

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2020 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



*Week of February 3, 2020*

## JANUARY STATE REVENUES REFLECT GROWTH

In January 2020, Iowa took in more than \$69.9 million more in state revenue, a 9.3% increase in comparison to last year. In December, the Iowa Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) projected a 2.1% growth rate for FY2020. The collections were:

- 2.1% increase in Personal Income Tax, which is the result of the impact by the lowering of withholding tables when the tax reform law went into effect in January 2019. (REC projected growth of 0.1%)
- 16.3% increase in Sales and Use Tax (REC projected growth of 5.9%).
- 12.9% increase in Corporate Income Tax collections. (REC projected growth of 3.2%).

## SLIGHT INCREASE IN IOWA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Iowa's adjusted unemployment rate increased to 2.7% in December, in comparison to an employment rate of 2.4% a year ago. The Iowa rate reflects the following:

- Iowa's workforce grew by 4,400 jobs, and by 64,900 jobs since December 2018.

- The number of unemployed Iowans increased to 47,200 from 46,200 in November.
- The total number of Iowans working in December was 1,716,100, 4,400 higher than in November and 64,900 higher than a year ago.

The U.S. unemployment rate for December 2019 remained at 3.5%.

## ACTIVE LEGISLATION

### ***SF 2154 – Qualifications for Community College CTE***

***Instructors*** – Provides for another option by which an instructor may qualify to teach at a Community College in the subject area of career and technical education (CTE). The bill permits an instructor to teach CTE classes if the instructor possesses an associate degree in the CTE field of instruction in which the person is teaching, if such degree is considered terminal for that field of instruction, and the instructor has at least 3,000 hours of recent and relevant work experience in the area in which the instructor teaches. ***The bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee and was placed on the Senate calendar for debate on 2/5.***

***HF 2267 – Regulation of Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants and the Practice of Dentistry (Scope of Practice)*** – The bill allows for a dental assistant with additional training to perform

expanded functions and participate in dental radiography. The bill also prohibits a dental assistant from placing sealants on teeth unless the dental assistant has completed expanded function training through the University of Iowa College of Dentistry or a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. HF 2267 prohibits the Iowa Dental Board from adopting rules allowing a dental assistant to administer local anesthesia or remove plaque, stain, calculus, or hard natural material except by use of a toothbrush, floss, or rubber cup coronal polish. ***The bill was filed by the Iowa Dental Board and was referred to the House Human Resources Committee during the 2019 session. On 2/6/20, the bill passed out of the House Human Resources Committee and was placed on the House calendar for debate.***

### ***SF 2183 – A Child's Standing to Pursue the Child's Interest in a Postsecondary Education Subsidy***

– The bill provides that when a court retains jurisdiction over a dissolution of marriage following the issuance of a decree that includes the ordering of a postsecondary education subsidy or otherwise retains such jurisdiction to address a postsecondary education subsidy, a child affected by the ordering of a postsecondary education subsidy who is 14 years or older shall have standing to file a petition to modify

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the decree in order to pursue the child's legally enforceable interest in a postsecondary education subsidy. ***SF 2183 was filed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and passed out of the Committee and placed on the Senate calendar for debate on 2/6.***

## FILED LEGISLATION OF IMPORTANCE

***HSB 642 – Eligibility Requirements and Assessments for Students under the Iowa Senior Year Plus Program*** – The bill eliminates an eligibility requirement under the Iowa Senior Year Plus program that requires students to have demonstrated proficiency in reading, mathematics and science prior to participating in the program, and modifies authorization for a Community College's assessment of student readiness under the district-to-Community College sharing or concurrent enrollment program. ***HSB 642 was filed by the Iowa Department of Education and was referred to the House Education Subcommittee: Hanusa, T. Moore, and Matson on 2/5.***

***SF 2161 – Prohibiting a Governing Board of a Public College or University from Adopting or Enforcing any Policy or Rule that Prohibits a Person with a Valid Permit to Carry Weapons in the Buildings or on the College Grounds*** – The bill prohibits a governing board of a

Community College to adopt or enforce any policy or rule that prohibits the carrying, transportation or possession of any dangerous weapon in the buildings or on the grounds of such a college by a person who possesses a valid permit to carry weapons. SF 2161 provides that a governing board of a Community College will be found in violation of the bill and will be assessed with a civil penalty of between \$2,500 and \$5,000 and shall have to pay the plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees and court costs. ***The bill was filed by Senator Chapman and was referred to the Senate Education Subcommittee: Behn, Celsi, and Edler on 2/6.***

***SSB 3115 – Relating to Public Bidding*** – The bill concerns requests for bids and proposals for state and political subdivisions. The bill addresses:

- Sale of Public Real Property – If real property of a political subdivision is disposed of, the disposition shall be made under a procedure where the property shall be sold to the highest responsive, responsible bidder unless the governing body, by at least a two-thirds vote, agrees to accept a different bidder for a good cause.
- Advertisement of Bids – Requirement for three business days for request for bids and proposals of

\$24,000 or less, five business days for requests for bids and proposals of more than \$25,000, and two business days for requests and proposals on a public construction project.

***The bill was filed by the Senate State Government Committee and was referred to a Subcommittee of R. Smith, Cournoyer, and T. Taylor on 2/5.***

For more information about the activity during the 2020 legislative session, please contact: Cindy Schulte, Director of Governmental Affairs

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