

“Higher Education” Bills Passed During 2011 Session

The following bills enacted during the 2011 legislative session have a direct impact on higher education institutions:

HB 2 General Appropriation Act of 2011, HAFC Substitute. *(Ch. 179, Laws 2011)*

The General Appropriation Act makes approximately \$5.4 billion in recurring general fund appropriations for FY12, of which \$731.5 million will be devoted to higher education institutions and programs. Higher education appropriations are reduced by \$30.8 million (4.0%) from revised FY11 levels.

HB 129 Returning Educational Retiree Payments, Rep. Varela. *(Ch. 6, Laws 2011)*

This bill requires ERB “return-to-work” employees to begin paying the employee contribution to ERB effective July 1, 2011. Current law requires the employer to make this contribution. Appropriations to some higher education institutions were reduced slightly in anticipation of passage of this bill.

HB 353 Higher Ed. Inst. Endowment Fund Standards, Rep. Larranaga. *(Ch. 44, Laws 2011)*

This bill requires that investment of higher education endowment funds and expenditure of endowment fund income must comply with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act and with any regulations adopted by the institution’s governing board.

HAFC/ HB 628 Contribution Rate Changes in Retirement Plans. *(Ch. 178, Laws 2011)*

This bill continues the 1.5% employer-to-employee retirement contribution shift originally imposed in 2009 and imposes an additional 1.75% shift for FY’s 12 and 13. It also delays two additional scheduled 0.75% increases in ERB employer contributions until FY’s 14 and 15.

HJR 9 Santa Fe Land Sale, Rep. Varela.

This joint resolution authorizes the state General Services Department to sell or donate state land at the former College of Santa Fe campus to Santa Fe Community College to house the college’s higher education center.

~~**SB 237 Colleges in Energy Efficiency & Bonding Act, Sen. Keller**~~ ***Pocket Veto***

~~This bill expands the scope of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Bonding Act to allow participation by post-secondary institutions.~~

SB 267 Law Enforcement Contract with Colleges, Sen. Neville *(Ch. 53, Laws 2011)*

This bill enables colleges that do not have their own police departments to enter into contracts with an adjacent municipality for enforcement of traffic and parking regulations.