Agenda Topic: Legislation

Materials: None

Staff Contact(s): Peter Leonis

Purpose of Agenda Item

To update the Board members on legislation under consideration and the status of legislative activity.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

Board members will understand the legislative timelines, process, and specific agenda under consideration for Spring, 2002 and give feedback and direction to the Superintendent and staff.

Background Information

In preparation for the Spring, 2002 legislative session, the Board will review and discuss legislative recommendations and bills of particular interest to the State Board which follow.

ISBE’s 2002 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Unified Plan/ Governor’s Education Summit (SB 1984, HB 5948)

ISBE, as part of the Governors Joint Education Committee and the Education Summit will help develop legislation that implements the recommendations made by Summit participants. An Induction and Mentoring Program will be a key component of the recommendations.

Various bills relating to topics addressed at the two Summit sessions have already been introduced, including:

- SB 1842 and HB 4912, establishing ITEACH teacher shortage scholarship program
- HB 6007, removing the cap on the number of Alternative Certification Programs
• SB 1954, limiting the number of times an individual can take the Basic Skills Test
• SB 1953, requiring students to pass the Basic skills test prior to enrolling in a teacher preparation program

Round Lake (HB 4314 Beaubien)

A shell bill has been introduced that is intended to carry the recommendations made by the Financial Oversight Panel, including the establishment of a Finance Authority that would have the authority to appoint the CEO, CFO and the Chief Education Officer, raise taxes, and negotiate labor agreements.

Waiver Recommendations (SB 2073)

This bill contains the recommendations made in the Cumulative Waiver Report. Specifically, the bill allows districts greater flexibility in scheduling on the days on which the PSAE is given.

Additionally, the bill allows local school boards to decide whether or they want to hold school on designated holidays, provided that instruction about the person honored by the holiday.

HB1026 (Cronin)

This bill requires holders of a type 29 bilingual certificate to show progress every two years toward attainment of a regular certificate. At the end of four years, the certificate holder must take the Basic Skills Examination. Currently, the Type 29 certificate is good for six years and may be extended for two years beyond that without the holder being required to take the Basic Skills test.

Changes Needed as a Result of HR 1 (SB 1983, SB 1985, HB 5950, HB 5951)

Numerous changes to state law will be required for Illinois to comply with HR 1. Among the most significant changes is the implementation of annual testing.

ISBE’s FY 2003 Budget Request (HB 4993)

ISBE’s FY 2003 $6.5 billion budget includes new money for an Induction and Mentoring Program as well as for additional National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Other Bills of Interest
- HJRCA 10 (Hoeft) calls for an elected State Superintendent of Education
- HB 3495 (Madigan) authorizes the Governor to reserve up to 5% of ISBE’s FY 02 GRF Budget.
- HB 3732 (Collins) Calls for the repeal of the Alternative Learning Opportunities Act.
- SB 1534 (Demuzio) transfers the responsibility of auditing of ROE’s to the Office of the Auditor General
- Numerous bills have been introduced to raise the Foundation Level as well as to use Medicaid and Food Stamp data instead of census data in determining Poverty Grants.
- HB 4466 (J. Mitchell) requires the State Teachers Certification Board to adopt a categorical system of certification for Special Education Teachers.

**Next Steps**

Provide regular updates to the Board.