

Iowa Valley Community College District 2019 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Week of April 22, 2019

ADJOURNMENT OF THE 88th GENERAL ASSEMBLY (FIRST SESSION)

The first session of the 88th General Assembly adjourned on Saturday, April 27, with both sides reaching a budget agreement that spends \$7.643 billion, accounting for 97.39% of ongoing state revenue. The FY19 budget is expected to end the year leaving an ending balance of \$165 million to \$170 million higher than last year. (On June 30, 2018, the state ended up with a surplus of \$127.3 million). For FY20, the state revenue projections are expected to reflect between \$275 million and \$280 million more than the FY19 level.

FY20 EDUCATION BUDGET

On Wednesday, April 24, the House and Senate came to a final agreement on the FY20 education budget, which spends \$952.7 million (a \$40.1 million increase over FY19 levels).

The increase in education funding represents the following budget categories:

- **Community College SGA funding** – \$208.7 million, an increase of \$6 million
- All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Program – \$3 million, an increase of \$159,146

- Rural Primary Care Loan Program – \$1.4 million, an increase of \$300,000
- Health Care Loan Repayment Program – \$250,000, an increase of \$50,000
- Future Ready Iowa Last Dollar Scholarship Program – \$13,004,744 (more than 7,000 Iowans are expected to benefit from the scholarship funding to get student into high-demand fields of study and job employment)
- Iowa Tuition Grant Program – \$47.7 million, an increase of \$1,072,512 (provides low-income students with funding to attend Iowa's private colleges)
- Career Technical Education – \$2.99 million, an increase of \$322,325 (funding for job work experiences for high school students)
- Early Childhood Iowa – \$22.7 million, an increase of \$500,000 (helps fund programs for families with young children to help with education, healthcare, and other local needs)
- iJAG (Jobs for Americas Grads) – \$2.7 million, an increase of \$1 million (helps open about 20 new programs that provide opportunities for kids at risk of not graduating from high school)
- Mental Health Awareness Training – \$2.1 million (funding to help train K-12 teachers in mental health awareness and provide mental health strategies in school districts)
- Adult Literacy and Workforce – \$5 million, an increase of \$500,000
- Iowa, Iowa State, and UNI – \$493 million, an increase of \$12 million
- STEM – \$6.4 million, an increase of \$1 million
- Iowa School for the Deaf – \$10.3 million, an increase of \$302,962
- Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired – \$4.3 million, an increase of \$167,000

LEGISLATION SENT TO THE GOVERNOR

HF758 – Education Appropriations Bill. The FY20 budget totals \$952,733,479, or a \$40 million increase over last year. 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 of \$208.7 million, an increase of \$6 million over last year. HF758 was sent to the Governor on 4/24.

SF603 – Concurrent Enrollment Programs – An Act authorizing use of concurrent enrollment programs for teaching certain subjects

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required under the educational standards and making an appropriation to fund enrollment of pupils under concurrent enrollment agreements between accredited nonpublic schools and **community colleges**. The bill adds a new section called Sexual Exploitation by a School Employee – Definition (Section 709.15), which states “A person employed by a community college full-time, part-time, or as a substitute who provides instruction to high school students under a concurrent enrollment program offered in accordance with section 257.11 or 261E.8).” SF603 was sent to the Governor on 4/26.

HF617 – Sports Wagering – Authorizes sports gambling and wagering, including sports wagering and fantasy sports contests in Iowa. The tax revenue from internet fantasy sports will range between \$258,000 and \$774,000, and the sports wagering will range from \$630,000 to \$1.8 million for Iowa. The bill defines “sports wagering” as the acceptance of wagers on an authorized sporting event by any system of wagering authorized by the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission. An authorized sporting event includes professional, **collegiate**, or international sporting events governed by the International Olympic Committee and the International Federation of Association Football. A qualified

sponsoring organization that holds a license to conduct gambling games and sports wagering will receive at least 0.75% of sports wagering net receipts, if applicable, to distribute for educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, or religious use. HF617 permits individuals 21 years of age or older to take part in gambling games and related activities. Under the bill, a “**collegiate sporting event**” means an athletic event or competition of an intercollegiate sport as defined in section 9A.102. The bill was sent to the Governor on 4/23.

SF188 – USE OF TASERS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES – Prohibits a **community college board of directors** from adopting or enforcing a policy or rule that prohibits a person from carrying, transporting, or possessing a dangerous weapon producing a non-projectile high-voltage pulse designed to immobilize a person in the buildings or grounds of the college. A new section will be added to the Iowa Code section 260C.14A – Limitation on authority – non-projectile high-voltage pulse weapons designed to immobilize. The bill was sent to the Governor on 4/24.

HF546 – SAVE Extension – Contains provisions regarding the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) and the Property Tax Equity Relief (PTER) Fund. It provides an extension of

the one-cent sales tax that is distributed to school districts for the reduction of bond levies, reduction of regular and voted physical, plant, and equipment levies (PPEL), reduction of the public educational and recreational levies (PERL), authorized infrastructure projects, and payment of principal and interest on bonds issued under the School Infrastructure Local Option (SILO) sales tax or SAVE. The bill extends the sunset of SAVE to January 1, 2051. HF546 creates a fund at the DE to fund career academies which will receive an annual distribution from SAVE. The DE will manage a competitive grant process which will provide funds for schools to use on career infrastructure and equipment. The funds will be allocated in a Career Academy Fund through an RFP process with \$1 million in FY20 and the maximum allocation can only total around \$5 million if the SAVE funds grow. The bill clarifies that SAVE funds may be used for school safety and security infrastructure purposes. SAVE funding will be made available for property tax relief for districts with the highest additional property tax rates. The bill was sent to the Governor on 4/26.

HF692 – Elections and Absentee Ballots – Implements the statewide use of postal service barcodes on absentee ballots to determine the date that a ballot was placed into the federal postal service. The bill

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prohibits a person from participating in more than one caucus in a year and places certain limitations on the use of a County Auditor's name. The organizational meeting for **board of directors of a merged area** must take place after the canvas of the election and not the election (section 53) and moves the canvas for merged area elections up to the same date as the second round of the canvasses (section 54). HF692 makes technical changes for a school district or a **merged area** to hold a special election in the odd-numbered year, the first Tuesday in March, the second Tuesday in September, or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. In an odd-numbered year, the special election can be held on the first Tuesday in March or the second Tuesday in September. The bill was sent to the Governor on 4/25.

HF731 – Mandatory Child Abuse and Dependent Abuse Reporter Training Requirements – Requires a person to complete at least two hours of additional child abuse identification and reporting training every three years. If the person completes at least one hour of additional training prior to the three year expiration period, the person shall be deemed in compliance with the training requirements of this section for an additional three years. (Iowa Code Section 232.69, subsection 24,

section 2b). The bill was sent to the Governor on 4/18.

LEGISLATION SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

SF245 – An Act relating to the eligibility and reporting requirements for the **Iowa Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program**. The bill amends the grant program to include 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 the eligibility requirements. Passed the House on 4/3 and was signed by the Governor on 4/16.

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 signed by the Governor on 4/16.

HF418 – An Act relating to Commercial Driver's (CDL) License Requirements. The bill allows an Iowa nonprofit 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 signed by the Governor on 4/14.

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. The bill was signed by the Governor on 4/8.

HF531 – Unemployment Insurance Tax and Benefits – Reduces benefits that are available to a claimant when the individual's employer goes out of business and removes the requirement that a notice of the filing of an unemployment claim to be sent by ordinary mail. The bill was sent to the Governor on 4/25.

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

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*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
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