

Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Legislative Week 10

IOWA REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE (REC) MEETING NOTES

On Friday, March 19th, the Iowa Revenue Conference (REC) approved their state revenue projections for the current budget year, FY22, and FY23. Their projections included:

- Estimated that the current budget year would end June 30, 2021, with \$8.07-billion or 1.9% in revenue growth from the previous year. (The REC projection in December 2020 was \$7.96-billion or 0.5% in revenue growth).
- Revenue for FY22 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) was estimated at \$8.4-billion or 3.8% in revenue growth over the current year.
- Revenue for FY23 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) was estimated at \$8.76-billion or 4.5% in revenue growth.
- Iowa lost 117,000 jobs during the 12-months after January 2020 and only added 6,400 jobs during the past 3 months.

LEGISLATION MOVING DURING WEEK 10

Healthcare legislation:

House File (HF) 549 – Relating to regulatory provisions applicable to care provided in health care facilities and assisted living programs. The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), in cooperation with other agencies, shall establish a procedure to recognize the credentials of a person who is certified as a **medication aide** in another state to become certified in the state of Iowa without additional requirements for certification, including but not limited to, completion and passage of both the **certified nurse aide (CNA)** challenge examination or required employment in Iowa prior to certification, if upon the request of the person seeking certification, the DIA determines that the other state in which the person is certified has substantially similar certification requirements.

The DIA, in cooperation with other agencies, shall adopt or amend rules pursuant to Iowa Chapter 17A to allow a **nursing student** or a graduate nurse with an appropriate level of training to administer medications if the nursing facility documents that the nursing facility has implemented training and supervision measures to ensure the nursing student's or graduate nurse's competency in

safe medication administration. The rules shall not require the **nursing student** or graduate nurse to complete a medication course or challenge examination if the nursing facility meets such requirements.

The bill passed the Iowa House on 3/10 and was referred to the Senate Human Resources subcommittee of Costello, Edler, and Jochum.

Conduct of Election legislation:

Senate File (SF) 568 – Elections Omnibus – The bill relates to the conduct of elections including changes to nominations, proposed amendments to the Iowa Constitution, public measures, holding multiple elective offices, voter registration, ballots, voter identification, reporting election results, and county seals. The bill requires the following changes:

- County commissioners will be required to mail a notification to all registered voters eligible to vote on a public measure no later than 20 days before the election of the public measure regarding approval of the issuance of the bond in the months of March or September.
- The notification will include the date of the election of the public measure, the hours during which the polls will be

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open, and information on finding the voter's polling place, including the internet site and the telephone number of the County Commissioner's office, and the internet site for the County Commissioner's office.

- No notifications will be mailed by the County Commissioners for any public measure held in November.
- The costs associated for the County Commissioner to mail notifications to all registered eligible voters for a public measure held in March or September will be charged to the entity requesting the public measure.

The bill passed out of the Iowa Senate on 3/17 and was referred to the House State Government Committee.

Acquisition and Possession of Fire Arms legislation:

House File (HF) 756 – Firearms Omnibus – The bill relates to the acquisition and possession of weapons and makes numerous changes to Iowa's existing weapons laws. The changes include:

- Handgun safety training – Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to

adopt rules to approve organizations that may certify an individual as an instructor eligible to offer certain handgun safety training courses.

- The bill extends to the prohibition that bars a political subdivision from enacting an ordinance, motion, resolution, policy, or amendment regulating the ownership, possession, legal transfer, lawful transportation, modification, registration, or licensing of firearms and firearm attachments, or other weapons when the ownership, possession, transfer, transportation, or modification is otherwise lawful to include carrying firearms attachments, and other weapons.
- Removes the requirement for an individual to obtain a permit in order to purchase a handgun. Federal background checks would be required before each purchase is made from a licensed seller. The bill would not require Iowans to apply for the permit through the local Sheriff's office.
- The unlicensed sellers will need to run a background check on someone before selling a gun to the individual.

The bill passed out of the Iowa House on 3/17 and was attached to the companion bill Senate File (SF) 535 (On the Senate Calendar for Debate).

Broadband Expansion legislation:

House File 796 – The bill relates to the expansion of broadband in the state over the next 3 years. The bill establishes a matching grant program that would offer 20% of the grant funding to companies adding broadband in "difficult to serve" areas of the state at slower speeds. The total appropriation of funds needed for the initiative is \$450-million over 3 years and was one of the top priorities determined by Governor Reynold's Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

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