

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



## Legislative Week 2

### Iowa Valley Legislators Serve on Key Education Committees

During this session, Senator Annette Sweeney (R-Alden) and Representative Sue Cahill (D-Marshalltown) were assigned to serve on the Senate and House Education Committees. Both legislators will also play a key role on the Joint Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The Joint Education Appropriation Subcommittee will be responsible for the approval of the FY22 and FY23 state education fiscal budgets. Sweeney and Cahill both serve constituents who reside in the IVCCD-region.

### House Information Technology Committee Established

During this session, a new committee was established in the Iowa House called the “Information Technology Committee.” The new committee consisting of legislators will focus on ensuring broadband access to all Iowans and addressing cybersecurity needs of the state. Governor Reynolds released her *Condition of the State* message during the first week of the session which included funding for the expansion of broadband in every part of the state over the next three years.

### Community College Presentation Scheduled

Iowa’s Community Colleges will present their need for more State General Aid (SGA) and success stories on how they handled the pandemic before the House Education Appropriation Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Any public members will be able to attend the meeting virtually by going to the Iowa Legislature Education Appropriations Committee website at:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/meetings/meetingsListComm?groupID=675&ga=89>

### Redistricting Process

Iowa law requires the Iowa Legislative Services Agency (LSA) every 10 years to provide the Iowa Senate and the Iowa House with its first plan for redistricting as the result of the Census Bureau reporting. Once the Census Bureau releases its data, LSA is required to work in a non-partisan manner to provide the Iowa Legislature with a plan for redistricting that follows criteria set by the Iowa Constitution and the Iowa Code. As of last week, the U. S. Census Bureau was late in reporting the apportionment report, which means there will be a delay in the release of the data to the state. The redistricting process is addressed by the Iowa Legislature every 10 years and defines the new Congressional and State legislative districts, which set

the standards for nonpartisanship and fairness across the country.

### Active Legislation

**Senate File 105** – Relates to the establishment of a criminal offense of sexual exploitation of a student with a disability by an employee of a Community College. Filed by Senator Brown (R-Osage) and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee: J. Taylor, Johnson, and Petersen.

**House File 49** – Prohibits tenure systems at the institutions of higher learning governed by the State Board of Regents. Filed by Representative Holt (R-Denison) and was referred to the House Education Subcommittee: Wheeler, Mascher, and Wills.

**House File 6** – Establishes a childcare workforce state matching grant program and a fund administered by the early childhood workforce state board who will award matching state grants to eligible communities (includes an appropriation. Filed by A. Meyer (R-Fort Dodge) and was referred to the House Human Resources Subcommittee: Dolecheck, Andrews, and Ehlert.

**House Study Bill 110 and Senate Study Bill 1077** – Relates to eligibility requirements for students under the Iowa Senior Year Plus Program. Filed by the Iowa Department of Education and

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was referred to the House Education Subcommittee: Sorenson, Mascher, and Dolecheck and the Senate Education Subcommittee: Sinclair, J. Smith, and J. Taylor. (Legislation was also filed during the 2020 session and did not make it out of the House Chamber).

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  
Cell: 641.485.4456  
Office: 641.844.5602

**Senate Study Bill 1029** – Requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees based on pregnancy or childbirth. Filed by the Senate Labor & Business Relations Committee and was referred to the Senate Subcommittee: Driscoll, Boulton, and Whiting.

**Senate Study Bill 1036 and House Study Bill 28** – Restricts public agency disclosure of and access to certain personal information related to tax-exempt organizations. Filed by Senator Zaun (R-Urbandale) and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee: Johnson, Bolckcom, and Shipley and passed out of the House Education Subcommittee: Lohse, Bohannan, and Westrich on 1/21.

**House Study Bill 66** – Relates to nonstate moneys expended by the Iowa Board of Regents and institutions governed by the Iowa Board of Regents. Filed by the House Education Committee and passed out of the House Education Subcommittee: Wills, Steckman, and Thompson on 1/21.