

2004 Legislative Wrap-Up

Jesse Ruiz, *Chair*
Illinois State Board of Education

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Dr. Randy J. Dunn
State Superintendent of Education

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All info available at the General Assembly Web site: www.ilga.gov

HB 752 93-0946 Signed 8/19/04

Sponsors: Rep. [David E. Miller](#) (Sen. [Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson](#))

Requires all children in kindergarten and the second and sixth grades of any public, private, or parochial school to have a dental examination. Provides that if a child in the second or sixth grade fails to present proof of having been examined by a dentist by May 15th of the school year, the school may hold the child's report card until one of the following occurs: (i) the child presents proof of a completed dental examination or (ii) the child presents proof that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15th. Requires the Department of Public Health to establish, by rule, a waiver for children who show an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist. Makes related changes. **Effective July 1, 2005.**

HB 753 93-0690 Veto Override by General Assembly 7/9/04

Sponsors: Rep. [JoAnn D. Osmond](#) (Sen. [William E. Peterson](#))

Amends the Property Tax Code and the School Code. Allows a school district (other than the Chicago school district) that (i) is located in a county subject to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, (ii) had a total enrollment of at least 1,075 students as shown on the 2003 Illinois State Report Card, and (iii) had a school building condemned after January 1, 2004 and prior to June 30, 2004 to levy an annual property tax not to exceed 0.05% for a period not to exceed 7 years for the purpose of providing for the repayment of State moneys distributed for temporary relocation expenses of the district. Allows the district to repair, reconstruct, or replace a condemned building without seeking referendum approval for the repair, reconstruction, or replacement. Allows the district to issue bonds, without referendum, in an amount sufficient to finance the total cost of repair, reconstruction, or replacement. Includes provisions concerning excess funds. Under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, excludes, from the definition of "aggregate extension" for taxing districts to which the Law applied before the 1995 levy year, extensions made for temporary relocation loan repayment purposes and extensions made for payment of principal and interest on bonds. **Effective immediately.**

HB 754 93-0799 Signed 7/22/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Jack McGuire](#) (Sen. [Lawrence M. Walsh](#))

Amends the School Code. In a Section concerning the debt limitations of school districts, provides that a school district may issue bonds up to an amount, including existing indebtedness, not exceeding 25% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property

in the district if, among other conditions, the school board has determined that the enrollment of students is projected to increase by not less than 7% during each of the next succeeding 2 school years and the increase is the result of improvements made or expected to be made to passenger rail facilities located in the district. **Effective immediately.**

HB 758 93-0934 Signed 8/13/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Richard P. Myers](#) (Sen. [John M. Sullivan](#))

Amends the School District Conversion Article of the School Code. Provides that election of board members for a new high school district may be (i) on an at-large basis, (ii) with board members representing each of the forming elementary school districts, or (iii) a combination of both. Provides that the format for the election of the new high school board must be defined in the petition submitted to the voters. Provides that when 4 or more unit school districts are involved and a combination of board members representing each of the forming elementary school districts and at-large formats are used, one member must be elected from each of the forming elementary school districts, with the remaining members allowed to be elected on an at-large basis (provided that none of the underlying elementary school districts have a majority on the resulting high school board). Provides that when 3 unit school districts are involved and a combination of board members representing each of the forming elementary school districts and at large formats are used, 2 members must be elected from each of the forming elementary school districts, with the remaining member required to be elected at large. **Effective immediately.**

HB 759 93-1045 Signed 10/15/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Patricia Reid Lindner](#) (Sen. [Chris Lauzen](#))

Provides that a community unit school district maintaining grades K through 12 may issue bonds up to an amount, including indebtedness, not exceeding 27% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property in the district if, among other conditions, (i) the district has an equalized assessed valuation for calendar year 2001 of at least \$295,741,187 and a best 3 months' average daily attendance for the 2002-2003 school year of at least 2,394 and (ii) the bonds are issued to build and equip 3 elementary school buildings; build and equip one middle school building; and alter, repair, improve, and equip all existing school buildings in the district. **Effective immediately.**

HB 766 93-1042 Signed 10/8/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Ruth Munson](#) (Sen. [Lawrence M. Walsh](#))

Creates "Fast Growth Grants" to be paid to a school district if there has been an increase in a school districts's student population over the most recent 2 school years of (i) over 1.5% in a district with over 10,000 pupils in average daily attendance or (ii) over 7.5% in any other district. **Effective immediately.**

HB 3088 93-0919 Signed 8/12/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Kevin A. McCarthy](#) (Sen. [Larry D. Woolard](#))

Amends the Private Business and Vocational Schools Act. Provides that certain educational institutions that enroll students in one or more bachelor-level programs and

are accredited by a national accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education are not considered to be private business and vocational schools. **Effective immediately.**

HB 3977 93-0909 Signed 8/12/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Careen Gordon](#) (Sen. [William R. Haine](#))

Amends several statutes concerning the criminal background investigations of applicants for employment with school districts. Provides that the school district or regional superintendent of schools shall submit an applicant's fingerprint images or other identifiers to the State Police when requesting a check. Provides for the State Police and FBI to furnish fingerprint-based criminal history records checks and records of convictions, until expunged. **Effective immediately.**

HB 4225 93-1022 Signed 8/24/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Jerry L. Mitchell](#) (Sen. [Wendell E. Jones](#))

In provisions concerning the educational services block grant for a school district having a population exceeding 500,000 inhabitants, provides that the grant shall include funding for children requiring special education services. Removes the extraordinary component of the Special Education program that the educational services block grant includes. Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Replaces certain provisions concerning State reimbursement to a school district with new provisions governing payments for children requiring special education services. Makes changes concerning room and board funds. In the new provisions governing payments for children requiring special education services (1) removes references to joint agreements, (2) provides that reimbursement for individual students with disabilities whose program costs exceed 4 times the district's per capita tuition rate shall be claimed beginning with costs encumbered for the 2004-2005 school year and thereafter, and (3) provides that the base level funding computation shall be made only for fiscal years 2005 through 2007 (instead of for fiscal year 2005 and each fiscal year thereafter). Changes references to a repealed Section. **Effective immediately.**

HB 4232 93-0910 Signed 8/12/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Daniel J. Burke](#) (Sen. [Martin A. Sandoval](#))

Creates the Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act. Requires various indoor physical fitness facilities to develop and implement a plan for responding to medical emergencies and to file a copy of the plan with the Department of Public Health. Requires each such facility to have at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) on the facility premises and to have a trained AED user on staff. Requires the Department to adopt rules to ensure coordination with local emergency medical services systems regarding the placement and use of AEDs in physical fitness facilities. Authorizes the Department to inspect facilities to investigate complaints and ensure compliance with the Act. Authorizes civil monetary penalties for violations of the Act. Contains provisions concerning civil liability in connection with the purchase or use of an AED. Establishes a time frame for compliance with the Act. Preempts home rule. Provides for the deposit of fines into the Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Fund. Amends The State Finance Act to create the Fund. Amends the State

Mandates Act to provide that no reimbursement by the State is required for the implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act. Amends the Automated External Defibrillator Act to provide that (i) a unit of State or local government, or school district (as well as a "person") is not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or omission involving the use of an AED, (ii) "an" AED user (instead of "a trained" AED user) is not liable for such damages, and (iii) the provisions concerning exemption from civil liability do not apply to a public hospital. **Effective January 1, 2005.**

HB 4266 93-0808 Signed 7/26/04

Sponsors: Rep. [William Davis](#) (Sen. [Patrick Welch](#))

Amends the School Code. In the State aid formula provisions, increases the foundation level of support from \$4,810 to \$5,060. **Effective July 1, 2004.** While HB4266 raised the foundation level by \$250, a subsequent bill, SB2205 ([93-0838](#)), raised the foundation level to \$4,964 for the 2004-2005 school year. Public Act 93-838 is the controlling bill.

HB 4351 93-0855 Signed 8/2/04

Sponsors: Rep. [JoAnn D. Osmond](#) (Sen. [William E. Peterson](#))

Amends the Property Tax Code. Requires the county clerks of each county in which there was an under extension to proportionately increase the levy of that taxing district pursuant to a court order if a court, at any time (instead of prior to August 16, 2001, which was the effective date of P.A. 92-377), enters a final judgment that there was an over extension or under extension of taxes for an overlapping taxing district. **Effective immediately.**

HB4502 93-0773 Signed 7/21/04

Sponsors: Rep. [James D. Brosnahan](#) (Sen. [James A. DeLeo](#))

Amends the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act. Requires the Department of Human Services to periodically convene a special task force to study and assess service needs of persons with autism. **Effective immediately.**

HB 4788 93-0938 Signed 8/13/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Frank Aguilar](#) (Sen. [Antonio Munoz](#))

Creates the offense of criminal street gang recruitment on school grounds or public property adjacent to school grounds. Provides that a person commits the offense when on school grounds he or she threatens the use of physical force to coerce, solicit, recruit, or induce another person to join or remain a member of a criminal street gang, or conspires to do so. Provides that criminal street gang recruitment on school grounds is a Class 1 felony. **Effective January 1, 2005.**

HB 4944 93-0901 Signed 8/10/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Michael K. Smith](#) (Sen. [Deanna Demuzio](#))

Requires the State Board of Education to establish (subject to appropriation) a 3-year technology immersion pilot project to provide a wireless laptop computer to each student, teacher, and relevant administrator in a participating school and implement the use of software, on-line courses, and other appropriate learning technologies that have been shown to improve academic achievement and specified progress measures. Creates the

Technology Immersion Pilot Project Fund as a special fund in the State treasury, with moneys being used by the State Board for the pilot project. Requires participating school districts to send an annual progress report to the State Board. **Effective immediately.** The same measure also passed under SB 2732 (93-0904). The FY 05 ISBE budget has no appropriation for this program.

HB 5215 93-0953 Signed 8/19/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Renee Kosel](#) (Sen. [Christine Radogno](#))

Amends the School Code. In a Section requiring a school district that provides transportation on buses that are owned by the district and are operated by drivers who are employed by the district to solicit sealed bids if the district receives a request from an interested private school bus contractor, provides that a district or special education cooperative is not required to respond to such a request more than once every 2 years. **Effective January 1, 2005.**

HB 5562 93-0861 Signed 8/4/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Lovana Jones](#) (Sen. [Jacqueline Y. Collins](#))

Amends the Charter Schools Law of the School Code. Allows the Chicago Board of Education to designate attendance boundaries for no more than one-third of the charter schools permitted in Chicago if the Board determines that attendance boundaries are needed to relieve overcrowding or to better serve low-income and at-risk students. Allows students residing within an attendance boundary to be given priority for enrollment, but prohibits them from being required to attend the charter school. **Effective January 1, 2005.**

HB 6906 93-0997 Signed 8/23/04

Sponsors: Rep. [Jerry L. Mitchell](#) (Sen. [Jeffrey M. Schoenberg](#))

Provides that if a school district has an overall shortage of highly qualified teachers, as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, or a shortage of highly qualified teachers in the subject area of mathematics, science, reading, or special education, then the school board must spend at least 40% of the money it receives from Title 2 grants under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 on recruitment and retention initiatives to assist in recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers as specified in the Act. Provides that as the number of highly qualified teachers in the district increases, the school board may spend any surplus of the minimum 40% of funds dedicated to addressing the highly qualified teacher shortage in any manner the school board deems appropriate. **Effective immediately.**

SB 1271 93-0673 Signed 5/7/04

Supplemental appropriation bill that restores funds from the Teacher Certificate Fee Revolving Fund to \$1.5 million. **Effective immediately.**

SB 1412 93-0794 Signed 7/22/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Barack Obama](#) (Rep. [Jim Sacia](#))

Amends several statutes concerning anatomical gift organ donation. Among the amendments is a requirement for the regional superintendent of schools in which a school

district that maintains grades 9 and 10 is located to distribute organ transplant information. **Effective immediately.**

SB 1550 93-0802 Signed 7/23/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Iris Y. Martinez](#) (Rep. [Marlow H. Colvin](#))

Creates the Grow Our Own Teacher Education Act. Establishes (subject to appropriation) the Grow Our Own Teacher Education Initiative to prepare highly skilled, committed teachers who will teach in hard-to staff schools and hard-to-staff positions and who will remain in these schools for substantial periods of time. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall administer the Initiative as a grant competition to fund consortia that will carry out Grow Our Own Teacher preparation programs. Provides for an independent program evaluation. **Effective January 1, 2005.** The FY 05 ISBE budget has no appropriation for this program.

SB1553 93-0679 Signed 6/30/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Miguel del Valle](#) (Rep. [Michael J. Madigan](#))

Deletes everything after the enacting clause. Amends the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971. Extends indefinitely the Teacher Retirement Insurance Program, which had been scheduled to terminate on July 1, 2004. Specifies contribution and subsidy rates for fiscal years after 2004. Creates a TRIP Committee to make recommendations concerning the Program. Amends the State Pension Funds Continuing Appropriation Act. Provides for a required \$13,000,000 annual appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the State Comptroller for deposit into the Teachers Health Insurance Security Fund in State fiscal years 2005 through 2007 that is in addition to other payments required under that Act. Amends the School Code. Provides that instructional expenditures of school districts shall be included in the State Board of Education's report to the Governor and General Assembly concerning the condition of schools. Amends the Teacher Certification Article of the School Code. Makes changes concerning out-of-state candidates. Provides for a fee for using a credit card to pay a certification fee. Provides that an initial teaching certificate shall be automatically extended for one year for all persons who (i) have been issued an initial certificate that expires on June 30, 2004 and (ii) have not met, prior to July 1, 2004, standard certificate requirements. Changes certain requirements in order to receive a standard certificate (including the induction and mentoring requirement, the completion of an advanced degree requirement, and the accumulation of continuing professional development units requirement), and adds other requirements. Makes changes concerning the process in which standard certificates are issued. Makes changes with regard to the renewal of administrative certificates. Removes the requirement that a certificate holder develop a certificate renewal plan for satisfying continuing professional development requirements. Removes some of the requirements that participation in continuing professional development activities must meet. Provides that participation in Illinois Administrators' Academy courses must total a minimum of 30 (instead of 36) continuing professional development hours, and removes the documentation requirement. Requires the certificate holder to complete a verification form developed by the State Board of Education and certify that 100 hours of continuing professional development activities and 5 Administrators' Academy courses have been completed. With regard to certain certificate

holders, provides 5 that certificate holders who evaluate certified staff must complete a 2-day teacher evaluation course. Provides that a teacher holding an early childhood, elementary, high school, or special certificate may substitute teach for a period not to exceed 120 paid school days or 600 paid school hours in any one school district in any one school term (now, allowed only through the 2003-2004 school year). Makes changes concerning what a master certificate holder in an area of science or social science is eligible to teach. Provides that an initial teaching certificate is renewable every 4 years until the person completes 4 years of teaching (now, nonrenewable), and allows a person who has completed 4 years of teaching but has not completed the professional development requirements to have his or her certificate reinstated for one year. Makes changes concerning what a standard or master certificate holder needs to do to satisfy the continuing professional development requirements, and makes changes concerning the renewal process. Removes provisions requiring school districts to be paid a certain amount for administrative costs. Removes provisions requiring an evaluation of the certificate renewal system. With regard to the suspension and revocation of certificates, makes changes concerning requests to delay a hearing, stays of proceedings, and the number of days within which a revocation hearing must be held before the State Teacher Certification Board. Makes other changes. Amends the School Construction Law. Provides that the State Board of Education may not make any material changes to the standards in effect on May 18, 2004 for determining priority needs for school construction projects, unless the State Board of Education is specifically authorized by law. Provides that school districts must be allowed to choose the architect and engineer for their school construction projects, and no project may be disapproved by the State Board of Education or the Capital Development Board solely due to a school district's selection of an architect or engineer. Provides that the Capital Development Board may not make any material changes in the administration of its powers granted under the School Construction Law from how it administered those powers on May 18, 2004, unless specifically authorized by law. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. **Effective immediately.**

SB 2112 93-0715 Signed 7/12/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Terry Link](#) (Rep. [Michael J. Madigan](#))

Amends the Property Tax Code. Increases the ceiling for household income eligibility for the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption from \$40,000 for taxable years 1999 through 2003 to \$45,000 for taxable years 2004 and thereafter. Provides that, for taxable years 2004 and thereafter, the maximum reduction under the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption shall be \$3,000 in all counties and the maximum reduction under the general homestead exemption shall be \$5,000 in all counties. Creates an alternative general homestead exemption that applies to counties that choose to adopt the provision by ordinance. Provides that the amount of the exemption is the equalized assessed value of the homestead property for the current tax year minus the adjusted homestead value. Defines "adjusted homestead value" as the lesser of (i) the property's base homestead value increased by 7% for each tax year after the base year (2002 or 2003) through and including the current tax year or (ii) the property's equalized assessed value for the current tax year minus \$4,500 in Cook County and \$3,500 in all other counties in tax year 2003 or \$5,000 in all counties in tax year 2004 and thereafter. Provides that "base

homestead value" means the equalized assessed value of the property for the base year prior to exemptions, minus \$4,500 in Cook County and \$3,500 in all other counties in tax year 2003 or \$5,000 in all counties in tax year 2004 and thereafter. Establishes procedures for determining the base homestead value of property improved after the base year. Provides that in counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, the new general homestead exemption provisions apply only for assessment years 2003, 2004, and 2005 if 2002 is the designated base year or 2004, 2005, and 2006 if 2003 is the designated base year. Provides that if a county has elected to subject itself to the alternative general homestead exemption provisions, then, for the first taxable year only after those provisions no longer apply, creates an additional general homestead exemption of \$5,000 for owners (i) who have not been granted a senior citizens assessment freeze homestead exemption for the taxable year, (ii) whose qualified property has an assessed valuation that has increased by more than 20% over the previous assessed valuation of the property, and (iii) who have a household income of \$30,000 or less. Provides that in all counties (now, in counties with more than 3,000,000 inhabitants), the assessor or chief county assessment officer may use specified methods to determine the eligibility of residential property to receive the homestead exemption and the amount of the exemption. Requires a taxpayer applying for the additional general homestead exemption to submit an application and an affidavit to the chief county assessment officer. Requires the Department of Revenue to issue guidelines establishing a method for verifying the accuracy of the affidavits. In provisions that authorize a partial exemption from property taxes for homestead properties that have been improved and residential structures on homestead property that have been rebuilt following a catastrophic event, changes the limit to \$75,000 per year for that homestead property beginning January 1, 2004 and thereafter (now, \$45,000 per year). Amends the State aid provisions of the School Code to provide that, if the general homestead exemption is determined under the alternative general homestead exemption provisions or if an additional general homestead exemption is allowed because the owner has a household income of less than \$30,000, then the available local resources shall not be effected. Makes other changes. Amends the Longtime Owner-Occupant Property Tax Relief Act to limit deferrals or exemptions to \$20,000 in EAV per tax year. Amends the Economic Development Area Tax Increment Allocation Act, the County Economic Development Project Area Property Tax Allocation Act, the County Economic Development Project Area Tax Increment Allocation Act of 1991, the Economic Development Project Area Tax Increment Allocation Act of 1995, the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act and the Industrial Jobs Recovery Law in the Illinois Municipal Code, the School Code, and the Criminal Code of 1961 to include a cross reference to the alternative general homestead exemption provision in the Property Tax Code. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. **Effective immediately.**

SB 2115 93-0803 Signed 7/23/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Miguel del Valle](#) (Rep. [William Delgado](#))

Allows a school or school district to deny enrollment to a student 16 years of age or older for one semester for failure to meet minimum academic or attendance standards if certain conditions are met. Requires a district to identify, track, and report on the educational progress and outcomes of reenrolled students (defined as dropouts who have reenrolled

full-time) as a subset of the district's required reporting on all enrollments. Provides that a reenrolled student who again drops out must not be counted again against a district's dropout rate performance measure. Requires the State Board of Education to set performance standards for programs serving reenrolled students. **Effective immediately.**

SB 2135 93-0814 Signed 7/27/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Susan Garrett](#) (Rep. [Monique D. Davis](#))

Creates (subject to appropriation) a K-3 class size reduction grant program to be implemented and administered by the State Board of Education. Provides that only those schools that are on the early academic warning list or academic watch list and that maintain grades K-3 are grant eligible. Provides that grants shall be used and applied by schools to defray the costs and expenses of operating and maintaining classes in grades kindergarten through 3 with an average class size within a specific grade of no more than 20 pupils (instead of with a class size of no more than 20 pupils). Provides that if a school's facilities are inadequate to allow for this specified class size, then a school may use the grant funds for teacher aides instead. **Effective immediately.** The FY 05 ISBE budget has no appropriation for this program.

SB 2171 93-0711 Signed 7/12/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Carol Ronen](#) (Rep. [Elizabeth Coulson](#))

Amends the Department of Human Services Act. Extends the Great START (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers) program. **Effective immediately.**

SB 2205 93-0838 Signed 7/30/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Miguel del Valle](#) (Rep. [Tom Cross](#))

Creates the FY2005 Budget Implementation (Education) Act. Amends the State Finance Act. Creates as federal trust funds in the State treasury (i) the SBE Federal Department of Education Fund to receive funds from the federal Department of Education, (ii) the SBE Federal Agency Services Fund to receive funds from all federal departments and agencies except the Departments of Education and Agriculture, and (iii) the SBE Federal Department of Agriculture Fund to receive funds from the federal Department of Education, all to be used for grants and contracts to local education agencies, colleges and universities, and other State agencies and for administrative expenses of the State Board of Education. Amends the School Code. In the Section concerning State testing, makes changes concerning which subjects students must be tested on. Provides that if the amount that the State Board of Education will pay to a school district from fiscal year 2005 appropriations, as estimated on April 1, 2005, is less than the amount that the State Board paid to the district from fiscal year 2004 appropriations, then the State Board shall make a fiscal year 2005 transitional assistance payment to the district in an amount equal to the difference between the estimated amount to be paid from fiscal year 2005 appropriations and the amount paid from fiscal year 2004 appropriations. In the State aid formula provisions, increases the foundation level of support. With regard to supplemental general State aid, provides that (i) for the 2004-2005 school year, the grant shall be no less than the grant for the 2002-2003 school year, (ii) for the 2005-2006 school year, the grant shall be no less than the grant for the 2002-2003 school year multiplied by 0.66, and (iii) for the 2006-2007 school year, the grant shall be no less than

the grant for the 2002-2003 school year multiplied by 0.33. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that all money in the National Guard Grant Fund shall be used by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (instead of the Department of Military Affairs) for the purposes of the Illinois National Guard Grant Program. **Effective immediately.**

SB 2349 93-0845 Signed 7/30/04

Sponsors: Sen. [M. Maggie Crotty](#) (Rep. [Robert Rita](#))

Amends the School Code. Provides that 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. Provides that from the total amount of general State aid to be provided to school districts, adjustments under (i) the Section allowing recomputation of State aid claims and (ii) the Section requiring the incorporation and deduction of adjustments to assessments in calculating State aid together must not exceed \$25 million of the general State aid appropriation in any fiscal year. Includes provisions concerning proration.

Effective immediately.

SB 2360 93-0890 Signed 8/9/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Kimberly A. Lightford](#) (Rep. [Paul D. Froehlich](#))

Requires the State Board of Education to implement and administer, subject to appropriation, a student achievement improvement grant program to provide 2-year grants to school districts on the academic watch list and other school districts that have the lowest achieving students. Requires a school district to establish an accountability program in order to receive a grant. Requires a grant to be automatically renewed when achievement goals are met. **Effective immediately.** The FY 05 ISBE budget has no appropriation for this program.

SB 2362 93-0875 Signed 8/6/04

Sponsors: Sen. [John M. Sullivan](#) (Rep. [Lisa M. Dugan](#))

In the State aid formula provisions, provides that calculation of Available Local Resources shall exclude tax amnesty funds received as a result of Public Act 93-26. **Effective immediately.**

8

SB 2395 Returned to the Governor for Certification

Sponsors: Sen. [M. Maggie Crotty](#) (Rep. [Roger L. Eddy](#))

Makes changes in the requirements for a School Service Personnel Certificate with a speech-language endorsement and in the definition of "speech-language pathologist" in the provisions concerning contracting for speech-language pathology services. Provides that a requirement for issuance of a temporary license is documentation certifying that the applicant's professional experience will be supervised by a licensed speech-language

pathologist (rather than demonstrating that a licensed speech language pathologist has agreed to supervise the professional experience of the applicant).

SB 2444 93-0740 Signed 7/15/04

Sponsors: Sen. [James F. Clayborne Jr.](#) (Rep. [Thomas Holbrook](#))

Provides that if, at the time of enrollment, dependents of United States military personnel are housed in temporary housing located outside of a school district, but will be living within that school district within 60 days after the time of initial enrollment, the dependents shall be enrolled, upon a sufficient showing of proof, and shall not be charged non-resident tuition. Provides that non-resident dependents of United States military personnel attending school on a tuition-free basis may be counted for the purposes of determining the apportionment of State aid. **Effective immediately.**

SB 2732 93-0904 Signed 8/10/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Emil Jones Jr.](#) (Rep. [Michael K. Smith](#))

Requires the State Board of Education to establish (subject to appropriation) a 3-year technology immersion pilot project to provide a wireless laptop computer to each student, teacher, and relevant administrator in a participating school and implement the use of software, on-line courses, and other appropriate learning technologies that have been shown to improve academic achievement and specified progress measures. Creates the Technology Immersion Pilot Project Fund as a special fund in the State treasury, with moneys being used by the State Board for the pilot project. Requires participating school districts to send an annual progress report to the State Board. **Effective immediately.** The same measure also passed under HB 4944 (93-901). The FY 05 ISBE budget has no appropriation for this program.

SB 2769 93-0857 Signed 8/3/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Miguel del Valle](#) (Rep. [Cynthia Soto](#))

Provides that no student shall receive a regular diploma without taking the Prairie State Achievement Exam. Provides for exceptions to the requirement. **Effective immediately.**

SB 2810 93-0706 Signed 7/9/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Larry K. Bomke](#) (Rep. [Rich Brauer](#))

Changes certain formats used to elect school board members. **Effective immediately.**

SB 2918 93-0858 Signed 8/3/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Miguel del Valle](#) (Rep. [William Delgado](#))

Increases the compulsory school age from 16 to 17 years of age, with exceptions. Provides that certain provisions that apply to truant officers apply to the regional superintendent of schools or his or her designee in a school district that does not have a truant officer. Makes changes concerning the compliance procedure for persons who fail to send a child to school. Allows certain students to enroll in graduation incentives programs. Lists programs that qualify as graduation incentives programs. Provides for reimbursement and funding for programs. **Effective January 1, 2005.**

SB 2940 93-0966 Signed 8/20/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Mattie Hunter](#) (Rep. [David E. Miller](#))

Amends the School Code and the Illinois Health Statistics Act. Provides that health examinations shall include the collection of data relating to obesity, including at a minimum, date of birth, gender, height, weight, blood pressure, and date of exam. Provides that the Department of Public Health shall collect and maintain health data on the extent, nature, and impact of obesity. Provides that the Department may collect health data from local schools and the State Board of Education relating to obesity on health examination forms. Provides that the data collected by the Department shall be de-identified and aggregated to prevent disclosure of personal identifying information.

Effective January 1, 2005.

SB 3000 93-1036 Signed 9/14/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Miguel del Valle](#) (Rep. [Calvin L. Giles](#))

Under the School Employee Benefit Act, provides that the prescription drug benefit program shall be maintained on an ongoing, affordable basis, and the cost to school districts shall not exceed the State's actual program costs. Also, makes changes concerning pharmacy providers. Makes changes to the provisions concerning the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Education. Terminates the terms of certain members of the State Board of Education on the effective date of the amendatory Act and provides for new members to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate (including a chairperson). Provides that the Governor who takes office on the second Monday of January after his or her election shall be the person who nominates members to fill vacancies whose terms begin after that date and before the term of the next Governor begins. Allows the Governor to remove a member for incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance. Provides that upon expiration or buyout of the contract of the State Superintendent in office on the effective date of the amendatory Act, a State Superintendent shall be appointed by a State Board that includes the new members who were appointed to fill seats of members whose terms were terminated on the effective date of the amendatory Act, and thereafter, a State Superintendent must, at a minimum, be appointed at the beginning of each term of a Governor after that Governor has made appointments to the State Board. Provides that a contract issued for the employment of a State Superintendent entered into on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act must expire no later than February 1, 2007, and subsequent contracts must expire no later than February 1 each 4 years thereafter (now, a contract may not be for a term longer than 3 years). Prohibits a contract from being extended or renewed beyond February 1, 2007 and February 1 each 4 years thereafter, but provides that the State Superintendent shall serve until his or her successor is appointed. Provides that each contract entered into on or before January 8, 2007, with a State Superintendent must provide that the State Board may terminate the contract for cause, and the State Board shall not thereafter be liable for further payments under the contract. Restores current law requiring the State Board to set the State Superintendent's compensation. Restores current law requiring a majority vote of the members appointed, confirmed, and serving to approve any action, except that the new Board members may vote to approve actions when appointed and serving. Provides that upon appointment of the new Board members, the Board shall review all of its current rules in an effort to streamline procedures, improve efficiency, and eliminate unnecessary forms and

paperwork. Requires the State Board to create certain divisions within the State Board. Provides that rules of the State Board must be in accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Provides that the State Board may not adopt any rule or policy that alters the intent of the authorizing law or that supersedes federal or State law. Provides that the State Board may not make policies affecting school districts that have the effect of rules without following the procedures of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Requires the State Board to develop and maintain a continuing 5-year strategic plan for elementary and secondary education, to be issued to the Governor and General Assembly. Lists topic areas that the plan must include. Removes the provision allowing the State Board to create shared service centers. Provides instead that the State Board is granted the power to provide certain regional services, either through a regional administrative technology center or otherwise. Requires a school district's calendar for the school term and any changes to be submitted to and approved by the regional superintendent of schools (the State Board of Education in Chicago) before the calendar or any changes may take effect. Gives the regional superintendent of schools the duty to assist and support school districts with the preparation and submission of grant applications and the duty to accept and review all transcripts for new initial certificate applications and ensure that each applicant has met all of the criteria established by the State Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board. Makes other changes. **Effective immediately.**

SB 3091 93-0707 Signed 7/9/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Frank C. Watson](#) (Rep. [Robert F. Flider](#))

Amends the School Code. Allows a joint agreement made up of school districts or a regional superintendent of schools on behalf of schools and programs operated by the regional office of education to apply for a waiver or modification of mandates within the School Code and State Board of Education rules. **Effective immediately.**

SB 3109 93-0859 Signed 8/3/04

Sponsors: Sen. [Miguel del Valle](#) (Rep. [Richard T. Bradley](#))

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to establish a system to provide for the accurate tracking of transfer students. Provides that the system shall require that a student be counted as a dropout in the calculation of a school's or school district's annual student dropout rate unless the school or school district to which the student transferred sends notification to the school or school district from which the student transferred documenting that the student has enrolled in the transferee school or school district. Provides that the notification must occur within 150 days after the date the student withdraws from the Transfer or school or school district or the student shall be counted in the calculation of the transfer or school's or school district's annual student dropout rate. Provides that all records indicating the school or school district to which a student transferred are subject to the Illinois School Student Records Act. **Effective January 1, 2005.**

SB 3340 93-0842 Signed 7/30/04

Fiscal Year 2005 appropriations.

SB 3361 93-0681 Signed 7/2/04

One month core service appropriations for July 1, 2004, to August 1, 2004.

RESOLUTIONS

HR931 Adopted 6/1/04

Sponsor: [Mary E. Flowers](#)

Calls upon the United States Congress to immediately pass the Safe School Food Act.

HR845 Adopted 6/1/04

Sponsor: [Kevin A. McCarthy](#)

Provides that the Illinois P-16 Education Initiative, working with representatives from the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois State Board of Education, community colleges, and public and private universities, shall develop a model Associate of Arts in Teaching degree in early childhood education.

HR917 Adopted 6/1/04

Sponsor: [Wyvetter H. Younge](#)

Establishes the Property Tax Task Force. Provides that the 9 members of the Property Tax Task Force shall be appointed as follows: (i) 5 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be designated as the chairperson of the Task Force at the time of appointment, and (ii) 4 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives (rather than appointment of all 9 members by the Speaker of the House). Provides that no more than 3 members may reside within the same judicial district.

HR594 Adopted 5/30/04

Sponsor: [Tom Cross](#)

Urges Congress to strengthen and improve the National School Lunch Program and the Child Nutrition Program.

SJR75 Adopted 5/27/04

Sponsors: [Miguel del Valle \(Calvin L. Giles\)](#)

Disapproves certain school district requests for waivers relating to the limitation of administrative costs, substitute teachers, and certification. Approves the waiver request made by Ridgeview CUSD 19 – McLean with respect to driver education for one year and disapproves the request for the remaining 4 years.

August 20, 2004

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 2395 entitled "AN ACT concerning professional regulation," with the following specific recommendation for change:

on page 2, line 26, and on page 4, line 16, by adding after the word "setting" the following language: ", including experience required by federal law or federal court order".

Senate Bill 2395 is an important step toward reducing the shortage of speech language pathologists available to work in Illinois schools, and I applaud the sponsors for their work to solve this problem. However, it is essential that Senate Bill 2395 make clear that all speech language pathologists certified by the State Board of Education must have the expertise required to comply with all federal requirements. With this change, Senate Bill 2395 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
s/ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor