



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (95-22)

STILL NO STATE BUDGET

There was little progress this week in crafting a Fiscal Year 2008 State budget. In fact, many might say that the legislative leaders lost ground in the discussions instead of having gained ground. Governor Blagojevich and three of the legislative leaders met on Wednesday; Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. did not attend because of illness.

Republican leaders have stated that the Governor continues to talk about the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) and his universal health care proposal but has offered nothing new to the talks. By most everyone's account, both of these proposals by the Governor are "dead issues". Speaker Madigan continues to stress that the House has already passed a budget bill. That bill, however, won't be sent over to the Senate until the Senate approves a bill on utility rate relief. A House committee this week also defeated a bill that would have expanded casino gambling in the State. This was a proposal previously approved by the Senate that would have brought in billions of dollars to State coffers.

The House left Springfield today (Thursday) and will return next Tuesday, June 19. The Senate didn't come back into session until today and have yet to publish its extended schedule.

URGE A VETO OF HB 1347

School board members, superintendents, principals, business officials, and teachers are urged to write to Governor Blagojevich and urge a veto of **HB 1347 (Hannig, D-Litchfield)**. The bill will significantly curtail the school district practice of contracting for services such as transportation, food service, and janitorial services by adding burdensome new restrictions for a school board entering into a contract with a third party to perform such non-instructional services.

The bill states that no contract could be entered into with a third party during the term of a collective bargaining agreement – this could mean years between opportunities to contract out for services. It also contains a provision that requires the third party to provide "comparable" insurance and benefits. The term "comparable" is not defined which leads to confusion of what is acceptable – and could require third party contractors to increase their overhead costs making it cost prohibitive for a school district to use their services. You can find more information in Alliance Legislative Reports 95-14 (www.iasb.com/files/alr-9514.htm) and 95-8 (www.iasb.com/files/alr-9508.htm).

Please include information specific to your school district on cost savings realized because of contracting out certain non-instructional services. This should include where the money saved was re-allocated (i.e. how savings from non-instructional services were transferred into instructional areas). Also please consider writing letters to the editor of the local newspaper or op/ed pieces outlining the detrimental affects of this legislation.

Letters should be addressed to: The Honorable Rod Blagojevich
Governor of the State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Copies should be sent to the same Mr. Joe Handley
address to the attention of: Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs

Ms. Sheila Nix
Deputy Governor

Kristin Richards
Deputy Chief of Staff

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION

HB 1647 (Pihos) provides that school service personnel certificates are renewable every 5 years and sets forth the requirements and procedures for renewal, including requiring the completion of at least 80 hours of continuing professional development. **The House concurred** in the Senate amendment and the bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

HB 1969 (Brauer) increases the debt limits for Rochester CUSD #3A, Prairie Grove CSD #46, and Prairie Hill CCSD #133. **The House concurred** in the Senate amendment and the bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

HB 3512 (Brady) provides that when a criminal sexual offense is committed or alleged to have been committed by a school district employee or any individual contractually employed by a school district, the criminal history record shall be transmitted to the superintendent of schools of the district. **The House concurred** in the Senate amendment and the bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

HB 3654 (Golar, D-Chicago) makes changes to the “Grow Your Own Teacher” program. **The House concurred** in the Senate amendment and the bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

SB 853 (Maloney) allows an individual to apply for a GED if he or she is 17 (instead of 18) years of age or older and is not a high school graduate (instead of is not a high school graduate, but whose high school class has graduated). **The Senate concurred** in the House amendment and the bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

SB 1183 (Harmon), regarding energy conservation installment contracts, provides that a licensed architect or registered professional engineer evaluating a proposal must not have any financial or contractual relationship with a qualified provider or other source that would constitute a conflict of interest. It also provides that contracts let or awarded must be published in the next available subsequent Illinois Procurement Bulletin and that other State laws and related administrative requirements apply to the Article (i.e. Human Rights Act, Prevailing Wage Act, Freedom of Information Act). **The Senate concurred** in the House amendment and the bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

HR 162 (Kosel), an Alliance initiative, 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 adopted** by the House of Representatives.

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

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