

Senate Committee Action March 7, 2017

Higher Education

Alternatives for Credentialing (SB 1428):

Requires the Illinois Community College Board to establish alternative methods of credentialing for the issuance of high school equivalency certification based on high school credit, post-secondary credit, foreign diplomas, and completion of a competency-based program approved by the Board.

Illinois Fire Fighters' Memorial Fund (SB 1465):

States that money deposited in the Illinois Fire Fighters' Memorial Fund will be used to provide scholarships for any post-secondary education approved by the Illinois Firefighter Memorial Foundation to children and spouses of fire fighters killed in the line of duty.

Common Community College Name (SB 1671):

Allows the use of a common community college name to stand alone without listing the counties in which it is located for practical operational/contractual purposes.

Digital Discount Program (SB 1838): Allows public universities and community colleges to establish digital discount programs for digital learning materials in accordance with federal regulations.

Credit for Prior Learning Act (SB 1865): Requires each public university and community college to submit their policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to the Board of Higher Education for review and approval. This would include listing acceptable documentation and dates of inclusion. The Board of Higher Education and the Community College Board must adopt rules pertaining to the awarding of credit for prior learning.

Community College Board Vacancies (SB 1968):

Changes the Public Community College Act by providing that when a vacancy occurs in a community college board, the elected successor must serve out the remainder of the unexpired term. Also, states that the vice-chairman shall perform the duties of chairman if there is a vacancy in the office of the

chairman or in case of the chairman's absence or inability to act.

Judiciary

Fox Waterway Agency (SB 1258): Authorizes IDNR to transfer certain land to Fox Waterway Agency for \$1. Within one year of the conveyance the Fox Waterway Agency shall: Sell the property for no less than fair market value, use any sale proceeds to purchase an alternative dredge material disposal site(s) for no more than fair market value, transfer any remaining proceeds to IDNR for deposit into the GRF. If Fox Waterway Agency fails to comply with the conditions set above; the property conveyed shall revert back to the IDNR, or if the applicable the proceeds from the sale of the conveyed property shall be immediately transferred to IDNR for deposit in the GRF.

Removal of Verified Response in Department of Human Rights investigations (SB 1516):

Eliminates the Verified Response form which is currently is required by statute to be filed by a respondent in discrimination cases. According to the IDHR the form has become outdated and often impedes investigations from being conducted in a timely matter.

"Judicial Officer" Description (SB 1647): The Judicial Privacy Act is amended to provide that "*judicial officer*" includes retired justices and judges.

Single Risk Limit for Title Insurance Policies (SB 1667):

Increases the limit of risk that a title insurer can assume on any one contract of title insurance. Provides title insurance companies may obtain reinsurance for all or any part of its liability from an assuming insurer with a certain financial strength rating. Removes an added required filing that details the company's professional reinsurance business and how risks are placed through reinsurance outside of the title industry.

Veterans' Affairs

Returning Veterans' Benefits Offerings (SB 866):

Provides that the IDVA shall give informational

resources and education regarding service animals to veterans returning from deployment.

Veterans Assistance Commission (SB (1242): The bill states that the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall assist the superintendent and staff of any Veterans Assistance Commission with the official process of becoming accredited as a service organization representative of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Veterans' Death Certificates (SB 1693): Provides that a death certificate of an individual with military service may include or may be amended to include the deceased's veteran status, military branch, and period of time the individual served.

Veterans' KIA Notification (SB 1756): Allows other agencies, in addition to IDVA, to give notice to the Governor of an Illinois resident member of the US Armed Forces killed in combat, with respect to flag lowering.

Veterans' Technical Language Cleanup (SB 1757): Ensures that the apostrophe in Veterans' is included throughout the statutes.

Transportation

Railroad Supplier Diversity (SB 1267): Requires all Class I railroad companies to submit an annual supplier diversity report, by April 15th of each year, to the Illinois Commerce Commission. Requires the ICC and each railroad company subject to reporting to hold an annual workshop open to the public on the state of supplier diversity.

Innovations for Transportation Infrastructure (SB 1320): Authorizes IDOT and the Tollway Authority to use the design-build project delivery method or the construction manager general contractor project delivery method for transportation facilities. Design-build is a project delivery method that combines two, usually separate services into a single contract. With design-build procurements, public owners execute a single, lump sum contract for both architectural/engineering services and construction. The design-builder may be a single firm, a consortium, joint venture or other organization assembled for a particular project.

IDOT Misrepresentation (SB 1430): States that it is unlawful for IDOT, IDOT employees/agents, with relation to the submission of any plans, maps, specifications, costs of construction, bids, or contracts for any IDOT project, to knowingly falsify, distort or misrepresent any facts concerning: character quality, cost, or quantity of material already used or to be used; the quality or quantity of any work already performed or to be performed; and any other related costs.

Registration for Vehicles (SB 1505): Requires Secretary of State to offer each owner of first and second division vehicles under 8,000 pounds the option to register their vehicle for one, two, three, four, or five years. The vehicle owner would pay a one-time fee with the price based on how many years they choose.

Weight Restrictions During Harvest Emergency (SB 1576): Allows a special permit to be issued by IDOT during a declared harvest emergency that would allow a truck transporting agricultural commodities to waive a vehicle's registered weight limitation and set a divisible load weight limit not to exceed 10% above a vehicle's registered gross weight or axle weight.

IDOT Accident Data (SB 1580): Removes provisions providing that a written motor vehicle accident report is privileged as to the Secretary of State and the Department of Transportation and shall be held confidential. Provides that the Department may provide for in-depth investigations of accidents involving Department employees or other motor vehicle accidents (rather than investigations of only motor vehicle accidents) by individuals or special investigation groups.

Township Bridge Program (SB 1680): Clarifies language to match how the Township Bridge Program is currently and has historically been delivered except that the eligibility criteria are being clarified to match the minimum road and bridge levy requirements for receiving any allotment of Motor Fuel Tax funds.

Fee Notice for Storage Vehicles (SB 1694): Requires a company seeking to impose fees in connection with the furnishing of storage for a vehicle must provide notice of the fees to the vehicle owner as well as to the lienholder before assessing storage fees. Companies seeking to impose storage fees for a

vehicle in its possession may not foreclose or otherwise enforce its lien unless it first complies with specified notification requirements. Allows storage fees to be paid by cashier's check, certified check, debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or cash.

Non-School Related School Bus Use (SB 2028):

Requires each school bus used by public or private school transporting students enrolled in grade 12 or below for a school related athletic event or other school approved extracurricular activity must have the required registration plates, permits, and liability insurance. School buses that operate under these requirements may be used for the transportation of passengers for that do not involve the educational institution if the school bus driver or owner complies with stop arm requirements for non-school related transporting and the 'school bus' sign is either removed or obscured.

Criminal Law

Criminal Sexual Offense (SB 189): Provides that when the victim is under 18 years of age at the time of the offense, a prosecution for criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault, predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated criminal sexual abuse, or criminal sexual abuse may be commenced at any time. Regardless as to whether corroborating physical evidence is available or an individual who is required to report an alleged or suspected commission of any of these offenses under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act fails to do so.

Vehicle Loads (SB 1581): Reduces fines for vehicle wheel and axle loads and gross weight limit violations in the Illinois Vehicle Code by reducing the following:

For the first \$330 in fines, the surcharge rate will be \$15 per \$40 of fines.

For any subsequent amount above \$330 the surcharge fee will be reduced to \$10 per \$40 of fines.

Bail Hearing (SB 1690): Provides that a person charged with an offense shall be allowed counsel at the hearing at which bail is determined under

the Code. Provides that if the defendant desires counsel for his or her initial appearance but is unable to obtain counsel, the court shall appoint a public defender or licensed attorney at law of this State to represent him or her for purposes of that hearing.

Sexual Orientation (SB 1761): Prohibits the use of a panic defense in murder cases where a defendant is accused of a violent crime against another party, but is justified on the grounds that the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity is to blame for the defendant's reaction.

Informant Testimony (SB 1830): Requires prosecution to disclose attempts to introduce evidence of incriminating statements made by the accused to or overheard by an informant in a prosecution for certain serious offenses.

Public Official Threatening (SB 2034): Expands existing law regarding threats to public officials by making it a Class 3 felony to also threaten an attorney employed by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children and Family Services, or the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission; or an assistant public guardian, attorney, social worker, case manager, or investigator employed by a duly appointed public guardian.