

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2020 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



*Week of June 8, 2020*

## **FY21 CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS – HOUSE FILE 2643**

House File 2643 represents the FY21 continuing appropriations budget bill for the 2020 legislative session. The bill keeps “status quo” funding for all state agencies and Community Colleges at the same level of funding appropriated in the FY20 state budget or during the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020. Funding allocations for Iowa’s Community Colleges will be as follows:

- Community College State General Aid (SGA) - \$208,690,889
- Iowa Vocational -Technical Tuition Grant Program - \$1.750-million
- Skilled Workforce Shortage Grants (Formerly Kibbie Grants) - \$5-million
- GAP Tuition Assistance Program - \$2-million
- Workforce Development Fund - \$3-million
- ACE Infrastructure Fund - \$6-million
- WTED (260C.18A) - \$15,100,000
- Adult Literacy Programs - \$6-million
- PACE Career Pathways Program - \$5-million

- Work-Based Learning Network Program - \$1.5-million
- Community College Nonpublic School Concurrent Enrollment Payments - \$1-million
- Appropriate \$1-million into the Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Grant (formerly the Kibbie Grant) and transfer \$600,000 from the fund into the Future Ready Iowa Last Dollar Scholarship Fund

HF 2643 reduced FY21 state funding to the Regent Institutions by \$8-million, to the Judicial Branch by \$500,000, to the General Assembly’s budget by \$1-million, to the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office by \$250,000, and to the Medicaid Fund by \$6.7-million. The bill transferred \$5-million from the Grow Iowa Values Fund (GIVF) to the Iowa Department of Human Services to support a grant to Polk County to support the provisions of mental health and disability services.

The bill has a provision which pertains to the Iowa absentee voting process. HF 2643 requires county auditor offices to verify the identity of voters within a 24-hour period. If the absentee ballot form does not include the voter identification number, the county auditor offices will be required within 24 hours to contact the applicant by telephone and

electronic email. The county auditor’s office is unable to contact the applicant by telephone or electronic mail, the commissioner shall send a notice to the applicant at the address where the applicant is registered to vote, or to the applicant’s mailing address if it is different from the residential address. A county commissioner cannot use the voter registration system to obtain additional necessary information.

Under the legislation, the Iowa Board of Regents will be authorized to employ or retain outside counsel to seek legal advice on complex cases.

The bill passed out of the House and Senate on June 14<sup>th</sup> and was sent to the Governor’s Office immediately following its passage. HF 2643 goes into effect upon enactment or when approved by the Governor on or after July 1, 2020.

## **FUTURE READY IOWA PROGRAM LEGISLATION – HOUSE FILE 2629**

House File (HF) 2629 adds to and modifies the Iowa Code provisions under the Governor’s Future Ready Iowa program enacted during the 2018 legislative session. Under the bill the following provisions were established:

- Creates an Expanded Registered Apprenticeship

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Opportunities Program that is similar to the existing Registered Apprenticeship Development Program. The program will be administered by the Iowa Economic Development Authority provide financial assistance to encourage sponsors of apprenticeship programs with 20 or fewer apprentices to maintain a training program in high-demand occupations.

- Creates an Iowa Child Care Challenge Program Fund administered by the Iowa Workforce Development.
- Computer Science Instruction Educational Standards – provides for high-quality standards for computer science education taught by elementary, middle, and high schools in Iowa and establishes a computer science work group under the guidance of the Iowa Department of Education.
- FRI Last Dollar Scholarship Program – Amends the definition of an “adult learner” to mean a person who, following the receipt of a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma and on or after attaining the age of 20, enrolls on a full-time or part-time basis in subsequent terms to receive additional awards. A

person’s age for purposes of the change to the program shall be calculated on July 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the year of enrollment or who is at least 20 at the beginning of the state fiscal year in an eligible institution.

## 2020 SESSION ACTIVE LEGISLATION SENT TO GOVERNOR

**Senate File 2284** – Relates to matters involving the Iowa Regents and the institutions the State Board of Regents governs – Regent institutions must implement continuous improvement in undergraduate programs offered and the plan shall be developed and implemented built upon the results of the institution’s student outcomes assessment program for courses with typical annual enrollments of 100 or more students, whether in one or multiple sections. In developing and implementing the continuous improvement plan for each course, the instructor or instructors for such a course shall each year evaluate the results of the instructor’s students’ performances in comparison with established course goals and shall formulate recommendations for future goals and methods to achieve improved student performance.

**Senate File 2310** – Iowa Learning Online Initiative – Requires school

districts and accredited nonpublic schools to report to the DE online coursework offered by the school district or accredited nonpublic school in which the students are enrolled. The bill provides for school calendar year flexibility for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that submit a “Return-to-Learn Plan” addressing student learning in response to school closures due to the Governor’s proclamation of a public health disaster emergency related to COVID-19.

**House File 2502** – Relating to fire arms and weapons, including storage, carrying, possession, or transportation of weapons and the establishment, use, and maintenance of shooting ranges – Defines “political subdivision” as a county, city, or township to be allowed to enact, adopt, or amend any ordinance or similar policy that regulates ownership, possession, legal transfer, transportation, registration, or otherwise lawful licensing of firearms.

**House File 2627** – Professional Licensure in Iowa – Relates to the regulation of professional licensure in Iowa for electrical and plumbing licenses, including the recognition of out-of-state professional licenses and stated disqualification provisions for criminal convictions. The bill eliminates the Iowa Hospital Licensing Board.

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**House File 2623** – Sports Wagering Debt Setoff – Requires that all winnings reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-2G be applied to the full amount of debt owed by the individual who wins money on a wager at a racetrack, excursion gambling boat, or gambling structure.

**Senate File 272** – Provisions for Debt Management Services in Connection with Educational Loans – Pertains to the contract requirements and prohibition remedies for educational loan debt management services and the rights of licensees, debtors, and the contracts to provide debt management services with an educational loans.

**Senate File 2268** – Establishment of the Minimum Age Requirement Relative to Various Activities Relating to Tobacco and Tobacco Products, Vapor Products, and Cigarettes – Changes the legal age for purchasing and using any cigarettes, tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products from 18 to 21 years of age.

**Senate File 2338** – COVID-19 Liability Protections – Provides liability protections for actions in response to the COVID-19 emergency, requires actual injury for a civil action, limits the liability of premises owners, creates a safe harbor for compliance with

regulations, executive orders, or public health guidance, limits the liability of health care providers, and limits the liability on products produced and used in response to COVID-19.

**Senate File 2400** – Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Fund – Creates the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Fund which will allow for communication providers to receive support for the installation of broadband infrastructure that will facilitate broadband service located in “underserved areas” in the state. The definition of “underserved areas” include any portion of a targeted service area within which no communications service provider facilitates broadband service meeting the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted areas.

**House File 2389** – Rulemaking Process for Executive Branch Agencies – Relates to the administrative rulemaking process under Iowa Code Chapter 17A, the Iowa Administrative Procedure Act, and requires state agencies to submit petitions for rulemaking and the disposition of such petitions to the ARRC.

## **INACTIVE LEGISLATION FAILING TO PASS OUT OF THE 2020 SESSION**

**House File 2443** – Eligibility Requirements under the *Iowa*

*Senior Year Plus Program* – Addresses the new changes to the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) proficiency standards by removing the proficiency requirement for students at grade level in reading, math, and science to be eligible to take any courses via concurrent enrollment. The bill was amended in the Senate on 6/10 and was never taken up in the Iowa House for consideration.

**House File 2600** – Establishing a child care workforce state matching grants program and fund administered by the early childhood Iowa state board to award matching state grants to eligible communities.

**Senate File 2184** – Peace Officers, Reserve Officers, and Federal Officers Going Armed with, Carrying, or Transporting a Firearm on School Grounds.

**Senate File 2224** – Going Armed with, Carrying, or Transporting a Firearm when Transporting a Person to or from a School or Delivering an Item to the School.

**Senate File 2283** – Authorizing Training Programs for Certain Emergency Medical Care (EMS) Providers.

**Senate File 2326** – Public Bidding.

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**Senate File 2330** – Compensation of College Athletes.

**Senate File 2391** – Prohibiting the State and Political Subdivisions of the State from Expending Public Moneys for Payment to Persons Responsible for Ransomware Attacks.

**Senate File 2395** – Lobbying Activities by Political Subdivisions.

**House File 12** – Providing for the Future of Certain Tax Credits.

**House File 2291** – Relating to the Authority of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission to Organize a Non-Profit Corporation.

**House File 2308** – Relating to the Definition of Meeting under the Iowa Open Meetings Law.

**House File 2375** – The Use of Electronic Communication Devices in a Voice-Activated or Hands-Free Mode while Driving.

**House File 2490** – Requiring the Iowa Department of Education Director to Establish a Low-Income Student and Poverty Weighting Work Group.

**House File 2504** – Requiring Consideration of Antisemitism by Governmental Entities when Investigating Possible Discriminatory Acts.

**House File 2550** – Relating to Lobbyist's Client Reports, including Verification of and the Filing Location for the Reports.

**House File 2568** – Establishment of a Cybercrime Investigation Unit in the Iowa Department of Public Safety to Investigate Crimes with a Nexus to the Internet or Computer Technology including Crimes Involving Child Exploitation and Cyber Intrusion.

**House File 2576** – Relating to Adjustments to the State Foundation Aid Paid to a School District following an Assessed Value Reduction for Certain Property.

**House File 2587** – Relating to the Administration of Elections.

**House File 2636** – Property Tax Classifications, Credits, Assessment Limitations, Exemptions, and Administration.

**House Study Bill 627** – Smoke Free Air Act.

**House Study Bill 634** – Relating to the Rights and Remedies Regarding Reprisals with Respect to Employees of the State and a Political Subdivision of the State.

**House Study Bill 657** – Mental Health Region Funding.

## LEGISLATION SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

**HF 2454** – *Qualifications for Community College Career and Technical Education Instructors* – Signed by the Governor on 6/1.

**SF 2082** – *Relating to matters involving the State Board of Education and the Iowa Department of Education to reflect current practices, technology, and titles, to delete redundancies, and to resolve inconsistencies* – Signed by the Governor on 6/1.

**HF 2267** – *Practice of Dentistry, including the Practice of Dental Hygiene and the Services of Dental Assistants* – Signed by the Governor on 3/12.

**HF 2647** – *Criminal Justice Reform* – *Relates to the certification, training, and prosecution of peace officers, and the used of chokeholds by peace officers.* Signed by the Governor on 6/12.

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

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