The Legislature and the Schools

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The Governor has completed action on education-related bills. The General Assembly will return for the Veto Session on November 4, 5, 6 and November 18, 19, and 20.

General Assembly Website: www.legis.state.il.us

HB 30 PA 93-230 Signed 7/22/03
Sponsors Rep. Lou Lang (Sen. M. Maggie Crotty)
Creates the Voting by Minors Act. Requires the State Board of Elections and State Board of Education to jointly develop a program under which kindergarten through 12th grade students in participating school districts located in participating counties vote in a simulated election conducted at actual polling places in conjunction with the 2004 general election. Provides that implementation of the program shall be accomplished with volunteers and private funding. Requires the State Board of Elections and State Board of Education to develop an educational component of the program to be offered to the schools of participating districts and to adopt rules preparatory to the program's implementation. Specifies reporting and timetable requirements. **Effective immediately.**

HB 59 VETOED Veto Message
Sponsors Rep. Edward J. Acevedo (Sen. Edward D. Maloney)
Amends the Child Care Act of 1969. Provides that, beginning January 1, 2004, no new applicant and, on the date of licensure renewal, no current licensee may operate or receive a license from the Department to operate, no person may be employed by, and no adult person may reside in a child care facility who has been convicted of committing or attempting to commit specified offenses. Provides circumstances under which such a license may be issued despite such a conviction. Makes other changes. Effective immediately.

HB 79 PA 93-0117 Signed 7/10/03
Sponsors Rep. Gary Hannig (Sen. James F. Clayborne, Jr.)
Amends the Downstate Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Directs the System to conduct a divided Medicare coverage referendum, open to teachers continuously employed by the same employer since March 31, 1986. Allows eligible teachers to irrevocably elect to participate in the federal Medicare program. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately. Defines "referendum". **Effective immediately.**

HB 105 **PA 93-0079** **Signed 7/2/03**
Sponsors Rep. Suzanne Bassi (Sen. Wendell E. Jones)
Amends the Open Meetings Act. Allows closed meetings to consider security procedures with respect to dangers to the public. **Effective immediately.**

HB 194 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Rep. Roger L. Eddy (Sen. Dale A. Righter)
Provides that claims for reimbursement under the Driver Education Act shall be made under oath or affirmation of the chief school administrator for the district or authorized driver education personnel. Effective immediately.

HB 210 **PA 93-0081** **Signed 7/2/03**
Sponsors Rep. Jim Watson (Sen. Vince Demuzio)
Amends the Teacher Certification Article of the School Code. Notwithstanding any other requirements to the contrary, provides that if a standard teaching certificate has been maintained as valid and active for the 5 years of the certificate's validity and the certificate holder has earned 120 continuing professional development units before July 1, 2002, the certificate shall be renewed as valid and active regardless of the fact that the holder has not completed any other additional credits. **Effective immediately.**

HB 336 **PA 93-442** **Signed 8/5/03**
Sponsors Rep. Steve Davis-Larry McKeon (Sen. William R. Haine)
Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act to provide that the Act is not applicable to units of local government employing less than 35 employees at the time the Petition for Certification or Representation is filed. Provides that bargaining units certified by the Board that fall below 35 employees after certification remain subject to the Act. **Effective January 1, 2004**

HB 338 **PA 93-309** **Signed 7/23/03**
Sponsors Rep. Renee Kosel (Sen. Christine Radogno)
Provides that in order to be eligible for election to a school board (or in Chicago to be eligible for appointment), a person must not be a child sex offender. **Effective January 1, 2004**

HB 345 **PA 93-310** **Signed 7/23/03**
Sponsors Rep. Patricia R. Bellock (Sen. Kirk W. Dillard)
Requires the Department of State Police and the State Board of Education to coordinate in the development of child abduction prevention instruction to be included in school curricula. Requires the Department of State Police to appoint an uncompensated Child Safety Coordinator to advocate for state standards for child safety from kidnapping and abduction. Prohibits the use of new appropriations for the Coordinator's expenses. **Effective immediately.**

HB 362 **PA 93-190** **Signed 7/14/03**
Sponsors Rep. John Philip Novak (Sen. James F. Clayborne, Jr.)
Amends the Capital Development Board Act. Requires the CDB by January 1, 2004, to adopt an energy code for the construction or repair of facilities funded by state appropriations. **Effective immediately.**

HB 414 **PA 93-0124** **Signed 7/10/03**
Sponsors Rep. Elizabeth Coulson (Sen. Jeffrey M. Schoenberg)
Provides that "developmental delay" means a delay of 30% or more below the mean in function in one or more of the designated areas of childhood development (instead of a delay of 30% or more from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004; a delay of 20% or more from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005; and a delay

of 10% or more on and after July 1, 2005). Provides that the term of the Early Intervention Legislative Advisory Committee is for a period of 4 (instead of 2) years. **Effective immediately.**

HB 514 **PA 93-0125** **Signed 7/10/03**
Sponsors Rep. Jim Sacia (Sen. Emil Jones, Jr.)
Removes the requirement that school counselors must posses a teaching certificate. **Effective immediately.**

HB 528 **PA 93-330** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Rep. Jack D. Franks (Sen. Lawrence M. Walsh)
Amends the Counties Code and the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that, for purposes of implementing ordinances regarding developer donations or impact fees, "public grounds for schools" (as used in the Counties Code) and "school grounds" (as used in the Illinois Municipal Code) are both defined as including land or site improvements, which include school buildings or other infrastructure necessitated by the development or subdivision in question. Further provides that this definition applies to all impact fees or developer donations paid into a school district or held in a separate account or escrow fund by any school district, municipality, or county for a school district. Makes changes in the definitions given for "public grounds for schools" and "school grounds" by providing that the definitions are for the purposes of implementing ordinances regarding developer donations or impact fees and only for the purpose for expenditures thereof. Provides that "public grounds for schools" and "school grounds" are defined to include land or site improvements, which include school buildings or other infrastructure specifically and uniquely attributable to the development or subdivision in question. **Effective immediately.**

HB 539 **PA 93-0043** **Signed 6/30/03**
Sponsors Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (Sen. John J. Cullerton)
Amends the Freedom of Information Act. Provides that a private gain or public loss, the expectation of which exempts certain information from the Act's inspection and copying requirements, does not include a news medium's dissemination of information regarding the public's health, safety, welfare, and legal rights. Provides that the exemption conditioned upon the reasonable expectation of public loss or private gain does not extend to information otherwise not exempt when requested by a news medium for the sole purpose of accessing and disseminating information regarding the health, safety, welfare, or legal rights of the public. **Effective July 1, 2003.**

HB 564 **PA 93-418** **Signed 8/5/03**
Sponsors Rep. Kevin Joyce (Sen. John J. Cullerton)
Amends various Acts relating to criminal history records checks. Provides that applicants for various occupational and gaming licenses, prospective school employees, prospective adoptive parents, public housing tenants, liquor licensees, driving school instructors, and commercial vehicle relocators shall submit fingerprints to the Department of State Police. Provides that the Department of State Police shall check the fingerprints against the fingerprint records now and hereafter filed in the Department of State Police and FBI criminal history records databases. Provides that the Department shall charge a fee for conducting the criminal history records checks, which shall be deposited into the State Police Services Fund. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

HB 761 **PA 93-549** **Signed 8/19/03**
Sponsors Rep. Robert F. Flider (Sen. M. Maggie Crotty)
Prohibits various education entities, including school districts, from selling student information to credit

card companies. **Effective July 1, 2003.**

HB 765 **PA 93-393** **Signed 7/28/03**
Sponsors Rep. Robert F. Flider (Sen. Vince Demuzio)
Amends the School Code concerning interfund transfers. Provides that certain limitations on transfers, one of which requires the transfer to be for the purpose of meeting one-time, non-recurring expenses and the other of which requires the transfer to be made to the fund most in need, do not apply from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2005. **Effective immediately.**

HB 1180 **AMENDATORY VETO** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Rep. Jerry L. Mitchell (Sen. Larry D. Woolard)
Makes substantial changes to the way districts are reimbursed for special education. Moves to a per-pupil reimbursement basis rather than per-pupil claiming. Eliminates the need for districts to submit individual claims for each student. Does not consolidate private tuition into the extraordinary line item. Effective immediately.

HB 1185 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Rep. Dan Reitz (Sen. Bill Brady)
Amends the Downstate Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Allows retired teachers to remain in retirement status and continue to receive their retirement annuities while engaging in employment in a designated subject shortage area. Effective immediately.

HB 1235 **PA 93-0048** **Signed 6/30/03**
Sponsors Rep. Monique D. Davis (Sen. James A. DeLeo)
Amends the Chicago School District Article of the School Code. Changes the name of an attendance center's professional personnel advisory committee to a professional personnel leadership committee. Provides that the purpose of the committee is to reach optimal decisions jointly with the principal and local school council on matters of educational program (instead of providing advice). Changes the membership of the committee by providing that the committee shall consist of up to 7 members who are certified classroom teachers or other certificated personnel and the 2 teacher members of the local school council (one or both of whom shall chair the committee). Gives the committee the authority to gather information from school staff through interviews or questionnaires without prior approval. Adds provisions concerning the committee with respect to reviewing and making recommendations regarding the school improvement plan and the school budget, reporting on the progress and problems of plan implementation, developing the school's curriculum, and making other educational improvement recommendations. Removes a provision that provides that at least twice a year the professional personnel leadership committee shall report publicly on progress and problems with respect to school improvement plan implementation. Provides that all committee meetings shall be held before or after school with no loss of instructional time. Provides that committee members shall receive no compensation for their activities as committee members. Makes changes concerning the gathering of information from school staff by the committee. Makes changes concerning the requirement that the committee meet with the principal with regard to the specific methods and contents of the school's curriculum and other educational improvement recommendations. Provides that the teacher members of the local school council may (instead of shall) bring motions concerning school improvement plan and school budget recommendations approved by the committee.
Effective July 1, 2003.

HB 2105 **PA 93-0004** **Signed 5/2/03**
Sponsors Rep. Richard P. Myers (Sen. John M. Sullivan)
Amends a Section of the School Code concerning the organization of unit school districts and the levy of taxes. Provides that the districts from which the new district is formed, by joint agreement and with the approval of the regional superintendent, shall be permitted to amend outstanding levies in the same calendar year in which the creation of the new district is approved at the rates specified in the petition. In a provision concerning the election of the board of education, adds a reference to the consolidated election. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2235 **PA 93-396** **Signed 7/29/03**
Sponsors Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (Sen. Miguel del Valle)
Provides that 11% (instead of 8%) of the Early Childhood Education Block Grant shall be used to fund programs for children ages 0-3. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2298 **PA 93-0088** **Signed 7/2/03**
Sponsors Rep. Elizabeth Coulson (Sen. Adeline Jay Geo-Karis)
Requires sex education materials and instruction to advise pupils of the provisions of the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. Provides that course material and instruction shall provide information about responsible parenting and the availability of confidential adoption services. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2332 **PA 93-0212** **Signed 7/18/03**
Sponsors Rep. Calvin L. Giles (Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford)
Defines a "textbook" to include science curriculum materials that includes consumable materials for purposes of the Textbook Loan Program. Effective immediately.

HB 2350 **PA 93-332** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Rep. Marlow H. Colvin (Sen. James T. Meeks)
Provides that the State Board of Education shall accept, as qualifications for non-certified personnel, relevant life experiences as determined by the State Board by rule. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

HB 2352 **PA 93-426** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Rep. Jerry L. Mitchell (Sen. Miguel del Valle)

- Makes the following changes in the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) by no later than 2005-2006:
  - assess all students in reading and math in grades 3-8 and 11;
  - move assessment grades in social science *from* grades 4 and 7 *to* grades 5 and 8;
  - increase writing assessment so that students in grades 3, 4, 6 and 8 are assessed in a more developmentally appropriate manner (now grades 3, 5 and 8); and
  - state assessment shall not exceed 38 hours for ISAT (law now states 25 hours).
- Language is clarified regarding assessing students with limited English proficiency, consistent with *NCLB,* to allow additional time for pupils in bilingual programs.
- Clarifies that there will be a state testing window for all state student assessments, rather than a common month.
- Voluntary testing would be available if there is sufficient federal funding available to support it, for local diagnostic purposes, additional high school writing, and additional physical development, health, and fine arts standards.
- There is a definition of "all pupils" in order to assure that students in all public settings are assessed, consistent with Senate Bill 878 of 2003.

- School districts are encouraged to consider elimination of local annual testing once the revised state assessment is in place. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2354 **PA 93-368** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Rep. Constance A. Howard (Sen. Jeffrey M. Schoenberg)
Revises the Technology Revolving Loan Program to make the program available every two years rather than every third year. Also allows districts to use funds to purchase computer furniture. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2446 **PA 93-335** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Rep. Patricia R. Bellock (Sen. Kirk W. Dillard)
Amends the Criminal Code of 1961. Provides that aggravated arson includes the arson of a school building when other elements of the offense are present. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2567 **PA 93-248** **Signed 7/22/03**
Sponsors Rep. Susana Mendoza (Sen. M. Maggie Crotty)
Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the Property Tax Appeal Board shall provide annually, no later than February 1, to the Governor and the General Assembly a report that contains for each county (1) the total number of cases for commercial and industrial property requesting a reduction in assessed value of $100,000 or more for each of the last 5 years, (2) the total number of cases for commercial and industrial property decided by the Board for each of the last 5 years, and (3) the total change in assessed value based on the Property Tax Appeal Board decisions for commercial property and industrial property for each of the last 5 years. Provides that, in counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, the Board shall electronically distribute every 30 days to the chief county assessment officer, free of charge, certain information about appeals to the Board. Provides that each appeal to the Property Tax Appeal Board shall be limited to the grounds listed in the petition filed with the Board. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2663 **PA 93-0115** **ITEM VETOED – Analysis of Governor's Veto Message**
Sponsors Rep. Michael J. Madigan (Sen. Patrick Welch)
Makes appropriations to the State Board of Education for fiscal year 2004. **Effective July 1, 2003.**

HB 2750 **PA 93-0114** **ITEM VETOED – Analysis of Governor's Veto Message**
Sponsors Rep. Michael J. Madigan (Sen. Susan Garrett)
Contains the FY03 supplemental appropriation which fully funds the General State Aid formula and allows for the funding of the Emergency Financial Assistance Loans to Cairo and Livingston School Districts. Contains $100 million for FY04 for the categoricals and the ADA Block Grant. **Effective July 1, 2003.**

HB 2797 **PA 93-0110** **Signed 7/8/03**
Sponsors Rep. Roger L. Eddy (Sen. Vince Demuzio)
Allows the school district or cooperative to contract for speech language pathology services while making reasonable efforts to employ a speech-language pathologist or after unsuccessful reasonable efforts have been made. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2836 **PA 93-0166** **Signed 7/10/03**
Sponsors Rep. Roger L. Eddy (Sen. Dale A. Righter)
Amends the Transportation Article of the School Code. Provides that the chief school administrator for the school district (instead of the board clerk or the secretary of the district) shall certify to the regional

superintendent of schools the district's claim for transportation reimbursement by the State. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2840 **PA 93-476** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Rep. Thomas Holbrook (Sen. Terry Link)
Provides for the fingerprint criminal background check for motor coach drivers and medical examination including drug testing has been administered prior to a company contracting with a school district to provide interscholastic and school sponsored activities in a motor coach. **Effective January 1, 2004**.

HB 2864 **PA 93-0112** **Signed 7/8/03**
Sponsors Rep. Angelo Saviano (Sen. M. Maggie Crotty)
Provides that a School Service Personnel Certificate with a speech-language pathologist endorsement shall be issued to a speech language pathologist who meets specified criteria. Amends the Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act. Provides that a person who has made application to the Department for a license to practice speech language pathology or audiology may practice without a license pending disposition of the license application by the Department if specified criteria are met. Provides that a person who undertakes supervised professional experience as a speech language pathologist must obtain a temporary license from the Department. **Effective immediately.**

HB 2910 **PA 93-0013** **Signed 6/9/03**
Sponsors Rep. Tom Cross (Sen. Edward Petka)
In a Section concerning the debt limitations of school districts, provides that until November 1, 2007, a community unit school district maintaining grades K through 12 may issue bonds up to an amount, including existing indebtedness, not exceeding 20% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property in the district if, among other conditions, the school district has an equalized assessed valuation for calendar year 2001 of at least $737,000,000 and an enrollment for the 2002-2003 school year of at least 8,500 and the bonds are issued to purchase school sites, build and equip a new high school, build and equip a new junior high school, build and equip 5 new elementary schools, and make technology and other improvements and additions to existing schools. **Effective immediately.**

HB 3101 **PA 93-346** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Rep. Mark H. Beaubien, Jr.(Sen. Terry Link)
Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of the Code, if a school district adopts, in a fiscal year, an additional or supplemental budget as a result of the voters in the school district having voted in favor of an increase in the annual tax rate for educational or operations and maintenance purposes or both at an election held after the adoption of the annual school budget adopted in that fiscal year, the county clerk shall include, in the extension of taxes made during that fiscal year, the extension of taxes for the supplemental or additional budget adopted by the school district. **Effective immediately.**

HB 3274 **PA 93-349** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Rep. William Davis (Sen. Rickey R. Hendon)
Provides that each member of the General Assembly may annually nominate 2 students for scholarships at any state supported university (now one of the 2 must be to the U of I). **Effective immediately.**

HB 3396 **PA 93-444** **Signed 8/5/03**
Sponsors Rep. Larry McKeon (Sen. Martin A. Sandoval)
Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. Provides

that a labor organization shall be designated as the exclusive representative by a public employer if the labor organization represents a majority of the public employees in an appropriate unit. In the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, provides that: an educational employer shall (rather than may) voluntarily recognize a labor organization for collective bargaining purposes if that organization appears to represent a majority of employees in the unit; and any dispute regarding the majority status of a labor organization shall be resolved by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board which shall make the determination of majority status. **Effective immediately.**

HB 3398 **PA 93-0038** **Signed 6/25/03**
Sponsors Rep. Jack McGuire (Sen. Larry Walsh)
Requires any public body engaging in public works (including school construction projects), with or without a contract, to ascertain the prevailing wage rate. Project specifications and subcontracts must disclose that any subcontractors involved will not receive less than that prevailing rate of wages paid to all laborers, etc., working on that project. Requires public body to maintain detailed employee records. Provides for objections to the determined prevailing wage rate.
Effective January 1, 2004.

HB 3405 **PA 93-501** **Signed 8/11/03**
Sponsors Rep. William Davis (Sen. James T. Meeks)
Amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law of the Property Tax Code. Provides that a school finance authority established under provisions of the School Code concerning downstate school finance authorities for elementary school districts shall not be a taxing district for purposes of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law. Provides that the Law shall not apply to the extension of taxes for a school district for the levy year in which a school finance authority for the district is created pursuant those same provisions of the School Code. **Effective immediately.**

HB 3587 **PA 93-572** **Signed 8/20/03**
Sponsors Rep. Susana Mendoza (Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford)
Eliminates the requirement that a non-citizen receiving a certificate under Article 21 must become a citizen within 6 years and requires instead they file a letter of intent to become a US citizen within 10 years of the letter or at the earliest opportunity when the person becomes eligible to apply for citizenship. There is no penalty for failing to become a citizen. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 2 **PA 93-0006** **Signed 4/16/03**
Sponsors Sen. Carol Ronen (Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie)
Creates the Equal Pay Act of 2003. Provides that no employer may discriminate between employees on the basis of sex by paying wages solely on the basis of the employee's gender. Prohibits retaliatory discharge or discrimination against an employee on the basis of the employee's use of the Act and provides for penalties for violations of the Act, including a Class B misdemeanor for retaliatory discharge or discrimination by the employer. Provides that the Director of Labor shall administer and enforce the Act. Provides that every employer subject to the Act shall preserve specified records for not less than 3 years. Provides that every employer covered by the Act shall post a notice summarizing the requirements of the Act. Provides that the Department of Labor shall conduct ongoing outreach and education efforts concerning the Act. **Effective 1/1/2004.**

SB 19 **PA 93-0003** **Signed 4/16/03**
Sponsors Sen. Emil Jones, Jr. (Rep. Larry McKeon)
Chicago Education Reform Act of 2003. Amends the School Code and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. Requires the Chicago Board of Education and the chief executive officer to enter into a

partnership agreement with the Chicago Teachers Union with regard to advancing student achievement. Makes changes concerning permissive and mandatory subjects of bargaining, adoption of a grievance resolution procedure for the discharge or suspension of employees, and establishment of a Labor Management Council. Amends the Charter Schools Law of the School Code. Increases the number of charter schools in the city of Chicago from 15 to 30. **Effective immediately.**

SB 52 **PA 93-0100** **Signed 7/3/03**
Sponsors Sen. John J. Cullerton (Rep. Timothy L. Schmitz)
Provides that any person who transports children under the age of 8, instead of 4, properly restrain such child in a child safety restraint system. Also provides that any person who transports a child between 8 and 16, is responsible for securing the child in a child seat belts and provides a child weighing 40 pounds or more can be restrained in the back seat in a seat belt if combination lap/shoulder belts are not available. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 66 **PA 93-374** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Sen. Miguel del Valle (Rep. William Delgado)
Provides that the State Board of Education shall be the designated agency responsible for the administration of programs under Part I of Subchapter X of Chapter 70 of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Requires the State Board of Education to establish and implement a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Program, in accordance with federal guidelines, to provide grants to support academically focused after-school programs for students who attend high-poverty, low-performing schools. **Effective immediately.**

SB 70 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. John J. Cullerton (Rep. Calvin L. Giles)
Removes a provision that allows a school district to adopt a policy to permit proficiency examinations for the practice driving part of the driver education course at any time after the completion of 3 hours of practice driving under direct individual instruction.

SB 76 **PA 93-555** **Signed 8/20/03**
Sponsors Sen. Miguel del Valle (Rep. Cynthia Soto)
Creates the Nutrition Outreach and Public Education Act. Establishes a nutrition outreach and public education program within the Department of Human Services to enroll targeted populations in federal food and nutrition assistance programs and to promote the fuller implementation and utilization of such programs in unserved or underserved areas. Authorizes grants to community-based organizations for outreach activities. Requires an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly. **Effective January 1, 2004**.

SB 150 **AMENDATORY VETO** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Terry Link (Rep. Jay C. Hoffman)
Requires Charter Bus drivers comply with the qualifications for becoming a school bus driver. The bill also contains provisions that allows for the reimbursement of intergovernmental agreements that school districts enter into for the transportation of students by mass transit districts. Effective immediately.

SB 191 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Maggie Crotty (Rep. David Miller)
Allows school districts to continue to receive orphanage reimbursement even after a child has been

adopted. Effective July 1, 2003.

SB 192 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Maggie Crotty (Rep. Rosemary Mulligan)
Allows for reimbursement of administrative expenses incurred by districts with large group homes like Maryville Academy in them. Effective immediately.

SB 195 **PA 93-320** **Signed 7/23/03**
Sponsors Sen. Denny Jacobs (Rep. Dan Reitz)
Amends the Downstate Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Allows retired teachers to remain in retirement status and continue to receive their retirement annuities while engaging in employment in a designated subject shortage area. **Effective immediately.**

SB 201 **PA 93-0050** **Signed 6/30/03**
Sponsors Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford (Rep. William Davis)
Creates the Mathematics and Science Block Grant Program, subject to appropriation. The FY04 ISBE appropriations bill does not contain funding for this program. **Effective July 1, 2003.**

SB 206 **PA 93-557** **Signed 8/20/03**
Sponsors Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford (Rep. Calvin L. Giles)
Requires school districts to notify local legislators or public hearings held with regards to waiver requests. **Effective immediately.**

SB 207 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford (Rep. Robert Rita)
Creates, subject to appropriation, a Student Achievement Improvement Block Grant to be administered by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The FY04 ISBE appropriation bill does not contain funding for this program.

SB 230 **PA 93-377** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Sen. Terry Link (Rep. Eddie Washington)
Senate Bill 230 amends the School Code to provide that if a teacher is elected to serve as an officer of a state or national teacher organization that represents teachers in collective bargaining negotiations, then the school board shall grant the teacher a leave of absence of up to 6 years or the period of time the teacher serves as an officer, whichever is longer (now, the leave may only be for up to 6 years). Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 311 **PA 93-0180** **Signed 7/11/03**
Sponsors Sen. Todd Sieben (Rep. Jerry L. Mitchell)
Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that a driver must stop his or her vehicle before meeting or overtaking, from either direction, a school bus stopped at any location (rather than on a highway or on other specified roadways) for the purpose of receiving or discharging pupils. **Effective immediately.**

SB 372 **PA 93-547** **Signed 8/19/03**
Sponsors Sen. Mattie (Rep. Robert Rita)
In provisions concerning a school district's volunteer service credit program, provides that community service may include participation in the organization of a high school or community blood drive or other blood donor recruitment campaign. Requires the regional superintendent of schools to obtain and distribute

to each school that maintains grades 9 and 10 information and data that may be used by the school in developing a unit of instruction on organ/tissue donor and transplantation programs. Provides that the information and data includes instructional materials provided at no cost by America's Blood Centers, the American Red Cross, and Gift of Hope. In the Section concerning a unit of instruction on organ/tissue donor and transplantation programs, allows a school district to also teach students about blood donor and transplantation programs. **Effective immediately.**

SB 381 **PA 93-0053** **Signed 6/30/03**
Sponsors Sen. M. Maggie Crotty (Rep. Michael K. Smith)
Provides that the State Board of Education (subject to appropriation) has the power and duty to improve the reading and study skills of children from seventh through twelfth grade in school districts. Authorizes the State Board of Education to administer a Continued Reading Improvement Block Grant Program. Provides for how funds for the program shall be distributed to school districts and how funds shall be used by school districts. Requires the State Superintendent of Education to annually report to the leadership of the General Assembly on the results of the program and the progress being made on improving the reading skills of student in grades 7 through 12. (The FY 04 ISBE budget has no appropriation for this program.) **Effective July 1, 2003.**

SB 404 **PA 93-462** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Sen. Jeffrey M. Schoenberg (Rep. Elaine Nekritz)
Creates the Children's Privacy Protection and Parental Empowerment Act. In the Children's Privacy Protection and Parental Empowerment Act, provides that a child is a person under the age of 16 (instead of 18). Defines "parent" as a parent, step-parent, or legal guardian. Deletes provisions prohibiting the processing of personal information concerning a child by prisoners or convicted sex offenders or distributing or exchanging a child's personal information that one has reason to believe will be used to harm or abuse the child. Changes the requirements for information brokers to broker or facilitate the sale of personal information concerning children and provides that the consent of a parent to the sale or purchase of information concerning a child is presumed unless the parent withdraws consent. Provides that the State Board of Education shall prepare and disseminate information concerning the Children's Privacy Protection and Parental Empowerment Act and post a notice of rights under the Act on its website.
Effective January 1, 2004.

SB 490 **PA 93-404** **Signed 8/1/03**
Sponsors Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford (Rep. David E. Miller)
Requires the Illinois State Board of Education, Regional Offices of Education, and local districts to share information on applicants for free and reduced lunches for purposes of the Department of Public Aid (IDPA) enrolling children in the Medicaid program. **Effective immediately.**

SB 505 **PA 93-511** **Signed 8/11/03**
Sponsors Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins (Rep. Sidney H. Mathias)
Amends the senior citizens homestead exemption provisions in the Property Tax Code. Provides that beginning with assessment year 2003, for taxes payable in 2004, property that is first occupied as a residence after January 1 of any assessment year by a person who is eligible for the senior citizens homestead exemption must be granted a pro-rata exemption for the assessment year. The amount of the pro-rata exemption is the senior citizens homestead exemption allowed in the county divided by 365 and multiplied by the number of days during the year the property is occupied as a residence by a person eligible for the exemption. The chief county assessment officer must adopt reasonable procedures to establish eligibility for the pro-rata exemption. Amends the State Mandates Act to restate that the senior citizens homestead exemption is exempt from the requirements of the State Mandates Act and further

amends the Property Tax Code to state that the senior citizens homestead exemption is exempt from the requirements of the State Mandates Act. **Effective immediately.**

SB 533 **PA 93-355** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Sen. Edward D. Maloney (Rep. Elizabeth Coulson)
Establishes a statewide induction and mentoring program. The bill calls for a 2-year program with districts receiving a $1200 stipend each year. The bill requires full funding before districts must implement. If the bill is partially funded, allows ISBE to issue an RFP to allow districts either to continue current programs or establish new programs. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 564 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Miguel del Valle (Rep. Calvin L. Giles)
Amends the State Finance Act, the School Code, and the Private Business and Vocational Schools Act. Extends the repeal date of provisions creating the State Board of Education Fund, the State Board of Education Special Purpose Trust Fund, and the Private Business and Vocational Schools Fund (from July 16, 2003, to July 16, 2007). Extends the repeal date of a Section requiring the establishment of the Chicago Schools Academic Accountability Council (from June 30, 2004, to June 30, 2009). Effective immediately.

SB 565 **PA 93-380** **Signed 7/24/03**
Sponsors Sen. Don Harmon (Rep. Deborah L. Graham)
Establishes the Illinois Early Learning Council to coordinate existing state programs & services for children from birth to 5 years of age in order to better meet the early learning needs of children & their families. Provides for the appointment of members to the Council who represent both public & private organizations & who shall serve on a voluntary, unpaid basis. **Effective immediately.**

SB 566 **PA 93-282** **Signed 7/22/03**
Sponsors Sen. Vince Demuzio (Rep. Jim Watson)
Provides that if a child is deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired and he or she might be eligible to receive services from the Illinois School for the Deaf or the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, the school district shall notify the parents or guardian, in writing, of the existence of these schools and the services they provide. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. **Effective immediately.**

SB 606 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Christine Radogno (Rep. Robert S. Molaro)
Clarifies the definition of 'new property' in cook county for property tax purposes..

SB 618 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Dan Cronin (Rep. Calvin L. Giles)
Defines a "textbook" to include science curriculum materials that includes consumable materials for purposes of the Textbook Loan Program.

SB 690 **PA 93-466** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Sen. John J. Cullerton (Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie)
Amends the Freedom of Information Act. Permits a court to award attorney fees and costs to a party denied public records requested fundamentally for their commercial value only if the records were of clearly significant public interest and the public body lacked a legal basis for its denial. Permits a court to

award costs, as well as fees, to a prevailing party who sought disclosure. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 744 **PA 93-0021** **Signed 6/20/03**
Sponsors Sen. Donne E. Trotter (Rep. Michael J. Madigan)
Creates the FY2004 Budget Implementation (Education) Act. Provides that the purpose of the Act is to make changes relating to education that are necessary to implement the state's FY2004 budget. Provides that if the amount that the State Board of Education will pay to a school district from fiscal year 2004 appropriations, as estimated by the State Board on April 1, 2004, is less than the amount that the State Board paid to the school district from fiscal year 2003 appropriations, then, subject to appropriation, the State Board shall make a fiscal year 2004 transitional assistance payment to the school district in an amount equal to the difference between the estimated amount to be paid from fiscal year 2004 appropriations and the amount paid from fiscal year 2003 appropriations. Makes changes to the General State Aid formula provisions by increasing the foundation level of support and changing the amount of and how a supplemental general State Aid grant is calculated. Makes changes to the Charter Schools Law provisions by providing that for fiscal year 2004, the State Board shall pay approved transition impact aid claims only for charter schools with a valid charter granted prior to June 1, 2003 (with all other claims being paid pro rata if any funds remain). Repeals provisions concerning gifted education. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act to repeal a Section concerning Illinois Future Teacher Corps Scholarships; makes a related change in the Illinois Vehicle Code. Renames the ITEACH Teacher Shortage Scholarship Program the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program, and makes other changes (including who may receive a scholarship, the scholarship amount, and where a recipient must agree to teach). **Effective July 1, 2003.**

SB 777 **AMENDATORY VETO** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Maggie Crotty (Rep. JoAnn Osmond)
Requires health facilities, including schools, to install defibrillators. Effective 1-1-04.

SB 805 **PA 93-504** **Signed 8/11/03**
Sponsors Sen. Christine Radogno (Rep. Eileen Lyons)
Provides that parents are encouraged to have their children undergo vision examinations at the same points in time required for health examinations. Provides that the Department of Public Health shall require that individuals conducting vision screening tests give a child's parent or guardian written notification, before the vision screening is conducted, that states that vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor and that the child is not required to undergo the vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months. **Effective July 1, 2004.**

SB 874 **PA 93-0025** **Signed 6/20/03**
Sponsors Sen. Donne Trotter (Rep. Michael J. Madigan)
Amends various Acts including the School Code to require, as a part of the procurement process, additional certifications by businesses wishing to do business with the State of Illinois or local school districts.
Effective immediately.

SB 877 **PA 93-390** **Signed 7/25/03**
Sponsors Sen. Larry D. Woolard (Rep. James H. Meyer)
Requires a school board to cooperate with disaster relief organizations with regard to civil defense shelters.
Effective immediately.

SB 878 **PA 93-470** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Sen. Miguel del Valle (Rep. Jerry L. Mitchell)
Contains No Child Left Behind *NCLB* requirements as negotiated by the Task Force on Assessment and Accountability. Defines school districts to include other public entities operating programs in order to hold all parties accountable for public education for students there a full school year. Recognizes and rewards school districts in the same manner as is done for schools. Clarifies Academic Early Warning and Watch status to be consistent with past practice and compliant in terms of *NCLB,* and addresses both schools as well as school districts. Expands the list of sanctions for all schools and districts, and makes it clear that the federal sanctions (such as public school choice and supplemental educational services) apply ***only*** to schools receiving funding under Title I, Part A, of *NCLB*. **Effective immediately.**

SB 890 **PA 93-406** **Signed 8/1/03**
Sponsors Sen. Barack Obama (Rep. Larry McKeon)
Provides that the teaching of U.S. history shall include a study of the role and contributions of Asian Americans. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 891 **PA 93-471** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Sen. Barack Obama (Rep. Harry Osterman)
Requires the State Board (ISBE) to provide information on its Internet web site regarding strategies that parents can use to assist their children in successfully completing homework assignments. Requires ISBE to notify all school districts about the availability of the homework assistance information on the State Board of Education's Internet web site. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 902 **AMENDATORY VETO** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Susan Garrett (Rep. Monique D. Davis
Creates a K-3 class size reduction grant program (subject to appropriation) to be implemented and administered by the State Board of Education. Limits use of the grant funds to operating and maintaining classes in grades K-3 with a class size of no more than 20 pupils. (No funds are contained in the FY04 Budget for this purpose.) Effective immediately.

SB 903 **PA 93-472** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Sen. Susan Garrett (Rep. Monique D. Davis)
Allows a school board to establish a summer kindergarten program. **Effective immediately.**

SB 1038 **PA 93-0054** **Signed 6/30/03**
Sponsors Sen. Donne E. Trotter (Rep. Constance A. Howard)
Changes the filing deadline for General State Aid claims to June 21 from July 1. Eliminates the requirement that claims must be signed by the school board president. **Effective July 1, 2003.**

SB 1039 **PA 93-0055** **Signed 6/30/03**
Sponsors Sen. Donne E. Trotter (Rep. Constance A. Howard)
Provides that claims for reimbursement under the Driver Education Act shall be made under oath or affirmation of the chief school administrator for the district or authorized driver education personnel (instead of the president or acting president of the school board). **Effective July 1, 2003.**

SB 1075 **PA 93-0205** **Signed 7/17/03**
Sponsors Sen. Vince Demuzio (Rep. Gary Hannig)
Creates the Illinois Finance Authority Act. Consolidates various authorities into the new Authority,

including the Illinois Rural Bond Bank. Provides that all rules, regulations, policies and criteria of the eliminated authorities (i.e. The Rural Bond Bank) will remain in effect until amended or replaced by the new finance authority. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 1081 **PA 93-0530** **Signed 8/14/03**
Sponsors Sen. Iris Y. Martinez (Rep. Maria Antonia Berrios)
Provides that the Department of Public Health shall specify that a diabetes screening as defined by rule shall be included as a required part of each health examination, but that diabetes testing is not required. **Effective January 1, 2004.**

SB 1093 **PA 93-0181** **Signed 7/11/03**
Sponsors Sen. Rick Winkel (Rep. Sidney Mathias)
Provides that school buses may be equipped with alternately flashing head lamps, which may be operated in conjunction with the 8-lamp flashing signal system required under the Code. **Effective immediately.**

SB 1107 **PA 93-538** **Signed 8/18/03**
Sponsors Sen. Rickey R. Hendon (Rep. Lovana Jones)
Allows the Chicago Public Schools to establish a program for students at risk of committing crime. Such program would include a tour of a prison. **Effective January 1, 2004**.

SB 1204 **PA 93-0057** **Signed 6/30/03**
Sponsors Sen. Don Harmon (Rep. Robin Kelly)
Amends the Open Meetings Act. Permits a public body to place its legal counsel's appointment, performance, compensation, or dismissal within the item for such matters concerning the public body's employees. **Effective July 1, 2003.**

SB 1239 **PA 93-587** **Item Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Patrick Welch (Rep. Gary Hannig)
Appropriations funds to the Capital Development Board for school construction projects. Effective immediately.

SB 1321 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. M. Maggie Crotty (Rep. Robert Rita)
In recomputing a general State Aid claim that was originally calculated using an extension limitation equalized assessed valuation, a qualifying reduction in equalized assessed valuation shall be deducted from the extension limitation equalized assessed valuation that was used in calculating the original claim. Provides that in calculating the amount of State Aid to be apportioned to school districts, the State Board of Education shall incorporate and deduct the total aggregate adjustments to assessments made by the State Property Tax Appeal Board or Cook County Board of Appeals from the equalized assessed valuation that is otherwise to be utilized in the initial calculation. Effective immediately.

SB 1333 **VETOED** **Veto Message**
Sponsors Sen. Susan Garrett (Rep. Elaine Nekritz)
Reinstates the ability, with regards to the special education orphanage appropriation, if the appropriation is insufficient to cover current fiscal year reimbursements, the funds to cover full reimbursement shall be taken out of the next fiscal year's appropriation. (Rather than pro-rating reimbursements.)

SB 1363 **PA 93-487** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Sen. Donne Trotter (Rep. Monique Davis)
Creates the Freedom Trail Commission. Requires the commission to work with ISBE to develop a curriculum for use in public schools with regards to the underground railroad. **Effective immediately.**

SB 1368 **PA 93-488** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Sen. Miguel del Valle (Rep. Calvin L. Giles)
Amends the School Finance Authority Act of the School Code. Provides that the powers and responsibilities granted to or imposed upon the Chicago School Finance Authority and the Chicago Board of Education under that Act concerning financial plans, budgets, contracts, staffing levels, expenditures, a chief financial officer, financial and managerial audits, cash accounts and bank accounts, financial, management, and budgetary systems, and reports are suspended until December 31, 2010 (instead of July 1, 2004). **Effective immediately.**

SB 1369 **PA 93-489** **Signed 8/8/03**
Sponsors Sen. Miguel del Valle (Rep. Calvin L. Giles)
Amends the School Construction Law. Requires the State Board of Education and the Capital Development Board to file with the General Assembly a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all school districts in this state before January 1, 2005 and every 2 years thereafter. **Effective immediately.**

SB 1586 **PA 93-523** **Signed 8/12/03**
Sponsors Sen. Barack Obama (Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie)
Amends the Open Meetings Act. Requires that a public body make a verbatim audio or video recording of closed meetings. Establishes procedures for the availability to the public and the court of closed meeting minutes and recordings. Establishes procedures for the destruction of the recordings.
Effective January 1, 2004.

SB 1701 **PA 93-0042** **Signed 6/27/03**
Sponsors Sen. Denny Jacobs (Rep. Richard Bradley)
Extends the subsidy for eligible, participating annuitants under a Chicago Board of Education health plan through June 30, 2013. Increases annuity rates on July 1, 2003 and July 1, 2008, respective of eligibility for Medicare. **Effective July 1, 2003.**

SB 1951 **PA 93-495** **Signed 8/11**
Sponsors Sen. M. Maggie Crotty (Rep. Julie Hamos-
Creates the Children's Mental Health Act of 2003 and amends the State Finance Act and the Illinois Public Aid Code. Requires the state to develop a Children's Mental Health Plan containing short-term and long-term recommendations to provide comprehensive, coordinated mental health prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for children through age 18. Creates the Children's Mental Health Partnership to develop and monitor the implementation of the Plan and report to the Governor. Requires ISBE to develop a plan for the incorporation of social and emotional development standards as part of the Illinois Learning Standards. Requires school districts to develop a plan to incorporate such standards into their curriculum.
Effective immediately.

Continued

RESOLUTIONS

HR 147 **Adopted 5/27/03**
Sponsor Rep. David Miller
Directs the Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the State Board of Education, to conduct a sugar consumption study to determine the effects of sugar consumption as it relates to the overall health of school children.

HR 176 **Adopted 5/14/03**
Sponsor Rep. Ken Dunkin
Directs the State Board of Education and the Department of Human Services to extend the duration of the Illinois After-school Initiative, to be renamed the Illinois After-school Partnership, until 2006.

HR 359 **Adopted 5/28/03**
Sponsor Rep. Ruth Munson
Requests that the Illinois Advisory Council on Children with Disabilities and the State Board of Education immediately study existing state rules on special education.

SR 94 **Adopted 5/15/03**
Sponsor Sen. Miguel del Valle
Requests that the Attorney General provide an opinion interpreting Section 1 of Article X of the Illinois Constitution regarding public school funding.

SJR 33 **Adopted 6/1/03**
Sponsors Sen. Miguel del Valle (Rep. Calvin L. Giles)
Disapproves school district requests for waivers relating to the academic watch list, substitute teachers, and teacher aides.

August 12, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois House of Representatives
93rd General Assembly

I am committed to funding special education and I am willing to implement this new formula on a one-year pilot basis. However, I am concerned that over time the funding formula may not reflect the actual number of students with special needs in a school district. Therefore, I am recommending this change to **House Bill 1180** so that the impact of the formula over time can be reassessed before it is put permanently into statute. Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return House Bill 1180, entitled "AN ACT to amend the School Code", with the following specific recommendation for change:

on page 6, by replacing line 3 with the following: "For fiscal year 2004 only,".

With this change, **House Bill 1180** will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – HB 1180

August 14, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

Currently, school districts can seek reimbursement from the state for driver's education courses and the law requires six hours of behind the wheel practice. The school district may adopt a policy to permit a proficiency exam after three hours. **Senate Bill 70** removes the discretion granted to the school district to craft its own policy. In addition, it will result in an increased financial burden on the school district and the state. During the current fiscal crisis, we should defer to the school district in crafting its driver's education policy and inquire into the necessity of changing these individual policies before passing such a mandate. Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto **Senate Bill 70**, entitled "AN ACT relating to education."

For this reason, I hereby veto and return Senate Bill 70.

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 70

August 25, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return Senate Bill 150, entitled "AN ACT in relation to vehicles", with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 1, line 5, by deleting "and changing Section 29-15"; and

by deleting line 26 on page 2 through line 13 on page 3.

I applaud the sponsors for the many good provisions contained in this bill that seek to improve the safe transportation of children in school districts throughout the state. However, in light of the current fiscal crisis, we simply cannot commit additional state funds to reimburse school districts for transporting children who use public transportation to get to school. Therefore, with the changes outlined above, Senate Bill 150 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 150

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

August 18, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

Senate Bill 191 extends reimbursement for special education services to school districts for children who were DCFS wards, have been adopted, and are still receiving services from DCFS. This is creating a new category of eligibility for full reimbursement of special education costs and is expected to cost the State tens of millions of dollars. Given the fiscal constraints of the State, we cannot justify providing additional reimbursement to school districts outside of the nearly $145 million increase already approved for FY 04.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto and return **Senate Bill 191**, entitled "AN ACT in relation to schools."

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 191

August 18, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

Senate Bill 192 requires the State to reimburse school districts for administrative costs of coordinating the special education services for wards of the State who are educated in residential facilities. The administration has been committed to reducing administrative costs wherever possible and given the fiscal constraints the State is facing, we cannot justify an additional $500,000 to $1.0 million in reimbursement for administrative costs.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto and return **Senate Bill 192**, entitled "AN ACT in relating to education."

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 192

August 18, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return **Senate Bill 207** entitled "AN ACT concerning schools," with the following specific recommendation for change:

on page 2, by replacing lines 19 and 20 with the following:
"(b) The State Board of Education, from any moneys it may have available for this purpose, must implement and administer a grant program that".

Improving student achievement at schools on our academic watch list is a top priority and one we cannot afford to sacrifice. Given the fiscal climate, signing this bill in its current form is not feasible. However, we believe there is significant room for savings in the operations of the State Board of Education. To the extent that savings can be found in the State Board of Education, it would be fitting to apply those resources to the intent of this legislation. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 207

August 8, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

Though this Bill would extend the repeal dates of three education related funds, no actual appropriation was made for them. The State will pursue alternatives other than these funds to increase State funding for education. Therefore, pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto and return **Senate Bill 564**, entitled "AN ACT concerning education."

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 564

August 11, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

I cannot at this time sign legislation that will allow for an increase in property taxes that has not been adequately proven to be necessary. Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto and return **Senate Bill 606**, entitled "AN ACT concerning taxes."

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 606

July 30, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto **Senate Bill 618**, entitled "AN ACT regarding education." I recognize and appreciate the hard work of all the sponsors in passing this legislation. However, Senate Bill 618 contains identical language as Public Act 93-0212, effective July 18, 2003.

For this reason, I hereby veto and return **Senate Bill 618**.

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 618

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

August 27, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

This groundbreaking legislation will make available to Illinois' citizens medical equipment proven to save lives. I support the intent of the legislation; however, there are several changes that I am recommending in order to ensure that the intent is fulfilled.

The language I am recommending provides a clearer definition of physical fitness facilities required to comply; the current bill would apply to venues beyond the intended scope, like churches and wellness centers. The recommended language also provides that these protections are available to citizens living in home rule units, like the City of Chicago. The recommended language provides for stronger enforcement by increasing the penalties for violations in an effort to encourage compliance.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return Senate Bill 777, entitled "AN ACT in relation to health, which may be known as the Colleen O'Sullivan Law", with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 2, line 1, after "government", by inserting ", including a home rule unit,"; and

on page 2, by replacing lines 15 through 20 with the following:

"provides services or facilities focusing primarily on cardiovascular exertion as defined by Department rule.

(b) "Physical fitness facility" does not include a facility serving less than a total of 100 individuals, as further defined by Department rule. In addition, the term does not include a"; and

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 777

on page 2, by replacing line 26 with the following:

"(a) Before January 1, 2005, each person or entity, including a home rule unit, that"; and

on page 3, line 4, after "entity", by inserting ", including a home rule unit,"; and

on page 4, by deleting lines 1 through 12.

on page 4, by replacing lines 24 through 32 with the following:
"subsection (a) or (b) of Section 15, the Director may issue to the facility a written administrative warning without monetary penalty for the initial violation. The facility may reply to the Department with written comments concerning the facility's remedial response to the warning. For subsequent violations, the Director may impose a civil monetary penalty against the facility as follows:

(1) At least $1,500 but less than $2,000 for a second violation.
(2) At least $2,000 for a third or subsequent violation.

(b) The Director may impose a civil monetary penalty under this"; and

on page 5, below line 16, by inserting the following:

"(d) The fines shall be deposited into the Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Fund to be appropriated to the Department, together with any other amounts, for the costs of administering this Act."; and

on page 6, after line 20 by adding the following:

Section 55. Home rule. A home rule unit must comply with the requirements of this Act. A home rule unit may not regulate physical fitness facilities in a manner inconsistent with this Act. This Section is a limitation under subsection (i) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution on the concurrent exercise by home rule units of powers and functions exercised by the State.

Section 75. The State Finance Act is amended by adding Section 5.595 as follows:

(30 ILCS 105/5.595 new)

Sec. 5.595. The Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Fund."; and

by deleting page 6, line 28 through page 46, line 6.

With these changes, Senate Bill 777 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 777

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

August 11, 2003

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 902

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return **Senate Bill 902**, entitled "AN ACT relating to schools", with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 1, by replacing lines 18 through 26 with the following:

"shall provide that those schools that are on the academic watch list under Section 2-3.25d that maintain grades kindergarten through 3 shall be given priority."; and

by replacing lines 30 and 31 on page 1 and lines 1 through 4 on page 2 with the following:

"class size of no more than 20 pupils.".

These changes are necessary to give flexibility to the State Board of Education to award grants to the most disadvantaged schools, based on a variety of factors. With these changes, **Senate Bill 902** will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 902

August 18, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate

I am firmly committed to funding elementary and secondary education. The fiscal year 2004 budget provides over $381 million new dollars directly to school districts, including a $250 increase in the per student Foundation Level. **SB 1321** targets additional resources to school districts affected by tax caps and struggling to make up for lost resources through property tax appeals. While we have provided millions of new dollars to school districts, we must recognize our budget constraints, and therefore, I am modifying SB 1321 to limit the allocation for state aid adjustments to $20 million of the General State Aid appropriation within each fiscal year. This amount is consistent with the average allocated in the past four years. Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return Senate Bill 1321, entitled "AN ACT regarding schools", with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 2, line 4, after "claim.", by inserting "From the total amount of general State aid to be provided to districts, adjustments as a result of recomputation under this Section together with adjustments under Section 2-3.84 shall not exceed $20 million, in the aggregate for all districts under both Sections combined, of the general State aid appropriation in any fiscal year; if necessary, amounts shall be prorated among districts."; and

on page 2, line 16, after "calculation.", by inserting "From the total amount of general State aid to be provided to districts, adjustments under this Section together with adjustments as a result of recomputation under Section 2-3.33 shall not exceed $20 million, in the aggregate for all districts under both Sections combined, of the general State aid appropriation in any fiscal year; if necessary, amounts shall be prorated among districts.".

With these changes, **Senate Bill 1321** will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 1321

August 18, 2003

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

I am committed to funding education for our school children, including special education, and the FY 04 budget reflects that commitment. While we were not able to fund every program, we significantly increased funding for education (by $381 million for fiscal year 2004) and for special education programs overall (by 145 million for fiscal year 2004). In these difficult fiscal times, I believe that we must operate within the constraints set by that budget and not allow costs to be passed on to future years. Therefore, I am modifying **SB 1333** so that at least for the next two years reimbursements for these special education costs must be paid solely from the year they are appropriated.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return Senate Bill 1333, entitled "AN ACT concerning education", with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 4, by replacing line 17 with the following:
"year thereafter through fiscal year 2002 <u>and then in fiscal year 2006 and each fiscal year thereafter</u>, if the amount"; and

on page 4, by replacing line 22 with the following:
"the next fiscal year, and the payments required to eliminate"; and

on page 4, by replacing lines 25 through 32 with the following:
"Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section or this Code, beginning with fiscal year 2003 <u>and continuing through fiscal year 2005</u>, total reimbursement under this Section in any fiscal year is limited to the amount appropriated for that purpose for that fiscal year, and if the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is less than the amount required for purposes of this Section, the insufficiency shall be apportioned pro rata among the school districts seeking reimbursement."; and

on page 10, by replacing lines 15 and 16 with the following:
"1994 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2002 <u>and then in fiscal year 2006 and each fiscal year thereafter</u>, if the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is less"; and

on page 10, by replacing lines 20 and 21 with the following:
"reimbursed on August 30 of the next fiscal year, and the payments required to eliminate any insufficiency for prior"; and

on page 10, by replacing lines 23 through 31 with the following:
"for the current fiscal year. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section or this Code, beginning with fiscal year 2003 <u>and continuing through fiscal year 2005</u>, total reimbursement under this Section in any fiscal year is limited to the amount appropriated for that purpose for that fiscal year, and if the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is less than the amount required for purposes of this Section, the insufficiency shall be apportioned pro rata among the school districts seeking reimbursement.".

With these changes, **Senate Bill 1333** will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Return to Legislature & Schools – SB 1333