

Iowa Valley Community College District 2017 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



Week of April 10th

Joint House/Senate Appropriation Committee Releases Education Budget

On Tuesday, April 11, the leadership in the House and Senate released their target FY18 budget number for education spending. The total appropriation for Community College State General Aid (SGA) was \$201,190,889, and the Faculty Supplemental Salaries was removed from the state budget. The increase in FY18 funding for Community College SGA was \$1.1 million, but in comparison to the FY17 budget, the total SGA still reflects a decrease in SGA of \$3.75 million. The funding for the GAP Tuition Assistance program, PACE program, ACE program, ABE/ELL program, and the Intermediary Network program were all restored to the 100% level appropriated in FY17.

The education funding for FY18 reflected a decrease of \$50.8 million in comparison to FY17 or a total appropriation of nearly \$902 million.

Iowa High School Graduation Rate Increases

On April 11, the Iowa Department of Education (DE) released a report that showed the state's graduation rate for the Class of 2016 has increased from 90.8% to

91.3% compared to the Class of 2015. The focus on graduation rates has been part of the NCLB successor, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Graduation rates for African-Americans, Hispanic, and white students increased and rates decreased among Asian, Native Americans, special education, low-income, and non-native English speaking students. During the last three years Iowa has seen a growth of student graduation rates of 3%.

2017 ACTIVE LEGISLATION

House File 642 and Senate File 511 – Education Appropriations. Referred to the Senate Appropriation and House Appropriation Committees. Passed out of the House Appropriation Committee on 4/12 and the Senate Appropriation Committee on 4/13.

House File 643 – Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) Appropriations. Referred to the House Appropriation Committee on 4/12 and voted out of the committee on 4/13.

House File 648 – 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 Bearinger on 4/4. Passed out of the House Appropriation Committee on 4/12.

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 on the Iowa Tuition Grant of \$6,000. 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. On the House Regular Business Calendar.

House Study Bill 187 – An Act relating to state revenue and finance by 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

Iowa Valley Community College District 2017 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



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 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 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 and passed out of the House Education Committee on 2/22. It was re-referred to the House Education Committee 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, 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, passed out of the Senate and sent to the Governor on 4/10.

House File 473 – *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. HF 473 passed out of the Senate with S-amendment 3287 on 4/10 and was messaged back to the House for consideration.

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. It was re-referred to the House Education Committee 4/4.

Legislation Signed into Law

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 signed by the Governor's Office on 4/12.

House File 572 – *An Act relating to employment services programs administered by the department of workforce development by modifying the membership requirements of the Iowa workforce development board and authorizing the department to carry out unemployment insurance systems modernization, making appropriations, and including effective date provisions.* Signed by the Governor on 4/13.

Senate File 438 – *An Act relating to bidding and contracting for public improvement projects, making penalties applicable, and*

Iowa Valley Community College District 2017 Legislative Updates

By Cindy S. Schulte, IVCCD Director of Governmental Affairs



including effective date and applicability provisions. Signed by the Governor on 4/13.

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 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.

For more information about the activity during the 2017 legislative session please contact:
Cindy Schulte, Director of Governmental Affairs

Cindy.Schulte@iavalley.edu or
Cell: 641.485.4456
Office: 641.844.5602