

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This item summarizes the Governor's action on legislation passed by the General Assembly during the spring session of the 94th General Assembly.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPRING 2006 SESSION
LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

The following highlights legislation of interest to the higher education community that the General Assembly approved during the spring 2006 session of the 94th General Assembly, all of which the Governor has signed as of July 31, 2006. A detailed bill summary and status report is attached.

Fiscal Year 2007 Budget

Since the June meeting of the Board of Higher Education, the Governor signed Senate Bill 1520 (Public Act 94-0798), which is the fiscal year 2007 budget passed by the General Assembly. In addition, the Governor has signed all the substantive bills passed during the spring session necessary to implement the fiscal year 2007 budget.

Substantive Legislation Signed by the Governor

Public Act 94-905 (Senate Bill 2312, sponsored by Senator Edward Maloney) adds a nontraditional student to the membership of the Board of Higher Education. The legislation defines nontraditional student as one who is at least 24 years old and is employed and/or a parent. The Board's Student Advisory Committee will select the new student member according to its Bylaws.

On Sunday, July 30, 2006, the Governor signed Senate Bill 2225 (Public Act 94-1056), sponsored by Senator Edward Maloney, creating the MAP-Plus program, which will offer grants of \$250 per semester to students who do not receive need-based scholarships through the Monetary Award Program, and whose families have incomes below \$200,000. The program was enacted only for fiscal year 2007 and is contingent on the sale of at least some of the student loan portfolio held by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

Public Act 94-1020 (Senate Bill 931, sponsored by Senator Maggie Crotty) creates the Nurse Educator Assistance Act to attack the shortage of nurses and nursing faculty. The public act does the following:

- Amends the Board of Higher Education Act to create a competitive grant program for institutions that award nursing degrees, based on such criteria as degree production, student retention, and pass rates on licensure exams. The IBHE budget includes \$1.5 million for the institutional grants. In addition, the budget includes a \$150,000 appropriation for the Board to administer a nurse educator fellowship program to supplement the salaries of faculty who train nurses.
- Creates the Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program and the Nurse Educator Scholarship Program, administered by ISAC, for grants to nurse educators and graduate students and funded at \$1.35 million.

- Establishes the Illinois Center for Nursing within the Department of Public Health to address nursing supply and demand issues.

Public Act 94-0968 (House Bill 4406, sponsored by the late Representative Lovanna Jones) provides a renewable grant of up to \$1,000 for a student who is in the legal custody of a grandparent, receives public aid benefits, has graduated from high school with at least a 2.7 grade point average, and has a recommendation for the scholarship from his or her high school principal. The measure, subject to appropriation, is not funded in the state budget

Public Act 94-0890 (House Bill 5429, sponsored by Representative David Reis) requires the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to establish a three-year pilot program at three community colleges for mobile response workforce training. The program, modeled after a similar effort in Alabama, is targeted at businesses struggling to recruit a qualified workforce skilled in new technologies.

Public Act 94-1062 (Senate Bill 1827, sponsored by Senator Don Harmon) would enable community colleges and public universities to undertake larger scale energy conservation projects by doubling, to 20 years, the payback period for which savings in utility costs cover the cost of the project. This change in performance contracting for conservation projects was a major recommendation of a special seminar on energy costs sponsored by the Board's Utilities Committee.

Public Act 94-1057 (Senate Bill 49, sponsored by Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg) revises last year's pension reform law to correct some unintended effects that would have increased liability for institutions to cover benefits under certain circumstances. The 2005 legislation mandated that school districts and universities cover the cost of annuities that derived from salary increases exceeding 6 percent. The legislation relieves an institution's obligations to cover pension benefits for salary increases resulting from teaching overloads (or summer teaching) and from promotions in academic rank.

Public Act 94-1058 (Senate Bill 585, sponsored by Senator John Cullerton) amends the Open Meetings Act to require that a quorum of a public body be physically present at public facilities to conduct a meeting via telephone or video conferencing. In practical terms, this means nine members of the Board of Higher Education would have to be present at IBHE offices or other state facilities for a conference call meeting.

The General Assembly will return to the Statehouse for the first week of the fall veto session on November 14, 15, and 16, after the general election on November 7. Legislators will break for the Thanksgiving holiday, then return on November 28, 29, and 30 for the second week of the veto session.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Brief summaries of bills passed by the General Assembly during the 2006 spring session follow. The sponsor of the bill in its house of origin is identified after the bill number. The sponsor of the bill in the second chamber is identified in parentheses. Summaries are provided only for bills related to higher education. Bills are grouped in the following categories: Affordability; Appropriations, Tax Relief, and Budget Implementation; Community Colleges; Pensions; Public Universities; Teacher Preparation and Retention; and Other Miscellaneous Higher Education Bills.

Affordability-Related Bills

House Bill 4406 (amended), Jones (Collins)

Public Act 94-0968

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that for the first year of full-time attendance at a higher education institution, a student is eligible for a \$1,000 grant if he or she is in legal custody of a grandparent and receives public aid assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code, has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.7 on a 4.0 scale, and has been recommended for the grant by his or her high school principal or comparable administrative officer. Provides that the grant may be renewed for up to four years of full-time enrollment under certain conditions. Subject to appropriation.

House Resolution 913, Berrios

Resolution Adopted

Urges the United States government to immediately approve the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act of 2005.

House Resolution 941, Franks

Resolution Adopted

Encourages the state and each public and private college or university of the state to participate in the Midwest Student Exchange Program.

Senate Bill 931 (amended), Crotty (Lang)

Public Act 94-1020

Creates the Nurse Educator Assistance Act. Establishes the Nurse Educator Loan Repayment Program and the Nurse Educator Scholarship Program, administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), subject to appropriation, for eligible nurse educators and graduate students. Amends the Nursing Education Scholarship Law to set forth criteria for the Department of Public Health and the Center for Nursing Advisory Board to consider in establishing priorities if applicants exceed scholarships to be awarded. Amends the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act. Creates the Illinois Center for Nursing to address supply and demand issues. Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Requires the Board to administer a competitive grant program for institutions that award degrees in nursing and a nurse educator fellowship program. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Creates the Forensic Science Grant Program, administered by ISAC, subject to appropriation. Sets maximum grant amount at \$30,000. Requires recipients to seek employment with the Department of State Police

and, if employment is obtained, to work for the Department for at least four years. Provides for repayment if commitments are not met. Regarding the Illinois National Guard grant program, provides that a person who has served at least one year in the Illinois Naval Militia is entitled to an exemption from tuition and fees at a state university or public community college for up to the equivalent of four years of full-time enrollment while a member of the Naval Militia. Provides that scholarship assistance through the Nurse Educator Scholarship Program and the Forensic Science Grant Program shall be provided annually until July 1, 2010. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2225 (amended), Maloney (McCarthy)

Public Act 94-1056

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to accept applications for monetary grant assistance to benefit students who will not receive Monetary Award Program grants. Among other conditions, provides that an applicant is eligible for a grant if he or she is enrolled at least half-time as a sophomore, junior, or senior and is from a family that had an adjusted gross income of less than \$200,000 for the 2005 taxable year. Provides that grants are applicable to tuition and mandatory fees, with the grant amount not to exceed \$500 per year or \$250 per semester. Provides that grants may be awarded only for the fall 2006 and spring 2007 semesters, on a first-come, first-served basis. Requires the Commission to determine if sufficient funds are available from the sale of student loan assets, transaction processing, or refinancing to continue Monetary Award Program Plus beyond the spring 2007 semester and to report to the Governor and General Assembly whether funding is available and how it can be used to support the program. Effective July 1, 2006.

Appropriations, Tax Relief, and Budget Implementation

Senate Bill 176 (amended), Schoenberg (Hannig)

Public Act 94-0835

Creates the FY 2007 Budget Implementation (Education) Act.

Senate Bill 230 (amended), Harmon (Currie)

Public Act 94-0836

Creates the FY2007 Budget Implementation (Revenue) Act.

Senate Bill 1520, Trotter (Madigan)

Public Act 94-0798

Makes omnibus appropriations and reappropriations for fiscal year 2007. Makes various supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006. Effective July 1, 2006, except the supplemental appropriations are effective immediately.

Senate Bill 1863 (amended), Hunter (Currie)

Public Act 94-0838

Creates the FY2007 Budget Implementation (Human Services) Act.

Senate Bill 1977 (amended), Schoenberg (Madigan)

Public Act 94-0839

Creates the FY2007 Budget Implementation (Finance) Act.

Senate Bill 2827, Demuzio (Mautino)

Public Act 94-0958

Amends the State Finance Act to provide for the transfer of specified amounts from various funds to the Audit Expense Fund. Effective immediately. Included are transfers from the Career and Technical Education Fund, Fire Prevention Fund, and ICCB Adult Education Fund.

Community Colleges-Related Bills

House Bill 5429 (amended), Reis (John Jones)

Public Act 94-0890

Amends the Public Community College Act. Requires the Illinois Community College Board to administer a three-year, mobile response workforce training pilot program at three community colleges to benefit businesses that are struggling to recruit a qualified workforce due to the emergence of new technologies in the workplace. Effective immediately.

House Resolution 926, Granberg

Resolution Adopted

Congratulates Kaskaskia College on receiving the Lincoln Bronze Award for Commitment to Excellence.

House Resolution 1039 (amended), Bellock

Resolution Adopted

Resolves that state community colleges are entitled to reimbursement for costs incurred in the administration of the Illinois Veteran Grant Program, the Illinois National Guard Grant Program, and the MIA-POW Scholarship Program in past fiscal years and that the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board conduct a joint study detailing the amount of tuition and fees each community college has waived over the last four fiscal years to compensate for the lack of funding in the Governor's budgets for the programs.

House Resolution 1121, Watson

Resolution Adopted

Resolves that public universities and community colleges are entitled to reimbursement for the costs incurred in the administration of the Illinois Veteran Grant Program, the Illinois National Guard Grant Program, and the MIA-POW Scholarship Program in past fiscal years; that these programs receive full funding in fiscal year 2007 and future fiscal years; and that the Board of Higher Education conduct studies concerning the amount of tuition and fees each public university and community college has waived to compensate for the lack of funding in the Governor's budgets for these programs.

House Joint Resolution 122, McCarthy

Resolution Adopted

Creates a Joint Task Force on Community Colleges to review the community college system and its future and to report its findings to the General Assembly by December 31, 2006.

Senate Bill 1682 (amended), Harmon (Tryon)

Public Act 94-0976

Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law of the Property Tax Code. Sets procedures taxing districts must follow when seeking referendum approval after April 5, 2005, to increase (1) the maximum authorized tax rate for any fund for which the taxing district is authorized by statute to levy taxes, where the rate is limited by prior referendum or statutory

authorization and the rate is authorized by statute to be increased for a limited or unlimited number of years by direct (and not back door) referendum, except for increases that require an equal corresponding tax rate decrease for another fund, or (2) the maximum extended tax rate applicable only to the next taxes to be either levied or extended for any fund notwithstanding the limiting rate that would otherwise be applicable for such taxing district, which maximum extended tax rate applicable to the next taxes shall not exceed the tax rate for such fund. Sets procedures for setting new tax rates. Limits a taxing district to an extension limitation (instead of "extension increase") of five percent or the Consumer Price Index increase during the 12-month calendar year preceding the levy year, whichever is less. Other changes. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 1827 (amended), Harmon (Mathias)

Public Act 94-1062

Amends the Public University Energy Conservation Act, the Public Community College Act, and other acts. Provides that a public university or community college district may enter into a guaranteed energy savings contract if the amount it would spend on the energy conservation measures recommended in the proposal would not exceed the amount to be saved in either energy or operational costs, or both, within a 20-year period (now, a 10-year period) from the date of installation. Other provisions. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2286, Righter (Rose)

Public Act 94-0869

Amends the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act. Provides that a person who, prior to June 1, 2003, received an associate degree from a speech-language pathology assistant program approved by the Illinois Community College Board (in addition to meeting certain other requirements) is qualified to be licensed as a speech-language pathology assistant. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2465 (amended), Cullerton (Fritchey)

Public Act 94-0770

Amends the Illinois Clean Indoor Air Act. Prohibits smoking in living quarters, including, but not limited to, sleeping rooms, dining areas, restrooms, laundry areas, lobbies, and hallways, of a building used in whole or in part as a student dormitory that is owned and operated or otherwise utilized by a public or private higher education institution. Prohibition does not apply to any commercial area within the building. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2778 (amended), Sieben (Pritchard)

Public Act 94-0957

Creates the Volunteer Emergency Worker Higher Education Protection Act. Requires public universities and community colleges to adopt and to publish a policy that reasonably accommodates a student who is a volunteer emergency worker regarding absence from class due to performance of emergency worker duties. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective July 1, 2006.

Senate Resolution 692 (amended), Hunter

Resolution Adopted

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education (Board) shall conduct a study of the cost and feasibility of implementing textbook rental programs at public universities and community colleges and shall report its findings by January 15, 2007. Requires the Board to solicit and report the views of private entities that currently operate bookstores and of textbook authors and publishers. Resolves that the Board, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall assess and report in the Board's findings the

economic impact that current textbook purchasing arrangements, a rental program, and other cost-saving alternatives would have on institutions, state and local governments, students, and private entities that currently operate bookstores either for or independent of one or more public universities or community colleges.

Senate Joint Resolution 88 (amended),
John Sullivan (May)

Resolution Adopted

Urges the Board of Higher Education to strongly encourage community colleges seeking baccalaureate-completion partnerships to give preference to Illinois-based private and public institutions, directs the Board of Higher Education to conduct an inventory of baccalaureate-completion programs and partnerships, and urges the Illinois Community College Board to review its policies and guidelines with regard to preferences for Illinois-based institutions.

Pensions -Related Bills

Senate Bill 49 (amended), Schoenberg (Gordon)

Public Act 94-1057

Amends the State Universities Retirement System Article of the Illinois Pension Code to set forth procedures to calculate, review, and collect certain employer contributions based on excess salary. Provides that when assessing payment for when an employer must make certain contributions, the State Universities Retirement System shall exclude for a specified time period various salary increases and payments. Gives subpoena power to the system's board to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents and records when determining employer payments. Requires the system to file reports with the Governor and the General Assembly that contain information as to the effect of Public Act 94-4 and this amendatory Act. Amends other articles of the code to make similar changes. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 1977 (amended), Schoenberg (Madigan)

Public Act 94-0839

Creates the FY2007 Budget Implementation (Finance) Act. Provisions include creation of Pension Stabilization Fund. Provides that in years where the state's estimated general funds revenues exceed the prior fiscal year's estimated general funds revenues by four percent or more, one-half percent of the excess would go into the Pension Stabilization Fund to be distributed to the five state-funded retirement systems in addition to any amount appropriated for that year. If that happens for two or more fiscal years, one percent of the excess would go into the Pension Stabilization Fund.

Senate Bill 2356 (amended), Hunter (Dugan)

Public Act 94-0982

Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that the State Comptroller must determine the annual "effective rate of interest" by January 31 (now, by September 1) immediately preceding the start of the fiscal year to which it applies. Other provisions.

Public Universities-Related Bills

House Bill 4999 (amended), May (Raoul)

Public Act 94-0885

Creates the Fair Patient Billing Act. Requires hospitals to post a specified sign giving patients notice that they may be eligible for financial assistance and the contact information for the hospital financial assistance representative. Lists information to be included in any bill for health care services that a hospital sends a patient. Establishes a billing inquiry process that hospitals must implement. Provides conditions that must be met before a hospital may pursue a collection action against a patient. Lists patient responsibilities that must be met for a patient to receive the protection and benefits of the Act. Provides for notification that must be given to insured patients concerning out-of-network providers. Provides for enforcement of the Act and civil penalties. Makes other changes. Effective January 1, 2007. Similar to House Bill 4087.

House Resolution 941, Franks

Resolution Adopted

Encourages the participation of the state and each public and private college or university of the state in the Midwest Student Exchange Program.

House Resolution 1121, Watson

Resolution Adopted

Resolves that public universities and community colleges are entitled to reimbursement for the costs incurred in the administration of the Veteran Grant Program, the Illinois National Guard Grant Program, and the MIA-POW Scholarship Program in the past fiscal years; that these programs receive full funding in fiscal year 2007 and future fiscal years; and that the Board of Higher Education conduct studies concerning the amount of tuition and fees each public university and community college has waived in order to compensate for the lack of funding in the Governor's budgets for these programs.

House Resolution 1191, Jakobsson

Resolution Adopted

Recognizes the unique contributions of the University of Illinois Police Training Institute on the anniversary of the Institute's 50th year of service to Illinois Law Enforcement.

House Joint Resolution 102 (amended),
Miller (Hunter)

Resolution Adopted

Requires Southern Illinois University to report to the General Assembly, the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, and the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus on events surrounding investigations conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice regarding minority participation in the University's fellowship and graduate assistance programs and its progress in increasing African American and Hispanic-Latino students in the programs.

Senate Bill 622 (amended), Collins (Kelly)

Public Act 94-0837

Amends the Department of State Police Law of the Civil Administrative Code and the Medical School Matriculant Criminal History Records Check Act. Requires a medical school to conduct an inquiry into the Department of State Police's (DSP) Statewide Sex Offender Database for each matriculant. Provides that, for private medical schools, the fingerprint-based criminal history records check to which a matriculant must submit must be an Illinois Uniform Conviction Information Act fingerprint-based, criminal history records check and must be conducted by the

DSP (instead of the DSP and the Federal Bureau of Investigation). Provides that a medical school is not civilly liable to a matriculant for reporting any required information to the DSP, except for willful or wanton misconduct. Makes related changes. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 1827 (amended), Harmon (Mathias)

Public Act 94-1062

Amends the Public University Energy Conservation Act, the Public Community College Act, and other acts. Provides that a public university or community college district may enter into a guaranteed energy savings contract if the amount it would spend on the energy conservation measures recommended in the proposal would not exceed the amount to be saved in either energy or operational costs, or both, within a 20-year period (now, a 10-year period) from the date of installation. Other provisions. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2465 (amended), Cullerton (Fritchey)

Public Act 94-0770

Amends the Illinois Clean Indoor Air Act. Prohibits smoking in living quarters, including, but not limited to, sleeping rooms, dining areas, restrooms, laundry areas, lobbies, and hallways, of a building used in whole or in part as a student dormitory that is owned and operated or otherwise utilized by a public or private higher education institution. Prohibition does not apply to any commercial area within the building. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2778 (amended), Sieben (Pritchard)

Public Act 94-0957

Creates the Volunteer Emergency Worker Higher Education Protection Act. Requires public universities and community colleges to adopt and to publish a policy that reasonably accommodates a student who is a volunteer emergency worker regarding absence from class due to performance of emergency worker duties. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective July 1, 2006.

Senate Resolution 692 (amended), Hunter

Resolution Adopted

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education (Board) shall conduct a study of the cost and feasibility of implementing textbook rental programs at public universities and community colleges and shall report its findings by January 15, 2007. Requires the Board to solicit and report the views of private entities that currently operate bookstores and of textbook authors and publishers. Resolves that the Board, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall assess and report in the Board's findings the economic impact that current textbook purchasing arrangements, a rental program, and other cost-saving alternatives would have on institutions, state and local governments, students, and private entities that currently operate bookstores either for or independent of one or more public universities or community colleges.

Senate Joint Resolution 88 (amended),
John Sullivan (May)

Resolution Adopted

Urges the Board of Higher Education to strongly encourage community colleges seeking baccalaureate-completion partnerships to give preference to Illinois-based private and public institutions, directs the Board of Higher Education to conduct an inventory of baccalaureate-completion programs and partnerships, and urges the Illinois Community College Board to review its policies and guidelines with regard to preferences for Illinois-based institutions.

Teacher Preparation and Retention-Related Bills

House Bill 5331, Eddy (Righter)

Public Act 94-0914

Amends the Downstate Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Extends to June 30, 2011 (from June 30, 2006) the period during which an annuitant receiving an annuity (other than a disability annuity) may accept an offer of employment as a teacher from a school board or other employer without impairing retirement status for 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in each school year (after June 20, 2011, will return to 100 paid days or 500 paid hours). Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2235 (amended), Martinez (Golar)

Public Act 94-0979

Amends the Grow Our Own Teacher Education Act. Changes name to the Grow Your Own Teacher Act. Requires the State Board of Education to establish criteria that include strategies derived from community organizations to help candidates develop tools to work with parents and other community members. Allows partial loan forgiveness for shortened periods of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching positions. Allows school districts to use part of the grant money to pay participants for student teaching required by an accredited teacher preparation program. Allows one member of the consortium to spend funds to cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator and allows grant funds to be spent for required developmental classes for candidates beginning a program. Other provisions. Effective immediately.

Other Miscellaneous Higher Education Bills

House Bill 4461(amended), Osmond (Harmon)

Public Act 94-0970

Amends the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Law. Provides that the Department, subject to appropriation, may conduct (instead of shall) a study regarding the recruitment and training of masters-prepared nurses to serve as nursing school faculty with the study to be completed by July 1, 2007 (instead of December 31, 2006). Effective immediately.

House Bill 4832 (amended), Flider (Watson)

Public Act 94-0904

Creates the Community Service Education Act. Provides that the State Board of Education will administer a voluntary community service education program, in cooperation with local school districts. Allows a school district to establish a community service education program and to apply for a grant from the State Board of Education. Subject to appropriation. Effective immediately.

House Resolution 867, Acevedo

Resolution Adopted

Hails the 50th anniversary of the merging of the Northern Illinois College of Optometry and the Chicago College of Optometry to form the Illinois College of Optometry.

House Resolution 904, Hamos

Resolution Adopted

Congratulates National-Louis University on the occasion of its 120th anniversary.

House Resolution 1040, McKeon

Resolution Adopted

Provides that the Governor and the General Assembly establish goals and mechanisms to increase the participation of disadvantaged and underrepresented groups in the workforce and ensure that the benefits of the capital construction program will reach all populations in the state.

House Resolution 1067, Jakobsson

Resolution Adopted

Designates the week of August 27, 2006, as "Workforce Development Week."

House Resolution 1092, Cross

Resolution Adopted

Recognizes the 2006 Illinois Wesleyan University Titans men's basketball team.

House Resolution 1101, McCarthy

Resolution Adopted

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education strengthen and expand the existing shared enrollment data consortium to collect additional information on college student preparation, participation, mobility, and performance; maintain the data at a central location; and encourage participation by all Illinois institutions in the shared enrollment data consortium and the teacher data warehouse. Identical to Senate Resolution 701.

Senate Bill 585 (amended), Cullerton (Flider)

Public Act 94-1058

Amends the Open Meetings Act. Redefines "meeting" to include gatherings, whether in person or by telephone call, video or audio conference, electronic means (such as e-mail, chat, and instant messaging), or other means of interactive communication, of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held to discuss public business (now, a gathering of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held to discuss public business). Requires the number of public body members necessary to constitute a quorum to be physically present at an open meeting. If an open meeting of a public body (except one with jurisdiction limited to a specific geographic area that is less than statewide) is held simultaneously at one of its offices and one or more locations in a public building, which may include other of its offices, through an interactive video conference and the public body provides public notice and public access as required for all locations, then members physically present in those locations count toward a quorum. Defines "public building." Exempts state advisory boards or bodies not authorized to make binding recommendations or determinations or to take other substantive action. Requires minutes to reflect attendance of a member by video or audio conference. Specifies conditions wherein a public body member not necessary for a quorum may attend a meeting other than physically and permits public bodies to adopt additional provisions by rule. Other provisions.

Senate Bill 2159 (amended), Sandoval (Lang)

Public Act 94-0978

Amends the Illinois Procurement Code. Requires that after awarding a contract, and subject to the Freedom of Information Act, a procuring agency shall make available for public inspection and copying all pre-award, post-award, administration, and close-out documents relating to the contract. Effective immediately.

Senate Bill 2312, Maloney (Joyce)

Public Act 94-0905

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Adds to the board a student member who must be at least 24 years old and who will represent the views of a non-traditional student (e.g., a student who is employed or is a parent).

Senate Bill 2739, Cullerton (Fritchey)

Public Act 94-0940

Amends the Whistleblower Reward and Protection Act. If a subpoena requires the production of documentary material, requires respondent to produce the original of the documentary material, unless the Attorney General agrees that copies may be substituted for the originals. Requires that all documentary material kept or stored in electronic form, including electronic mail, shall be produced in hard copy, at respondent's expense, unless the Attorney General agrees that electronic versions may be substituted for the hard copy.

Senate Resolution 692 (amended), Hunter

Resolution Adopted

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education (Board) shall conduct a study of the cost and feasibility of implementing textbook rental programs at public universities and community colleges and shall report its findings by January 15, 2007. Requires the Board to solicit and report the views of private entities that currently operate bookstores and of textbook authors and publishers. Resolves that the Board, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall assess and report in the Board's findings the economic impact that current textbook purchasing arrangements, a rental program, and other cost-saving alternatives would have on institutions, state and local governments, students, and private entities that currently operate bookstores either for or independent of one or more public universities or community colleges.

Senate Resolution 701, Maloney

Resolution Adopted

Resolves that the Board of Higher Education strengthen and expand the existing shared enrollment data consortium to collect additional information on college student preparation, participation, mobility, and performance; maintain the data at a central location; and encourage participation by all Illinois institutions in the shared enrollment data consortium and the teacher data warehouse. Identical to House Resolution 1101.

Senate Joint Resolution 88 (amended),
John Sullivan (May)

Resolution Adopted

Urges the Board of Higher Education to strongly encourage community colleges seeking baccalaureate-completion partnerships to give preference to Illinois-based private and public institutions, directs the Board of Higher Education to conduct an inventory of baccalaureate-completion programs and partnerships, and urges the Illinois Community College Board to review its policies and guidelines with regard to preferences for Illinois-based institutions.