

AGENDA ITEM 5.

PROPOSED RULES, EMERGENCY RULES AND AMENDMENTS

Submitted for: Information

Summary: ISAC annually reviews its rules in order to respond to market changes and client suggestions, to implement state and federal statutory amendments, to reflect technological advances in the delivery of student financial assistance and to clarify issues that have arisen during the previous year. Potential rules amendments were solicited from internal staff and the financial aid community, including the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA) Rules and Operations Advisory Committee. Staff also worked with an advisory committee when developing the rules for a new federal program.

Highlights of the proposed rules, emergency rules and amendments to existing rules are presented in this item. The full text of the proposed rules, emergency rules and amendments is being provided to Commissioners under separate cover, as are copies of the appropriate Notices. The Notices that precede each Part contain descriptions of the subjects and issues involved in the rulemaking process.

Amendments are being proposed to 6 different Parts this year: Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program, Grant Program for Dependents of Correctional Officers, Grant Program for Dependents of Police or Fire Officers, Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program, Monetary Award Program (MAP) and the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Program. One new program, College Planning Act, was passed during the spring legislative session and signed into law in the summer.

Emergency rules with an effective date of January 9, 2012 were also filed for the new federal program, John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program, due to the fact that the program was funded for the 2012-13 academic year. With the emergency rules in place, staff has developed the necessary policies, procedures and systems to launch this new program and accept and process applications. As provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act, rules adopted on an emergency basis remain in effect for only 150 days and action on permanent rules is needed to extend the new program rules beyond that time frame.

Initial publication of the proposed rules and amendments triggered a 45-day public comment period that will end February 27, 2012. Comments received from the public will be reviewed by staff. Where appropriate, the proposed rules and amendments will be revised based on comments and suggestions from the public, and staff will request authority from the Commission to submit the proposed rules and amendments, as revised, to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for the second 45-day review period. After incorporating changes suggested by JCAR, the proposed rules and amendments will be presented to the Commission for final adoption.

Action requested: None