

Illinois Community College Board

SPRING 2017 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(Actions as of May 31, 2017)

Summary of Legislative Action

The following is a summary of active legislation currently being tracked by the Illinois Community College Board's external affairs staff. A complete list of bills is included at the end of this summary document.

	No. of Bills Tracked	No. of Bills Passed Chamber of Origin	No. of Bills Passed Both Chambers	No. of Bills Signed by Governor
House Bills	50	34	20	-
Senate Bills	70	32	14	-
Total	120	66	34	-

The Grand Bargain

A budget plan negotiated by Senate President John Cullerton and Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno was introduced on the first day of the 100th General Assembly. The plan included a budget for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017 as well as several reforms pushed by Governor Rauner to improve the state's overall business climate and spur economic growth. Negotiations on a final resolution continued throughout much of January and February. When voting in the Senate first commenced at the end of February, several pieces of the negotiated package were approved. However, lacking Republican support for the remainder of the grand bargain amidst disagreements on worker's compensation reform and a property tax freeze, no further votes were called. Efforts to reach a compromised budget solution with structural reforms picked up again in early May based on the Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal introduced by Senator Brady.

While significant progress was reached on spending and revenue, gaming expansion, procurement, and local government consolidation, an agreement on workers' compensation and a property tax freeze continued to remain elusive. Sighting that negotiations had progressed as far as possible and the desire to move legislation over to the House for consideration, the Senate Democratic Caucus removed the caveat that the legislative package could only become law if all pieces of the package were signed into law and subsequently called each bill for a vote.

In the House, the Senate Democrat's budget and revenue plan failed to garner enough support from Democrats in that chamber and the bills were not called for a vote before the May 31st deadline. Several reform proposals were approved by both Chambers and now go to the Governor for consideration. Pension reform, local government consolidation and changes in assignment of local government revenues were approved with bipartisan support in both chambers. Changes to worker's compensation, school funding, and the sale of the Thompson Center were approved in both Chambers along party-lines. A summary of the status of the legislative package follows below:

Education Funding Reform & Mandate Relief

- **SB 1** (Manar/Davis) – Passed Both Houses
Evidence Based Funding formula & CPS pension pick-up
- **HB 1259** (Davis) – House, Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading

Mandate Relief, driver's education & P.E.

- **HB 1261** (Davis) - House, Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading
Mandate Relief, contracting for 3rd party non-instructional services

Local Government Consolidation

- **SB 3** (T. Cullerton/Yingling) – Passed Both Houses

Borrowing to Pay Down Debt

- **SB 4** (Trotter/ G. Harris) - House, Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading
Authorize borrowing of \$7.0 billion to pay down bills
- **SB 521** (J. Cullerton/G. Harris) – House, Assigned to Executive Committee
Increases debt limits

Fiscal Year 2017 & 2018 Budget

- **SB 6** (Steans/G. Harris) – House, Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading
State budget for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017 and all of Fiscal Year 2018, includes 10% cut to community colleges and public universities; funds adult education and CTE maintenance of effort, fully funds MAP grants.
- **SB 42** (Manar/G. Harris) – House, Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading
Budget Implementation Bill

Gaming Expansion

- **SB 7** (Link/Mayfield) – House, Re-referred to Rules Committee

Procurement Reform

- **SB 8** (Harmon/Riley) – Passed Both Houses

Revenue – Income Tax Increase & Service Tax

- **SB 9** (Hutchinson/Davis) – House, Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading

Local Government Assignment of Receipts

- **SB 41** (J. Cullerton/Currie) – Passed Both Houses

Workers' Compensation Reform

- **HB 2525** (Hoffman/Raoul) – Passed Both Houses

Property Tax Freeze

- **SB 482** (J. Cullerton/Currie) – House, Re-referred to Rules Committee
2-year property tax freeze for all taxing districts except the City of Chicago and school districts
- **SB 484** (J. Cullerton/Currie) – House, Re-referred to Rules Committee
2-year property tax freeze for all school districts other than school districts that are granted a financial hardship exemption
- **HB 1126** (Davis) – House, Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading
3-year property tax freeze for school districts upon approval by voter referendum

Pension Reform

- **SB 16** (J. Cullerton/Durkin) – House, Re-referred to Rules Committee

Thompson Center Sale

- **SB 886** (J. Cullerton/Riley) – Passed Both Houses / Senate, Motion Filed to Reconsider Vote

Lifeline Budget

The House Democratic Caucus introduced a budget in early April to provide “lifeline” funding to higher education and human services programs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017. The budget appropriates money in two special funds dedicated for human services and education. **HB 109** (G. Harris/J. Cullerton) appropriates \$94.5 million for Fiscal Year 2017 for ICCB. It does not include appropriations for operating lines which are currently covered under court order. The bill includes \$32.3 million for Base Operating and Equalization Grants, and City Colleges of Chicago grants. When added to the funding provided in the June 2016 stop-gap budget, this amount would bring funding to \$149.8 million for Fiscal Year 2017. This represents 55% funding when compared with the Fiscal Year 2015 spending plan. The bill also includes \$17.5 million for Career and Technical Education and \$32.3 million for Adult Education and Literacy, which satisfies the maintenance of effort (MOE) required to preserve \$40.0 million in federal match. The bill was approved along party lines in early April. Currently the bill is on 3rd Reading in the Senate, with no plans to call the bill for a vote.

Illinois Community College Board Initiated Legislation

Credit For Prior Learning Act - HB 2404 (Willis/Rose)

Legislation to create the Credit for Prior Learning Act was unanimously approved in the House and Senate. The Act requires each public university and community college to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to the IBHE or ICCB. Further, the legislation requires IBHE and ICCB 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.

Data Match Cost Recovery Authority: SB 887 (McGuire/Zalewski)

During the final days of the legislative session, **SB 887** passed both chambers. The bill authorizes ICCB and IBHE to collect a fee to cover the cost of processing and handling individual student-level data requests pursuant to an approved data sharing agreement. The legislation includes language to protect personally identifiable information by requiring that a data sharing agreement must be executed before such information may be released.

High School Equivalency Alternative Credentialing: HB 2740 (Welch/Rezin)

This legislation implements the HSE Alternative Credentialing Methods Taskforce recommendations approved by the ICCB. Specifically, these bills provide that the ICCB shall establish alternative methods of credentialing for the issuance of high school equivalency certification based on high school credit, post-secondary credit, foreign diplomas, and completion of a competency-based program as approved by the Board. **HB 2740** was approved unanimously in the House and Senate.

Vacancy on Community College Board of Trustees: HB 3091 (Bourne/Manar)

This legislation provides that when a vacancy occurs in a community college board, the elected successor shall serve the remainder of the unexpired 6-year term. The legislation also provides that the vice-chairman shall perform the duties of chairman if there is a vacancy in the office of the chairman or in case of the chairman's absence or inability to act. **HB 3091** was approved unanimously in the House and Senate.

Smooth Transitions for Traditional & Non-Traditional Students

Community College BSN Degree Authority

Senator Manar filed an amendment to **SB 888** which granted 20 community college districts in the State the ability to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. The bill, set forth conditions that must be met to establish the program, including a national professional accreditation, approval from appropriate state agencies, documentation of unmet workforce needs and demonstration of expertise, means and student interest. **SB 888** with

Senate Amendment #1 was narrowly approved by the Senate Higher Education Committee by a vote of 7-6. In response to concerns from legislators, the bill was further amended to specifically identify 11 community colleges as eligible to establish a BSN program. Senate Amendment #3 also limited program enrollment to 7,000 students over the next five years. Senate Amendment #3 was defeated in the Senate Higher Education Committee by a vote of 6-7. The legislation will not advance during the current legislative session.

Veterans

HB 3701 (Greenwood/Clayborne), implements the recommendations of the Military Prior Learning Assessment Taskforce. This legislation requires each public and private university and community college to adopt and submit policies regarding the awarding of academic credit for military training that are applicable to the requirements of the student's certificate or degree program. The policy will apply to any individual who is enrolled in an Illinois institution of higher education and who has completed a military training course that meets requirements. Institutions will be required to provide procedures for evaluating courses and awarding credit. Institutions will also be required to send their policies to IBHE and/or ICCB for review by June 30, 2018 and each year thereafter. The bill passed both chambers unanimously.

Legislation to implement recommendations of the Illinois Taskforce on Veterans' Suicide is reflected in **HB 2647** (Kifowit/T. Cullerton). This bill contains provisions that the Department of Veterans' Affairs, in coordination with institutions of higher education, shall provide proactive outreach as part of an educational success program for veterans experiencing difficulties in higher education. The legislation was amended in the Senate and is awaiting concurrence in the House.

Dual-Credit/Dual-Enrollment Notification

HB 3601 (Greenwood/Clayborne) was approved by both chambers. The bill provides that East St. Louis School District 189 is encouraged to allow students in grades 11 and 12 to take classes at Southwestern Illinois College for dual credit at no cost to the student.

HB 2794 (Ford/Martinez) requires high schools to inform all 11th and 12th grade students of dual enrollment and dual credit opportunities at public community colleges for qualified students. This bill has passed both chambers.

Modification of the Career & Workforce Transitions Act

SB 1663 (Clayborne/Ammons) amends the Career and Workforce Transition Act to provide that a public community college district may accept credits as direct equivalent credits or prior learning credits, as determined by the district and consistent with the accrediting standards and institutional and residency requirements of the Illinois Community College Board, the Higher Learning Commission, other State and national accreditors, and State licensing bodies, as appropriate. The legislation requires that, beginning with applications submitted in 2017, an institution must submit its application for approval to ICCB on or before July 1 of a given year and the ICCB must render its approval decision on or before September 15 of that same year. The ICCB must also post on its website a list of all institutions that have received approval, beginning on January 5, 2018. Finally, the legislation provides for an appeals process for all decisions of the ICCB that result in non-approval of an institution. The legislation was introduced to provide clarity and guidance to the ICCB in response to the delay in adopting administrative rules. The bill was approved in the House with amendments and is currently awaiting concurrence in the Senate.

Develop a Robust Career Pathway System

Adult Diploma

HB 2527 (Sosnowski/Stadelman) authorizes a public community college district or non-profit entity in partnership with a regional superintendent of schools, the chief administrator of an intermediate service, or a school district to design a high school diploma program for adult learners. To be eligible the entity must demonstrate that it has been unable to establish an agreement with a secondary or unit school district to provide the program. The program must be approved by the ICCB according to approval guidelines established in the bill.

This legislation is based on a model for adult education developed by Goodwill Industries called an Excel Center. Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois is pursuing the opening of an Excel Center in the Rockford area to deliver an adult education program that will lead to an adult diploma. After several amendments to ensure that ICCB funding for existing adult education programs is protected and to open up participation to community colleges, the legislation was unanimously approved in both chambers.

Adult Education Strategic Plan

Senator Weaver introduced SJR 40 to create the Statewide Task Force on the Future of Adult Education and Literacy within the ICCB. The Taskforce of 22 members, including a broad range of legislative, state agency, community college and adult education provider representatives, are tasked under the resolution with developing a strategic plan for adult education. The last ICCB strategic plan for adult education was completed in 2009 and was only intended to serve as a guide for five years. The resolution passed the Senate on the final day of the regular session and now goes to the House for consideration.

Academic Affairs

Nurse Practice Act Sunset

Following months of negotiations, legislation - **HB 313** (Feigenholtz/Martinez) - to extend the Nurse Practice Act was approved on the final day of session. The bill includes a requirement that by December 31, 2022, all RN education programs must obtain programmatic accreditation by a national accrediting body for nursing education. Currently there are 12 non-accredited community college associate degree nursing programs which will be impacted by the new requirements. An earlier version of the bill included similar language requiring accreditation for LPN programs. The bill has passed the House and is awaiting concurrence on the amendments in the Senate.

Illinois Green Economy Network

SB 518 (Link/Sente) provides additional financial resources to the Illinois Green Economy Network, a partnership of Illinois community colleges. As passed by the General Assembly, the legislation provides that \$2.0 million of the moneys collected from the Renewable Energy Resources and Coal Technology Development Assistance Charge, may be used to provide grants to the Illinois Green Economy Network. The legislation has passed both the House and Senate.

College Affordability

College affordability, particularly focused on a program for free community colleges, was an area of interest for the legislature this session. Three separate legislative proposals were introduced in the House to provide some variation of a free college program. None of these bills advanced out of House committees.

HB 1316 (Lang/McGuire) creates several new programs to address college affordability and provide incentives to recruit and retain higher education faculty. Specifically, the bill requires IBHE to establish and administer an Illinois Excellence Program to incentivize the recruitment and retention of promising faculty throughout the Illinois system of higher education. The bill requires ISAC to implement and administer a program beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year to award College Affordability grants up to \$4,000 to certain Illinois residents who have graduated from an approved high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and are seeking a degree from a public community college or university. The program includes a 2-year Illinois residency obligation following termination of the academic program. ISAC is also required to implement and administer a program to award work-study stipends to grant recipients who agree to work for 5 to 15 hours per week as peer mentors or tutors. All of the programs created under the legislation are subject to appropriation, which according to ISAC would require at least \$300.0 million to implement. Both IBHE and ISAC opposed the legislation. The bill has passed the House but has not been considered in the Senate.

HB 3211 (Wallace/Morrison) provides that, to complement student financial assistance programs and to enhance their effectiveness by more fully addressing the costs of attendance for students with financial needs, ISAC shall

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identify and flag college students who are potentially eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. ISAC, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, shall develop and provide an electronic notice to institutions of higher education that includes, at a minimum, college student SNAP eligibility criteria, the Application for Benefits Eligibility's website address, and the Illinois Hunger Coalition's Hunger Hotline. Illinois institutions of higher education that participate in the Monetary Award Program shall provide the notice in writing to all students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment and are identified by ISAC as potentially SNAP eligible. These institutions may designate a public benefits liaison or single point person to assist students in taking the necessary steps to obtain public benefits. This legislation has passed both chambers.

Community College Name

SB 1671 (Tracy/Swanson) was amended in the House to provide that a community college district may incorporate the community college district number into the name of the board of trustees of that district. In conducting its operations, a community college may refer to itself by the common name of the community college. This legislation is pending concurrence in the Senate.
