

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Regent Legislative Program
Date: March 9, 2004

Recommended Actions:

1. Receive the monthly report on 2004 legislative session.
 2. Ratify the Board position on identified bills.
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Executive Summary:

Session Timetable The first funnel date, which provides cut off dates for committee consideration of non-budgetary bills, was March 5. The following information is current as of close of session on March 9.

Session Updates
HF 2418 Formerly HF 2140, this bill changes the date for final Board of Regent action on tuition from November to March. the tuition setting deadline date change

Tuition Timing Attempts to further amend the bill to completely remove the statutory deadline were unsuccessful.
Board Position: Support
Status: Passed House 3/9/04, 97 – 0

SF 2174 This legislation changes statutory language regarding the student member of the Board of Regents.

Appointment of Student Regent

- While the student Regent would still be appointed for a six-year term, the bill would disallow the student from serving on the Board for more than one year after the student is no longer enrolled in a Regent university.
- For future appointments, it would require the Governor to consult with the student government at the institution from which the proposed student appointee is enrolled prior to appointment.

Board Position: Monitor
Status: Passed by Senate on 3/9/04, 49 – 0

HF 2459
Directive on
Tuition for Illegal
Immigrants

Formerly HSB 610, this bill was revised since the issuance of the original docket memorandum G.D. 8. The language mandates that the Board of Regents adopt rules, not later than January 1, 2005, related to the classification of students for purposes of determining tuition and fees that provide equal opportunity for granting resident status to individuals who individual who resided in this state at least three years prior to graduating or receiving a high school equivalency diploma in this state, is accepted for enrollment in a postsecondary institution in this state, is an undocumented person who is not a citizen or a national of the United States, and has established domicile in Iowa.

Recommended Regent position: Monitor

Status: On House calendar

SF 2202
Meningitis
Immunization

Formerly SSB 3129, this bill requires institutions of higher education with on campus housing to provide students with meningococcal disease vaccination information in student health forms. It does not require the institutions to provide vaccinations against meningococcal disease. The Iowa department of public health is directed to adopt rules to administer the new Code section and review the requirements every five years.

Recommended Regent position: Monitor

Status: Passed Senate on 3/8/04, 41 – 4

SF 2239
Military
Re-enrollment

This bill amends current law, passed during the 2003 session, which mandates the Regents to adopt a policy to offer a student who is a member of the Iowa national guard or reserve forces of the United States and who is ordered to active state service or federal service or duty the ability to withdraw from the student's entire registration and receive a full refund of tuition and mandatory fees.

This bill adds that if a student chooses to withdraw, the student shall be readmitted and reenrolled as a student at the institution, without penalty or redetermination of admission eligibility, within one year following release from the state or federal active military service or duty.

Recommended Regent position: Monitor

Status: Passed Senate 3/9/04, 49 – 0

HF 2499
Sale of Beer
Kegs

Formerly HF 220, this legislation mandates registration processes for keg sales of beer. The university presidents feel this legislation would be useful in terms of public safety and student conduct concerns, and in some cases is already being undertaken by local city ordinances. Regent members of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Postsecondary Education have already expressed support for the bill.

Recommended Regent position: Support

Status: On House calendar

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| SF 2255 Iowa Studies Development (UNI) | <p>This legislation would set up the development of an Iowa studies professional development plan to be directed and evaluated by the department of education. The University of Northern Iowa, in cooperation with the community colleges and area education agencies, shall develop an Iowa studies professional development plan that shall include professional development materials and training measures to provide Iowa's teachers with effective ways to infuse Iowa studies into their classrooms.</p> <p>The committee chair and UNI's College of Education dean have apparently agreed on undertaking such an effort.</p> <p>Recommended Regent position: Monitor</p> <p>Status: On Senate calendar</p> <hr/> |
| HF 2417 Iowa College Student Aid Commission Duties | <p>(formerly HSB 595) This bill would expand the powers of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission in several ways relative to their role in the approval and registration postsecondary schools, including out of state providers of higher education.</p> <p>Given the importance of this process to all in-state providers, including the Regents, it is worthy of attention as it moves through the process.</p> <p>Recommended Regent position: Monitor</p> <p>Status: In Ways and Means Committee</p> <hr/> |
| SCR 111/ HCR 115 MHEC Study | <p>These resolutions propose an interim legislative study on the costs and benefits of Iowa joining the Midwestern Higher Education Commission (MHEC), a multi-state compact. Regent representatives and state officials have had discussions with MHEC about potential participation by Iowa.</p> <p>The Board Office recommends the Regents take a supportive role in such conversations. Should Iowa join the compact, the Regents could participate in the group and provide leadership for the state's involvement with MHEC.</p> <p>Recommended Regent position: Support</p> <p>Status: Senate Resolution adopted 3/9/04, House Resolution pending.</p> <hr/> |
| SSB 3014 Sale of the ICN | <p>This bill provides for the sale of some of the assets of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).</p> <p>The Regent institutions currently are mandated to utilize ICN as a telecommunications provider, and utilize voice, data, and video services. Many possibilities exist as the direction this legislation may take.</p> <p>Recommended Regent position: Monitor</p> <p>Status: Assigned to Government Oversight Subcommittee</p> <hr/> |

SSB 3074
HSB 623/

Preference for
Iowa Vendors

These bills would mandate that every purchase by the Regents and any institution under its jurisdiction in excess of fifty thousand dollars be made through a competitive bidding process, regardless of the existence of any master contract or agreement that may otherwise be available for that purchase. It further provides that all master contracts for purchases of software and information technology goods or services shall be limited to two years in duration and shall be nonrenewable.

This proposed legislation will likely have a significant negative fiscal impact for Regent institutions of about \$28 million.

Due to the committee of origin, the Government Oversight Committee, this bill is exempt from 'funnel' deadlines.

Recommended Regent position: Oppose

Status: Assigned to Government Oversight subcommittees
