



## ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (95-15)

There was no public movement on State budget issues in the Capitol this week, but much discussion occurred behind the scenes. Individual partisan caucuses met several times during the week to privately discuss the fiscal year 2008 budget. It seems evident that neither the Governor's Gross Receipts Tax (GRT), nor HB 750, will advance as currently drafted. Many legislators, however, do not believe that passing a "maintenance budget" is an option either. That leaves room for a budget compromise with possible elements taken from the proposals on the table and any new revenue sources that may emerge over the next couple of weeks.

The House of Representatives will return to work on Monday and the Senate on Tuesday. The original legislative schedule has both chambers working straight through the end of the month for a May 31 adjournment. Adjournment, of course, depends on an agreement on a State budget.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDS

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee approved a bill that would create a Management Oversight Panel procedure for school districts found to have engaged in mismanagement of school district resources. **HB 1466 (Rita, D-Blue Island)**, opposed by the Alliance, was sent to the House floor for consideration. The bill contains the following provisions:

- Defines mismanagement as a district having been engaged in a continuing and repeated pattern of documented and substantiated mismanagement in regard to hiring practices, "including without limitation the hiring of persons who do not meet minimal certification requirements for the positions being filled that places the academic integrity of the school or district in question or places students in physical danger."
- When a district is "certified" by the ISBE, the Board may require the school district to develop a district management improvement plan within 45 days of the district's certification. The State Superintendent must, within 14 days, provide the district with the management issues to be addressed in the plan. The State Superintendent must approve the plan.
- A district remains in management difficulty until the district "clearly demonstrates to the satisfaction of the State Board that the circumstances leading to the certification no longer exist" or the State Board rescinds approval of the plan and appoints a "Management Oversight Panel" for the district.

The Management Oversight Panel consists of 5 members including: 1 member of the district's union representing its employees, 2 members appointed by the State Superintendent (including an attorney), and 2 community members appointed by the regional superintendent. The Panel has the following powers:

- Veto power over all local school board decisions.
- Control over the district in providing management assistance.
- Authority to cancel the contract of the school district's superintendent, however it may not impair any other contract or obligation of the district including collective bargaining agreements or the termination of any other employee.
- A list of 20 additional powers such as; approving the district budget, approving contracts and obligations; hiring the administrative team, approving financial transfers, and requesting to the Regional Superintendent that school board member vacancies be filled.

Unlike the Financial Oversight Panel that can be put in place for 10 years, the bill provides no end-date for the work of the Management Oversight Panel.

Please contact your state representative and ask for a NO VOTE on HB 1466. With no clear definition of mismanagement, the State Board will have the authority to take over the powers and duties of a locally elected board of education.

## **SIGNIFICANT BILLS TO BE SENT TO THE GOVERNOR**

The following bills were approved by the Senate and will be sent to the Governor for consideration:

**HB 357 (Chapa LaVia)** extends the expiration date for school district interfund transfers from June 30, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

**HB 425 (Coulson)** requires that the person a school district designates to ensure that integrated pest management practices are being followed, 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.

**HB 426 (Madigan)** moves the primary election from the third Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in February in even-numbered years.

**HB 895 (May)** 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.

**HB 1847 (Phelps)** applies to education support personnel (ESP) the same rights to jobs in a newly consolidated school district as teachers now enjoy. ESPs would be granted jobs based on the “greatest length of continuing service” – but would not have the accompanied State appropriation for consolidations that is available for the hiring of teachers in a consolidation.

**HB 1872 (Nekritz)** clarifies that school boards no longer will canvass the votes after school board elections.

**HB 1877 (Sommer)** allows teachers to be granted sick leave for birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. This would give employees an automatic benefit dictated by the State that would not have to be collectively bargained.

**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 1964 (Berrios)** 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 3624 (Lang)** 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 bus owner must establish procedures for accepting these calls and for taking complaints.

### **OTHER BILL ACTION THIS WEEK**

**HB 285 (Mitchell, J.)** amends the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Coal Resources Development Law of 1997 to require 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 and will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

**HB 816 (Coulson)** provides that when a child who is eligible for special education reaches the majority age of 18 years, rights accorded to the child's parents transfer to the child. **The bill was approved** by the Senate and was sent back to the House of Representatives for concurrence in the Senate amendment.

**HB 817 (Coulson)**, that requires continued public education for children with disabilities through their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday, **was approved** by the Senate and will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

**HB 1030 (Pihos)** requires the ISBE to issue an annual report that includes each school district's special education expenditures. **The bill was approved** by the Senate and was sent back to the House of Representatives for concurrence in the Senate amendment.

**HB 1363 (Brauer)** requires the State Board of Education to provide money for grants to the Illinois School Psychology Internship Consortium. **The bill was approved** by the Senate and will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

**HB 1651 (Eddy)**, that removes references to the regional superintendent of schools regarding school facility deactivations, **was approved** by the Senate and will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

**HB 1922 (Moffitt)** 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 and will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

**HB 1969 (Brauer)**, increasing the debt limits for Rochester CUSD #3A, Prairie Grove CSD #46, and Prairie Hill CCSD #133, **was approved** by the Senate and was sent back to the House of Representatives for concurrence in the Senate amendment. **The bill was approved** by the Senate and was sent back to the House of Representatives for concurrence in the Senate amendment.

**HB 2017 (Smith)**, an ISBE initiative, makes clarifications and technical changes to last year's school consolidation legislation. **The bill was approved** by the House of Representatives and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

**HB 3654 (Golar)** makes changes to the "Grow Your Own Teacher" program. **The bill was approved** by the Senate and was sent back to the House of Representatives for concurrence in the Senate amendment.

**SB 79 (Garrett)** provides that, in the development of the individualized education program for a student who has a disability on the autism spectrum, the IEP team shall consider and shall specifically address certain factors. **The bill was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

**SB 396 (Demuzio)** provides that rights accorded to the parents of an 18 year old special education student transfer to the child at 18 with certain restrictions. **The bill was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

**SB 397 (Demuzio)**, as amended, is a ISBE initiative requiring textbook publishers to include with any printed textbook the accessible electronic file set of contracted printed material for conversion to accessible format for students with disabilities. **The bill was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

**SB 446 (Martinez)** makes changes to the “Grow Your Own Teacher” education act. **The bill was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

**SB 671 (Maloney)** sets forth criteria for proving responsibility regarding legal custody as it pertains to district residency. **The bill was approved** by the House Judiciary I – Civil Law Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

**SB 841 (Munoz)** requires the ISBE to create a program to pay the fees to the College Board for Advanced Placement for public schools where at least 40% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. **The bill was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

**SB 843 (Noland)** allows school districts and community college districts to own and operate wind generation turbine farms that directly or indirectly reduce energy or other operating costs. **The bill was approved** by the House Revenue Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

**SB 850 (Halvorson)** authorizes a county board to allow reasonable expenses of the regional superintendent of schools to administer life-skills programs related to the healthy social and emotional development of children. **The bill was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor for consideration.

**SB 1702 (Lightford)** requires that a school district must have written permission from a student before it collects any biometric information (fingerprints, retina scans, etc.). **The bill was approved** by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and was sent to the House floor.

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

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