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U of I Interim President Ikenberry Reflects, Looks Ahead

Story air date: Wednesday, June 30, 2010



A change at the top doesn't mean University of Illinois Interim President Stanley Ikenberry is retiring just yet.

He served in the office the last six months, and was U of I President from 1979 to 1995. The 75-year old Ikenberry will now see to it that a working group follows through with a series of consolidations and other cost-cutting moves. He'll report on the team's progress to new President Michael Hogan, who starts his job Thursday.

Illinois Public Media's Jeff Bossert talked with Ikenberry about that role, and other challenges he foresees in the months ahead:

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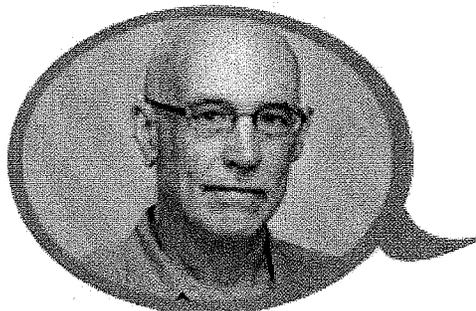
Numbers start to add up at charter schools in Chicago run by Noble Street group

By Greg Hinz
 June 28, 2010

It's finals week at **UIC College Prep**, a new high school run by the Noble Street charter network, and Principal Oliver Sicat is smiling. He has some cause.

There's no metal detector at the door, or graffiti on the walls. After its second full year of operation, the school has 1,130 applications for 230 slots. Even though the vast majority of those students are poor and minorities, three of the 10 open-enrollment Noble high schools have higher ACT college-admission scores than any Chicago public high school with similar enrollment policies, according to state data. And four-year graduation rates are double-digit levels above those of the typical Chicago public high school.

But the teachers union remains dead set against private schools that it claims have unique advantages. Such notables as U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, who got the charter movement really going here in his prior job as Chicago schools chief, says many public schools are showing improvement, too.



And those ACT scores? Though decent and improving, they still lag both national and statewide averages.

So it's been going lately for Chicago's fast-growing network of nearly 100 privately operated but publicly funded charter and contract schools. After a \$50-million financial boost from the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club's Renaissance 2010 project, they generally appear to be well on their way. But Nirvana has not yet arrived.

At UIC College Prep, Mr. Sicat attributes much of the school's success to a culture of expectations that resembles both the old Catholic school model and the Rev. Jesse Jackson's "I am somebody" mantra.

Enrollment is open to all. A child just has to live in the city and be a grade-school graduate. But long days and tight discipline are the norm — "clear boundaries," Mr. Sicat puts it. "What we do is provide a safe environment. . . . We have a no-excuses policy."

Take the case of one student who was afraid to ride the bus to school and began skipping classes. For a while, the school helped her make other arrangements. But, eventually, she dropped out.

UIC College Prep has some other things going for it, too.

The schools are well on their way, but Nirvana has not yet arrived.

As the name implies, it works in cooperation with the nearby [University of Illinois at Chicago](#), with some students taking classes for college credit. Class sizes are smallish, averaging 24 students, and Noble contends that it has 30% more instructional time with students because its class year and day are longer than Chicago Public Schools'.

Perhaps most important, though: Noble has been able to pretty much handpick its teachers. Despite the long day and pay that's partially tied to performance metrics, the system says it will hire only 4% of job applicants this year, compared with 7% last year, when the economy was better.

Former Chicago Teachers Union President Deborah Lynch says many public schools are "set up to fail," with teachers constantly under pressure to perform or else, even if much of a student's life is beyond their control. Some studies show that charters nationally do no better than regular schools, she adds, and charter students have the advantage of parents who are "better positioned to prepare them for success" than those of many other kids.

Secretary Duncan points to a series of public schools that are performing as well as charters, including Disney and those run by financier Mike Koldyke's Academy of Urban School Leadership. His point: "What we need to do is replicate success," wherever it occurs.

That's just what the folks at Noble say they're doing.

This upcoming school year, they'll have 5,000 students in their high schools — a big number for almost any school district in Illinois, outside of Chicago. "I would agree we're not there yet," says Noble founder and Superintendent Michael Milkie. "But do we continue with a system that hasn't worked for 100 years, or try this? This is better."

I'm not quite ready to go there yet. But a no-tuition, open-enrollment Chicago school that has nearly five applications for each seat is worth watching.

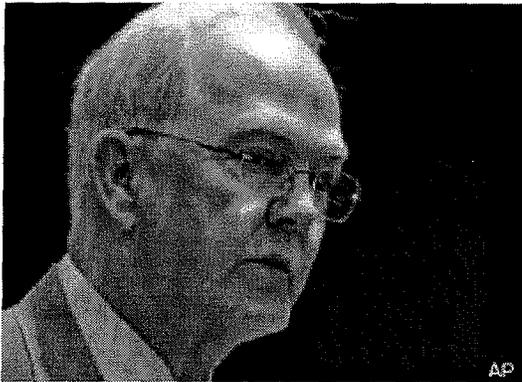
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University Of Illinois Prez's Contract Includes Country Club Membership, City Condo

First Posted: 06-29-10 05:35 PM | Updated: 06-29-10 05:42 PM



Under his newly signed contract, University of Illinois President Michael Hogan is afforded memberships to two country clubs, two homes and a \$45,000 bonus, the *Daily Illini* reports.

Hogan will also earn a base salary of \$620,000, making him the fourth-highest paid college president in the Big Ten.

The *Daily Illini* has more on the presidential pluses:

Other perks in the contract include a house in Urbana, a condo in Chicago and a University car and driver for all UI-related travel. He will also be reimbursed for all moving expenses and given memberships at country clubs in both Chicago and Champaign. Hogan will be provided with up to six tickets for artistic, cultural and athletic events at the University -- for either business or personal use, according to this contract.

Hogan also will receive a faculty appointment as a professor of history on the Urbana campus, with tenure.

What do you think? Are college presidents deserving of such perks? Leave a comment with your opinion.

THE BOND BUYER

THE DAILY NEWSPAPER OF PUBLIC FINANCE

TREND IN THE REGION

Experts Weigh In On Fixing Illinois

Quinn Set to Sign FY 2011 Budget

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

By Yvette Shields

CHICAGO — With Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn poised to sign the fiscal 2011 budget today amid a drumbeat of negative financial news, experts recently offered suggestions for tackling the state's budget crisis that range from expanding the sales tax base to creating a fiscal watchdog commission.

Quinn is expected to sign the budget by midnight today ahead of the Thursday start of the new fiscal year, but yesterday said he might not announce cuts until Thursday.

"There are some tough decisions, and there will be cuts and there are serious cuts in the bureaucracy of state government," the Democratic governor said this week. He has said he would try to keep cuts to education and human services programs to a minimum.

Officials decided to put off a \$900 million taxable general obligation Build America Bond sale originally scheduled for today until after Quinn acts. The new sale date is July 14, according to state debt manager John Sinsheimer. Citi is the lead manager.

"Gov. Quinn will be making announcements on the fiscal 2011 budget on Wednesday and we felt the market should be given time to digest those announcements. Given the holiday coming up next week, our lead bank Citi recommended that we wait until the following week," Sinsheimer said.

Quinn is expected to make steep spending cuts in the plan. Lawmakers — who along with the governor must face voters in November — left those decisions to him when they approved the budget last month. The \$52 billion spending plan for fiscal 2011 includes a general fund of \$26.2 billion, down slightly from the current fiscal year.

Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service recently downgraded the state's \$25.7 billion of GO debt. Fitch lowered Illinois' rating to A from A-plus and assigned a negative outlook. Moody's downgraded the credit to A1 from Aa3 and assigned a stable outlook. Standard & Poor's affirmed the state's A-plus, which is on negative watch.

Analysts blamed the downgrades on lawmakers' refusal to tackle Illinois' fiscal and liquidity crisis. The state turned to one-shots to deal with a \$13 billion deficit, leaving \$6.4 billion in bills unpaid going into the new fiscal year and a \$3.7 billion revenue hole tied to the 2011 pension payment.

A planned competitive sale of \$1.3 billion of certificates the week of July 21 should help ease some payment delays. Sinsheimer said the certificates would be sold in three to four maturities staggered over dates next spring.

State Comptroller Dan Hynes and Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis, whose approval is needed on short-term borrowing, have signed off on the transaction. Sinsheimer also hopes by mid-summer to issue a request for proposals for a finance team to handle a \$1.4 billion tobacco bond sale approved by lawmakers.

Recently, fiscal experts gathered at a conference called "Charting Illinois' Fiscal Future" that was sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of

Illinois.

One veteran who helped steer New York City through its financial crisis in the mid-1970s – Allen Proctor of Allen Proctor Consulting LLC – suggested Illinois could benefit from the creation of a third party, nonpartisan budget commission or board, possibly funded by the business community, to closely follow state fiscal actions.

“You need to have some group that cannot be intimidated and that can bring nonpartisan credibility,” he said. “You cannot underestimate the power of transparency and disclosure.”

Such boards are especially good at guarding against what Proctor called the “real stinkers” – one-time maneuvers to ease an immediate cash crunch that add to a structural imbalance where recurring revenue fails to keep pace with ongoing expenses. Illinois has relied heavily on one-shots over the last several budgets.

Illinois has two business groups that monitor state finances and have issued critical reports and recommendations – the Civic Federation of Chicago and the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago – but lawmakers have ignored them.

Proctor recommended the state follow other sound practices like multi-year financial planning and the use of generally accepted accounting principles in budgeting to restore fiscal stability. Bond covenants can also prove a powerful tool and serve as “fiscal monitors.” Restrictions built into bond covenants can prove “more powerful than statute in maintaining fiscal discipline,” he said, citing fiscal measurements for New York City required in bond covenants under New York State’s Financial Emergency Act.

To achieve a structurally balanced budget, panelists said Illinois needs to limit spending growth, but the imposition of a policy tying spending to revenue growth only works if it is binding. Both near-term and long-term service cuts are needed, and the tax structure must be reviewed to bring in new revenue, according to Matthew Murray, a professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The sales tax imposed by the state and local governments is high compared to the state’s counterparts, but the base is narrow, excluding most services, several panelists noted. Taxes as a share of personal income in Illinois are not considered high, based on a comparative analysis, so there’s room to raise more revenue, Murray said.

Quinn pressed for an increase in the flat 3% income tax rate during the spring legislative session, but lawmakers refused. One alternative is taxing retirement income. Illinois is just one of a few states that don’t tax such income.

University of Illinois professors Richard Dye, David Merriman and Nancy Hudspeth called for a shift in budgeting policy to a consolidated one that would cover all 380 state funds rather than just focusing on general fund spending. The shift would make the budgeting process more transparent and allow for an improved assessment of overall state revenue and spending.

The fiscal crisis is exacerbated by the state’s mammoth unfunded pension liability of \$62 billion, based on fiscal 2009 results, but there’s little will to address the problem, members of a panel on pension liabilities said.

The funded ratio of just 38.5% is at the bottom of state rankings. Illinois in 1995 adopted a plan to reach a 90% funded ratio by 2045, but to do so payments will have to dramatically ramp up from nearly \$4 billion in fiscal 2011 to more than \$17 billion in fiscal 2045. Prior to reforms approved in the most recent legislative session, the 2045 payment was estimated at \$25 billion.

Some believe that the state has underestimated the size of its funding problems, using an optimistic investment growth rate. To panelist Lance Weiss, a senior consultant at Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Co., the state’s number is sufficient. “That’s dramatic,” he said, questioning the state’s ability to cover the escalating payments.

While Illinois moved to cut benefits for new employees, such a measure doesn’t bring down the current

liability, it just lowers the future liability.

Benefits for current employees and retirees are protected under the state constitution as a contract that cannot be "diminished or impaired," hampering the state's ability to take dramatic action, assuming the political will exists for such measures.

J. Fred Giertz, a professor at the University of Illinois, suggested that solutions lie in a review followed by painful action on both the revenue and benefit side of pension funding and benefits.

He suggested the state could tax a portion of current retiree benefits to raise new revenues, and impose restraints on wage growth for current employees and tax some of their retirement benefits.

Another panelist, Jim Spiotto, a bankruptcy specialist at the law firm of Chapman and Cutler LLP, pushed the creation of a special pension authority to manage the restructuring of state and municipal pension debt.

A special authority would provide independent analysis on a government's ability to pay, set minimum funding levels, and provide oversight, removing some of the politics that affect pension funding decisions.

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News

Tempering Tuition Hikes

June 30, 2010

Private, nonprofit colleges will hike tuition and fees by an average of 4.5 percent in the coming academic year, outpacing inflation while still holding close to last year's nearly 40-year low increase rate, according to a survey released Tuesday by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

The 4.5 percent increase for 2010-11 follows a 4.3 percent increase for 2009-10, which was the smallest increase since 1972-73.

"I think it's a pretty fundamental adjustment that we're seeing here," said David L. Warren, NAICU president. "What we've got is a recession, which has indefinite future to it, and recognition all around that colleges want to hold their expenses as low as they can, and that includes of course the tuition they're charging."

The colleges are also increasing institutional student aid by 6.9 percent, the survey found. Historically, much of that aid has been granted without consideration of financial need.

The 4.5 percent tuition increase for private colleges falls below the 10-year pre-recession average of 6 percent, and Warren said he expects the increases to stay in the current range for years to come. But this year's average increase is still more twice the rate of the Consumer Price Index – a key inflationary measure. For the 12-month period ending in May, the index increased by 2.0 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Notably, private colleges are outpacing inflation rates with tuition hikes during a period when inflation itself is rising at its lowest rates in decades. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, has grown just 0.9 percent in the past year -- the smallest increase since 1966.

Jane Wellman, executive director of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Education Costs, Productivity and Accountability, said it's telling that private colleges continue to hover a couple of percentage points above the Consumer Price Index.

"While the fact that they are increasing need-based aid is good, it would seem to suggest they are still looking primarily to revenue solutions rather than restructuring costs," said Wellman, NAICU's former vice president for government relations.

Some college leaders argue that the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), which is based on expenditures like faculty salaries that are common to colleges and universities, is a better measure of cost increases across higher education. That said, annual HEPI increases are typically about 1 percentage point higher than the Consumer Price Index. In what appears to be an indication of colleges curbing spending this year, in large part through salary and hiring freezes, the 2010 HEPI increase is expected to be 0.9 percent -- more than a percentage point lower than the CPI.

Richard Vedder, an Ohio University economist who has long argued that colleges charge too much, said it's notable that private colleges increased tuition above both a nationally-accepted rate of inflation (the Consumer Price Index) and HEPI. HEPI is often subject to critics – Vedder among them – who say that it shouldn't be used as a benchmark for tuition, because it's an index that increases based on what colleges spend – not necessarily the true costs they carry. If administrative salaries increase, for instance, HEPI goes up in tandem, regardless of whether those raises were reasonable or necessary, Vedder said.

"If all schools increase their spending a lot from one year to the next, the HEPI tends to rise more than it otherwise would," said Vedder, who served on former Education Secretary Margaret Spellings' Commission on the Future of Higher Education. "So the schools are creating their own alleged inflation and then they use that as an excuse to say 'Oh our costs are going up so much.' The cost of college is going up hardly at all, according to that index, but the tuition rates are [up] 4.5 percent. Why?"

Warren would provide two big reasons: information technology and health care.

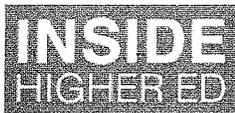
"We're looking at double digit increases along both those areas in the independent sector," he said.

But Warren does not expect the projected level of tuition increases and a lagging economy to drive students from private colleges, noting that enrollments did not decline last year for the sector overall – although there were certainly individual exceptions – in the way some had predicted they might.

"We'll see in September whether the increase in enrollment happens, as I believe it will," Warren said. "Last year the drama was this was to be 'Apocalypse Now'; it didn't happen then, and I don't believe it will happen September of 2010."

— Jack Stripling

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News

Driving Home the Point on Accessibility

June 30, 2010

The U.S. Departments of Education and Justice on Tuesday released an [open letter](#) to colleges expressing concern that some institutions might be “using electronic book readers that are not accessible to students who are blind or have low vision” and warning them that the government will crack down on any institutions that are “requiring” disabled students to use emerging technology that does not comply with federal accessibility laws.

The departments were aiming to address an issue that came up one year ago, when the American Council for the Blind and the National Federation for the Blind [sued Arizona State University](#) for giving out Amazon Kindle DX e-readers to students in an effort to learn more about the device’s implications for higher education. The groups contended that because blind students could not use the devices, the giveaways violated equal rights protections ensured to disabled students. The Justice Department subsequently investigated five other colleges for similar Kindle pilot programs, shutting down the experiments at four of them.

Tuesday’s “Dear Colleague” letter, which rehashed the cases and invited colleges to consult with the departments on compliance, was a punctuation mark to a terse rebuke to colleges that might be conducting similar trials without ensuring that disabled students do not get short shrift. The Justice Department recently has emphasized its unwillingness to tolerate slights against disabled students as colleges begin adopting new technologies.

The National Federation of the Blind heralded the government’s letter. “[The federation] is pleased that the administration has taken this positive step in making colleges and universities aware of their legal obligations to blind students with respect to e-book devices,” a spokesman for the federation told *Inside Higher Ed* in a statement.

“There is simply no good reason why e-books and the devices and applications used to read them cannot be made accessible to the blind, and we expect colleges and universities to demand that both e-book readers and the content available for them can be fully utilized by all of their students, blind or sighted,” the spokesman said.

Daniel F. Goldstein, an attorney for the federation, said his one nitpick was that the language of the letter implied that it would be acceptable for colleges to provide blind students with an equal alternative to any new technological tool. “I’m not happy about that,” Goldstein said. “That’s the tooth fairy -- there is no equal alternative. Separate is not equal, and some colleges might see this as permission to buy inaccessible technology and rely on their department of disability services to provide accessibility.”

Goldstein said he would also like to see a follow-up letter that instructs colleges to use only e-reader content that makes accommodations for blind students, since this one refers only to devices.

But some observers had deeper concerns about the letter -- and how the advocacy groups and the federal agencies handled the whole issue.

Martin Ringle, chief information officer at Reed College, one of the institutions to incur the ire of the Justice Department, said that while he agrees “100 percent” with the principles of equal access for disabled students, the government might have been misguided in going after colleges for mere dabbling.

“It is important to distinguish between the adoption of technology and a pilot study designed to evaluate it,” Ringle wrote in an e-mail

to *Inside Higher Ed*. "Colleges and universities must have the freedom to conduct such assessments in order to determine for themselves the potential value, as well as the shortcomings, of new technologies."

Tracy Mitrano, director of I.T. policy at Cornell University, had even more pointed words. "To go after a handful of schools that wanted to pilot pioneering technology with the full force of the DOJ is overkill," Mitrano told *Inside Higher Ed*. "It's a very sorry statement about how the government looks at higher education. [And] it's a sorry statement about how other organizations with which we have strong affinities, such as the National Federation for the Blind, regard higher education."

That is: as a scapegoat for the organizations' objections to the lack of accommodations being provided by companies such as Amazon, which makes the Kindle, Mitrano said. Instead of going after the giant company, the advocacy groups and the Justice Department picked on easier targets: nonprofit colleges that would fold more easily.

This might have allowed the groups and the government to make their point more expediently, she said. But she agreed with Ringle that targeting college pilot programs would come at a cost. "It will deter innovation," said Mitrano, "and it will deter the kind of innovation that will ultimately help students with disabilities."

— Steve Kolowich

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Posted on Tue, Jun. 29, 2010

Highlights of 2010-11 NC state budget agreement

The Associated Press

Highlights of adjustments in the \$18.96 billion final budget plan for the 2010-11 fiscal year given tentative approval Tuesday by the House and Senate. The monetary figures are adjustments to what the Legislature already has budgeted for the year:

Public Education

- Shifts \$121.2 million in North Carolina Education Lottery distributions largely to shift more money to hiring teachers in early primary grades.
- Reduce classroom instructional supplies by 3.5 percent, or \$3.3 million.
- Reduce by \$2.4 million, or 2.2 percent, funding for salaries and benefits of central office workers in local school districts.
- Eliminate all state funding for local school district mentoring programs, or \$9.2 million.
- Eliminate funding for new replacement school buses in the 2010-11 school year, or \$11.9 million.
- Expand funding by \$1 million for computer system to collect test scores and other information to help school leaders improve student achievement.
- Provide additional \$10 million to extend student pilot program in 40 schools for teachers to use hand-held computers touted by Gov. Beverly Perdue to monitor student progress.
- Set aside \$2.5 million for emergency purchases of student textbooks.
- Give \$81 million to community college system to pay for enrollment increase of 33,013 full-time students.
- Save \$30 million by raising community college tuition by \$6.50 per credit hour for in-state students and by \$7.20 per hour for out-of-state students.
- Direct community college campuses to reduce combined spending by \$15 million, with flexibility on where to cut.
- Direct University of North Carolina system to reduce combined spending in operating budget by \$70 million, with flexibility on where to cut.
- Repeal the Legislature's proposed tuition for UNC campuses for this fall, replacing it with option for campuses to raise tuition by \$750 to narrow \$70 million gap.
- Save \$9.4 million by eliminating waiver that subsidized tuition of out-of-state students on full athletic scholarships by treating them as in-state tuition.
- Reduce UNC campus advertising budgets by \$2.5 million, or 24 percent.
- Reduce UNC Hospitals annual aid by \$8 million to \$36 million.
- Give \$5.6 million to UNC system to pay for additional expected 441 students this fall.
- Restores \$24 million in building reserves taken last year to pay for operating costs of 40 new or renovated buildings completed through mid-2011.
- Authorize \$55 million in new debt for purchasing equipment for community college and University of North Carolina systems.
- Authorize \$120 million in new debt to repair and renovate existing state buildings.
- Give \$14.5 million to help with staffing, operational needs at schools on several UNC system campuses.
- Give \$2 million to UNC consortium examining ways to capture energy from ocean waves.

- Increase aid by \$4.5 million to in-state students attending private colleges.

Health and Human Services

- Reduce funding for Smart Start early childhood program by 2.5 percent, or \$5 million.
- Increases funding by \$9 million to expand inpatient bed capacity for mentally ill in local communities
- Restores \$40 million in community service funding for mentally ill, substance abusers and developmentally disabled, most of which was transferred from Department of Public Instruction's Office of Early Learning.
- Eliminate 27 positions in Division of Public Health, saving \$900,000.
- Shifts purchase of vaccines from state to health care providers and local health departments that can bill insurers, saving \$15.9 million.
- Enroll more in program for HIV/AIDS patients who can't afford their prescription drugs, at a cost of \$14.2 million.
- Expand further Medicaid's managed-care initiative to more programs, saving \$45 million.
- Add mental health drugs to Medicaid's preferred drug list, saving \$10 million.
- Reform Medicaid's in-home personal care services program at a savings of \$50.7 million by replacing them with new program resulting in fewer service hours or more patients determined to be ineligible.
- Save \$40 million through new Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse prevention initiative.
- Eliminate 65 positions in the Office of Education Services and 17 leadership and food service positions at two schools for deaf and one school for the blind, saving \$4 million.

Natural and Economic Resources

- Sell at least 10 aircraft from Division of Forest Resources and eliminate six pilot and mechanic jobs, saving \$2 million.
- Provide \$12.6 million to meet state match to draw down federal clean water and drinking waste funds.
- Give \$12.5 million to Perdue's One North Carolina Fund for corporate incentives.
- Provide \$8 million for other economic incentives.
- Create Main Street Solutions economic development funds for smaller cities, spending \$1.5 million.
- Promote North Carolina exports and North Carolina tourism with \$1.9 million.
- Fund \$5 million for seven regional economic development commissions.
- Give \$10 million to Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine in Winston-Salem.

Justice and Public Safety

- Direct \$7.7 million in spending reductions to Administrative Office of the Courts, with flexibility on where to cut.
- Eliminate 58 vacant court positions to save \$2.8 million.
- Restore \$2.1 million for program designed to help criminal offenders receive alternative sentences.
- Direct \$2.7 million in spending reductions in Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, with flexibility on where to cut.
- Restore \$3.5 million to Samarkand Youth Development Facility.
- Reduce inmate medical costs in state prisons by \$20.5 million.
- Reduces crime Victims Compensation Fund by \$700,000.

Other state agencies

- Provide \$913,000 to State Ethics Commission and State Board of Elections to hire five workers to carry out pending ethics, campaign finance and government reform law.
- Give \$1.5 million to North Carolina Symphony to leverage funding match.
- Spend \$8.9 million to hire 31 workers and build statewide information technology project design to modernize criminal data records for better access for court and probation officials.

Transportation

- Use \$30 million for new North Carolina Mobility Fund sought by Perdue to build urgent road and other transportation projects such as widening a portion of Interstate 85 north of the Yadkin River Bridge.
- Exempt federal funds for Appalachian-area road projects from state's transportation funding formula so that far western counties aren't penalized.
- Give \$4.7 million in grants to Highway Patrol for matching funds for statewide communications network for all emergency responders.

Revenues, fees and tax credits

- Give \$847,000 to Department of Revenue to collect \$110 million from corporations with outstanding tax liabilities.
- Increase various court fees, including \$10 fee for someone who wants to legally return to using the person's former name.
- Give \$34 million in tax breaks to small business through a 25 percent refundable tax credit for their unemployment insurance.
- require electric utility companies to pay one-time \$1,100 fee for every dam they own so state environment department can perform dam safety inventory program.

Salaries and Benefits

- Provide no pay raise for teachers, rank-and-file state employees.
- Give local school boards and University of North Carolina system the ability to furlough workers to cut costs.
- Give local governments in metropolitan areas the ability to supplement salaries of nonelected judicial department officers and employees to attract and retain workers.

Other provisions

- Allow liquor distilleries to obtain permits to hold tasting events to promote their products.
- Extend plastic bag ban for large stores on islands or peninsulas in Dare, Currituck and Hyde counties to all stores in those areas effective May 1, 2011.

END

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