

Iowa Valley Community College District 2017 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Week of March 27th

Revised Governor's FY18 and FY19 Budgets Proposed

On Tuesday, March 28, Governor Branstad released his administration's revised state budget for the FY18 period. The budget included a plan to take \$131 million from the Cash Reserves Fund to cover the shortfall in FY17 state revenues. His plan includes using \$104.8 million of the FY18 ending balance and \$26.3 million of the FY19 ending balance to cover the balance of the amount borrowed from the Fund. The FY18 budget spends \$173 million less than his January budget or reflects an increase in new money of \$24 million over the FY17 budget. The revised FY18 budget includes:

- 50% cut to the Community College GAP Tuition Assistance Program
- 50% cut to the Community College PACE Program
- 50% cut to the Community College Intermediary Network Coordinator Program
- 50% cut to the Community College Adult Literacy and ELL Program
- An additional \$1.2 million cut to Community College State General Aid (SGA) for a total SGA cut of \$5.950 million (out of \$198.4 million)

- A cut of \$24,151 to Community College Supplemental Salaries
- 2% increase for K-12 schools
- \$42 million increase for Medicaid
- \$3.7 million for water quality
- \$86.2 million cut for human services
- \$58.4 million cut to the education budget
- Regent SGA cuts of \$5.9 million at ISU, \$5.3 million at Iowa, and less than \$1 million at UNI.
- \$7.8% cut to the judicial branch
- \$4.6 million cut to the legislative branch
- \$4.9 million increase to the prison/correctional systems

The Governor's FY19 budget includes an increase in school district funding of 2%, \$78.2 million more for Medicaid, \$17.5 million more for the technology reinvestment fund, and \$10 million for the Future Ready Iowa initiative.

2017 ACTIVE LEGISLATION

Senate File 475 – Education Regulation Omnibus – Makes numerous regulatory changes in the areas of the Iowa Department of Education control over local district operations, dental and vision screening requirements, online learning, community college

courses for high school students, fees for open enrollment, and accreditation of nonpublic schools.

Senate File 240 – Assessments – Requires the Iowa Department of Education to request and choose a statewide assessment for student achievement and growth measurements that measures Iowa's academic standards. A new assessment standard will not go into effect for the 2017/2018 school year.

Senate File 349 – Iowa Tuition Grant – Removes the individual student cap for maximum award on the Iowa Tuition Grant of \$6,000.

House File 565 – School District Flexibility Fund – Allows the creation of a Flexibility Fund in each district, the purpose of which is to collect unexpended and unobligated funds from a few different sources of categorical funding and allow the district to use those funds to enhance local programs. (School districts currently have over 74 identified sources of funding that school districts statewide have leftover funds in to the tune of over \$146 million (a \$17.5 million increase over FY14) and much of the funding cannot be spent.) HF 565 creates additional spending authority for districts to use the funds in a broader perspective.

House File 564 – School District Fund Flexibility – Provides new

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allowable uses for specific funding received by school districts, including professional development, at-risk/dropout preventions, preschool, PPEL funding, talented and gifted funding, and student activity fund dollars.

House File 507/Senate File 274 – Computer Science Education – Encourages school districts to provide computer science courses in grades K-12, requires standards for such classes be developed, and creates opportunities for training in this area.

House File 136/Senate File 166 – Supplemental State FY18, Regular Program and Categorical and Law Changes – Sets Supplemental State Aid (SSA) at 1.11% for FY18 for school districts (\$73 per pupil increase or an increase of \$40 million in school aid).

House Study Bill 187 – An Act relating to state revenue and finance limiting the total amount of certain tax expenditures that may be claimed in a fiscal year, providing for transfers to the taxpayers trust fund, and eliminating the refundability of Iowa tax credits, including effective date and applicability provisions. The bill was filed by the House Appropriations Committee and was referred to a subcommittee of Representatives Grassley, Deyoe and Hall.

House File 334 – An Act providing a deduction from the individual income tax for the amount of interest paid on a qualified education loan and including retroactive applicability provisions. The bill was filed by R. Taylor and was referred to the House Ways & Means Committee on 2/15.

House File 306 – An Act relating to the requirements for nurse aide training and testing programs provided by or in a nursing facility. The bill was filed by Rep. Dave Heaton (R-Mt. Pleasant) and was voted out of the House on 3/13 and out of the Senate Human Resource Committee on 3/22. Remains on the Senate Regular Calendar for Debate.

House File 182 – An Act authorizing the adjutant general of Iowa to waive certain requirements and limitations of the Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program under certain conditions. The bill was filed by Representative Nunn (R-Bondurant) and was voted out of House Veterans Affairs Committee on 2/22. Remains on the House Regular Calendar for Debate.

House File 265 – An Act prohibiting the state, counties, cities, and certain postsecondary educational institutions from limiting or restricting enforcement of federal immigration laws and the establishment of sanctuary

cities. The bill was filed by the House Public Safety Committee and was voted out of the committee on 2/7. The bill remains in the House Ways & Means Committee.

House File 517– An Act relating to offensive and dangerous weapons, and the justifiable use of reasonable and deadly force, including carrying, possessing, transferring, and acquiring weapons, the purchase and regulation of such weapons, and providing penalties. The bill was filed by the House Judiciary Committee and passed out of the House on 3/7 and passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on 3/15. The bill was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

House File 569/Senate File 463 – An Act concerning authorized investment vehicles in a tax-sheltered investment program established by the Iowa Department of Administrative Services. HF 569 was filed by the House State Government Committee and passed out of the full committee on 3/2 and moves to the House Regular Calendar for Debate. SF 463 was filed by the Senate State Government Committee and passed out of the full committee on 3/1 and remains on the Senate Regular Calendar for Debate.

House File 474 – An Act relating to the disposition or modification

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of uncollectible student debt owed to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. The bill was filed by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission and passed out of the House Education Committee on 2/22 and moves to the House Regular Calendar for Debate.

House File 566 – *An Act relating to political subdivision elections changing the date of the election of directors of local school districts, merged areas, and area education agency boards, by providing for the combined administration of regular and special school and city elections, making changes to the administration of elections for political subdivisions located in more than one county, establishing requirements for ballot arrangement and placement for political subdivision offices. The bill was filed by Representative Highfill. Passed out of the House on 3/23 and passed out of the Senate State Government Committee on 3/30.*

House File 473/Senate File 350 – *An Act relating to high school equivalency programs and assessments and including effective date provisions. The bill was filed by the Iowa Department of Education. Both bills did not make it through the funnel process this week, which would have required the HF 473 to have been voted out of the Senate Education committee and SF 350 to have been voted out of the House Education committee.*

House File 514 – *An Act modifying the membership of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. The bill was filed by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission and was voted out of the House Education Committee on 3/1. The bill remains on the House Regular Calendar for Debate.*

Legislation Signed into Law

House File 518 – *An Act relating to worker's compensation and including effective date and applicability provisions. The bill was signed by the Governor on 3/30.*

Senate File 130 – *An Act relating to the public funding and regulatory matters and making, reducing, transferring, and supplementing appropriations for expenditures in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and including effective date provisions. The bill was filed by the Governor's Office and was signed into law on 2/1.*

Senate File 166 – *An Act relating to the state school foundation program and including effective date and applicable provisions. The bill was filed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and was signed into law on 2/8.*

House File 231 – *An Act relating to the powers and programs of the Iowa Economic Development*

Authority (EDA), including apprentice eligibility under the apprenticeship training program. The bill was filed by the EDA and was signed into law on 3/1.

House File 291 – *An Act relating to employment matters involving public employees including collective bargaining, educator employment matters, personnel records and settlement agreements, city civil service requirements, and health insurance matters. The bill was filed by the House Labor Committee and was signed into law on 2/17.*

For more information about the activity during the 2017 legislative session please contact:
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