



# Legislative Update

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## **REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND YOUR MNEA LEGISLATIVE FORUM!**

Missouri NEA's new format for regional legislative events will continue in 2018. These free events will be legislative discussion panels. As in previous years, these events provide a chance for members to build relationships with area legislators and support their understanding of MNEA priorities and education issues. Plan to attend and invite fellow members, administrators and school board members who would enjoy and benefit from a discussion regarding support for public education!

PLEASE REGISTER NOW for your regional MNEA Legislative Forum at

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

Be sure to click through the "RSVP now" link for your event and then "Send RSVP" to register. For additional information contact Sandy Smith ([sandy.smith@mnea.org](mailto:sandy.smith@mnea.org)).

## **CAPITOL ACTION DAYS RETURN!**

MNEA Capitol Action Days will allow planned, face-to-face contact with legislators throughout the session. Capitol Action Days will generally be on Wednesdays starting in February and continuing through the end of session in May. 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. If you are not able to attend on these designated days, feel free to contact Sandy Smith ([sandy.smith@mnea.org](mailto:sandy.smith@mnea.org)) to arrange to attend a different Capitol Action Day. Each Capitol Action Day will start with a briefing at 10:00 a.m. to provide you with the most up-to-date information.

## **STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

Governor Eric Greitens delivered the State of the State Address to a joint session of the House and Senate in the House Chamber on January 10. The State of the State address gives the Governor a chance to present his vision for the state and his budget priorities. However, the Governor did not release his budget proposal for FY 2019, the 2018-19 fiscal year. The budget must be delivered to the legislature within 30 days of the start of session and is expected to be released within the next two weeks.

## **TAX CUTS LOWER STATE REVENUE ESTIMATES**

On January 9, the Governor and legislative budget leaders announced agreement on an annual Consensus Revenue Estimate (CRE). The CRE is one of the basic assumptions used by the Governor and legislative leaders to build and adopt Missouri's state budget. A key figure in the CRE is the projected general revenue collections for FY 2019. Net general revenue collections in FY 2019 are expected to be \$9.418 billion, reflecting an estimated growth of \$229.3 million or 2.5% over the estimated revenue for FY 2018, the current budget year.

However, due to the impact of the new federal tax law changes and the implementation of the first stage of the state income tax cuts enacted by SB 509 (2014), the Governor and budget leaders slashed the revenue growth estimate for the current year in half, from 3.8% down to 1.9%, reducing the current year estimate (and the base figure upon which next year's revenue growth will be calculated) by more than \$200 million.

The reduction in the current year revenue estimate may force the Governor to implement further funding restrictions (also known as "withholds") in the first half of 2018 beyond the \$251 million announced last summer as the fiscal year began.

## **BANNING LOBBYIST GIFTS**

The House gave first round approval (Perfection vote) to HB 1303 (Alferman) on January 10. The bill bans most gifts from lobbyists to legislators and other elected officials. Certain gift exceptions are added, including customary gifts, flowers and plants, returned items, speaking fees, and items customarily received. The bill still allows lobbyists to make expenditures for events when all members of the legislature or all statewide officials are invited at least 72 hours prior to the event.

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

The committee met on January 9 to hear a number of bills heard and approved by the committee during last session but not enacted into law. The committee cancelled the executive session scheduled on January 11.

HB 1366 (Basye) relating to school bus drivers. The bill revises provisions regarding bus driver background checks and allows school districts to contract with cities to use excess bus capacity for pupil transportation.

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 1408 (Spencer) to establish a new course access program by revising the current MoVIP. The program is available for students enrolled full-time in public school. The Association believes that virtual courses can play an important role for schools and students, and 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.

HB 1660 (Swan) to create the Career and Technical Education Certification (CTEC) Program. The bill requires the CTEC Council to approve appropriate CTE certifications, in collaboration with districts and employers. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1665 (Swan) to establish a visiting scholars certificate of license to teach. The temporary certificate is targeted to staffing in business-education partnerships such as Northland CAPS in the Kansas City area and GOCAPS in the Springfield area. The Association believes the bill may help recruit teachers into these emerging, specialized programs.

## **HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT**

The committee met on January 9 to hear HB 1370 (Sommer). The bill requires school districts to maintain and update certain school budget information on its website. The Association supports the bill.

## **HOUSE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The committee met on January 10 to hear several bills including:

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

HB 1677 (Lauer) to allow students to take either the ACT Plus Writing assessment or ACT WorkKeys test for their state-funded ACT test. The Association supports the bill.

## **HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The committee met on January 10 to hear the following bills:

HB 1465 (Cookson) relating to approval of various higher education degree programs. The bill reflects an agreement on the process for approval of programs among the CBHE and two-year and four-year public institutions in the state. Due to budget constraints, the process will emphasize collaboration among existing institutions and programs rather than the creation of entirely new programs. The committee also voted to approve HB 1465 (Cookson) immediately following the hearing on the bill.

HB 1520 (Cookson) to raise the minimum teacher salary for the 2019-20 school year, subject to appropriation. The Association supports higher salaries for teachers as well as other education professionals. The Association believes this could be best accomplished by improvements to the formula to provide resources to fund adequate salaries.

HB 1744 (Hansen) to modify the A+ Schools Program by removing the requirement that the student's attendance of public high school occur in the three years immediately prior to graduation. The Association supports the bill.

The committee postponed the scheduled hearing on January 10 for HB 1267 (Lichtenegger). The bill would change the laws by adding virtual institutions to the "Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program".

## **BUDGET**

The House Subcommittee on Appropriations - Education met on January 9 to hear public testimony on elementary and secondary education appropriations. Witnesses spoke on topics related to several items in the state budget: Missouri Scholars' Academy, Missouri Fine Arts Academy, sheltered workshops, Parents as Teachers program, early childhood education and funds for costs of public placement. The committee will meet next week to take public testimony on higher education programs.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

The Committee met on January 10 to hear testimony regarding University of Missouri Leadership/Governance and testimony from Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) regarding head injury.

### **Legislative Update 2018**

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