

AGENDA ITEM 15.

PROPOSED RULES AMENDMENTS

Submitted for: Action

Summary: This item reports on the agency's proposed omnibus rules amendments, the text of which was published in the **Illinois Register** on February 6, 2004 and presented to the Commission at its January 16 meeting. Initial publication of the proposed amendments triggered a 45-day public comment period that ended on March 21, 2003.

In order to maximize the opportunity for public comment, in addition to being published in the **Illinois Register**, the proposed amendments were also posted to ISAC's College Zone Web site. Staff also solicited feedback through various advisory groups, including the ILASFAA Operations/Rules Advisory Committee.

One letter of public comment on the proposed amendments was received from a financial aid administrator. This letter expressed concern over the proposed 75 credit hour intermediate limit on MAP usage. Since this proposed amendment implements a change based on the recommendations of the Affordability Committee, staff is not suggesting any modification of the amendment. However, we will continue to monitor the impact of this change, and will continue our ongoing dialogue with the financial aid community on this important subject, as requested by the commenter. The amendments presented for consideration today contain no changes from those presented to the Commission at its January meeting.

Following acceptance of the proposed rules amendments by the Commission, the Executive Director may direct staff to submit the amendments to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), thus initiating the second 45-day review period.

Action requested: That the Commission approve the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission accepts the proposed rules amendments for submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.”