



Legislative Update

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HOUSE ADJOURNS FOR THE WEEK; SENATE MEETS ON MAY 5

Having passed the budget bills, the House adjourned on May 4 until next week. The Senate also passed the FY18 operating budget bills on May 4, including HB 2 for K-12 education and HB 3 for higher education.

The Senate debated SCS/SB 305 (Kehoe) on May 5, but did not bring the bill to a vote. The bill pertains to ethics reform and particularly the activities of so-called "dark money" organizations which engage in political action but are not required to publicly release information regarding the amounts and identities of those persons and organizations providing funding for the organization's political action.

ACTION NEEDED: HOUSE TO CONSIDER TAX CREDIT VOUCHER/TRANSFER BILL

The House may soon debate SS#2/SCS/SB 313 (Koenig). The House General Laws Committee heard and approved the bill on May 1. The bill has been referred to the House Rules - Legislative Oversight Committee. That committee cancelled its meeting on May 3 and has scheduled another hearing on May 8. If approved by the committee, the bill is likely to be taken up for consideration next week.

The bill would create 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 also adds numerous provisions pertaining to student transfers from unaccredited districts, charter schools and other topics.

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 Representative to oppose SB 313.

<http://www.capwiz.com/nea/mo/issues/alert/?alertid=77040626&type=ST>

The Association opposes SB 313 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.

LEGISLATURE PASSES BUDGET BILLS

The House and Senate conferees debated and approved conference committee reports for the FY18 budgets for K-12 and higher education on May 4, one day prior to the Constitutional deadline of 6 p.m. on May 5 for final action on the budget.

The House and Senate approved CCS/SCS/HCS/HB 2 (Fitzpatrick), the K-12 budget bill for the 2018 fiscal year, on May 4. The House approved the bill by a vote of 129-22 and the Senate vote was 33-0. The House and Senate both approved full funding of the school formula and restored pupil transportation funding to the current year level, for a total of \$105 million.

Notable conference items in HB 2 include:

\$9.2M for pupil assessment and House language that the assessments may not be used to lower district accreditation or teacher evaluations;

\$6M for state match for the E-rate program for high-speed broadband service;

\$750K for the Urban Teaching Program;

\$5M for school districts for the costs of public placement of students.

Conferees eliminated funding for: MoVIP, the St. Louis Truancy Program, Community Partnerships; the Kansas City tutoring program and the Scholars and Fine Arts Academy.

The House and Senate approved CCS/SCS/HCS/HB 3 (Fitzpatrick), the higher education budget bill for the 2018 fiscal year, on May 4. The House approved the bill by a vote of 114-39, and the Senate vote was 29-4. Conferees chose to cut core funding to two-year and four-year institutions by 6.58%, which was the highest funding amount available in conference for each institution. Conferees eliminated the proposed \$1M in new funding for graduate programs at Harris-Stowe State University.

Conferees also kept House language to deny all scholarship funding and deny access to in-state tuition at public institutions for all DACA students and other resident students who graduate from Missouri public schools and are not in lawful immigration status.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Senate Economic Development Committee heard two House Committee Bills on May 2:

HCB 4 (Lauer) includes the provisions of HB 93, HB 94 and HB 799. The bill allows high school students to take either the ACT or the ACT WorkKeys test as a state-reimbursed test. The bill also allows a teacher to count hours spent in a local business externship as contact hours of professional development. This bill revises options for financial assistance through the Missouri Works Training Program. The Association supports the bill.

HCB 5 (Lauer) to require each school district to offer a course on computer programming to all high school students. Students may count the course as an elective or practical arts credit. The course may be offered as an online course or through videoconferencing.

STUDENT DATA PRIVACY

The House Special Committee on Government Oversight heard SB 478 (Silvey) on May 2. The bill would require school districts to report breaches of data containing personal information of students to parents, DESE, and the State Auditor. The Association supports the bill. The committee approved an HCS version of the bill that includes the language of the House perfected version of HCS/HB 138 (Spencer) regarding virtual course access and SB 93 (Curls) to revise the terms of the Kansas City school district board to create staggered terms.

HOUSE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee voted to approve several bills on May 1:

HCS/SCS/SBs 300 & 306 (Sater) to revise financial assurance requirements for school bonding and revise the terms of the Kansas City school district board. The committee adopted an HCS that adds the provisions of several other bills: 1) HB 948 (Bahr) allowing computer science to count as a math, science, or practical arts credit, 2) SS/SCS/HCS/HB 138 (Spencer) regarding virtual course access, 3) HB 97 (Swan) to create a visiting scholar certification and 4) HB 253 (Swan) to revise the Career-Technical Education (CTE) Council.

HCS/SB 434 (Sater) to allow school districts to allocate less than 1.0% but no less than 0.5% of moneys received under the school foundation formula to the professional development committee of the district when certain requirements are met. The Association is concerned that the bill weakens the state's commitment to professional development for teachers and opposes the bill. The HCS adds the provisions of several other bills: 1) HB 948 (Bahr) allowing computer science to count as a math, science, or practical arts credit, 2) SS/SCS/HCS/HB 138 (Spencer) regarding virtual course access, 3) HB 97 (Swan) to create a visiting scholar certification, 4) HB 253 (Swan) to revise the Career-Technical Education (CTE) Council and 5) HB 254 (Swan) to exclude funds designated by taxpayers in Kansas City school district as local early childhood education funds from the local tax revenue calculation used to provide funding to charter schools.

HB 785 (Bangert) to require driver's license examiners to demonstrate what an applicant is likely to experience during a traffic stop and to require driver's education providers to include curriculum on traffic stops.

HB 1113 (Bangert) to require ninth grade students in public schools to take a course relating to various educational and career opportunities.

CAPITOL ACTION DAYS

MNEA Capitol Action Days concluded for the 2017 session on May 3 when MNEA-R members came to the Capitol. Capitol Action Days allow planned, face-to-face contact with legislators throughout the session. The Association appreciates the time and effort of all those who participated in Capital Action Days during this session!