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Committee Assignments: Higher Education (Republican Spokesperson); Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education; Appropriations-Higher Education; Elementary & Secondary Education; State Government Administration; Environmental Health; Veterans' Affairs; Success in Schools Subcommittee.

Bills as Primary Sponsor:

HB1351 - Amends the Northern Illinois University Law. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning membership on the Board of Trustees. Status as of 03/17/11 – Rule 19(a)/Referred to Rules Committee.

HB1352 - Makes appropriations to the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University for various purposes, including for ordinary and contingent expenses, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. Effective July 1, 2011. Status as of 02/14/11 – Assigned to Appropriations-Higher Education Committee

HB1353 - Amends the School Code. With respect to nominees for General Assembly scholarships, prohibits a nominee from being a relative of the member of the General Assembly making the nomination; defines relative. Provides that each member of the General Assembly shall (instead of may) delegate to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission the authority to nominate persons for General Assembly scholarships that the member would otherwise be entitled to award. Provides that the member shall make recommendations to the Commission concerning candidates for the scholarships and may inform the Commission in writing of the criteria that he or she wishes the Commission to apply in nominating candidates. Effective immediately. Status as of 11/08/11 – Bill dead. No positive action taken. Amendatory Veto.

HB1710 - Creates the College Planning Act. Establishes the College Planning Program, to be administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Provides that the Commission shall utilize the Program to target low-income and potential first-generation college students with programs to promote college awareness and planning. Sets forth provisions concerning the qualifications to participate in the Program, the
benefits and services provided by the Commission, and Program disqualification. Effective immediately. Status as of 08/10/11 – Public Act 97-0289.

HB2857 - Amends the Capital Development Board Act. Provides that for any capital construction project approved for a public university, the university shall have the option of employing the services of the Capital Development Board or utilizing its own available internal services, including without limitation architectural, contractual, procurement, engineering, project oversight, and other related services. Provides that, prior to utilizing its own internal services, the university shall demonstrate its ability to manage the project, pursuant to State laws and rules, through an application and approval process developed by the Board, in cooperation with university personnel, and adopted by Board rule. Effective immediately. Status as of 03/17/11 – Rule 19(1)/Referred to Rules Committee.

HB3220 - Creates the Accountability in Higher Education Act. Requires public universities in this State to develop annual academic, financial, and enrollment plans that outline (i) tuition and fee estimates, (ii) enrollment projections, (iii) retention policies and projections, and (iv) accepting a number of accountability measures, including meeting benchmarks related to accessibility and affordability. Requires public universities to commit themselves formally to meeting specified State policy objectives, in conjunction with the goals set forth in the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success. Requires the Board of Higher Education to be responsible for developing performance indicators to measure whether public universities in this State are meeting State policy objectives, in conjunction with the goals set forth in the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success. Effective immediately. Status as of 05/13/11 – Rule 3-9(a)/Referred to Assignments.

SB1668 - Amends the Liquor Control Act of 1934. Provides that alcoholic liquors may be served or sold in buildings under the control of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University for events that the Board may determine are public events and not student-related activities. Provides that the Board of Trustees shall issue a written policy within 6 months after the effective date of the amendatory Act concerning the types of events that would be eligible for an exemption. Provides that the Board of Trustees may issue revised, updated, new, or amended policies as it deems necessary and appropriate. Specifies factors that the Board shall, in addition to other factors it considers relevant and important, consider in forming its written policy. Effective immediately. Status as of Public Act 97-0045.

SB1773 - Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the creation of the Board. Status of 07/23/11 – Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-9(b)/ Referred to Assignments.
Christine Johnson (R), 35th District, State Senator

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Committee Assignments: Higher Education (Minority Spokesperson); Education; Licensed Activities; Public Health; Committee of the Whole; Subcommittee on Special Issues.

Bills as Primary Sponsor:
    HB1079 - Amends the State Property Control Act and the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that, with respect to public universities, the Department of Central Management Services may require a listing of equipment items only for those items valued in excess of $5,000. Provides that the requirement that State-supported institutions of higher education submit plans for capital improvements of non-instructional facilities to the Board of Higher Education for approval applies only to improvements that use State funds in whole or in part. Effective immediately. Status as of 11/02/11 – House passed. Placed on Senate calendar. Amendatory Veto 11/08/11.
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