



Legislative Update

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Number 14
April 13, 2018
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HOUSE CONCLUDES WORK FOR THE WEEK PRIOR TO RELEASE OF GREITENS REPORT

The House adjourned at midday on April 11 prior to release of the report of the House Special Investigative Committee on Oversight. The committee was created on February 27 by Speaker Richardson, and tasked with investigating allegations against Governor Greitens under procedures adopted on March 1 with adoption of HR 5565. The committee was given forty days to complete its work and prepare a report.

The committee report, transcripts and exhibits can be found at the following link. Please be advised that the report contains content of a sensitive and sexual nature.

<https://house.mo.gov/CommitteesMobile.aspx?year=2018&code=R%20&cluster=true&committee=1840&viewCode=R>

The House will hold a technical session on April 16 and both chambers will reconvene next week on April 17.

BUDGET

The Senate Appropriations Committee completed first round markup on the state budget bills on April 11. Some key education funding items remain open and will be closed when the committee returns to close out HBs 2002 and 2003. It now appears that the committee will start work on closing out open items when it reconvenes on April 18.

HCS/HB 2002, the K-12 education budget bill, increases K-12 formula funding by about \$46M over the Governor's recommendation, reaching the \$98M increase estimated by DESE as needed to fully fund the foundation formula for next school year. The bill does not increase funding for pupil transportation above the Governor's recommendation of \$92M. The Senate committee left the formula lines open. Preliminary discussion indicates the committee may move some revenues from the formula to the pupil transportation categorical, which would leave both of those lines as conference items with the House.

In HCS/HB 2003, the higher education funding bill, the House restored core institution budgets to current year levels. The Senate committee is poised to move about \$36 M from institution core budgets back to the institution performance funding line, but that item remains open. The Senate committee is also poised to restore 100% of the cooperative program funding lines, while the lines were all funded at 60% of requested levels in the House position.

SENATE APPROVES CORPORATE INCOME TAX CHANGES

The Senate gave final approval to SS#2/SB 574 (Koenig) on April 12. The bill makes two primary changes that are anticipated to have little net effect on state revenues. The bill requires a single-sales factor corporate income allocation method and disallows other corporate income allocation methods. This is expected to increase revenues by about \$144 million per year. The bill also cuts the corporate income tax rate from 6.25% to 3.5%. This change is expected to reduce state revenues by about \$135 million per year. The bill also changes the law regarding consolidated returns of affiliated companies, but Legislative Oversight was not able to provide an estimate on the net effect of that change on state revenues.

HOUSE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee heard and then voted to approve two Senate bills on April 9:

SB 743 (Sater) to allow the treasurer of a seven-director school district to use a single surety company when entering into a bond to the state. The HCS version adds language to clarify that state-funded early childhood programs can fill vacancies.

HCS/SB 894 (Libla) relating to computer science instruction. The bill requires DESE to create academic standards for computer science instruction and certification for computer science educators, adds student flexibility to count one computer science credit as either a science, math or practical art graduation credit and creates a fund to support grants for teacher professional development for computer science instruction. The HCS version revises the process for developing the standards, allowing DESE to proceed without approval from the State Board of Education, which currently lacks enough members to reach a quorum or take any official action. The Association supports the provisions in the bills to create academic standards for computer science and provide support for professional development for computer science instruction. The bill would also establish a statewide STEM career awareness program and enact several new provisions of law related to computer science.

PSRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The House Pensions Committee heard HB 2660 (Miller) on April 9. The bill would remove a current elected member position of the PSRS Board and replace that member with an elected member who is a member of a school board. At the hearing, the sponsor proposed to change the bill to have the school board member to be one of the appointed members of the board. The Association is concerned that requiring a school board member could increase turnover on the Board, since school board members may not be re-elected.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEARING

The committee heard several bills on April 10:

HCS/HB 1663 (Swan) to recognize district efforts to establish comprehensive guidance and counseling programs for students attending school in the district. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1573 (Rowland) to require school districts to provide a minimum of 1044 hours of instruction and remove the required number of school days from the law. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1675 (Redmon) to modify provisions relating to school bus driver medical endorsements.

HB 1676 (Redmon) to require school bus drivers who are 70 years of age or older to complete a CDL Skills Test and Driving Test on an annual basis.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION

In addition to hearing bills, the committee voted to approve many bills on April 10:

SCS/SB 709 (Schatz) to revise the process by which travel hardships are granted to public school pupils. The SCS limits the application of the new process to specific school districts in the sponsor's Senate district.

SCS/SB 873 (Schupp) to require DESE to create a ninth grade course on career readiness. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1267 (Lichtenegger) to add certain virtual institutions, including Western Governors' University, to the "Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program".

HB 1370 (Sommer) to require public schools to post certain financial information online for public access. The Association supports the bill.

SCS/HCS/HB 1408 (Spencer) to establish a new course access program by revising the current MoVIP. The SCS revises provisions regarding the selection of courses by students to match the language already passed by the Senate on a similar bill. The Association believes that virtual courses can play an important role for schools and students, and supports the bill.

HB 1415 (Lauer) to allow teachers to count hours spent in externships with local businesses as professional development hours. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1455 (Lauer) to require high schools and public institutions of higher education to provide information related to careers and salaries to students. The Association supports the bill. The bill was approved as a Consent Bill.

SCS/HB 1940 (Corlew) to grant greater freedom for student journalists. The SCS adds additional circumstances under which the administration or media advisor may authorize prior restraint of a student publication and revises the immunity provisions in the bill. The bill 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 1420 (Pfautsch) to extend the sunset on the early learning quality assurance report program. The Association supports the bill.

SCS/HB 1421 (Pfautsch) and HB 1371 (Sommer). The SCS combines the two bills. The SCS requires each school district to establish a policy on acceleration and requires districts with gifted education programs to establish appeal procedures. The SCS also clarifies that the appeals process shall not

create a legal cause of action for a parent or student to sue the district in court regarding any decision on gifted services. The Association supports the bill.

The committee also met in executive session on April 11 and approved all of the following bills as Consent Bills:

SCS/HCS/HB 1663 (Swan) to recognize district efforts to establish comprehensive guidance and counseling programs for students attending school in the district. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1573 (Rowland) to require school districts to provide a minimum of 1044 hours of instruction and remove the required number of school days from the law. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1675 (Redmon) to modify provisions relating to school bus driver medical endorsements.

HB 1676 (Redmon) to require school bus drivers who are 70 years of age or older to complete a CDL Skills Test and Driving Test on an annual basis.

CAPITOL ACTION DAYS

MNEA Capitol Action Days allow planned, face-to-face contact with legislators throughout the session. Capitol Action Days continued on April 11 when MNEA-R members came to the Capitol.

For details and contact information, please visit:

<http://www.mnea.org/Missouri/CapitolActionDays.aspx>

Your MNEA calendar includes the dates that MNEA Board of Directors members selected for your Governance District. Each Capitol Action Day will start with a briefing at 10:00 a.m. to provide you with the most up-to-date information. The briefing will occur in House Hearing Room 4 (in the basement of the Capitol) unless otherwise noted.

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