

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



## Legislative Week 11

### IOWA SESSION TIMETABLE

The week of March 29, 2021, represents the final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House Committees and House bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate Committees. Next Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, represents the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the 2021 session. (Joint Rule 20).

### APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

During the 2021 legislative session, the appropriations bills for **education**, Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF), agriculture and natural resources, justice systems, and the judicial branch will begin in the Iowa House and the appropriations bills for **economic development**, health and human services, transportation, and the standing bill will begin in the Iowa Senate.

### SPEAKER GRASSLEY ON IOWA PRESS

Speaker Pat Grassley will be the featured speaker on “Iowa Press” this weekend to discuss the 2021 legislative session. The show airs on Iowa PBS at 7:30pm on Friday, 8:30am on Saturday, and at Noon on Sunday.

### LEGISLATION MOVING DURING WEEK 11

#### *Continuing Education legislation:*

**Senate File (SF) 354** – Relating to **Continuing Education** requirements for persons holding certain professional and occupational licenses. The bill provides for extensions for the deadlines for individuals to complete **continuing education** requirements pursuant to Iowa Chapter 272C.2 by up to 90 days if a licensing board finds that a licensee is experiencing an unforeseen financial or medical hardship and the licensee submits all of the following:

- A request that a deadline be extended due to an unforeseen financial or medical hardship experienced by the licensee or a member of the licensee’s family, including an explanation and evidence of the hardship.
- Proof of enrollment in a program that will satisfy the licensee’s **continuing education** requirements prior of the expiration of the extension.
- A request for an extension of a **continuing education** requirement deadline shall be submitted to a licensing board no later than 60 days before the date the continuing education requirement must be completed.

- For the purposes of the bill, “unforeseen financial or medical hardship” means an unforeseeable emergency as defined in Federal Regulations C.F.R. 26.

The bill passed out of the House State Government Committee on 3/24 and moves to the House Calendar for Debate.

#### *Athletics legislation:*

**House File (HF) 364** – Relates to prohibited conduct by athlete agents and making penalties applicable. The bill prohibits conduct by athlete agents under Iowa Code Chapter 9A. HF 364 strikes language prohibiting an agent from furnishing anything of value to a **student athlete** before the **athlete** enters into an agency contract and also prohibiting furnishing anything of value to an individual other than the athlete or another registered athlete agent. The bill instead prohibits furnishing anything of value to an athlete or another individual, if doing so may result in loss of the **athlete’s eligibility** to participate in the **athlete’s sport**, unless 2 actions occur. The agent must notify the **athletic director of the educational institution** at which the **athlete** is enrolled, or at which the agent has reasonable grounds to believe the **athlete** intends to enroll, prior to the next scheduled **athletic event** in which the **athlete**

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may participate and not later than 72 hours after furnishing the thing of value.

HF 364 prohibits an agent from encouraging another individual to engage in conduct prohibited for agents, or from encouraging another individual to assist any other individual in engaging in conduct prohibited for agents.

A violation of any of the requirements in the bill is a serious misdemeanor. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 1 year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560. A violation may also result in a civil action for damages, a civil penalty of up to \$50,000, or the secretary of state refusing to issue, limiting, suspending, revoking, or effusing to renew a certificate of registration as an athlete agent.

The bill passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on 3/24 and moves to the Senate Calendar for Debate.

## ***Mental Health Funding and Industrial Property Tax Replacement legislation:***

**Senate File (SF) 587** – The bill relates to state and local government financing, programs, and operations, by modifying provisions relating to mental health and disability services funding, school district funding,

commercial and industrial property tax replacement payments, and other specified tax provisions. The bill was filed by the Senate Ways & Means Committee and will phase out the \$152 – million “backfill” to cities, counties, and schools that was part of a 2013 compromise to replace local revenue they lost when commercial and industrial tax rates were cut by 10%. SF 587 will put forth a process to **gradually repeal local mental-health property tax levies** and make changes to the funding and management of Iowa’s mental health and disabilities services systems, with the counties maintaining autonomy.

The bill will **eliminate the mental health property tax levy** over a 2-year period, with all county levies reduced to no more than \$21.14 per capita for fiscal year 2022 and reduced to zero beginning in fiscal year 2023. Under the bill, the state would provide for per capita appropriations to counties ranging from \$15.86 for fiscal year 2022 to \$42 by fiscal year 2025 with the goal to replace the funding for the **mental health levy** at the county-level.

SF 587 amends provisions related to county fund balances by requiring all county fund mental health balances to be pooled by the region and also does the following things:

- **Phase out the commercial and industrial property tax replacement funding for local government and schools while adjusting the school foundation percentage to account for the lost revenue.**
- **Eliminate a property tax levy school districts use to finance educational and recreational infrastructure.**
- Establish an additional elderly property tax credit for those over the age of 70.
- Remove the 2018 income-tax “triggers” already included in a previously passed Senate bill.
- Repeal the charitable conservation contribution income tax credit.
- Require the state to certify the management of property enrolled in the forest and fruit tree reservation property tax exemption program and renew the exemption every 5 years.

The bill was filed on 3/22 and passed through a subcommittee and full committee on 3/24.

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