

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

**99th General Assembly
Veto 2016 Session
Summary of Legislation
Illinois Board of Higher Education
(Actions as of December 8, 2016)**

The [Senate](#) and [House](#) legislative calendars for the 100th General Assembly have been announced. The session begins on January 11 with Inauguration. Of note, the Governor's State of the State Address is set to be delivered on January 25th and the Governor's Budget address is scheduled for February 15th. Both chambers are scheduled to meet on January 9 and 10 in lame-duck session.

BOARD INITIATIVES

Higher Education Cooperation Act: [SB 3023](#), which amends the Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) to provide grants to Illinois higher education institutions and agencies that promote cooperation and public private partnerships in order to leverage the use of public and private resources with an emphasis on providing workforce valuable postsecondary education. This will help meet the state's goal that by 2025, 60 percent of Illinoisans have a postsecondary degree or valuable workforce credential. SB 3023 passed out of the Senate unanimously but has not been released from House Rules. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) intends to reintroduce this legislation in the new General Assembly Spring session.

The HECA was originally enacted in 1972 and is intended to promote the effective use of resources through cooperation among higher education institutions, to achieve an equitable distribution of education services, to develop innovative concepts and applications, and other public purposes. There have been no State appropriations for the HECA program since Fiscal Year 2008 when \$3,787,300 was appropriated supporting 25 projects. IBHE intends to include a request for \$500,000 in the Fiscal Year 2018 recommended budget to fund this program with a renewed focus.

Procurement Code Reform for Higher Education: IBHE is working with the public universities, Central Management Services, and the Governor's Office to propose legislative changes to the Procurement Code to ease some of the burdens on higher education institutions. We will put forth draft language to be included in a comprehensive procurement bill.

Update Higher Education Statutes: IBHE is reviewing the statutes that provide authority to the agency's operations, as well as implementation of higher education programs to identify out-of-date required reports or programs, reduce duplication, and promote agency efficiencies and effectiveness. Legislation may be proposed in the new Spring session.

Renewal of a shared Public Agenda between the state and higher education: The current [Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success](#), was developed as a ten year plan; 2018 being the tenth year. With a continued focus on the state goal that by 2025, 60 percent of working

aged Illinoisans will have postsecondary training or colleges degree, the commission would identify the commitments that would be made by higher education leaders for an affordable, accountable and high-quality public higher education system with an equal commitment by state policymakers to provide stable and sustainable financial investment and policies establishing a shared *Public Agenda* or compact. IBHE may request an Executive Order to propose a plan to update the *Public Agenda* that would include conducting a statewide “listening tour” to discuss the public benefits of Illinois’ higher education system.

BILLS IBHE IS TRACKING

Access to financial assistance for undocumented students: [SB 2196](#) allows undocumented students at the public universities 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. IBHE supports this bill. SB 2196 passed the Senate 30-19-0 last spring, but has yet to be called for a vote on the House Floor.

Community Colleges establishing programs for bachelor’s degrees in nursing: [SB 2243, as amended](#), was the focus of a subject matter hearing of the Senate Higher Education Committee on November 15. The proposed legislation allows community colleges to propose establishing new academic programs for bachelor's degrees in nursing for program approval from both the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and IBHE. IBHE opposes this legislation as it would establish a new mission for community colleges: providing baccalaureate level college degrees. In addition, four year colleges and universities, both public and private, offer this degree already. There is also a steady increase in the number of strong and effective partnerships between Illinois community colleges and four year colleges in dual enrollment programs from associate’s degrees in nursing and RN degrees at community colleges into bachelor’s of nursing degrees at four year colleges (2 + 2 programs). Given the extreme budgetary limits on operations at public colleges and universities, starting unnecessary or duplicative bachelor’s of nursing degrees is not only unnecessary but also untimely. ICCB adopted a [resolution](#) at its November 18 meeting which “...supports the authorization of Illinois Community Colleges to opt to offer programs and grant degrees for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.” The chief sponsor of the legislation, Senator Manar, has indicated his plans to reintroduce this measure or one with similar intent in the new Spring session.

University of Illinois’ Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC): [HB 6623](#) is an initiative of the University of Illinois. According to the University, the bill would “...redefine the state’s long partnership with the University of Illinois System, providing predictable funding for university operations over the next five years in exchange for tangible performance goals that support Illinois students and serve the needs of the state.” The legislation has been referred to the House Rules Committee. IBHE is supportive of the idea of stable funding associated with performance goals as outlined in the recommendation for an [Illinois Higher Education Compact](#) adopted December 1, 2015.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There is currently one Governor appointed vacancy on the Board. There are also 4 appointments that have yet to come before the Executive Appointments Committee: Kevin Huber (AM990449), Jack Thomas (AM990452), John Bambenek (AM990464), and Jim Palos (AM990494). These were all sent to the Committee between early April and mid-May.