

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



## Legislative Week 18

### WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

During the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>, the chambers of the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate were in session overtime and did not meet to address legislation pending on their respective calendars for debate.

### HOUSE AND SENATE VERSIONS OF PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION

Recently, the House and Senate leadership have been in negotiations to pass a major tax bill during the 2021 legislative session. House File 893 and Senate File 619 were filed in the Ways & Means Committees in each chamber and reflect similarities and a wide range of differences with both versions.

*The similarities between both bills are:*

**2018 Tax Triggers** – Both bills remove “triggers” from a 2018 income tax bill that would allow income tax cuts to take place in 2023.

**Child Care Tax Credits** – Both bills raise parents’ income limitations from \$45,000 to \$90,000 for eligibility for child

care tax credits. The tax credits reimburse parents for 25% of the first \$1,000 spent on child care.

**Telehealth Parity** – Insurance company must reimburse mental health providers for appointments conducted electronically at the same rate they would for an in-person visit.

**COVID-19 Grant Tax Exemption** – Both bills exempt COVID-19 grants from income taxes.

**Disaster Housing and Eviction Prevention Programs** – Both bills create housing programs to assist after a natural disaster and to prevent eviction.

**Energy Infrastructure Loans** – Both bills create a loan program for energy infrastructure projects.

*The differences between both bills include:*

**Mental Health Funding** – The Senate proposal is to fund the state’s mental health services through a state appropriation rather than through a county mental health levy.

**Property Tax Backfill** – The Senate bill phases out the backfill which was a promise in 2013 to pay local governments back for commercial property tax cuts.

**Tax Payer Relief Fund** – The House would set a cap of \$120-million for the Tax Payer Relief Fund which was created in 2011. Under the House bill, once the Fund exceeds the cap amount, the money would become a tax credit for Iowans who filed individual income tax returns.

**Rural Economic Development Tax Credit** – The House creates a new tax credit for businesses that open in rural Iowa.

**Volunteer Fire Fighter/EMS/Reserve Officer Tax Credit** – Volunteer fire fighters, emergency medical responders, and reserve peace officers can claim a \$250 tax credit instead of \$100 under the House bill.

### LEGISLATION SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

**Senate File (SF) 562** – A bill for an act relating to sexual exploitation by an adult providing training or instruction. The bill was signed into law by the Governor on 5/12.

### STATUS OF PENDING COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATION

**House File (HF) 868 and Senate File (SF) 596 – FY22 Education Appropriations** – HF 868 passed out of the House on 5/6 and was

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



referred to the Senate. SF 596 was placed on the Senate Appropriations Calendar for Debate on 4/13.

**Senate File (SF) 568** – Conduct of Elections and the requirement to mail notification to all registered voters for bond referendum elections held in April or September. The bill was placed on the House Calendar of Unfinished Business on 4/8.

**House File (HF) 786** – An act relating to the assessment of fees when a person requests an examination and copying public records. The bill was referred to the House Ways & Means Committee.

**House File (HF) 871 and Senate File (SF) 595** – Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Finance Authority, and 260F training program appropriations. House File 871 passed out of the House on 5/7 and was referred to the Senate. Senate File 595 passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/6 and was placed on the Senate Appropriations Calendar for Debate on 4/7.

**House File (HF) 802** – An act providing for requirements related to racism or sexism training at, and diversity and inclusion efforts by, school districts and postsecondary educational institutions. The bill

was sent to the Governor's Office on 5/5 for her signature.

**House File (HF) 744** – An act providing for training, prohibitions, and requirements relating to first amendment rights at school districts and universities governed by the State Board of Regents. The bill was sent to the Governor's Office on 5/5 for her signature.

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

Cindy Schulte, Director of Governmental Affairs  
[Cindy.Schulte@iavalley.edu](mailto:Cindy.Schulte@iavalley.edu) or  
call: Cell: 641.485.4456  
Office: 641.844.5602