

Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Legislative Week 16

SESSION TIMETABLE

The 110th day of the 2021 Iowa legislative session was on Friday, April 30th, which marked the final day that legislators are paid a per diem for their work at the Legislature.

LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE GOVERNOR

House File (HF) 848 – Broadband Expansion – The bill allocates \$100-million in funding to buildout Iowa’s broadband infrastructure. A total of \$95-million will be appropriated into state grants to expand broadband access in the state. Governor Reynolds signed the bill into law on April 28th.

HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

As of Friday, April 30th, the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate were still engaged in negotiations between both chambers on the FY22 state budget. The budget proposals reflect different spending plans important to the leadership in both chambers. The total FY22 House State Budget is \$4.085-billion and the total FY22 Senate State Budget is \$3.987-billion. Listed below are the following differences in the appropriations

bills for the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate:

Education Appropriations:

Iowa House – Proposes no increase in funding for the Regent institutions, along with a tuition freeze. Appropriates an increase of \$10-million for the Governor’s Future Ready Iowa (FRI) Last Dollar Scholarship program.

Iowa Senate – Appropriates an increase of \$8.2-million for Iowa’s Regent institutions to make up for the FY21 funding cut. Appropriates an increase of \$5-million for the Governor’s FRI Last Dollar Scholarship program.

Corrections Appropriations:

Iowa House – Appropriates an increase of \$20.5-million to the Iowa Department of Corrections for law enforcement and corrections services.

Iowa Senate – Appropriates an increase of \$5.9-million to the Iowa Department of Corrections for law enforcement and corrections services.

Health and Human Services Appropriations:

Iowa House – Appropriates \$2.048-billion to fulfill a commitment made in the Complex Mental Health Needs bill to fund rehabilitation services. Appropriates a \$20-million increase for nursing homes and an increase in \$12-million for

Medicaid waiver services providers.

Iowa Senate – Appropriates \$1.085-billion with \$50-million for the implementation of Senate File 587 to repeal the local mental health levy. Appropriates an increase of \$10-million for nursing homes and \$10-million to create a new mental health risk pool fund to assist counties.

Agriculture Appropriations:

Iowa House – Increases funding for the Iowa Renewables Fuels Infrastructure Fund from \$3-million to \$11-million.

Iowa Senate – Maintains the funding for the Iowa Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Fund at the same level or at \$3-million.

Economic Development Appropriations:

Iowa House – Appropriates an additional \$1.75-million for 260F job training program and \$750,000 for implementation of House File 847 (Butchery bill) to expand services and access to small and mid-size meat processing services.

Iowa Senate – Does not include either training program proposal in their budget.

ACTIVE LEGISLATION FOR WEEK 16

House File (HF) 889 – Vaccine Passports – Prohibits government

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and businesses from requiring proof of COVID vaccinations, documentation that verifies that a person has been vaccinated, or the use of “vaccine passports” from individuals to enter buildings. Certain health care settings (health and long-term care facilities) would be allowed to require proof of vaccination, but government agencies and/or state and local governments, public venues, and businesses would not be required to do so. Any business in the state that requires proof of vaccination from customers, clients, or others will become ineligible for state contracts. *The bill passed out of the Iowa House on April 28th and was referred to the Iowa Senate for consideration.*

House File (HF) 802 – Stereotyping Training Ban (Racism Training) – The bill adds a new section in the Iowa Code Section 261H.7 – **Race and Sex Stereotyping – Training by Institution Prohibited**. HF 802 provides requirements related to racism or sexism trainings, and to diversity and inclusion efforts, at or by school districts and public postsecondary educational institutions. HF 802 lists “specified defined concepts” that cannot be taught in mandatory training efforts and in K-12 school curriculum. On April 28th, an amendment was approved in the Iowa Senate which would allow training leaders to answer questions pertaining to divisive

topics, now called “specific defined concepts” in addition to policies which result in sexism, racism, segregation or oppression. Every institution of higher education may continue training that fosters a workplace and learning environment that is respectful of all employees and students. However, the President, Vice Presidents, Deans, Department Directors, or any other Administrator of a public institution of higher education shall ensure that any mandatory staff or student training provided by an employee of the institution or by a contractor hired by the institution does not to teach, advocate, act upon, or promote divisive concepts. “Race or Sex Stereotyping” means ascribing character traits, values, moral and technical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a race or sex, or to an individual because of the individual’s race or sex. *The bill passed out of the Iowa Senate and was referred back to the Iowa House for reconsideration on 4/28.*

House File (HF) 744 – Education First Amendment – The bill provides for first amendment rights training, prohibitions, and requirements at or by school districts and higher education institutions. Each institution of higher education shall provide training on free speech under the first amendment to the U. S. Constitution to all students,

faculty, and staff on an annual basis.

Under the Board of Regents, a new section was added in the bill (Iowa Code Section 261H.7) called the **Student Government Organizations – Student Fees – Appeals – Liability**. If the it is determined as of the result of an appeals process by the student organization, the student organization knowingly or intentionally violated the first amendment rights of a member of the campus community or that an action or decision of a student government organization is in violation of this section, the institution shall suspend the student organization’s authority to manage and disburse student fees for a period of one year and managed and disbursed by the institution.

House File (HF) 744 was voted out of the House on 4/28 with the approval of two amendments and moves back to the Senate for reconsideration.

For more information about the activity during the 2021 legislative session, please contact:

Cindy Schulte, Director of Governmental Affairs
Cindy.Schulte@iavalley.edu or
call: Cell: 641.485.4456
Office: 641.844.5602