

Iowa Valley Community College District 2019 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Week of April 8, 2019

REBUILD IOWA INFRASTRUCTURE APPROPRIATIONS

On Tuesday, April 9, the Iowa House passed House File (HF) 735, which represents the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) legislation. RIIF was created by the Iowa Legislature in 1995 and appropriates state gaming revenue for vertical infrastructure-related projects in the state. “Vertical infrastructure projects” are defined as land acquisition and construction; major renovation and major repair of buildings; routine, recurring maintenance; all apartment structures; utilities; site development; recreational trails; renewable fuel infrastructure programs; and debt service payments on academic revenue bonds issued in accordance with Iowa Chapter 262A for capital projects at Regent institutions.

House File 735 includes:

- \$200 million in gaming funding
- \$5 million invested in broadband grants
- \$17.5 million invested into technology infrastructure for state agencies
- \$2 million for recreational trails
- \$1 million for the Iowa State Fair for renovation of the 4-H building
- \$6.1 million to replace mechanical and electrical

- distribution related to the heating and cooling of the Iowa Veterans Home
- \$2 million to demolition vacant state buildings
- \$1 million to study the possibility of moving the State Historical Building to the Iowa State Fairgrounds

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS

On Tuesday, April 9, the House Appropriations Committee passed House File (HF) 766, which represents the Health and Human Services appropriation budget. The FY20 budget includes a total of \$1.94 billion from the state general fund, which is appropriated to the Iowa Department of the Aging, the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Human Services, the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Iowa Veterans Home.

HF766 includes the following:

- An additional \$1.2 million for mental health
- \$3.1 million to eliminate waiting lists for the children health home and community-based services waiver (1,000 children are currently on the list awaiting service)
- An additional \$5.2 million in Medicaid funding for mental health services like Access Centers and Intensive Residential

- Service Homes, which were included in the Mental Health Complex Needs Act approved in 2018 (HF2456)
- Funding for 4 additional psychiatric residencies in rural communities and increases to psychiatric training for Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners

ACTIVE LEGISLATION

HF758 – Education Appropriations Bill. The bill passed out of the Iowa House on 4/3 and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. It provides state funding of \$960,833,480 for education. The FY20 budget represents an increase of \$48.3 million over FY19. In January, the Governor presented her budget, which included a total of \$963,275,618 for education. The bill provides state funding for **community college State General Aid (SGA)** of \$209,690,405, which is an increase of \$7 million in comparison to FY19.

SF603 – An Act authorizing use of concurrent enrollment programs for teaching certain subjects required under the educational standards and making an appropriation to fund enrollment of pupils under concurrent enrollment agreements between accredited non-public schools and community colleges. SF603 is

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pending debate in the Senate; it remains on the Senate Appropriations Calendar for Debate.

SF160 – An Act regarding school building emergency operations plans requiring school boards and authorities in charge of accredited non-public schools to consider recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Safety in the development of high-quality emergency operations plans. The bill passed out of the Senate on 3/18 and was referred to the House Education Committee on 3/19.

LEGISLATION SENT TO THE GOVERNOR

SF245 – An Act relating to eligibility and reporting requirements for the Iowa Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program. The bill allows a career-technical or career option program to be considered a high-demand job classification and allows students to receive funding in the program as long as the student is enrolled in the program and continues to meet eligibility requirements. Passed the House on 4/3 and sent to the Governor.

SF246 – An Act relating to the requirements for eligibility under the All Iowa Opportunity Tuition Grant Program. The bill amends the definition of an “eligible surviving child student” as a qualified student who is not a convicted felon. The bill passed out

of the House on 4/3 and was sent to the Governor.

HF418 – An Act relating to Commercial Driver’s (CDL) License requirements. The bill allows an Iowa non-profit corporation that serves as a trade association for Iowa-based motor carriers to be considered a third-party tester, along with **community colleges**. The bill passed out of the Senate on 4/8 and was sent to the Governor.

LEGISLATION SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

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. Signed by the Governor on 4/8.

SF274 – College Campus Free Speech – The bill requires the Board of Regents and the board 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. Signed by the Governor on 3/22.

For more information about the activity during the 2019 legislative session please contact:
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