



Legislative Update

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

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www.mnea.org

REMINDERS:

LEGISLATIVE FORUMS: <https://www.mnea.org/Missouri/PoliticalAction/5.aspx>

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

HOUSE PASSES PAYCHECK BILL

The House gave final approval (Third Reading vote) to HB 1413 (Taylor) on February 12 by a vote of 91-55. The Association strongly opposes HB 1413 and appreciates the support of those representatives who stood up for public employees and opposed the bill.

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.

HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARS ANTI-BARGAINING BILLS

The House Economic Development Committee heard HB 1577 (Wiemann) on February 13. The committee was also scheduled to hear an identical bill, HB 1923 (Hill), but the hearing for that bill was postponed. These bills apply to public unions and require annual authorization for payroll deduction for dues and any deduction of fees for political action.

The bills also impose a number of onerous and problematic provisions relating to public union representation and collective bargaining. The bills mandate automatic recertification elections for every public sector bargaining unit, impose numerous restrictions on bargained agreements, require all documents in the bargaining process to be public documents and impose an exhaustive set of financial and other record-keeping requirements on public employee unions. The Association opposes the bills.

HOUSE PERFECTS GIFTED EDUCATION BILLS

The House gave first round approval (Perfection vote) to two bills concerning gifted education on February 14:

HB 1371 (Sommer) to require any district with a state-approved gifted education program to have a process that allows parents or guardians to appeal a determination that their child does not qualify for gifted services. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1421 (Pfautsch) to require each school district to establish a policy on acceleration and districts with gifted education programs to establish appeal procedures. The Association supports the bill.

HOUSE PERFECTS CAREER EDUCATION BILLS

The House gave first round approval (Perfection vote) to two bills concerning career education on February 14:

HB 1455 (Lauer) to allow high schools and public institutions of higher education to provide information related to careers and salaries to students. The Association supports the bill.

HCS/HB 1606 (Gannon) to provide financial aid for first time test takers of the HISET high school equivalency exam. The HCS removes the language from another bill regarding acceleration of students that the sponsor did not intend to be included in the original bill. The Association supports the bill.

HOUSE PERFECTS STUDENT JOURNALISM BILL

The House gave first round approval (Perfection vote) to HCS/HB 1940 (Corlew) on February 14. The bill would grant greater freedom for student journalists. 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 HCS revises the language protecting districts and staff from liability for student publishing decisions authorized by the bill. The Association supports the bill.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee heard three bills on February 13:

1) SB 964 (Eigel) to create an advisory council to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding assessments and learning standards for certain students.

2) SB 873 (Schupp) to require the State Board of Education of convene a work group about a ninth grade course on career readiness. The Association supports the bill.

3) SB 640 (Sater) to allow students to possess and self-apply sunscreen at school without a parent or physician's approval.

HOUSE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee heard several bills on February 12:

HB 1245 (Bangert) to require the State Board of Education to convene a work group about a ninth grade course on career readiness. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1573 (Lyle Rowland) to allow a school district to use a calendar based on hours of attendance rather than hours and days of attendance, if the minimum number of hours is at least 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1830 (Ruth) to increase minimum salaries for teachers. The Association supports the bill.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Senate Government Reform Committee heard SB 725 (Emery) on February 14. The bill creates the "Academic Freedom and Whistleblower Protection Act". The bill creates new requirements that public institution policies must meet regarding faculty expression.

The House Higher Education Committee approved two bills on February 14:

HCS/HB 1273 (Kendrick) to grant authority to the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority to issue loans to refinance certain public or private student loans, education grants, and certain bonds, notes, or other obligations.

HCS/HB 1942 (Dohrman) to allow institutions of higher education to designate one or more faculty or staff members as campus protection officer. Public institutions already have campus security officers and programs and the institution testimony indicated that such designations can already be made under existing law.

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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