

HCAA Legislative Report

June 23, 2025

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- Governor Pritzker is waiting for passage of a federal budget to determine its impact on state funds.
- InsideHigherEd.com reported that if the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* goes into effect (as passed by the House and awaiting Senate approval), it will strip Pell Grants from many part-time community college students, which will negatively impact enrollments across the country.
- Illinois lawmakers passed a \$55.2 billion budget, the largest in state's history, which was signed into law on June 16, and it includes:
 - A key focus is early childhood education, with increased funding for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), and Smart Start Workforce grants.
 - Fully funding the state's \$10.6 billion required pension contribution and sets aside \$78 million for a potential additional contribution related to the Tier 2 pension system's Social Security "Safe Harbor" provision. This "Safe Harbor" provision is intended to ensure that Illinois' Tier 2 pension benefits are at least as generous as Social Security benefits. Since the Tier 2 Act did not pass due to disagreements, to not have a budget crisis, money was put aside in anticipation of future passage. Additionally, the budget includes \$200 million to reduce state pension liabilities through a pension buyout program.
 - Increased pension benefits for public sector workers.
 - Amid federal funding uncertainty, Illinois lawmakers added a "safety valve" to the state budget: a flexible fund of \$100 million the governor can use to cover gaps left by unrealized federal funding.
- Illinois Retired Teachers Association reported:
 - The Illinois General Assembly adjourned on time from a constitutional and scheduling perspective on May 31, although they were technically in session until the early hours of June 1.
 - The House introduced 4,000 bills, 228 passed.
 - The Senate introduced 2,671 bills, 202 passed.
 - This represents an overall passage rate of 6%.
 - TRIP/TRAIL was fully funded, with an additional \$65 million appropriated to TRS for the cost of future benefit change requirements.

- As reported on the HCAA website last week, a bill to eliminate the mandatory road test for Illinois drivers aged 79-87 passed the Illinois Senate on Thursday, May 22, 2025, and is on its way to the Governor's desk for signature. Illinois is the only state with age-based testing requirements.