



Legislative Update

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SESSION BEGINS!

The 2018 legislative session began at noon on Wednesday, January 3, 2018. Senators spoke at some length about concerns regarding the Governor's manipulation of the appointment process and the need to enact comprehensive campaign finance and ethics reform.

MNEA'S EDUCATION PLATFORM

Students are at the center of Missouri NEA's legislative platform and advocacy. MNEA believes that every child has a basic right to attend a great public school. The Association strives to ensure that all students have the time and resources to learn, caring and qualified teachers and an education that inspires their natural curiosity and desire to learn.

MNEA also continues to lead the fight to defeat the proposals that would harm public education. The Association's legislative advocacy must ensure that legislators fulfill their commitments to stand up for children and public education during the legislative session.

The Association urges the legislature to invest in the classroom priorities that build the foundation for student learning. These priorities include full funding for the foundation formula and investing in the extra services at-risk students need, such as early childhood education and extended learning time.

For more information on MNEA's legislative advocacy, visit the MNEA Legislative Action Center at <http://www.mnea.org/Missouri/LegislativeActionCenter.aspx>

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPOINTMENTS WITHDRAWN AND REAPPOINTED BY GOVERNOR

Several 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 objections seem likely to cause confirmation of those appointments to be blocked in the Senate. The Governor withdrew those five interim appointees just before session began on January 3 and reappointed them once the Senate convened.

This procedural step extends the timeline for approval of the appointments. However, those State Board members will no longer have authority to act until confirmed by the Senate. This means the eight-member State Board now has only three active members. Thus, the Governor's manipulation of the appointment process leaves the State Board unable to reach a quorum or act until at least two other members win Senate approval.

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).

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) 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.

DOWNLOAD THE MISSOURI NEA APP!

The Missouri NEA app is an important new member resource. You can download the app at the link below or search for "Missouri NEA" in the Apple App Store or Android's Google Play Store. Among other things, you can Look up or add MNEA events to your calendar, contact your legislators, read MNEA publications (including the Platform, Priorities and Position Papers) and create postcards and send them to your email and other contacts.

<http://www.mnea.org/Missouri/News/Download-the-Missouri-NEA-Mobile-App-Today-413.aspx>

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT BILLS

To find out more about legislation this session, go to:

<http://www.mnea.org/Missouri/Issues-Action.aspx>

This page contains numerous links, including the Legislative Action Center, which addresses key education issues at the federal and state level. This page also contains links to legislative updates, the MNEA Legislative Platform, legislative priorities and other policy-related links.

To find information about a specific bill currently pending before the Missouri General Assembly, go to:

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billcentral.aspx?pid=26>

Type the bill number (example: HB1000) or sponsor name in the “search” box to find a link to the bill. This link will take you to a “home page” for the bill that provides bill text, bill summaries, fiscal notes and information on legislative action on the bill.

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