



# Legislative Update

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## **ACTION ALERT: ASK YOUR SENATOR TO OPPOSE PAYCHECK AND ANTI-BARGAINING BILL**

The Senate General Laws Committee approved SCS/HB 1413 (Taylor) earlier this session. The bill is on the calendar could be taken up by the Senate at any time in the remaining weeks of session.

The SCS contains many harmful provisions that will interfere with public sector bargaining, such as mandatory, biennial recertification elections, prescriptive financial reporting mandates and problematic restrictions on bargained agreements. The bill also requires annual authorization for payroll deduction of member dues and annual authorization for member contributions of dues or fees for political action. The Association strongly opposes SCS/HB 1413.

**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 SCS/HB 1413.

The message can be edited and your message will have **GREATER IMPACT** if you add your own comments.

<http://www.capwiz.com/nea/mo/issues/alert/?alertid=80255626&type=ST>

## **BUDGET**

The Senate Appropriations Committee closed out key education funding items in HBs 2002 and 2003 on April 18. The Senate is expected to take up the budget bills next week.

In HCS/HB 2002, the K-12 education budget bill, the House position calls for a \$98M increase to reach full K-12 formula funding. The Senate committee cut \$50M from the House position, leaving an increase of \$48M in K-12 formula funding over current year levels. The Senate committee also increased pupil transportation funding by \$25M over the House position. Assuming the full Senate approves the committee action, both formula funding and pupil transportation funding will be conference items.

In HCS/HB 2003, the higher education funding bill, the House restored core institution budgets to current year levels. The Senate committee agreed to the House position of keeping institution funding in the core budgets, rather than shifting to the institution performance funding line. Assuming the full Senate approves the committee action, core aid to institutions will not be a conference item.

## **HOUSE PASSES OMNIBUS TAX BILL**

The House gave final approval (Third Reading vote) to HCS/HB 2540 (Haahr) on April 17. The bill makes many changes to the state's tax laws and includes some positive components, such as the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. That provision enhances the ability and willingness of online merchants to collect and remit state sales taxes on online and remote sales.

However, the bill also reduces other taxes and the net effect is a significant reduction in state general revenues. The Association is concerned that the bill would reduce the state's capacity to invest in public education and other vital services and opposes the bill in its current form.

## **BIG TAX BILL STALLS IN SENATE FISCAL COMMITTEE**

The Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee took up SS#2/SCS/SBs 617, 611 & 667 (Eigel) on April 19, but the motion to approve the bill failed due to lack of a second. Unless reconsidered and approved by the committee, the bill cannot be taken up for final approval this session.

The bill makes numerous changes to tax law, including reduction of the state individual income tax, changes to corporate income tax, creation of a state tax credit based on a portion of a taxpayers' federal Earned Income Tax Credit, enacting the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement and increasing the motor fuel tax. While the bill contains some tax law changes supported by the Association, the bill would significantly reduce the state's capacity to invest in public education and other vital services. The Association opposes the bill.

## **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL STALLS IN HOUSE COMMITTEE**

The House Special Committee on Government Reform debated, amended and ultimately defeated SB 695 (Wallingford) on April 18. The bill would require the Governor to appoint an active Missouri teacher as a non-voting representative to the State Board of Education. The bill also includes provisions from SB 794 (Romine) to clarify and stabilize the process for appointment of members of the State Board of Education. The committee amended the State Board appointment approval language out of the bill and added language to allow districts to receive aid for at-risk 3 and 4-year-old early childhood students in contracted programs under the state school formula. However, the committee then voted against approving the amended version of the bill.

## **SCHOOL RETIREMENT**

The Senate debated HB 2044 (Taylor) on April 18 but did not bring the bill to a vote. The SCS version includes the provisions of SB 1045 (Romine) to allow any PSRS retiree to work in a PEERS position while receiving their PSRS retirement benefit as long as the retiree earns no more than 50% of the minimum teacher's salary. The retiree shall not contribute to PEERS or earn creditable service, and the hiring employer will pay the employer's contribution rate. The Association supports this portion of the bill.

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

The committee heard two bills on April 18:

SS/SCS/SBs 603, 576 & 898 (Onder) to establish a new virtual course access program by revising the current MoVIP. The Association believes that virtual courses can play an important role for schools and students, and supports the bill.

HB 2458 (Christofanelli) to creating full-time virtual school open enrollment and new provisions regarding career and technical education. The Association is concerned that the virtual school open enrollment portion of the bill would not adequately protect students or the public interest regarding transfer of district revenues to full-time virtual school companies.

## **HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The committee heard HB 2408 (Fitzpatrick) on April 18. The bill eliminates the existing Bright Flight scholarship and replaces it with a similar merit-based program called the Bright Flight Promise Program. The scholarships will be available for eligible Missouri students scoring in the top 5% on the ACT or SAT and promising to live and work in Missouri after graduation for at least four consecutive years.

### **Legislative Update 2018**

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