



Legislative Update

by Otto Fajen
MNEA Legislative Director
otto.fajen@mnea.org

Number 16
April 27, 2018
www.mnea.org

SENATE DEBATES PAYCHECK AND ANTI-BARGAINING BILL

The Senate debated SS/SCS/HB 1413 (Taylor) on April 24 but did not bring the bill to a vote. The Association strongly opposes SCS/HB 1413. The SS offered by Sen. Onder contains all the same anti-CB provisions of the SCS, but exempts unions representing solely firefighters or law enforcement officers.

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>

The original HB 1413 as passed by the House 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 SCS adds in the provisions of SCS/SB 602 (Onder) including 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.

BUDGET BILLS IN CONFERENCE

The Senate gave final approval (Third Reading vote) to the Senate versions of the state budget bills on April 25. As expected, the House refused to accept the Senate versions and the bills were placed in conference on April 26. House and Senate budget leaders will be working to resolve the differences. Under the Missouri Constitution, the budget bills must be finally passed by the legislature no later than May 11.

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. Sen. Schupp offered an amendment to increase the formula to the full funding level, but later withdrew the amendment, and the Senate approved the committee version. The Senate committee also increased pupil transportation funding by \$25M over the House position. Based on this Senate action, both K-12 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. The Senate approved the committee version, and core aid to institutions will not be a conference item.

SENATORS BLOCK STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPOINTEE EDDY JUSTICE

Several Senators, including Senators Schaaf and Romine, blocked approval of Eddy Justice to the State Board of Education when the appointment was debated on April 24. These Senators expressed their strong objections to the way Governor Greitens manipulated his appointees to cause the State Board of Education to fire former Commissioner Margie Vandeven in December of 2017.

These Senators also indicated a clear intention to block all five appointees who voted in favor of firing former Commissioner Vandeven. The State Board will remain unable to reach a quorum or act until at least two other members win Senate approval.

SENATE PERFECTS STATE EMPLOYEE CHANGES

The Senate gave first-round approval (Perfection vote) to SCS/SB 1007 (Kehoe) on April 26. The bill repeals the merit system of hiring, pay structure and dismissal procedure for many state employees. The bill also removes the requirement for other, non-merit agencies like DESE to establish similar dismissal procedures for non-political employees in those agencies. The Association is concerned that the bill would weaken the due process protections that ensure public employees can do their jobs without fear of interference or retaliation from appointed or elected officials.

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee approved an HCS version of SS/SCS/SBs 603, 576 & 898 (Onder) on April 23. The bill would 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 Senate version of the bill. The House committee changed several portions of the bill, revising the process for the review and approval of course requests, adding additional data reporting provisions, revising the course and learning platform approval process and course payment process. The committee rejected an amendment regarding enrollment provisions in at-risk charter schools on a tie vote of 6-6.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee heard SB 687 (Sater) on April 23. The committee then voted to approve an HCS version of the bill that allows Kansas City school district to pay for high school students to use city buses for transportation to extra curricular activities. The original Senate bill allows 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.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee heard four bills on April 24:

HB 2238 (Mathews) to establish the Social Innovation Grant Program.

HB 1679 (Chipman) to prohibit public institutions of higher education from requiring students to purchase a meal plan when a student presents medical documentation of a food allergy or sensitivity, or a medical dietary issue.

HB 1660 (Swan) to enact provisions relating to career and technical education. The Career and Technical Education Advisory Council will maintain an updated list of available industry certifications, state-issued professional licenses, and occupational competency assessments for use by school districts.

SB 1096 (Romine) to enact enabling provisions for districts relating to career and technical education.

CAPITOL ACTION DAYS

MNEA Capitol Action Days allow planned, face-to-face contact with legislators throughout the session. Capitol Action Days continued on April 25 when MNEA members from Governance District 10 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.

Legislative Update 2018

Missouri National Education Association
1810 East Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101-4174
(573) 634-3202 or (800) 392-0236
www.mnea.org

Charles E. Smith, President
DeeAnn Aull, Executive Director
Otto Fajen, Legislative Director
Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant