

Iowa Valley Community College District 2021 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Legislative Week 9

IOWA REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE (REC) MEETING SET

On Friday, March 19th, the Iowa Revenue Conference (REC) will meet to determine the FY22 and FY23 state revenue estimates which will determine the state budget for the session.

LEGISLATION MOVING

Healthcare legislation:

House File (HF) 737 – Relating to the placement of dental sealants on teeth by a **dental assistant**. The bill relates to the scope of practice of dental assistants and provides instead that level one expanded function procedures for **dental assistants** shall include the placement of dental sealants on teeth and that a registered dental assistant who has successfully completed training for the placement of dental sealants on teeth through a program certified by the commission on dental accreditation or through another program or entity approved by the Iowa Dental Board may place dental sealants on teeth.

Open Meetings and Public Records Law legislation:

House File (HF) 786 – Relates to the assessment of fees when a

person requests examination and copying of public records. The bill provides that the lawful custodian of a public record shall make every effort to provide a public record requested at little or no cost. In the event additional expenses are necessary, such expenses shall be reasonable and communicated to the requester upon receipt of the request. Any estimated expense in excess of \$500.00 creates a rebuttable presumption that such expenses are not reasonable.

Senate File (SF) 425- Relates to the definition of meeting and public notice requirements under the Open Meetings law. The bill amends the definition of a meeting that is subject to the requirements of the Open Meetings law by expanding the definition to include any deliberations or actions (including recommendations) taken by a **governmental body** as defined in the Open Meetings law, that are within a **governmental body's** budgetary duties. The bill provides that reasonable notice of a meeting shall include providing notice on an internet site if available. The bill excludes weekend days and paid holidays as specified in Code section 1C.2 when determining the 24-hour time period for purposes of public notice under the Open Meetings law.

Freedom of Speech legislation:

House File (HF) 802 – Provides requirements related to racism or sexism trainings, and to diversity and inclusion efforts, at or by school districts and **postsecondary educational institutions**. The bill requires that the president of the **institution** must ensure that any mandatory staff or student training be provided by an employee of the institution or by a contractor hired by the institution does not teach, advocate, act upon, or promote divisive concepts, which the bill defines to include that one race or sex is inherently superior to another; that Iowa or the United States is fundamentally or systematically racist or sexist; that an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive; that an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex; that members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex; that an individual's character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex; that an individual bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex; that any individual should feel psychological distress on account of that individual's race or sex; that meritocracy or traits such as hard work ethic are racist or sexist; or were created by a particular race

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to oppress another race; and any form of race or sex scapegoating or any other form of race or sex stereotyping.

Institution diversity and inclusion efforts must discourage employees and students of an **institution** from discriminating against another by color, race, ethnicity, sex, political ideology, or any other characteristic protected under the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 or applicable state law.

Senate File (SF) 478 – Provides for the first amendment rights training, prohibitions, and requirements at or by **postsecondary educational institutions**. The bill requires each **postsecondary institution of higher education** to develop materials, programs, and procedures to ensure that those persons who are responsible for discipline, instruction, or administration of the campus community, and who have oversight of student government organizations, or distribute activity fee funds, understand the policies, regulations, and duties of the institution regarding free expression on the campus. The **institutions of higher education** must protect the first amendment rights of its students, staff, and faculty and must establish and publicize policies that prohibit institutional restrictions and penalties based on protected speech. An **institution** shall not

retaliate against a person filing a discrimination complaint. The bill requires that a faculty member shall be subject to discipline by the **institution** and any student government organization that knowingly and intentionally violates the first amendment rights of a member of the **campus community** or is in violation of provisions in the bill will allow the institution the right to suspend the student government organization's authority to manage and disperse student fees for a period of two years.

The bill requires the **institution** to provide to each student and each student government organization instruction and training on the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution, including descriptions of what is or is not protected under the amendment.

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