



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (94-71)

PENSION "CLEAN UP" BILL SIGNED

Governor Rod Blagojevich Monday signed **SB 49 (Schoenberg, D-Evanston)**, the bill that makes adjustments to last year's teacher's pension law. Most of the changes are exemptions to the 6% salary limitation. The bill now becomes **Public Act 94-1057**, effective July 31, 2006. The new law:

- States that a school district reorganization constitutes a change in employment, thus exempting the salary from the 6% limitation;
- Gives the local school district an opportunity to dispute the TRS penalty calculation places a July 1, 2011 expiration date on the changes;
- Exempts from the 6% salary limitation "overload" work salary;
- Exempts from the 6% salary limitation salary increases from an in-district promotion that requires a change in certificates;
- Exempts from the 6% salary limitation salary paid to a teacher when the teacher is 10 or more years from retirement eligibility;
- Exempts from the 6% salary limitation salary paid to a teacher from the State over which the school district has no discretion (Master Teacher stipend);
- Requires TRS to prepare a report that gives details of the costs and payments of the program; and
- Gives school districts 90 days (instead of 30 days) to pay the contribution to TRS. A school district may go beyond 90 days (up to 3 years) to make the payment, but would be assessed an 8 ½ % interest charge by TRS.

GOVERNOR SIGNS MORE EDUCATION BILLS

Governor Rod Blagojevich has signed the following education-related bills into law:

SB 585 (Cullerton, D-Chicago) amends the Open Meetings Act to redefine a "meeting" to include gatherings, whether in person or by telephone call, video or audio conference, electronic means (such as e-mail, chat, and instant messaging), or other means of contemporaneous interactive communication for the purpose of discussing public business. It requires that the number of public body members necessary to constitute a quorum must be physically present at an open meeting and permits participation and voting by other members by audio and video conference. The bill also requires that a quorum of members of a public body must be physically present at a closed meeting and permits participation and voting by other members by video or audio conference. The bill becomes **Public Act 94-1058, effective January 1, 2007.**

SB 860 (Demuzio, D-Carlinville) restructures the processes for the mentoring, evaluation, and induction of new principals in Illinois. It establishes a new principal mentoring program in July 1, 2007 to allow experienced principals to serve as mentors to new principals during their first year as principal (subject to annual appropriations). The bill also recommends that continuing professional development for renewal of an administrative certificate must include Completion of an Administrators' Academy course in each of the 6 Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium standard areas in the first five years of serving as an administrator in a position that requires certification and introduces a "Master Principal" designation program. It requires each school district to establish a principal evaluation plan that must include the job duties and the standards to which the principal is expected to conform and provides that failure to evaluate a principal at least once in the final year of the principal's contract by

February 1st of each year is evidence that the principal is performing his/her duties and responsibilities in at least a satisfactory manner. Failure to evaluate by the February 1st date automatically extends the principal's contract for a period of one year beyond the expiration date of the contract. The bill now becomes **Public Act 94-1039, effective July 20, 2006.**

SB 1497 (Lightford, D-Maywood) contains the language for the Governor's "Pre-School for All Children" program by expanding the current preschool provisions in the School Code. The grants, based on the appropriations the legislature makes in a given year, will give first priority to at-risk children and second priority to qualified programs serving primarily children with a family income of less than 4 times the federally-defined poverty level. The provisions expire on June 30, 2008. The bill now becomes **Public Act 94-1054, effective July 1, 2006.**

SB 2202 (del Valle, D-Chicago), with respect to an early childhood certificate, provides that the student teaching portion of the practical experience requirement may involve supervised work with children under 6 years of age or with children in kindergarten through grade 3 or both – provided that the student is under the active supervisions of a cooperating teacher who is certified and qualified in early childhood education. It also provides that paraprofessionals with at least one year of experience in a school or community-based early childhood setting who are enrolled in early-childhood teacher preparation programs may be paid and receive credit while student teaching with their current employer. The bill now becomes **Public Act 94-1034, effective January 1, 2007.**

IASB MOURNS LOSS OF KEY STAFF PERSON

The Illinois Association of School Boards has lost a valuable member of its administrative team. John Mannix, Associate Executive Director of Field Services, passed away last week after a lengthy bout with cancer. John, the IASB's resident expert on the No Child Left Behind Law, will be greatly missed by staff on both personal and professional levels.

Following John's wishes, a memorial mass will be said on Friday, August 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, 95th and Ridgeway, Evergreen Park. Visitation will be held prior to the service beginning at 5:30.

Following the service, family, friends and colleagues will gather at the Beverly Country Club, 8700 South Western Avenue, Evergreen Park, to remember John with fondness and gratitude.