

# Iowa Valley Community College District 2017 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



## Week of April 3rd

### Joint House/Senate Budget Targets Released

On April 4, the leadership in the House and Senate released their target numbers for the FY18 budget process. The target plans spend \$14 million less than the FY17 state budget, \$7.2657 billion. The Iowa Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) set the FY18 budget at \$7.3645 billion. The budget plan released includes funding to support the backfill of the “Cash Reserve Account” with the anticipation that additional payments will be made to the account in the FY19 budget. The budget targets included a decrease in the Governor’s revised budget by \$38.6 million, with a cut in education funding of \$11.8 million. *It is anticipated that during the week of April 10, the spreadsheets for each individual budget will be released in each of the respective appropriation committees.*

After the REC lowered the FY17 General Fund revenue by \$131.1 million, the Governor recommended correcting the imbalance in the General Fund by transferring the funds from the Cash Reserve Fund.

The Governor released a revised FY18 budget on Mar. 29 which cut community college State General Aid (SGA) by an additional \$1.2 million and the Iowa Skilled

Worker and Job Creation Fund by \$10.1 million (PACE, GAP, ACE, and ABE funding).

## 2017 ACTIVE LEGISLATION

**House Study Bill 196** – *An Act relating to career and technical education programs and partnerships and including effective date provisions.* Referred to the House Appropriation subcommittee of R. Taylor, Rogers and Bearing on 4/4.

**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.* Passed out of the House Education Committee on 3/29.

**Senate File 349** – *Iowa Tuition Grant – Removes the individual student cap for maximum award of \$6,000 on the Iowa Tuition Grant.* Passed out of the House Education Committee on 3/15.

**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.* Passed out of the House Appropriations Committee on 3/29.

**House Study Bill 187** – *An Act relating to state revenue and finance that limits the total amount of certain tax expenditures that may be claimed in a fiscal year, provides for transfers to the taxpayers trust fund, and eliminates 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. The bill passed out of the Senate and was sent to the Governor’s Office on 4/4.

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**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 was re-referred to the House Public Safety Committee on 4/4.

**House File 569** – *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, passed out of the full committee on 3/2 and passed out of the House on 3/28; it remains on the Senate Unfinished Business Calendar.

**House File 474** – *An Act relating to the disposition or modification of uncollectible student debt owed to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.* The bill was filed by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. It passed out of the House Education Committee on 2/22 and was referred back to the Committee on 4/4.

**House File 566** – *An Act relating to political subdivision elections by changing the date of the election of directors of local school districts, merged areas, and area education*

*agency boards, 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, and establishing requirements for ballot arrangement and placement for political subdivision offices.* The bill was filed by Rep. Highfill. It passed out of the House on 3/23, passed out of the Senate and was sent to the Governor on 4/4.

**House File 473 and 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 have been placed on the House and Senate Unfinished Business Calendars.

**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 was referred back to the Committee on 4/4.

## 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 by the Governor 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.

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