

Iowa Valley Community College District 2019 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Week of March 4, 2019

REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE

On Friday, Mar. 15, the Iowa Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) is scheduled to meet to review expected state revenue for FY19 and FY20. At this meeting, REC members will provide a revenue forecast for FY19 and FY20 which will be reviewed by the Governor and the Legislature. In December each year, the REC meets to agree on a revenue estimate for the fiscal year beginning the following July 1. The estimate is used by the Governor to establish her state budget for the next legislative session. The next meeting of the REC is always scheduled in mid-March; at that time, the REC makes the decision based on the state revenues raised, whether to raise or lower the forecasts of revenue estimated for the subsequent fiscal year. The Governor has 14 days from the REC meeting in March to submit to the Legislature the revised budget recommendations using the lower revenue estimate.

FY20 SENATE AND HOUSE BUDGET TARGETS

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, the Iowa Senate Republicans released their FY20 budget targets. Their plan spends \$7.619 billion (House Republican FY20 budget spends \$7.668 billion). The overall budget spends the same amount as

allocated in FY19 and is \$48 million less than the House Republicans and \$39 million less than Governor Reynolds' budget. The Senate budget includes an additional \$38.8 million in additional tax relief in FY20.

The House Republicans provide an additional \$7 million for FY19 community college state general aid (SGA). The Senate Republicans have not released an itemized breakdown of educational spending, but are proposing a funding level for education that is \$14.088 million less than the House Republicans' budget. The House Republicans' education budget is \$2.338 million more than the education budget proposed by Governor Reynolds.

IOWA STATEWIDE ELECTION BILL

On Wednesday, Mar. 6, a Senate State Government subcommittee passed a study bill that relates to the conduct of state and local elections. Senate Study Bill (SSB) 1241 has the following provisions:

- Polls would close for all Iowa elections at 8 pm. Currently, polls remain open for statewide elections until 9 pm and for some local elections the polls close at 8 pm.
- State-owned buildings, with the exception of county courthouses, could not serve as satellite voting stations.

- Absentee ballots would be required to be received by the auditor by Election Day. Current law allows absentee ballots to be received and counted so long as they were postmarked by the day before Election Day.
- Election officials would be required to verify signatures on absentee ballots.
- *College students would be given a form that would ask whether they plan to live in or outside Iowa upon graduation, and those who indicate they plan to live outside of Iowa would be removed from the voter registration list.*
- *A public measure to approve the issuance of a bond referendum shall include on the ballot the current property tax levy, which shall immediately follow the proposed levy, and the term of the bond. Such a public measure shall also include on the ballot the average increase or decrease in cost of an average home in each county, as well as the average of such averages, according to the data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.*

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LEGISLATION FILED

The following bills of importance to community colleges were filed during the 8th week:

HF666 – *A bill for an act relating to professional licensing, including by providing for a review of professional licenses and allowing for pre-application qualification reviews. On the House Regular Calendar for Debate.*

SF539 – *A bill for an act establishing the office of student loan ombudsman within the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (filed by Quirmbach and others). Referred to Senate Education subcommittee of Sinclair, Kraayenbrink and Quirmbach. On the Senate Regular Calendar for Debate.*

SF297 – *A bill for an act relating to the individual income tax that creates a tax credit for community college students pursuing a credential leading to a high-demand occupation. Filed by Senator Behn (R-Boone) and referred to the Senate Education subcommittee of Behn, Celsi and Zaun. The bill was referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee on 3/5.*

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