



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (94-68)

FOOD SERVICE RULES APPROVED BY ISBE

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved revised food service rules last week and again, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) will consider the proposal. More information on the latest rule proposal is contained in Alliance Legislative Report (94-67) at www.iasb.com/files/alr-9467.htm.

The ISBE sent a proposed rule to JCAR in April that addressed food service and “junk food” in elementary and secondary schools, but due to intense lobbying by the Alliance and other interested organizations, the committee prohibited the overly-restrictive rule from advancing. In this draft of the rule, the ISBE did scale back slightly on the requirements for schools, but it still dictates a list of allowable foods that can be sold in elementary and secondary schools. The Alliance believes that the local school district has – and should retain – the authority to make such decisions.

Last week the ISBE approved the rule proposal on an identical vote as in April – 7-2 (see Alliance Legislative Report 94-53, www.iasb.com/files/alr-9453.htm). The ISBE plans to place these new rules on the agenda for JCAR’s July meeting. If no action is taken by JCAR to stop the advancement of this new rulemaking, the rule will be in place for the beginning of the 2006-07 school year that begins this fall.

GOVERNOR SIGNS EDUCATION BILLS

In addition to having signed into law the appropriations bill and other budget-related bills, Governor Rod Blagojevich has signed several education-related bills into law already this summer. The following is a list of some of the important measures the Governor has addressed thus far. A complete list of education-related bills approved by the General Assembly this spring is available in the Alliance Digest of Bills Passed which can be found on-line at: www.iasb.com/files/billspassed06.htm.

HB 4310 (Kosel, R-New Lenox) originally contained the language that required school board members to receive training approved by the Regional Office of Education. As amended, the training provisions were deleted from the bill and it now contains only the requirement that newly elected school board members take an oath of office and states school board duties. **Public Act 94-0881, effective June 20, 2006.**

HB 4365 (Black, R-Danville) allows cooperative high schools to receive some of the same supplementary State aid that new districts receive. **Public Act 94-0902, effective July 1, 2006.**

HB 4463 (Meyer, R-Bolingbrook) amends the Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act of the Illinois Pension Code. In the definition of "pension credit", it provides that the one-year limitation does not apply to persons who move from participation with a school district as a teacher aide under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Article to participation under the Downstate Teacher Article of the Code. **Public Act 94-0834 , effective June 6, 2006.**

HB 4768 (D’Amico, D-Chicago) increases the hours of driver’s education behind-the-wheel instruction a minor is required to complete (as certified by the parents) to 50 (rather than 25), at least 10 hours of which must have been at night. **Public Act 94-0897, effective June 22, 2006.**

HB 4782 (Nekritz, D-Northbrook), as amended, prohibits a vehicle using diesel fuel with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of more than 8,000 pounds (including a school bus) from idling its engine for more than 5 minutes within any 60 minute period in the counties of Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, McHenry, Will, Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe and the townships of Aux Sable and Goose Lake in Grundy County, the township of Oswego in Kendall County, and Baldwin Township in Randolph County. **Public Act 94-0845, effective July 1, 2006.**

HB 4789 (Flider, D-Mt. Zion) re-enacts the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption and increases the maximum reduction for the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption from \$3,000 to \$3,500 for taxable years 2006 and thereafter and increases the maximum income limitation in the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption from \$45,000 to \$50,000 for taxable years 2006 and thereafter. **Public Act 94-0794, effective May 22, 2006.**

HB 4832 (Flider) creates the Community Service Education Act to allow a school district to establish and operate a community service education program that qualifies for a grant from the State Board of Education. **Public Act 94-0904 , effective June 22, 2006.**

HB 5331 (Eddy, R-Hutsonville) allows TRS annuitants to work for a school district for 120 paid days or 600 paid hours in each school year through June 30, 2011. The law was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2006.

Public Act 94-0914 , effective June 23, 2006.

HB 5375 (Chavez, D-Cicero) addresses mandating reporting of child abuse or sex abuse of a minor. The bill states that “If an allegation is raised to a school board member during the course of an open or closed school board meeting that a child who is enrolled in the school district of which he or she is a board member is an abused child as defined in Section 3 of this Act, the member shall direct or cause the school board to direct the superintendent of the school district or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the requirements of this Act concerning the reporting of child abuse.” **Public Act 94-0888 , effective June 20, 2006.**

SB 2303 (Burzynski, R-Sycamore) provides that any person who is certified in first aid or has completed a course of instruction in first aid, who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to any person shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except willful and wanton misconduct on the part of the person, in providing the care, be liable to a person to whom such care is provided for civil damages. **Public Act 94-0825 , effective July 1, 2006.**

SB 2829 (Lightford, D-Maywood) contains the State Board of Education’s “Less Red Tape” initiative to streamline paperwork for school districts and to delete obsolete language from the School Code. It makes changes regarding the school building code, school and district improvement plans, the waiver and modification of mandates, staff development plans, local learning objectives and assessments, criminal history records checks of school district employees, the limitation on administrative costs, the State aid formula, school holidays, and transportation reimbursement claims. **Public Act 94-0875, effective July 1, 2006.**

SB 2882 (Link, D-Vernon Hills) amend the current Class Size Reduction Grant Act to create a pilot program to be implemented and administered by the State Board of Education. They provide that grants shall be awarded to schools to defray the costs and expenses of operating and maintaining classes of no more than 15 pupils per teacher per class. **Public Act 94-0894, effective July 1, 2006.**

SB 2898 (Hunter, D-Chicago) in provisions that require a public or nonpublic school to permit the self-administration of medication by a pupil with asthma, it adds the requirement that the school also permit the self-administration of medication by a pupil with allergies. **Public Act 94-0792, effective May 19, 2006.**

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The full list of the “memorandums of understanding” entered into among the Governor’s office, legislators, and various State agencies is available on the House Speaker’s website. Such memos are a relatively new phenomenon in the legislature, having been used the last three years as the final State budget package is being put together. Generally, they spell out the agreement on where earmarked funds will be spent. In the past, such spending was labeled as “member initiatives” by the legislature, or more often by the press, “pork barrel” spending.

This year there is over \$70 million pledged for nearly 280 separate spending items. Last year, there were 80 separate deals for a total of \$20 million. Many of the memorandums for this year are for projects in school districts. When checking the list on the Speaker’s website, check under “State Board of Education”.

The list can be found at: www.housedem.state.il.us/

Alliance Legislative Reports:
Bill Text/Status: Illinois General Assembly

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