, supplies, and services which have been procured through a competitive process by a federal agency or other entities. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4350, Hernandez](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the University of Illinois Act, Southern Illinois University Management Act, Chicago State University Law, Eastern Illinois University Law, Governors State University Law, Illinois State University Law, Northeastern Illinois University Law, Northern Illinois University Law, and Western Illinois University Law. Provides that notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a student who meets the requisite requirements concerning being deemed an Illinois resident for tuition purposes is eligible to apply or receive consideration for any student aid or benefit funded or administered by the State, State agencies, public institutions, or the university, including scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, room and board, tuition waivers, or other financial or in-kind assistance, but excluding Monetary Award Program grants.

[House Bill 4360, Cassidy](#)

**Placed on Second Reading**

Amends the School Code. Provides that no one may be licensed to teach or supervise in the public schools of this State who has been convicted of certain drug offenses until 7 years following the end of the sentence for the offense. Makes changes to provisions relating to the conviction of certain offenses as grounds for revocation of an educator license, including changing the definitions of terms, providing for disqualification for licensure, and providing that suspension of a license or denial of an application for a license of a person who has been convicted of certain drug offenses shall last until 7 years following the end of the sentence for the offense. Makes technical corrections in provisions requiring a criminal history records check to be performed with regard to applicants for employment with a school district. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4362, Unes](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the State Board of Education - Powers and Duties Article of the School Code. Removes a provision providing that of the 3 assessments the State Board of Education shall administer of English language arts and mathematics for students in a secondary education program, one assessment shall include a college and career ready determination exam. Provides that the State Board shall enter into 2 separate contracts to administer 2 college and career-ready determination exams, including, but not limited to, one that is accepted by all of this State's public institutions of higher education, as well as all of the State's post-secondary educational institutions for the purpose of student application or admissions. Specifies that each student shall be offered the opportunity to choose between the 2 exams. Sets forth provisions providing that the State Board shall be required to cover all expenses for each student to take one of the 2 exams for the purpose of college application or admissions consideration.

[House Bill 4380, McSweeney](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the School Code with respect to State goals and assessment. Provides that the provision requiring the State Board of Education to administer no more than 3 assessments, per student, of English language arts and mathematics for students in a secondary education program applies until the expiration of any contracts entered into before the effective date of the amendatory Act between the State Board and the company or companies that operate the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) tests. Provides that after the expiration of any such contracts, the State Board shall enter into 2 separate contracts to administer 2 college and career ready determination examinations, including, but not limited to, one that is accepted by all of this State's public and private institutions of higher education, for the purpose of student application or admissions consideration. Specifies that each student must be offered the opportunity to choose between the 2 examinations. Sets forth provisions providing that the State Board is required to cover all expenses for each student to take one of the 2 examinations for the purpose of college application or admissions consideration. Provides that no State assessments other than these 2 examinations may be administered to students in a secondary education program after the expiration of any contracts entered into before the effective date of the amendatory Act between the State Board and the company or companies that operate the PARCC tests. Effective July 1, 2016.

[House Bill 4422, Kay](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. For any State grant requested after the effective date of the amendatory Act, requires a public university or community college district to provide to the State agency awarding the grant a list of all university or district funds from this State that are invested, excluding endowment funds; the financial status of these investment funds; where the investment funds are held; the amount in fees charged by those holding the investment funds; and who audits the investment funds. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4521, Durkin](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Unbalanced Budget Response Act. Provides authority and procedures for the Governor to establish contingency reserves of previously appropriated funds, and to transfer balances between special funds in the State treasury and the General Revenue Fund. Describes the agencies and programs subject to this authority. Provides that designated agencies may adopt emergency rules to carry out the purposes of the Act. Defines terms. Provides that the Act is repealed on July 1, 2017. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to make conforming changes. Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Adds actions taken under the Unbalanced Budget Response Act to a Section relating to applicability. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement by the State. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4544, Reis](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Authorizes a credit to taxpayers for 10% of stipends or salaries paid to qualified college interns. Limits the credit to stipends and salaries paid to 5 interns each year, and limits total credits to \$3,000 for all years combined. Defines a "qualified college intern". Provides that the credit may not reduce the taxpayer's liability to less than zero and may not be carried forward or back. Exempt from the Act's sunset provisions. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4564, Thapedi](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Public University Uniform Admission Act. Requires each public university in this State to admit first-time freshman applicants as undergraduate students if the applicant graduated with a grade point average in the top 10% of the student's high school graduating class in one of the 2 school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and (1) the applicant graduated from an accredited public or private high school in this State or from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense; (2) the applicant successfully completed the minimum college preparatory curriculum requirements for admission to the university or satisfied the ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT college admission assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the SAT college admission assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400; and (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense, the applicant is a State resident or is entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate provided for State residents. Provides that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is not required to offer admission to applicants who qualify for automatic admission in excess of the number required to fill 75% of the university's enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year. Sets forth other provisions concerning the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sets forth other provisions concerning admissions. Provides for additional preparation for college, student outreach, and rulemaking.

[House Bill 4626, Brown](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Creates a deduction for taxable years ending on or after December 31, 2016 in an amount equal to the contributions made by the taxpayer during the taxable year to any qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, but not to exceed \$10,000 in any taxable year (now, that deduction applies only to contributions made to an in-State 529 plan). Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4627, Tryon](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Requires the governing board of each public university to establish an admissions process in which honorably discharged veterans are permitted to submit an application for admission to the University as a freshman student enrolling in the spring semester if the veteran was on active duty during the fall semester. Allows the university to request that the Department of Veterans' Affairs confirm the status of an applicant as an honorably discharged veteran who was on active duty during the fall semester. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4639, Pritchard](#)

**Assigned to Executive Committee**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Re-enacts a provision concerning the applicability of the Illinois Procurement Code to public institutions of higher education. Provides that the Code does not apply to procurements made by or on behalf of public institutions of higher education for supplies or services under an award made by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact for the use of members of the Compact. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4644, Brady](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that the chief procurement officer and designated procurement officers owe a fiduciary duty to the State. Exempts certain procurements from the Code. Re-enacts and makes changes to a provision concerning the applicability of the Code to public institutions of higher education. Provides that the chief procurement officer shall be the Director of Central Management Services or his or her designee. Provides for designated procurement officers of certain State functions. Includes designated procurement officers in certain responsibilities under the Procurement Code. Transfers certain responsibilities from the Procurement Policy Board to the Department. Provides for competitive procurements from a pre-qualified pool. Requires the Auditor General to perform, no less frequently than biennially, separate performance audits of procurements under the authority of the chief procurement officer and each designated procurement officer. Allows the Auditor General to review a specific procurement or category of procurements at any time. Repeals certain provisions concerning proposed contracts and the Board, independent State purchasing officers, procurement compliance monitors, independent chief procurement officers, methods of source selection, and procurement communications reporting. Makes other changes. Amends the State Employee Indemnification Act; Civil Administrative Code, Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Qualifications Based Selection Act; Illinois State Auditing Act; Criminal Code of 2012; and the Illinois Human Rights Act to make related changes. Effective January 1, 2017.

[House Bill 4675, Pritchard](#)

**Assigned to Higher Education Committee**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that the ICCB Adult Education Fund and the Career and Technical Education Fund are federal funds (instead of special funds) in the State treasury. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4681, Flowers](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning variable tuition rates and fees.

[House Bill 4960, Bennett](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Counties Code. Provides that a county may appropriate funds from the county treasury to make a loan to a community college. Further provides that the county may charge interest on such loan. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4974, Wheeler](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the College Admission Inquiries Act. Provides that during the admission decision-making process, a college (defined as an institution of higher education authorized to confer degrees in this State) may not inquire about arrests that did not result in a criminal conviction and criminal convictions that have been sealed or expunged or make any inquiry or consider information about any arrest or criminal accusation of an individual that was followed by a termination of that criminal action or proceeding in favor of the individual. Provides that a college may not make any inquiry or consider information about an individual's past criminal conviction or convictions at any time during the admission decision-making process. Provides that after an individual has been admitted as a student, a college may make inquiries about and consider information about the individual's past criminal conviction history for the purpose of offering support counseling, services, and work-study employment. Provides that a college may also make inquiries about and consider information about the individual's past criminal conviction history for the purpose of making decisions about participation in activities and aspects of campus life associated with the individual's status as a student. Provides that a college may not use the information to rescind an offer of admission. Provides that a college is not required to make inquiries into or consider an individual's criminal conviction history for any reason. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5039, G. Harris](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Family Practice Residency Act. Changes the short title to the Family Practice and Behavioral Health Promotion Act (and amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, the Nurses in Advancement Law, the Private Medical Scholarship Agreement Act, and the Illinois Public Aid Code to reflect that change). Makes changes to the definition of "Designated Shortage Area". Provides that the Department of Public Health shall have the power and duty to allocate funds to behavioral health care programs, to include in its scholarship program the award of behavioral health care professional scholarships, and to include eligible behavioral health care professionals in its educational loan repayment program. Adds representatives of behavioral health care programs to the advisory committee. Provides that funding for family practice residency programs may not be diverted or diminished below fiscal year 2015 funding levels to fund behavioral health care programs. Makes related changes. Effective immediately.



[House Bill 5262, Madigan](#)

**Assigned to Executive Committee**

Amends the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the short title.

[House Bill 5514, D. Burke](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Private Business and Vocational Schools Act of 2012. Provides that a school or program within a school that exclusively provides yoga instruction, yoga teacher training, or both is not considered to be a private business and vocational school.

[House Bill 5561, McSweeney](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Creates the Accelerate College pilot program. Authorizes a community college district board of trustees to enter into an Accelerate College educational partnership agreement with any school district wholly contained within the community college district's jurisdiction. Provides that an agreement must offer a group of high school students the right to take community college courses without paying tuition for those courses. Provides for the size of the program. Allows community colleges to charge fees limited to the actual operating costs and related student activities. Provides that any coursework completed by high school students in a community college shall be transferrable to all public universities in this State on the same basis as coursework completed by community college students who have previously earned high school diplomas. Requires the Illinois Community College Board to study the effectiveness of the program and to issue an annual report. Repeals the provisions 36 months after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Amends the School Code to make conforming changes. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5566, Sims](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Creates the College Affordability Board to research and recommend to the General Assembly innovative tuition and financial aid policies to keep postsecondary education affordable for Illinois students. Sets forth provisions concerning the members of the Board, meetings of the Board, support from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and an annual report to the General Assembly.

[House Bill 5567, Sims](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that the Board's master plan shall include the area of middle-skill workforce needs. Provides that the master plan's accessibility measures shall include access to technical and community colleges, apprenticeship programs, and university course offerings.

[House Bill 5624, Ives](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the College Safety Act. Provides that if an institution of higher education receives an allegation of sexual violence, along with written consent to proceed from the alleged victim, the institution shall immediately report and refer the allegation to the law enforcement agency of the unit of local government with jurisdiction to respond to such allegations in the location of the institution, but not later than 48 hours after receiving written consent from the alleged victim, unless the alleged victim provides a written notification to the institution that the individual does not want the allegation to be investigated by a law enforcement agency, in which case the

institution may not initiate or otherwise carry out any institutional disciplinary proceeding with respect to the allegation if the individual includes in the notification a statement that the individual understands the effects of providing the notification. Sets forth provisions concerning restrictions on institutional disciplinary proceedings during the period of the law enforcement investigation, an institution's imposition of interim sanctions, a safe harbor for students who report an allegation, and civil remedies.

[House Bill 5648, Franks](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Regional Transportation Authority Act. Provides that on and after January 1, 2017, any fixed route public transportation services provided by or through the Commuter Rail Board shall be provided at a 50% discounted fare off the non-discounted adult fare to all students who present a valid student ID card issued within the previous 12 months by a college or university in the metropolitan region, or under such conditions as shall be prescribed by the Commuter Rail Board.

[House Bill 5669, Sims](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Continuing Appropriation for MAP Grants Act to require a recommendation by the Governor in the annual budget and annual appropriations by the General Assembly sufficient to fund all grant awards for a given academic year under the Monetary Award Program and to require a continuing appropriation if the General Assembly fails to make sufficient appropriations. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5729, K. Burke](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. Sets forth provisions concerning postsecondary career expectations; a competency-based, high school graduation requirements pilot program; transitional mathematics courses; reading and communication transitional competencies; College and Career Pathway Endorsements and State Distinction programs; and administrative rules. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5882, Conroy](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that the credit for student assistance contributions sunsets on December 30, 2025 (instead of December 30, 2020). Provides that the credit for student-assistance contributions may not exceed \$1,000 (currently, \$500) per contributing employee per taxable year.

[House Bill 5894, Hammond](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Adult Education Act with respect to Area Planning Councils. Makes changes concerning membership on an Area Planning Council, the election of officers and the development of bylaws, the chairperson of the Council, and the designation of sub-areas within a Council district. Requires the Illinois Community College Board to determine the guidelines for the bylaws and operation of a Council. Removes provisions concerning joint Councils and Councils for school districts not included within the boundaries of a community college district. Makes changes concerning an Area Adult Education Plan and the Board's annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly for adult education. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5909, Andrade](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that the State Treasurer shall offer a no-interest loan to each student awarded a grant by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission under the Monetary Award Program who has not received the award under the Program due to a lack of appropriations. Provides that the loan shall be equal in size to the award offered by the Commission. Requires the loan to be repaid within 60 days of the student receiving the grant money from the Commission. Repeals the provisions one year after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5938, Frese](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Veterans' Home Nurses' Loan Repayment Act. Renames the Act as the Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Act. Renames the Nurse Loan Repayment Program as the Medical Providers Loan Repayment Program. Requires that the program provide assistance, subject to appropriation, to eligible physicians and nurses (rather than nurses). Provides that an applicant is eligible for a grant under the program if the Illinois Student Assistance Commission finds that the applicant is working as a physician, registered professional nurse, or certified nursing assistant (rather than as a registered professional nurse). Makes related changes. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5991, Phillips](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the University of Illinois Act. Provides that not less than 90 days prior to accepting applications for any undergraduate program for an academic year, the University of Illinois shall publish the standards for admission to that undergraduate program. Provides that no student shall be admitted to an undergraduate program who does not meet the published standards for admission to that undergraduate program. Provides that once the standards are published, the standards for admission to an undergraduate program shall not be changed during that academic year.

[House Bill 6009, Hays](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the State Finance Act, the Board of Higher Education Act, and the Public Community College Act. Provides for the Board of Higher Education's master plan for community colleges to be made in cooperation with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Provides that community college performance metrics must be adopted by ICCB by rule. Removes the need for approval from the Board of Higher Education or for ICCB approval with respect to certain community college provisions. Removes provisions requiring uniform financial accounting and reporting standards and principles for community colleges and requiring ICCB to file copies of uniform financial statements from audit reports with the Board of Higher Education. Requires a community college district to report administrator and faculty salaries and benefits to ICCB instead of the Board of Higher Education. Repeals Sections concerning a State university and college information system, an annual community college education study and report, the Academic Improvement Trust Fund for Community College Foundations, adverse court decision grants, State Community College District No. 601, and a mobile response workforce training pilot program. Effective July 1, 2016.

[House Bill 6068, K. Burke](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Tuition Reduction Act of 2016. Contains only a short title provision.

[House Bill 6069, K. Burke](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Credit for Prior Learning Act. Requires each public university to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to the Board of Higher Education for review and approval and each community college to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to the Illinois Community College Board for review and approval. Provides that, at a minimum, these procedures shall include a listing of the types of documentation acceptable and the dates of inclusion for which prior learning is acceptable. Requires the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board to adopt rules to permit public higher education institutions to award credit for prior learning after the assessment of prior learning experiences for documented learning that demonstrates achievement of all terminal objectives for a specific course or courses.

[House Bill 6077, Crespo](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Illinois Articulation Initiative Act. Requires all public institutions of higher education to participate in the Illinois Articulation Initiative through submission and review of their courses for statewide transfer consistency. Requires (i) all sending and receiving institutions to maintain a complete Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum package to ensure seamless transfer; (ii) all institutions to maintain up to 4 core courses in an Illinois Articulation Initiative major, provided the institution has equivalent majors and courses; and (iii) all institutions to provide faculty, as appointed by the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board, to serve on panels in the review of courses. Provides that all courses approved for Illinois Articulation Initiative codes must be directly transferable either as a part of the General Education Core Curriculum package or as equivalent major courses, insofar as a specific major is offered at the receiving institution. Provides that students receiving the General Education Core Curriculum package must not be required to take additional freshmen or sophomore level general education courses and must be able to transfer seamlessly. Sets forth the duties of the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board.

[House Bill 6094, Demmer](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Local Unfunded Mandate Exemption Act. Provides that all units of local government, school districts, and public colleges and universities may, by a majority vote of the governing body, exempt themselves from specified mandates that are unfunded if it is determined that it is not economically feasible to comply with the unfunded mandate. Provides for notice, public hearing, and other requirements in order for a governing body to exempt itself from any mandate. Prohibits exemption from federally required mandates, mandates pertaining to health and public safety, mandates pertaining to civil rights, and instructional mandates for school districts. Provides for appeal procedures by State agencies affected by exempted mandates. Amends the State Mandate Act. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall submit yearly to the Governor and the General Assembly a review and report on mandates remaining in effect at the time of submittal of the report.

[House Bill 6128, Chapa LaVia](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the educator licensure provisions of the School Code. Allows persons to have completed a comparable preparation program in another state to earn a Professional Educator License. Provides that required testing under certain provisions of the Code includes an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by the State Superintendent of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board completed by the end of

the second year of employment as a teacher of record for Professional Educator License applicants who are holders of an Educator License with Stipulations. Requires applicants for an Educator License with Stipulations to satisfy the requirements for a Professional Educator License.

[House Bill 6129, Chapa LaVia](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the State Universities Civil Service Act. Provides that each university is urged to give preference to those applicants for employment in positions not covered by the State Universities Civil Service System who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces if the applicant is as qualified as other applicants.

[House Bill 6156, Kay](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act and the Election Code. Provides that any member of a board or commission whose appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate and who is (i) confirmed by the Senate, (ii) holds office by a temporary appointment made under Section 9 of Article V of the Illinois Constitution, or (iii) is appointed by the Governor as an acting member must divest or freeze the funds in any candidate political committee and political action committee that he or she maintains or controls and may not establish a candidate political committee or political action committee for the duration of his or her term on the board or commission. Provides that the failure to divest or freeze those funds will result in their forfeiture. Provides that an appointed member of a board or commission who establishes a candidate political committee or political action committee during his or her term on the board or commission shall be subject to a \$5,000 fine. Provides that a member may maintain his or her committee for the purpose of paying any debt owed by that member's committee if the debt was incurred by the committee prior to the member's appointment. Provides that the committee may make payments on the committee's outstanding debt, pay reasonable costs of maintaining the account or preparing reports, and accept certain contributions from the member and the member's spouse, parent, sibling, or child. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 6181, Willis](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends provisions concerning educator licensure in the School Code. Provides that the State Board of Education shall allow educators to earn professional development hours during the final 3 months of the school year and enter those professional development hours into the Educator Licensure Information System.

[House Bill 6188, Zaleski](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the University of Illinois Act. Provides for the University of Illinois 2021 initiative. Contains only a short title provision.

[House Bill 6204, Wehrli](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the School Code. With respect to State assessments, provides that after the expiration of any contract entered into before the effective date of the amendatory Act between the State Board of Education and an entity that provides a college and career readiness examination for the purposes of student application or admissions consideration at institutions of higher education and before the State Board enters into an agreement with a different entity to provide a college and career readiness examination, the State Board shall allow a one-year transition period for school

districts that allows school districts to administer the college and career readiness examination of their choice, subject to appropriation by the State Board. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 6302, Durkin](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act. Changes the definition of "eligible institution" to mean an eligible educational institution as defined in Section 529 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and any regulations thereunder (instead of an institution of higher learning, as defined in the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, whose students are eligible to receive benefits under Section 529(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as specified by the federal Small Business Act of 1996 and subsequent amendments to this federal law). Effective immediately.

[House Resolution 187, McSweeney](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

States the opinion of the Illinois House of Representatives that the proposed educational pension cost shift from the State of Illinois to local school districts, community colleges, and institutions of higher education is financially wrong.

[House Resolution 690, Ford](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Urges the Illinois Department of Corrections to collaborate with one or more institutions of higher learning in the submission of an application for the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program.

[House Resolution 897, Guzzardi](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Shows support for efforts to ensure that students from Illinois have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities.

[House Joint Resolution 66, Batinick](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Creates the Higher Education Affordability Task Force to study and make recommendations on higher education affordability and student retention, and to determine whether Illinois is doing an adequate job at capturing sufficient available federal grants for higher education.

**SENATE BILLS**

[Senate Bill 2146, Manar](#)

**Assigned to Higher Education Committee**

Creates the Illinois College Promise Program Act. Provides that the Illinois Community College Board shall administer the Program for Illinois residents seeking an associate's degree, certificate, or diploma from an eligible community college. Sets forth provisions concerning the eligibility requirements for a student to be awarded the Illinois College Promise scholarship. Sets forth provisions concerning the administration of the Illinois College Promise Scholarship Fund. Amends the State Finance Act. Creates the Illinois College Promise Scholarship Fund as a special fund in the State Treasury. Effective July 1, 2016.

[Senate Bill 2155, Cunningham](#)

**Subcommittee on Public Higher Education**  
**Executive Compensation**

Amends the Illinois State Auditing Act. Provides that the Auditor General shall annually conduct or cause to be conducted a financial and compliance audit of one-third of community colleges

such that every community college is audited by the Auditor General every 3 years. Sets forth provisions concerning the filing, public inspection, and costs of the audit. Requires a community college to make available to the Auditor General its books and records and any other documentation necessary to conduct the audit as required. Provides that certain audits under the Public Community College Act shall not be prohibited in years a community college is not audited by the Auditor General. Amends the Public Community College Act. Makes a related change.

[Senate Bill 2158, Cunningham](#)

**Subcommittee on Public Higher Education**  
**Executive Compensation**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that, beginning 60 days prior to the Tuesday following the first Monday of April in odd-numbered years until the first organizational meeting of a new board of trustees of a community college district, no addendum to modify and amend an employee agreement between a district and another party may be agreed to or executed, nor may an employment contract be made and entered into between the board of an established district and another party. Provides that if the current board must take such action at any time during the 60 days prior to the Tuesday following the first Monday of April in odd-numbered years until the first organizational meeting of the new board due to a reasonable emergency (a defined term), then that action must be terminated within 30 days after the first organizational meeting, unless the new board, by resolution, reaffirms the agreed-upon addendum or new employment contract.

[Senate Bill 2159, Cunningham](#)

**Subcommittee on Public Higher Education**  
**Executive Compensation**

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois and the Public Community College Act. Sets forth provisions governing employment contracts entered into, amended, renewed, or extended after the effective date of the amendatory Act, excluding collective bargaining agreements. Requires the governing board of a university or community college district to complete an annual performance review of the president and any chancellors of the higher education institution. Provides that such annual performance review must be considered when the board contemplates a bonus, raise, or severance agreement for the president or chancellor.

[Senate Bill 2163, Connelly](#)

**Subcommittee on Public Higher Education**  
**Executive Compensation**

Amends the School Boards Article of the School Code. Provides that a school board shall vote on whether to approve an increase in the earnings of a member of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois who receives an increase in salary that exceeds his or her annual full-time salary rate with the same employer for the previous school year by more than 6%. Lists the public notice requirements of a school board meeting in which a vote confirming the salary increase takes place. Amends the Cities of Over 500,000 Inhabitants-Board Of Education Article of the School Code to make similar changes. Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Provides that a board of trustees shall vote on whether to approve an increase in the earnings of a participant of the State Universities Retirement System who receives an increase in salary that exceeds the amount of his or her earnings with the same employer for the previous academic year by more than 6%. Lists the public notice requirements of a board of trustees meeting in which a vote confirming the salary increase takes place. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2170, T. Cullerton](#)

**Assigned to Higher Education Committee**

Creates the Public University Administrative Cost Decrease Act. Provides that all public universities shall annually submit a cost certification that certifies the level of spending dedicated to administrative costs for the current academic year. Provides that beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a Board of Trustees of a public university may not enact a budget that contains tuition or fee increases above that of the tuition and fees set in the 2015-2016 academic year until the Auditor General has verified that the cost certification submitted by the public university and due in the same calendar year of the proposed tuition or fees increase has shown a decrease of administrative costs by 25%. Amends the Illinois State Auditing Act. Makes related changes. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2174, Cunningham](#)

**Subcommittee on Public Higher Education  
Executive Compensation**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall require every voting member of the governing board of a public university appointed for a term beginning after January 1, 2016 to complete a minimum of 4 hours of professional development leadership training. Provides that a public university shall maintain on its Internet website the names of all voting members of the governing board who have successfully completed the training. Provides that after the effective date of this amendatory Act, by July 31 of each year, the chairperson of each governing board shall certify to the Board the number of hours of training that each member received during the preceding fiscal year. Sets forth provisions providing for if a board member has not completed the training. Provides that the training may be provided by the Board or by other qualified providers approved by the Board.

[Senate Bill 2196, Martinez](#)

**Postponed in Higher Education Committee**

Amends the University of Illinois Act, Southern Illinois University Management Act, Chicago State University Law, Eastern Illinois University Law, Governors State University Law, Illinois State University Law, Northeastern Illinois University Law, Northern Illinois University Law, and Western Illinois University Law. Provides that notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a student who meets the requisite requirements concerning being deemed an Illinois resident for tuition purposes is eligible to apply or receive consideration for any student aid or benefit funded or administered by the State, State agencies, public institutions, or the university, including scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, room and board, tuition waivers, or other financial or in-kind assistance, but excluding Monetary Award Program grants.

[Senate Bill 2204, Martinez](#)

**Placed on Second Reading**

Amends the University of Illinois Trustees Act. With respect to student members of the Board of Trustees, provides that any one of certain factors (instead of all of those factors) shall positively demonstrate residency in this State for the purposes of the residency requirement for student trustees and candidates for student trustee. Effective January 1, 2016.

[Senate Bill 2236, Bennett](#)

**Assigned to Licensed Activities and Pensions**

Amends various acts to remove provisions allowing or requiring licensing authorities to revoke professional licenses for defaulting on an educational loan provided by or guaranteed by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Effective immediately.



[Senate Bill 2279, Harris](#)

**Postponed in Higher Education Committee**

Amends the Campus Demonstrations Policy Act. Provides that "State-supported institution of higher learning" includes every institution of higher learning approved by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for purposes of the Monetary Award Program. Requires the policy on demonstrations of a State-supported institution of higher learning to include a statement declaring that the academic or athletic scholarship awarded to a student-athlete may not be reduced or revoked as a result of the student-athlete's participation in or expression of his or her First Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

[Senate Bill 2338, Righter](#)

**Assigned to Appropriations I**

Creates the Unbalanced Budget Response Act. Provides authority and procedures for the Governor to transfer previously appropriated funds between programs, purposes, accounts, agencies, or appropriation line items, and to transfer balances between special funds in the State treasury and the General Revenue Fund. Describes the agencies and programs subject to this authority. Provides that designated agencies may adopt emergency rules to carry out the purposes of the Act. Defines terms. Provides that the Act is repealed on July 1, 2017. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to make conforming changes. Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Adds actions taken under the Unbalanced Budget Response Act to a Section relating to applicability. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement by the State. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2400, Althoff](#)

**Assigned to Executive Committee**

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Provides that the chief procurement officer and designated procurement officers owe a fiduciary duty to the State. Exempts certain procurements from the Code. Re-enacts and makes changes to a provision concerning the applicability of the Code to public institutions of higher education. Provides that the chief procurement officer shall be the Director of Central Management Services or his or her designee. Provides for designated procurement officers of certain State functions. Includes designated procurement officers in certain responsibilities under the Procurement Code. Transfers certain responsibilities from the Procurement Policy Board to the Department. Provides for competitive procurements from a pre-qualified pool. Requires the Auditor General to perform, no less frequently than biennially, separate performance audits of procurements under the authority of the chief procurement officer and each designated procurement officer. Allows the Auditor General to review a specific procurement or category of procurements at any time. Repeals certain provisions concerning proposed contracts and the Board, independent State purchasing officers, procurement compliance monitors, independent chief procurement officers, methods of source selection, and procurement communications reporting. Makes other changes. Amends the State Employee Indemnification Act; Civil Administrative Code, Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Qualifications Based Selection Act; Illinois State Auditing Act; Criminal Code of 2012; and the Illinois Human Rights Act to make related changes. Effective January 1, 2017.

[Senate Bill 2401, Rose](#)

**Assigned to Subcommittee on the Monetary Award Program**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that no applicant, other than a non-traditional student, is eligible for monetary award program consideration after receiving assistance for 4 academic years or, if a particular academic program requires more than 4 academic years to complete, the normal time it takes to complete the program.

[Senate Bill 2405, Rose](#)

**Assigned to Subcommittee on the Monetary Award Program**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. With respect to the Monetary Award Program, removes a provision that requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to determine the eligibility of and make grants to applicants enrolled at qualified for-profit institutions in accordance with specified criteria. Instead, prohibits the Commission from making grants to applicants enrolled at for-profit institutions. Effective July 1, 2017.

[Senate Bill 2440, Bertino-Tarrant](#)

**Assigned to Education Committee**

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Allows for a principal endorsement to be affixed to a Professional Educator License if a person has, among other qualifications, at least 4 total years of experience teaching or 4 total years of experience working in the capacity of school support personnel (instead of at least 4 total years of experience teaching or, until June 30, 2019, working in the capacity of school support personnel). Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2441, Bertino-Tarrant](#)

**Assigned to Revenue Committee**

Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that the credit for student assistance contributions sunsets on December 30, 2025 (instead of December 30, 2020). Provides that the credit for student-assistance contributions may not exceed \$1,000 (currently, \$500) per contributing employee per taxable year.

[Senate Bill 2505, Steans](#)

**Assigned to Higher Education Committee**

Amends the College and Career Success for All Students Act. Provides that scores of 4 or higher on International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme examinations shall be accepted for credit to satisfy degree requirements by all public institutions of higher education. Provides that each institution shall determine for each International Baccalaureate test whether credit will be granted for electives, general education requirements, or major requirements and the International Baccalaureate scores required to grant credit for those purposes. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2526, Rezin](#)

**Assigned to Revenue Committee**

Amends the Veterans' Home Nurses' Loan Repayment Act. Renames the Act as the Veterans' Home Medical Providers' Loan Repayment Act. Renames the Nurse Loan Repayment Program as the Medical Providers Loan Repayment Program. Requires that the program provide assistance, subject to appropriation, to eligible physicians and nurses (rather than nurses). Provides that an applicant is eligible for a grant under the program if the Illinois Student Assistance Commission finds that the applicant is working as a physician, registered professional nurse, or certified nursing assistant (rather than as a registered professional nurse). Makes related changes. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2743, Harmon](#)

**Assigned to Higher Education Committee**

Amends the Private Business and Vocational Schools Act of 2012. Provides that a school or program within a school that exclusively provides yoga instruction, yoga teacher training, or both is not considered to be a private business and vocational school.

[Senate Bill 2789, Radogno](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Creates the Unbalanced Budget Response Act. Provides authority and procedures for the Governor to establish contingency reserves of previously appropriated funds, and to transfer balances between special funds in the State treasury and the General Revenue Fund. Describes the agencies and programs subject to this authority. Provides that designated agencies may adopt emergency rules to carry out the purposes of the Act. Defines terms. Provides that the Act is repealed on July 1, 2017. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to make conforming changes. Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Adds actions taken under the Unbalanced Budget Response Act to a Section relating to applicability. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement by the State. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2790, Forby](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the State Property Control Act and the Southern Illinois University Management Act. Allows the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer and convey all or part of real estate deemed by the Board to be surplus real estate, together with the improvements situated thereon, to a bona fide purchaser for value without compliance with the State Property Control Act and on such terms as the Board shall determine are in the best interests of the University and consistent with the University's objects and purposes. Allows the Board to retain the proceeds from the sale, lease, or other transfer of all or any part of the real estate deemed surplus real estate and the improvements situated thereon in the University treasury in a separate student scholarship fund account that the Auditor General shall examine to ensure the use or deposit of those proceeds in a manner consistent with the purposes of that student scholarship fund account. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2824, McGuire](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Liquor Control Act of 1934. Provides that alcoholic liquors may be served or sold in buildings under the control of the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University for events that the Board may determine are public events and not student-related activities. Provides that the Board of Trustees shall issue a written policy within 6 months after the effective date of the amendatory Act concerning the types of events that would be eligible for an exemption. Provides that the Board of Trustees may issue revised, updated, new, or amended policies as it deems necessary and appropriate. Specifies factors that the Board of Trustees shall, in addition to other factors it considers relevant and important, consider in forming its written policy. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2839, Silverstein](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that a community college district board of trustees may, in the board's discretion, suspend, expel, or remove a student for any act of sexual abuse, as defined in certain provisions of the Criminal Code of 2012, while enrolled at the community college, regardless of whether the act occurred on or off the community college campus or whether the act is related to a college activity or college attendance.

[Senate Bill 2912, Luechtefeld](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Makes changes concerning a provisional in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, a career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, a provisional career

and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, a Substitute Teaching License, a teacher leader endorsement on a Professional Educator License, educator testing, the minimum requirements for educators trained in other states or countries, fees for Substitute Teaching Licenses, and requirements for licensees retiring during a renewal cycle.

[Senate Bill 2941, Jones](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Provides that a public university or community college district may not prohibit a student from registering for classes or refuse to issue a student transcript solely because the student owes the university or district money. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2960, Muñoz](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities in Illinois. Requires the governing board of each public university to develop and maintain a written policy concerning the credits that the university will award for courses on a joint services transcript. Defines "joint services transcript". Effective January 1, 2017.

[Senate Bill 2973, Cunningham](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the University of Illinois Act. Provides for the University of Illinois 2021 initiative. Contains only a short title provision.

[Senate Bill 3023, McGuire](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Higher Education Cooperation Act. Provides that the purpose of the Act is to promote interinstitutional cooperation and collaboration, which may involve public-private partnerships leveraging the use of public and private resources to improve outcomes for the higher educational system in this State. Provides that an institution of higher education may participate in the establishment and operation of programs of interinstitutional cooperation with other institutions of higher education or public-private partnerships, or both (instead of allowing a public institution of higher education to participate in the establishment and operation of programs of interinstitutional cooperation with other public institutions of higher education or with nonpublic institutions of higher education or with both public and nonpublic institutions of higher education). Provides that the program of financial assistance is available to public-private partnerships. Provides that the Board of Higher Education may require matching public or private resources from all participants. Makes related changes. Effective July 1, 2016.

[Senate Bill 3058, Rezin](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Public Community College Act. Provides that the ICCB Adult Education Fund and the Career and Technical Education Fund are federal funds (instead of special funds) in the State treasury. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 3062, Steans](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Family Practice Residency Act. Changes the short title to the Family Practice and Behavioral Health Promotion Act (and amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, the Nurses in Advancement Law, the Private Medical Scholarship Agreement Act, and the Illinois Public Aid Code to reflect that

change). Makes changes to the definition of "Designated Shortage Area". Provides that the Department of Public Health shall have the power and duty to allocate funds to behavioral health care programs, to include in its scholarship program the award of behavioral health care professional scholarships, and to include eligible behavioral health care professionals in its educational loan repayment program. Adds representatives of behavioral health care programs to the advisory committee. Provides that funding for family practice residency programs may not be diverted or diminished below fiscal year 2015 funding levels to fund behavioral health care programs. Makes related changes. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 3078, Bennett](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to (i) annually confer and reach agreement with the Illinois Community College Board, the Department of Employment Security, and the Illinois Career and Technical Administrators Association to identify industries and occupations within this State that face workforce shortages or shortages of adequately trained, entry-level workers; (ii) annually notify school districts of these identified industries and occupations and make this information available on its Internet website; and (iii) approve industry-recognized certification programs designed to mitigate workforce shortages in any of the identified industries or occupations. Requires the Illinois Community College Board to (i) annually confer and reach agreement with the State Board of Education, the Department of Employment Security, and the Illinois Career and Technical Administrators Association to identify industries and occupations within this State that face workforce shortages or shortages of adequately trained, entry-level workers; (ii) annually notify community college districts of the identified industries and occupations and make this information available on its Internet website; and (iii) approve industry-recognized certification programs designed to mitigate workforce shortages in any of the identified industries or occupations. Effective July 1, 2017.

[Senate Bill 3099, Barickman](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Adult Education Act with respect to Area Planning Councils. Makes changes concerning membership on an Area Planning Council, the election of officers and the development of bylaws, the chairperson of the Council, and the designation of sub-areas within a Council district. Requires the Illinois Community College Board to determine the guidelines for the bylaws and operation of a Council. Removes provisions concerning joint Councils and Councils for school districts not included within the boundaries of a community college district. Makes changes concerning an Area Adult Education Plan and the Board's annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly for adult education. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 3148, McCann](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity along with the Board of Higher Education shall (rather than may) conduct an economic and educational feasibility study for the future development of the former Parks College campus (rather than Parks College) in Cahokia, Illinois.

[Senate Bill 3300, Rose](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Creates the Credit for Prior Learning Act. Requires each public university to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to the Board of Higher Education for review and approval and each community college to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to the Illinois Community College Board for review and

approval. Provides that, at a minimum, these procedures shall include a listing of the types of documentation acceptable and the dates of inclusion for which prior learning is acceptable. Requires the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board to adopt rules to permit public higher education institutions to award credit for prior learning after the assessment of prior learning experiences for documented learning that demonstrates achievement of all terminal objectives for a specific course or courses.

[Senate Bill 3301, Rose](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Creates the Illinois Articulation Initiative Act. Requires all public institutions of higher education to participate in the Illinois Articulation Initiative through submission and review of their courses for statewide transfer consistency. Requires (i) all sending and receiving institutions to maintain a complete Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum package to ensure seamless transfer; (ii) all institutions to maintain up to 4 core courses in an Illinois Articulation Initiative major, provided the institution has equivalent majors and courses; and (iii) all institutions to provide faculty, as appointed by the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board, to serve on panels in the review of courses. Provides that all courses approved for Illinois Articulation Initiative codes must be directly transferable either as a part of the General Education Core Curriculum package or as equivalent major courses, insofar as a specific major is offered at the receiving institution. Provides that students receiving the General Education Core Curriculum package must not be required to take additional freshmen or sophomore level general education courses and must be able to transfer seamlessly. Sets forth the duties of the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board.

[Senate Bill 3305, Rose](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Requires each public university and community college district to accept for transferable credit those military courses listed on a Joint Services Transcript that a service member or veteran has completed and that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education for the subject areas, semester hours, and level of credit indicated on the Joint Services Transcript if those subject areas are equivalent to what the institution of higher education offers.

[Senate Bill 3118, McGuire](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Creates the Tuition Reduction Act. Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, requires each public university located in this State to reimburse its full-time resident undergraduate students a portion of the tuition charged in the form of a grant applied directly to a student's financial aid account. Provides that to determine the per-pupil grant amount, the university shall calculate the difference, if any, between the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations to the university and the previous fiscal year's aggregate appropriations to the university and divide that amount by the number of students enrolled in the previous academic year. Provides that 50% of this calculation then equals the per-pupil grant amount, to be awarded to currently enrolled students to reduce their tuition costs (unless the current fiscal year's aggregate appropriations to the university are equal to or less than the previous fiscal year's aggregate appropriations). Requires each university to annually report updated estimates of the total amount in grants awarded in an academic year to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the General Assembly. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 3319, Lightford](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that a student who is already licensed to teach and is enrolled in a course of study leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a master's degree in an academic field in which he or she is teaching or plans to teach may participate in the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship program (rather than limiting the program to undergraduate students). Makes a conforming change. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 3343, McGuire](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the State Finance Act, the Board of Higher Education Act, and the Public Community College Act. Provides for the Board of Higher Education's master plan for community colleges to be made in cooperation with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Provides that community college performance metrics must be adopted by ICCB by rule. Removes the need for approval from the Board of Higher Education or for ICCB approval with respect to certain community college provisions. Removes provisions requiring uniform financial accounting and reporting standards and principles for community colleges and requiring ICCB to file copies of uniform financial statements from audit reports with the Board of Higher Education. Requires a community college district to report administrator and faculty salaries and benefits to ICCB instead of the Board of Higher Education. Repeals Sections concerning a State university and college information system, an annual community college education study and report, the Academic Improvement Trust Fund for Community College Foundations, adverse court decision grants, State Community College District No. 601, and a mobile response workforce training pilot program. Effective July 1, 2016.

[Senate Resolution 953, T. Cullerton](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

States the opinion of the Illinois Senate that the proposed educational pension cost shift from the State of Illinois to local school districts, community colleges, and institutions of higher education is financially wrong.

[Senate Resolution 1195, Lightford](#)

**Postponed in Higher Education Committee**

Urges an immediate adoption of a State budget that will provide security for students dependent on State financial aid, ensure financial stability to community colleges and public universities, and deliver to Illinois public higher education the resources needed to accelerate and sustain the State's economic health.

[Senate Resolution 1525, Noland](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Urges Congress to enact legislation that ensures that all students have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities.

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS**

[House Bill 1970, Durkin](#)

**Placed on Second Reading**

Appropriates \$2 from the General Revenue Fund to the State Universities Retirement System for its FY16 ordinary and contingent expenses. Effective July 1, 2015.

[House Bill 1983, Durkin](#)

**Placed on Second Reading**

Appropriates \$2 from the General Revenue Fund to the Board of Higher Education for its FY16 ordinary and contingent expenses. Effective July 1, 2015.

[House Bill 2375, Durkin](#)

**Placed on Second Reading**

Appropriates \$2 from the General Revenue Fund to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for its FY16 ordinary and contingent expenses. Effective July 1, 2015.

[House Bill 2388, Durkin](#)

**Placed on Second Reading**

Appropriates \$2 from the General Revenue Fund to the Board of Higher Education for its FY16 ordinary and contingent expenses. Effective July 1, 2015.

[House Bill 2668, Ammons](#)

**Assigned to Appropriations-Higher Education Committee**

Appropriates \$1,202,500 from the General Revenue Fund to the State Universities Civil Service System for its FY16 ordinary and contingent expenses. Effective July 1, 2015.

[House Bill 2988, Madigan](#)

**Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading**

Appropriates \$2 from the General Revenue Fund to the State Universities Retirement System for its FY16 ordinary and contingent expenses. Effective July 1, 2015.

[House Bill 3254, K. Burke](#)

**Assigned to Appropriations-Higher Education Committee**

Makes appropriations to the University of Illinois for various purposes, including for ordinary and contingent expenses. Effective July 1, 2015.

[House Bill 3770, Scherer](#)

**Assigned to Appropriations-Higher Education Committee**

Appropriates \$466,568,200 to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for the Monetary Award Program. Effective July 1, 2015.

[House Bill 4156, K. Burke](#)

**Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading**

Makes appropriations to the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and State universities for specified purposes. Provides that the appropriation authority is valid only for costs incurred from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4187, Madigan](#)

**Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading**

Appropriates \$2 from the General Revenue Fund to the Board of Higher Education for its FY16 ordinary and contingent expenses. Effective July 1, 2015.



[House Bill 4320, D. Harris](#)

**Assigned to Executive Committee**

Makes appropriations from non-general revenue funds as provided by law. With respect to Funds where no distributions are provided for by law, and from which distributions were made, in whole or part, during Fiscal Year 2015 through appropriations, provides that, if no such appropriation has been enacted in Fiscal Year 2016, then appropriations shall be made for Fiscal Year 2016 in the same manner as provided for Fiscal Year 2015. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4393, Thapedi](#)

**Assigned to Higher Education Committee**

Appropriates \$25,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Board of Higher Education for the purpose of making grants to those public community college districts and public universities that have a minority student enrollment of at least 75% of the total student enrollment. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4539, Brady](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Makes various appropriations concerning higher education and the Illinois Math and Science Academy, if and only if House Bill 4521 of the 99th General Assembly becomes law. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 6337, Durkin](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Makes appropriations for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Math and Science Academy for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as follows: General Funds \$72,652,600; Other State Funds \$4,110,000; Federal Funds \$5,500,000; Total \$82,262,600.

[House Bill 6347, Durkin](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Makes appropriations for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the Illinois Community College Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as follows: General Funds \$338,381,100; Other State Funds \$57,325,000; Total \$395,706,100.

[House Bill 6348, Durkin](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Makes appropriations for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016: General Funds \$376,200,000; Other State Funds \$10,705,000; Federal Funds \$340,646,400; Total \$727,551,400.

[House Bill 6377, Durkin](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Makes appropriations for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the State Universities Retirement System for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as follows: General Funds \$1,204,026,000; Other State Funds \$190,000,000; Total \$1,394,026,000.

## SENATE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

### [Senate Bill 2024, Radogno](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Makes appropriations and reappropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

### [Senate Bill 2043, Cullerton \(Burke\)](#)

**Vetoed by Governor**

Makes an appropriation to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for grant awards to students eligible for the Monetary Award Program and for agency administrative and operational costs not to exceed 2% of the total appropriation. Makes appropriations to the Illinois Community College Board for: distribution of base operating and equalization grants to qualifying public community colleges and the City Colleges of Chicago for educational related expenses; career and technical education activities; and adult education and literacy activities. Provides that the appropriation authority is valid only for costs incurred from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Effective immediately.

### [Senate Bill 2185, McGuire](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Makes appropriations for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the Illinois Community College Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, as follows: Other State Funds \$43,000,000  
Total\$43,000,000

### [Senate Bill 2226, McGuire](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Makes appropriations to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for the Monetary Award Program.

### [Senate Bill 2269, Bennett](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Makes appropriations to the Illinois Community College Board, University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State University, Governors State University, Eastern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University for various purposes, including for ordinary and contingent expenses. Provides that the appropriation authority is valid for costs incurred from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Effective immediately.

### [Senate Bill 2272, Jones](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Appropriates \$25,000,000 from the Education Assistance Fund to the Board of Trustees of Chicago State University for ordinary and contingent expenses. Provides that the appropriation authority is valid for costs incurred from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Effective immediately.

### [Senate Bill 2349, Righter](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Makes various appropriations concerning higher education and the Illinois Math and Science Academy, if and only if Senate Bill 2338 of the 99th General Assembly becomes law. Provides that the appropriation authority is valid for costs incurred from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2408, Rose](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Makes various appropriations concerning higher education and the Illinois Math and Science Academy, if and only if Senate Bill 2400 of the 99th General Assembly becomes law. Provides that the appropriation authority is valid for costs incurred from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 3240, Radongo](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Makes appropriations for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Math and Science Academy for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as follows: General Funds \$72,652,600; Other State Funds \$4,110,000; Federal Funds \$5,500,000; Total \$82,262,600.

[Senate Bill 3253, Radogno](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Makes appropriations for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the State Universities Retirement System for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, as follows: General Funds \$1,204,026,000; Other State Funds \$190,000,000; Total \$1,394,026,000.

**HOUSE PENSIONS BILLS**

[House Bill 1334, Franks](#)

**Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee**

Amends the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that a member or participant of a retirement system or pension fund established under the Code who is receiving a retirement annuity or retirement pension and becomes employed in a similar position within the same agency on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act in a position in which he or she is eligible to accrue service credit or creditable service under any Article of the Code shall, in the month immediately after commencing that employment, have the amount of his or her monthly retirement annuity or retirement pension offset by the amount of his or her compensation, earnings, or salary (whichever is applicable) in the immediately preceding month as certified to the applicable retirement system or pension fund by his or her employer, unless the payment of that retirement annuity or retirement pension is already suspended or terminated during that period. Provides that these provisions do not apply to the first \$2,000 per month of retirement annuity payments. Contains a statement of legislative intent. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4398, Nekritz](#)

**Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee**

Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), Cook County, State Employees, State Universities, Downstate Teachers, and Chicago Teachers Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. For participants who first become participants on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act, prohibits (i) payments for unused sick or vacation time from being used to calculate pensionable earnings and salary and (ii) unused sick or vacation time from being used to establish service credit. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4427, Batinick](#)

**Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee**

Amends the General Assembly, State Employee, State Universities, Downstate Teachers, and Judges Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that beginning January 1, 2017, a person under one of those Articles who (i) has terminated service,(ii) is eligible to receive a retirement

annuity, (iii) has not received a retirement annuity under that Article, and (iv) meets certain other eligibility requirements may elect to receive, in lieu of a retirement annuity, a lump sum accelerated pension benefit payment equal to 75% of the present value of the retirement annuity or may elect to receive a lump sum partial accelerated pension benefit payment in exchange for a specified reduction in his or her retirement annuity and all other benefits under the Article. Provides that a person may not elect a percentage reduction of retirement annuity that would result in a partial accelerated benefit payment of less than \$50,000. Provides that if a person elects to receive a lump sum accelerated pension benefit payment in lieu of a retirement annuity, his or her credits and creditable service under that Article shall be terminated upon receipt of the accelerated pension benefit payment; except that the terminated service credit shall be used for the purposes of determining participation, benefits, or premiums under the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971. Contains provisions concerning return to service, rulemaking, qualified plan status, and new benefit increases. Amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 to make related changes. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4532, Nekritz](#)

**Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee**

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Requires the System to provide advance notice to a participant in the self-managed plan of the participant's obligation to direct the investment of employee and employer contributions into one or more investment funds selected by the System at the time he or she makes his or her initial retirement plan selection. Provides that if a participant in the self-managed plan fails to direct the investment of employee and employer contributions into the various investment options offered to the participant when making his or her initial retirement election choice, the System shall invest the employee and employer contributions in a default investment fund on behalf of the participant, and the investment shall be deemed to have been made at the participant's investment direction. Provides that the participant has the right to transfer account balances out of the default investment fund during time periods designated by the System. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4585, Ives](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that for an employee who becomes a participant on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act, "basic compensation" does not include (1) the value of maintenance, board, living quarters, personal laundry, or other allowances furnished in lieu of salary which are considered gross income under the Internal Revenue Code; (2) certain employee contributions to the System; (3) certain employer contributions to a custodial account; and (4) fringe benefits that an employee elects to receive, in lieu of cash salary or wages, that are not taxable under the Internal Revenue Code. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 4984, Morrison](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the State Universities and Downstate Teacher Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that, for academic years beginning on or after July 1, 2016, if the amount of a participant's earnings for any academic year used to determine the final rate of earnings, determined on a full-time equivalent basis, exceeds the amount of his or her earnings with the same employer for the previous academic year, determined on a full-time equivalent basis, by more than the unadjusted percentage increase in the consumer price index-u for that year (rather than 6%), then the participant's employer shall pay to the applicable System, in addition to all other payments required and in accordance with guidelines established by that System, the present value of the increase in benefits resulting from the portion of the increase in earnings that

is in excess of the unadjusted percentage increase in the consumer price index-u for that year (rather than the present value of the increase in benefits resulting from the portion of the increase in earnings that is in excess of 6%). Defines "consumer price index-u". Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5546, Ives](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. With respect to the 5 State-funded Retirement Systems: requires each System to prepare and implement a Tier 3 plan by July 1, 2017 that aggregates State and employee contributions in individual participant accounts which are used for payouts after retirement. Provides that a Tier 1 or Tier 2 participant may irrevocably elect to participate in the Tier 3 plan instead of the defined benefit plan and may also elect to terminate all participation in the defined benefit plan and to have a specified amount credited to his or her account under the Tier 3 plan. Makes related changes in the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971. In the Downstate Teachers, State Employees, and State Universities Articles, authorizes a person to elect not to participate or to terminate participation in those Systems. In the General Assembly and Judges Articles, authorizes a participant to terminate his or her participation in the System. In the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), State Employees, State Universities, and Downstate Teachers Articles, for participants who first become participants on or after the effective date, prohibits (i) payments for unused sick or vacation time from being used to calculate pensionable salary and (ii) unused sick or vacation time from being used to establish service credit. Imposes limitations on participation by certain persons. In the Downstate Teachers Article, prohibits an employer from making employee contributions on behalf of an employee, except for the sole purpose of allowing an employee to make pre-tax contributions. Amends the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act to prohibit collective bargaining over that prohibition. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 5625, Fortner](#)

**Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee**

Creates the Pension Buyout Act. Authorizes the Department of Central Management Services to enter into contracts with approved vendors to provide pension buyout payments to eligible retirees in the General Assembly, State Employee, State Universities, and Judges Retirement Systems. Requires the Illinois Finance Authority to issue bonds if the amount appropriated to implement the pension buyout option is less than the amount necessary for the Department to pay the approved vendor the amount required under a contract between the Department and the approved vendor for any fiscal year. Provides that the contract entered into by the Department shall be subject to the applicable requirements of the Illinois Procurement Code. Amends the General Assembly, State Employee, State Universities, and Judges Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that an eligible retiree may relinquish his or her right to receive any benefits from the system in exchange for a lump sum payment made by an approved vendor that is equal to the present value of the retirement annuity. Provides that a person who participates in the pension buyout option shall be entitled to any benefits under the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 that he or she would have otherwise been entitled to. Contains provisions concerning the form of the contract; rulemaking; notice to the system; certification to the Department of the amount of lump sum payments made; and qualified plan status. Amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971, the Department of Central Management Services Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, the Illinois Procurement Code, and the Illinois Finance Authority Act to make related changes. Effective July 1, 2017.

[House Bill 6021, Yingling](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), State Universities, and Downstate Teacher Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that certain annuitants who received a refund of contributions for survivor benefits may elect to repay the refund, with interest, and have their survivor benefit rights reinstated. Specifies the required time and manner of repayment. In the IMRF and State Universities Articles, requires that the annuitant (1) retired prior to June 1, 2011, and (2) is a party to a civil union, marriage, or other legal relationship that is recognized as a civil union or marriage under the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act or the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act on or after certain specified dates. Also, in the IMRF Article, extends application of a provision added by Public Act 87-850 to spouses of annuitants who die on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 6030, Conroy](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Requires every pension fund or retirement system under the Code to develop and implement, by no later than June 30, 2017, a process to identify annuitants who are deceased. The process shall require the pension fund or retirement system to check for any deceased annuitants at least once per month and shall include the use of commonly accepted methods to identify persons who are deceased, which include, but are not limited to, the use of a third party entity that specializes in the identification of deceased persons, the use of data provided by the Social Security Administration, the use of data provided by the Department of Public Health's Office of Vital Records, or the use of any other method that is commonly used by other states to identify deceased persons. Amends the Vital Records Act to make a conforming change. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 6088, Sosnowski](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that if a person who first becomes a member or participant of a retirement system or pension fund under the Code on or after January 1, 2017 (i) is receiving a retirement annuity or retirement pension under that system or fund and (ii) becomes a member or participant under any other system or fund created by the Code based on full-time employment, then that retirement annuity or retirement pension shall be suspended during that employment. Upon termination of that employment, the person's retirement annuity or retirement pension payments shall resume and may be recalculated if recalculation is provided for under the applicable Article of the Code. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 6097, Morrison](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Authorizes units of local government to provide alternative retirement plans in lieu of or in addition to the existing plan under the applicable Article. Provides that the alternative retirement plan may include a defined-benefit component, a defined contribution component, or both, and may include disability or survivor benefits and any other benefits that are permitted under federal law. Provides that the alternative retirement plan is not required to provide any minimum level of benefits and need not provide any benefits at all, other than mandatory Social Security coverage if applicable. Provides that service credit received under an alternative retirement plan may not be transferred to any other fund and may not be used under the Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act (Article 20 of the Code). Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. Provides that employers shall not be required to bargain over the changes made by the amendatory Act.

[House Bill 6145, Sosnowski](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. With respect to the 5 State-funded Retirement Systems: requires each System to prepare and implement a Tier 3 plan by July 1, 2017 that aggregates State and employee contributions in individual participant accounts which are used for payouts after retirement. Provides that a Tier 1 or Tier 2 participant may irrevocably elect to participate in the Tier 3 plan instead of the defined benefit plan. Authorizes a Tier 1 or Tier 2 participant to elect to terminate all participation in the defined benefit plan and to have a specified amount credited to his or her account under the Tier 3 plan. Until July 1, 2018, authorizes certain Tier 1 participants to elect to have the automatic annual increases in retirement annuity and survivor's annuity calculated using the Tier 2 formula and to have a specified amount credited to his or her account under the Tier 3 plan. Requires each System to report on its progress in establishing the Tier 3 plan to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 15, 2017. Provides that "new benefit increase" does not include any benefit increase resulting from the changes made by the amendatory Act. Repeals certain provisions concerning a defined contribution plan added by Public Act 98-599. In the Downstate Teachers, State Employees, and State Universities Articles, authorizes a person to elect not to participate or to terminate his or her participation in those Systems. In the General Assembly and Judges Articles, authorizes a participant to terminate his or her participation in the System. Makes related changes in the Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act (Article 20 of the Code) and the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971. Effective immediately.

[House Bill 6145, Sosnowski](#)

**Referred to Rules Committee**

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. With respect to the 5 State-funded Retirement Systems: requires each System to prepare and implement a Tier 3 plan by July 1, 2017 that aggregates State and employee contributions in individual participant accounts which are used for payouts after retirement. Provides that a Tier 1 or Tier 2 participant may irrevocably elect to participate in the Tier 3 plan instead of the defined benefit plan. Authorizes a Tier 1 or Tier 2 participant to elect to terminate all participation in the defined benefit plan and to have a specified amount credited to his or her account under the Tier 3 plan. Until July 1, 2018, authorizes certain Tier 1 participants to elect to have the automatic annual increases in retirement annuity and survivor's annuity calculated using the Tier 2 formula and to have a specified amount credited to his or her account under the Tier 3 plan. Requires each System to report on its progress in establishing the Tier 3 plan to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 15, 2017. Provides that "new benefit increase" does not include any benefit increase resulting from the changes made by the amendatory Act. Repeals certain provisions concerning a defined contribution plan added by Public Act 98-599. In the Downstate Teachers, State Employees, and State Universities Articles, authorizes a person to elect not to participate or to terminate his or her participation in those Systems. In the General Assembly and Judges Articles, authorizes a participant to terminate his or her participation in the System. Makes related changes in the Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act (Article 20 of the Code) and the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971. Effective immediately.

[House Resolution 752, Batinick](#)

**Assigned to Personnel and Pensions Committee**

Urges the Speaker of the House and the Chairperson of the House Personnel and Pensions Committee to hold a series of hearings on how the State could potentially approach a lump sum pension or partial pension exchange option.

[House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 48, Sosnowski](#)

**Referred  
to Rules Committee**

Proposes to amend the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Constitution. Repeals a provision that specifies that membership in any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired. Effective upon being declared adopted.

**SENATE PENSIONS BILLS**

[Senate Bill 2156, Cunningham](#)

**Subcommittee on Public Higher Education  
Executive Compensation**

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that severance payments are not included in the definition of "earnings."

[Senate Bill 2162, Connelly](#)

**Subcommittee on Public Higher Education  
Executive Compensation**

Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), State Universities, and Downstate Teacher Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. In the IMRF and State Universities Articles, provides that for a person who first becomes a participant on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act, "earnings" does not include amounts associated with a housing allowance or vehicle allowance payable to an employee. In the Downstate Teacher Article, provides that for a person who first becomes a member on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act, "salary" does not include amounts associated with a housing allowance or vehicle allowance payable to a teacher. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2362, Biss](#)

**Assigned to Licensed Activities and Pensions**

Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Requires the System to provide advance notice to a participant in the self-managed plan of the participant's obligation to direct the investment of employee and employer contributions into one or more investment funds selected by the System at the time he or she makes his or her initial retirement plan selection. Provides that if a participant in the self-managed plan fails to direct the investment of employee and employer contributions into the various investment options offered to the participant when making his or her initial retirement election choice, the System shall invest the employee and employer contributions in a default investment fund on behalf of the participant, and the investment shall be deemed to have been made at the participant's investment direction. Provides that the participant has the right to transfer account balances out of the default investment fund during time periods designated by the System. Effective immediately.

[Senate Bill 2402, Rose](#)

**Assigned to Insurance**

Amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971. Provides that the definition of "employee" includes persons who otherwise meet that definition but are ineligible to participate in the State Universities Retirement System because they received a distribution of vested amounts under the self-managed plan established in the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code while eligible to retire under that System. Effective immediately.



[Senate Bill 3176, Murphy](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. Modifies the definition of "public employee" or "employee" to exclude from bargaining unit status any employee of the Department of Human Services who is classified as or who holds the position of Public Service Administrator, Executive 1, or Executive 2.

[Senate Bill 3280, Murphy](#)

**Referred to Assignments**

Amends the General Assembly, State Employee, State Universities, Downstate Teachers, and Judges Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that beginning January 1, 2017, a person under one of those Articles who (i) has terminated service,(ii) is eligible to receive a retirement annuity, (iii) has not received a retirement annuity under that Article, and (iv) meets certain other eligibility requirements may elect to receive, in lieu of a retirement annuity, a lump sum accelerated pension benefit payment equal to 75% of the present value of the retirement annuity or may elect to receive a lump sum partial accelerated pension benefit payment in exchange for a specified reduction in his or her retirement annuity and all other benefits under the Article. Provides that a person may not elect a percentage reduction of retirement annuity that would result in a partial accelerated benefit payment of less than \$50,000. Provides that if a person elects to receive a lump sum accelerated pension benefit payment in lieu of a retirement annuity, his or her credits and creditable service under that Article shall be terminated upon receipt of the accelerated pension benefit payment; except that the terminated service credit shall be used for the purposes of determining participation, benefits, or premiums under the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971. Contains provisions concerning return to service, rulemaking, qualified plan status, and new benefit increases. Amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 to make related changes. Effective immediately.

