



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (95-12)

Today (Friday) was the deadline for the Illinois House of Representatives to consider House Bills for passage. Several controversial bills were debated Thursday night, including bills on gun control and abortion notification. However, like the Senate did a couple of weeks ago, the chamber “extended the deadline” on dozens of bills keeping the bills alive for consideration for later in the session. Both chambers return to Springfield on Tuesday.

THIRD PARTY CONTRACTOR BILL APPROVED

HB 1347 (Hannig, D-Litchfield), the bill that would add new restrictions to the school district practice of contracting for services such as transportation, food service, and janitorial services, was approved on the floor of the House of Representatives on a 76-37 vote. The measure, strongly opposed by the Alliance, now goes to the Senate for consideration. More information can be found on the bill in previous Alliance Legislative Reports 95-11 and 95-8. The Alliance lobbyists thank all of you for your phone calls to legislators on this issue – please help us continue the fight in the Senate.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PERCENTAGE OF “TRIP” COSTS INCREASES

The Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) announced this week that the contribution rate for the TRIP program will increase by 5% effective July 1, 2007. School districts will then be assessed .63% of their TRS payroll; active teachers will be assessed .84% of their salary.

In 2004, the General Assembly approved a bill (Public Act 93-679) that required a school district contribution to help support the Teachers’ Retired Insurance Program (TRIP). Since then, school districts have been required to contribute a specific percentage of their TRS payroll (.5% in FY 2005, .6% in FY 2006 and FY 2007) to the State insurance program for retired teachers. The legislation stated that, beyond FY 2007, the contribution rates would increase *equally* among the contributors – school districts, active teachers, the State, and premiums paid by retired teachers. The State Department of Central Management Services was given the original authority to increase the contribution rate by no more than 5% for all four groups of contributors to keep the insurance fund solvent. The fund is now administered by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS).

SCHOOL FUNDING RALLY PLANNED

Next Wednesday, May 2, the “CARE” event is scheduled in Springfield to push for school funding reform. The Capitol Action Rally for Excellence, organized by the Illinois Education Association (IEA) and endorsed by other groups such as the “Better Funding for Better Schools” Coalition, will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. The agenda includes bands and speakers at the convention center, a march to the Capitol, a rally on the Capitol lawn, and meetings with legislators. For more information, please go to: www.ieanea.org/care.aspx.

BILL ACTION THIS WEEK

HB 38 (Cross, R-Oswego) allows a school board and administration to suspend or expel students if they have made an explicit threat on an internet web site against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Education Committee and was sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HB 232 (Davis, M. D-Chicago) originally prohibited the ISBE and school boards from operating a “virtual” school. The bill was amended to create a Task Force on Virtual Education to consider and recommend best practices in virtual education. **The bill is pending** action on the House floor.

HB 258 (Smith, D-Canton) requires the ISBE to establish a matching grant program to pay school districts for half the cost of providing training in emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation or training in how to use an automated external defibrillator. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Public Health Committee and was sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HB 285 (Mitchell, J., R-Sterling) requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish and operate a renewable energy grant program to assist school districts in the installation, acquisition, construction, and improvement of renewable energy sources in the public schools. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Education Committee and was sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HB 357 (Chapa LaVia, D-Aurora) extends the expiration date for school district inter-fund transfers from June 30, 2007 to June 30, 2010. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Education Committee and was sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HB 408 (Leitch, R-Peoria) requires that a minor holding an instruction permit or a graduated driver's license display on any vehicle he or she is driving a sign or signs, approved by the Secretary of State, indicating that the vehicle is being driven by a new driver. **The bill was placed** in a Senate Transportation Sub-Committee for further study.

HB 742 (Hamos, D-Chicago) includes school districts as employers that are covered under the Whistle Blower Protection Act. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 895 (May, D-Highland Park) creates the Green Cleaning Schools Act to require school districts to establish a green cleaning policy and exclusively purchase and use environmentally-sensitive cleaning products pursuant to the guidelines and specifications when economically feasible. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Education Committee and was sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HB 1141 (Jefferson, D-Rockford) requires the ISBE to establish and administer a program that provides stipends (of \$4,000 per year for five years) to teachers who choose to teach at hard-to-staff public schools in this State. The bill was amended to make it subject to appropriation and **was approved** by the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1238 (Watson, R-Jacksonville) provides that a strobe lamp on a school bus may be lighted at any time when the bus is being used as a school bus and is bearing one or more pupils. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Transportation Committee and was sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HB 1268 (Bellock, R-Hinsdale) adds elementary and secondary schools to be covered under the “Freedom from Sexual Harassment” provisions of the Illinois Human Rights Act. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1335 (Flowers, D-Chicago) requires a school board to provide recess for all students in kindergarten through grade 6 – once in the middle of each morning and once in the middle of each afternoon when school is in session. The bill was amended to apply only to Chicago. **The bill is pending** action on the House floor.

HB 1338 (Flowers) originally required all school boards to post in each school building the date of the last fire alarm inspection at the building and the capacity of the building. **The bill was amended** to make it apply to Chicago only.

HB 1475 (Brauer, R-Petersburg) provides that, if the owner of a vehicle that illegally passed a stopped school bus contends that another person was driving the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation, the State's Attorney may require the owner to identify the driver in a written statement or deposition. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1784 (Eddy, R-Hutsonville) prohibits the ISBE from certifying a school district as being in financial difficulty as a result of the failure of the Comptroller to disburse reimbursements for receipt by the school district no later than June 30th of each year. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1839 (Joyce, D-Chicago) limits waivers from the physical education mandate to two years and only allows them to be renewed two times. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1847 (Phelps, D-Norris City) was amended to set forth how Educational Support Personnel (ESP) positions at school facilities being consolidated are to be transferred to the control of the board or boards that will be receiving the district's students. As amended, **the bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 1922 (Moffitt, R-Galesburg) requires the ISBE to develop an agricultural education teacher training continuum and to provide grants to universities for agriculture education teacher education programs. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Education Committee and sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HB 2207 (Jakobsson, D-Champaign) had an amendment filed to require a school district to forward a copy of all personnel complaints against a teacher for which there was an investigation (and the results of the investigation) to a school district to which the teacher was transferring to. **No action was taken** on the amendment by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee.

HB 2798 (Wait, R-Belvidere) had an amendment filed to allow a school district to implement a local option income tax to reduce the property tax burden of the school district. **No action was taken** on the amendment by the House Revenue Committee.

HB 3170 (Brady, R-Bloomington) had an amendment filed that would require a school district to disclose to another school district that had requested a reference about a former teacher – any *suspected* abuse of a minor. **The amendment is pending** action by the House Rules Committee.

HB 3341 (Ramey, R-West Chicago) had an amendment filed to allow for a new unit school district to be formed by detaching from a larger unit district; the amendment was addressing an issue in the Elgin school district. **No action was taken** on the amendment by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee.

HB 3361 (Mitchell) was amended to allow for additional charter schools in the “collar county” area around Chicago for the purpose of educating truants and dropouts. **The bill was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

HB 3624 (Lang, D-Chicago) requires that each school bus display at the rear of the bus a visible and readable sign, indicating the telephone number of the owner of the school bus, and indicating that the number is to be called to report erratic driving by the school bus driver. The owner of each school bus shall establish procedures for accepting these calls and for taking complaints. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Transportation Committee and was sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HB 3654 (Golar, D-Chicago) makes changes to the “Grow Your Own Teacher” program. **The bill was approved** by the Senate Education Committee and was sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

HR 162 (Kosel, R-New Lenox) proclaims November 15 in 2007, and November 15 of each year thereafter, as School Board Members Day in the State of Illinois. **The resolution was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor.

SB 101 (Garrett, D-Lake Forest) awards a homestead exemption in the amount of \$3,500 to disabled persons who meet certain requirements. **The bill was approved** by the Senate and will be sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.

BILLS SCHEDULED FOR COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 1, 1:00 p.m., Room 400, State Capitol

HB 425 (Coulson, R-Glenview), if a school district finds that it is not economically feasible to implement an integrated pest management (IPM) program, requires that the person a school district designates to implement IPM attend a training program. It also provides that the written notification provided to parents and guardians of students and employees who have registered to receive such notification prior to the application of pesticides to school or day care center property must be given at least 2 and no more than 30 (now, at least 2) business days before application of the pesticide.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 2, 2:30 p.m., Room 212, State Capitol

HB 18 (Lang) requires school districts to create and maintain a policy on bullying. The bill requires that the policy be filed with the ISBE and that it must be updated every 2 years and re-filed. The bill also provides that the ISBE will monitor the implementation of the policy.

HB 1030 (Pihos, R-Glen Ellyn) provides that the ISBE’s annual report to the General Assembly and Governor shall include the total expenditures made by school districts on special education services.

HB 1330 (Yarbrough, D-Chicago) creates the Ensuring Success in School Law to ensure that youth who are parents, expectant parents, or the victims of domestic or sexual violence are identified by schools in a manner respectful of their privacy and safety, treated with dignity and regard, and provided the protection, instruction, and related support services necessary to enable them to meet State educational standards and successfully attain a high school diploma. The bill contains many new burdensome requirements for school districts.

HB 1559 (Pritchard, R-Hinckley) requires school districts to have a policy before collecting biometric information (fingerprints, retinal scans, etc.) from students.

HB 1648 (Mitchell) requires the ISBE to establish a P-20 council to coordinate education efforts between elementary, secondary, and higher education institutions.

HB 1910 (Pritchard) provides that if, during a school day, a school district has provided at least one clock hour of instruction but must dismiss students from one or more recognized school buildings due to a condition beyond the control of the school district, then the partial day of attendance may be counted as a full day of attendance.

HB 1926 (Stephens, R-Highland) requires the ISBE to develop a weapons safety program for students and provides that school districts may incorporate the program into its curriculum.

HB 1964 (Berrios, D-Chicago) requires school districts to have a plan to offer a summer breakfast or lunch program for the duration of their summer school program (if summer school is not offered, there is no requirement to offer the food service) in each school that has at least 50% of the students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. A district is allowed to opt out of the summer food program if the expense reimbursement would not fully cover the costs of implementing and operating the program.

HB 2787 (Davis, W., D-Hazel Crest), subject to appropriation, provides that funding for civic education professional development for high school teachers must be provided by line item appropriation made to the State Board of Education for that purpose.

HB 3327 (Beaubien, R-Barrington Hills) requires the inclusion of the consequences of alcohol consumption and the operation of a motor vehicle in safety education instruction.

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

www.iasb.com
www.ilga.gov