

Iowa Valley Community College District 2019 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Week of April 1, 2019

ACTIVE LEGISLATION

HF752 – Relating to professional licensing, including providing for a review of professional licenses and allowing for pre-application qualification reviews. The bill was filed by the House Committee on Labor and was referred to the House Ways & Means Committee on 3/26. On 3/27, HF752 passed out of the House Ways & Means Committee and was referred to the House Ways & Means Calendar and was voted out of the House on 4/1. The bill was referred to the Senate State Government subcommittee of R. Smith, Cournoyer and Giddens on 4/3.

HF758 – Education Appropriations Bill. HF758 was filed by the House Appropriations Committee and passed out of the House on 4/4. The bill was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill provides state funding of \$960,833,480 for education which includes the following appropriations:

- Community College State General Aid (SGA) - \$209,690,405 (increase of \$7 million in comparison to last year)
- WTED - \$15,100,000
- Adult Basic Education and Literacy - \$5.5 million
- ACE Infrastructure - \$6 million
- PACE program - \$5 million

- GAP Tuition Assistance program - \$2 million
- Intermediary Statewide Work-Based Learning program - \$1.5 million
- Iowa Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant program - \$5 million
- All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship – increase of \$159,146 over last year
- Future Ready Iowa Last Dollar Scholarship program - \$14,789,209 (expectation to provide scholarships to 7,500 community college students enrolled in high-demand fields of study and employment)
- Future Ready Iowa Grant program – \$1 million
- Career Technical Education – an increase of \$355,823 over last year
- Regent Institutions – increase of \$15.9 million over last year

LEGISLATION SENT TO THE GOVERNOR

SF245 – Relating to the eligibility and reporting requirements for the **Iowa Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program**. The bill adds new language “as being a high-demand job” to the definition of a career-technical or career option program in an industry identified as having a shortage of skilled workers by a **community college** after conducting a regional skills gap analysis. A student will

be allowed to continue to receive grant funds even if the community college no longer identifies the industry as having a shortage of skilled workers or the department no longer identifies the industry as a high-demand job as an eligible program. SF245 passed out of the Senate on 3/18, the House on 4/3, and was sent to the Governor on 4/4.

SF246 – Relating to requirements for eligibility under the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Program. The bill defines an “eligible surviving child student” to mean a qualified student who is not a convicted felon as defined in Iowa Code section 910.15. SF 246 passed out of the Senate on 3/18, the House on 4/3 and was sent to the Governor for her consideration on 4/4.

SF304 – Relating to licensing sanctions against individuals who default or are delinquent on student loan debt or on a related service obligation. The bill requires the state’s licensing boards to adopt administrative rules to prohibit the suspension or revocation of a license issued to a person who is in default or is delinquent on repayment or a service obligation under federal or state postsecondary educational loans or public or private services conditional postsecondary tuition assistance solely on the basis of such default or delinquency. Sent to the Governor on 3/26.

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LEGISLATION SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

SF274 – *College Campus Free Speech – The bill requires the Board of Regents and the boards directors of **community colleges** to adopt policies regarding free speech on campuses. SF274 requires that the policies include specific provisions regarding the proper function and role of the institutions of higher education, the freedoms to be afforded students, and the use of public areas of campus for public forums. Signed by the Governor on 3/25.*

SF512 – *Licensure Reciprocity for Military Spouses and the Injured Veterans Grant Program – The bill increases the spendable portion of the Iowa Lottery transfer to the Veteran's Trust Fund from \$500,000 to \$600,000 and directs licensing boards in the State to develop by January 1, 2020, an expedited **licensing process** for military spouses who are already licensed in similar professions or occupations in another state. SF512 helps military spouses transfer their **professional licenses** when assignments change and they are required to move to another state which will allow the spouse to be able to quickly get back into the workforce. Currently, Iowa licensing boards have already implemented protocols for expediting licensure for members of the military. SF512 was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on 3/22.*

For more information about the activity during the 2019 legislative session please contact:
Cindy Schulte, Director of Governmental Affairs

Cindy.Schulte@iavalley.edu or
Cell: 641.485.4456
Office: 641.844.5602