



# Legislative Update

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## **SENATE MAY DEBATE PAYCHECK BILL**

The Senate General Laws Committee approved SB 21 (Brown) on January 18. The Senate could take the bill up for floor debate at any time next week. The bill applies to all public labor organizations and requires annual, written authorization for payroll deduction of member dues and annual, written authorization for member contributions of dues or fees for political action. The Association strongly opposes SB 21.

**ACTION NEEDED:** IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, please call, write or use the link below to send an e-mail to urge your State Senator to oppose SB 21.

<http://www.capwiz.com/nea/mo/issues/alert/?alertid=70144626&type=ST>

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES PAYCHECK BILL.**

The House Economic Development Committee voted to approve HB 251 (Taylor) on January 25 by a party-line vote of 8-3. The bill applies to all public labor organizations and requires annual authorization for payroll deduction of member dues and annual authorization for member contributions of dues or fees for political action. The bill also imposes federal-style financial reporting mandates on both statewide public unions and all affiliated local organizations, regardless of size. The Association strongly opposes HB 251.

## **SENATE APPROVES SO-CALLED "RIGHT-TO-WORK"**

The Senate gave final approval (Third Reading vote) to SS#2/SB 19 (Brown) on January 26. The bill was passed by a vote of 21-12. Senators Chappelle-Nadal, Curls, Holsman, Hummel, Nasheed, Rizzo, Romine, Schupp, Sifton, Silvey, Walsh and Wieland voted against this harmful measure. The bill will now go to the House for further consideration. SB 19 (Brown) is the so-called "Right to Work" bill. The bill would remove the ability of labor unions to receive compensation for the costs of fulfilling their duties as exclusive representative. The Association opposes these measures to limit the constitutional collective bargaining rights of Missouri workers.

## **BUDGET**

The Senate Appropriations Committee heard public testimony on agency budgets beginning on January 25.

The House Subcommittee on Appropriations - Education met on January 24 to hear the Department of Higher Education report on performance funding. Missouri currently allocates only new funding via the performance model, while some states also allocate part of base funding using the performance

model. The committee also heard testimony about the Higher Education Review Task Force report. The Task Force is reviewing the current approval process for academic programs.

### **TAX CREDIT-STYLE VOUCHERS (EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS)**

The Senate Government Reform Committee heard SB 32 (Emery) on January 25. The bill creates a new 100% state tax credit capped at \$25 million per year for taxpayer contributions to third-party organizations that will use some of the proceeds to fund accounts that parents can use to pay private school tuition and other expenses for their students. The bill is currently limited to students with disabilities, but the committee may consider a version that would also apply to other students. The Association opposes this and similar proposals to divert public funds to private schools not subject to the same standards of accountability, transparency and respect for the rights of students, staff and parents as apply to public schools.

### **RECERTIFICATION AND OTHER ANTI-UNION ATTACKS**

The Senate General Laws Committee heard two bills on January 25:

SB 87 (Brown) to require recertification elections every two years, apparently in every possible public employee bargaining unit, regardless of whether it has a current bargaining representative and regardless of whether those in the unit wish to conduct an election. The Association opposes this needless mandate on public employees and public unions.

SB 210 (Onder) to impose a number of onerous and problematic provisions relating to public union representation. The bill mandates automatic recertification elections every year for every public sector bargaining unit, limits economic factors in contracts to one year, requires all documents in the bargaining process to be public documents and imposes an exhaustive set of financial and other record-keeping requirements on public employee unions. The Association opposes the bill.

### **SECOND TIER RETIREMENT PLAN FOR NEW STATE EMPLOYEES**

The Senate Health and Pensions Committee heard SB 228 (Koenig) on January 25. The bill places all new hire state employees in a new, reduced defined benefit (DB) plan along with a defined contribution (DC) component. The defined benefit multiplier will be reduced from the current 1.7% down to 1.0% times years of service times final average salary. The employer will contribute 3% of pay to the state's Deferred Compensation DC plan and the employee will be required to contribute 1% of pay to the DC plan. The Association opposes this reduction of guaranteed retirement benefit and transfer of retirement risk from employers onto Missouri's state employees.

### **DISCRIMINATION AND WHISTLEBLOWER**

The Senate Small Business and Industry heard SB 43 (Romine) on January 24. The bill would make significant changes to the state's anti-discrimination law in employment, disability and housing. The bill also limits the state's "whistle-blower" protections. The Association believes these changes will make it harder to hold employers and their agents responsible for improper acts of discrimination. Missouri NEA believes that unfair, discriminatory treatment in the workplace should remain unlawful and opposes the bill.

### **ACT WORKKEYS TEST**

The House Workforce Development Committee heard HB 94 (Lauer) on January 25. The bill allows students to choose to take either the ACT or ACT WorkKeys test for their state-funded ACT test. The Association supports the bill.

### **HOUSE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The committee held its first hearing on January 23 and heard six bills:

HB 358 (Bahr) to requires State Board of Education meetings to be recorded by video and posted on the DESE website. The bill also requires State Board members to have individual email addresses by which they may be contacted directly. The Association supports the bill.

HB 441 (Corlew) to grant greater freedom for student journalists. This year's version includes anti-retaliation provisions to protect student communications sponsors and other staff from possible retaliation by boards or administration for granting students greater editorial latitude as provided by the bill. The Association supports the bill.

HB 448 (Houghton) to prohibit a school superintendent from serving on any school board in the state.

HB 449 (Houghton) to require MSHSAA to provide coaches for practices for student athletes while they are participating in programs at the state fair.

HB 468 (Cookson) to require school financial audits to contain detailed information relating to extracurricular activities within the school district.

HB 469 (Gannon) to authorize reimbursement of the costs of high school equivalency degree testing for first time test takers. The Association supports the bill.

The committee postponed the scheduled hearings for two other bills:

HB 248 (Travis Fitzwater) to establish a statewide, online STEM career awareness program for middle school students.

HB 253 (Swan) to create the Career and Technical Education Certification (CTEC) Program. The bill requires the CTEC Council to approve appropriate CTE certifications, in collaboration with districts and employers. The Association supports the bill.

### **SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Committee held its first meeting on January 24 and heard four bills:

SB 33 - (Emery) to require the State Board of Education to develop a simplified annual school report card for each school attendance center. This oversimplified school label based on standardized test scores is an outdated expression of NCLB's "test, blame and punish" mentality. The Associations strongly opposes the bill.

SB 44 (Romine) to create the Career and Technical Education Certification (CTEC) Program. The bill requires the CTEC Council to approve appropriate CTE certifications, in collaboration with districts and employers. The Association supports the bill.

SB 52 (Nasheed) to establish several provisions relating to suicide awareness and prevention. The bills calls on colleges and universities to have suicide prevention policies and programs. The bill also includes language addressing depression in medical schools. The Association supports the bill.

SB 63 (Hegeman) to allow each school district use technical coursework and skills assessments developed for industry-recognized certificates and credentials when establishing career and technical education offerings. The Association supports the bill.

**HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Committee met on January 25 to approve HCS/HBs 190 and 308 (Kathie Conway), a committee substitute version for two bills that would allow community college police officers to establish regulations to control vehicular traffic on any street owned or maintained by the college.

**Legislative Update 2017**

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