



Legislative Update

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

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HOUSE AND SENATE ANNOUNCE SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER IMPEACHMENT OF GOVERNOR GREITENS

The General Assembly will take the apparently unprecedented step of calling itself into special session to consider impeachment of Gov. Greitens. An announcement on May 3 including leaders of both caucuses in both chambers indicates agreement that the special session will begin at 6:30 p.m. on May 18, just moments after the end of the 2018 Regular Session.

The special session will consider the findings and recommendations of the House Special Committee on Investigative Oversight, which may include disciplinary actions against the Governor. The committee was created by Speaker Richardson earlier this session to investigate allegations concerning Governor Greitens.

Under the Constitution, a simple majority of 82 House members would be required to approve impeachment charges. If charges are approved by the House, the Senate would then appoint seven judges to conduct a trial. If five or more judges agree that the charges warrant removal from office, Lt. Gov. Mike Parson would become the new Governor and serve until his term ends in early 2021.

HOUSE PERFECTS PAYCHECK AND ANTI-BARGAINING BILL

The House brought up HB 1577 (Wiemann) and gave the bill first-round approval (Perfection vote) by voice vote on May 2. This late in the session, the bill will not have time to be taken up by the Senate. However, the debate on HB 1577 sets the stage for possible House discussion of similar language in SS/SCS/HB 1413 (Taylor), should that language be approved in similar fashion by the Senate and returned to the House for approval. The Association strongly opposes HB 1577. The bill contains all the same anti-CB provisions of SS/SCS/HB 1413.

Rep. Plocher offered an amendment to HB 1577 to exempt unions representing firefighters and law enforcement officers from the bill, but later withdrew the amendment after several majority party members expressed opposition to that exemption. HB 1577 was perfected without any exemption for first responders. The currently pending SS version of HB 1413 does exempt 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 Representative to oppose HB 1577.

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=80353626&type=ST>

CAPITOL ACTION DAYS

MNEA Capitol Action Days allow planned, face-to-face contact with legislators throughout the session. Capitol Action Days continued on May 2 when MNEA-R members came to the Capitol to visit with legislators on priority issues.

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.

SENATE CONSTRUCTS OMNIBUS K-12 EDUCATION BILL

The Senate debated an expanded Senate Substitute (SS) version of HB 1606 (Gannon) on May 1. That SS version includes many other provisions already considered by the legislature during this session. The SS version was adopted, but the bill has provisions that may increase state cost and was referred to the Fiscal Oversight Committee. The bill is scheduled to be considered by that committee on May 8. Once approved by that committee, the bill can be immediately brought to a final Senate vote.

The original HB 1606 would provide for the state to reimburse first-time test takers for the cost of the HiSET high school equivalency test.

The SS offered by Sen. Romine also includes the language of:

SB 583 (Walsh) regarding student data privacy;
SB 603 (Onder) regarding virtual course access;
SB 681 (Hummel) regarding access to Braille instruction;
SB 687 (Sater) regarding professional development funding;
SB 743 (Sater) regarding school district bond sureties;
HB 1348 (Black) regarding handling of career and technical student organization funds;
HB 1370 (Sommer) regarding transparency of school financial information;
HB 1415 (Lauer) allowing externships to count as teacher professional development hours;
HB 1421 (Pfautsch) regarding gifted education;
HB 1455 (Lauer) to provide information related to careers and salaries to students;
HB 1573 (Lyle Rowland) to allow school calendars to be based solely on hours of attendance without a minimum number of school days;
HB 1663 (Swan) regarding comprehensive school counseling programs;
HB 1675 (Redmon) regarding medical endorsement requirements for school bus drivers;
HB 1676 (Redmon) regarding annual commercial drivers license skills and driving tests for school bus drivers aged 70 or more years; and
language offered by Sen. Wasson to make a technical correction to the early childhood pupil count in the school funding formula.

The following provisions were added by amendment:

- SA 1 (Romine) to require access to multiple virtual learning management systems in the virtual course program;
- SA 2 (Curls) to allow Kansas City school district to contract with local bus companies to transport high school students, primarily for extracurricular activities;
- SA 3 (Schatz) to add SB 762 to require the Commissioner to approve hardship transfers for certain districts based on long travel routes;
- SA 4 (Nasheed) to add SB 788 on instruction regarding sexual harassment and sexual violence;
- SA 5 (Schaaf) to revise the school bus driver physical exam requirements;
- SA 6 (Wallingford) to add SB 695 to add a non-voting active teacher representative to the State Board of Education;
- SA 7 (Riddle) to require that school district education on flu vaccines be consistent with CDC information;
- SA 8 (Koenig) to revise the virtual course approval process;
- SA 9 (Schaaf) to move up the effective date of the virtual course law changes from July 1, 2019 to a normal effective date of August 28, 2018;
- SA 10 (Emery) to include current virtual courses from school districts in the state virtual course access program; and
- SA 11 (Chappelle-Nadal) to remove obsolete language regarding the phase-in of school formula funding for 3 and 4-year-old students in district early childhood programs.

HIGHER EDUCATION BILL PASSES

The House approved the Senate version of SS/HB 1744 (Hansen) on May 3. The bill is now Truly Agreed To, and the final version will be prepared and delivered to the Governor for his approval or veto.

The original bill modifies 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 this portion of the bill.

The SS offered by Sen. Romine also includes the language of:

- SB 682 (Munzlinger) to allow students enrolled in virtual institutions to participate in the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program;
- SB 882 (Hoskins) to revise the Missouri Higher Education Savings (MOST) Program to allow MOST funds to be moved to Missouri ABLE savings accounts; and
- SCS/SB 990 (Hegeman) to revise the process by which a school district is added to the territory of a community college district.

The following provision was added by amendment:

- SA 1 (Onder) to add 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.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BILL PASSES

The Senate approved the House version of HCS/SS/SCS/SB 894 (Libla) on May 3. The bill is now Truly Agreed To, and the final version will be prepared and delivered to the Governor for his approval or veto.

The bill would establish a statewide STEM career awareness program and enact several new provisions of law related to computer science. The bill requires DESE to create standards for computer science instruction, add student flexibility to count one computer science credit as either a science, math or practical art graduation credit and create a fund to support grants for teacher professional development for computer science instruction. The Association supports the provisions in the bills to create academic standards for computer science and provide support for professional development for computer science instruction

Several related provisions were added by amendment:

HA 1 (Fitzwater) to add HB 1245 (Bangert) to require DESE to convene a task force to create a career readiness course for 8th and 9th grade students.

HA 2 (Korman) to add HB 2255 to modify provisions relating to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Initiative.

HA 3 (Swan) to add HB 1660 (Swan) to modify 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.

HA 4 (Black) to add HB 1348 to specify that DESE shall administer funds from career and technical student organizations.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNEXATION BILL PASSES

The Senate approved the House version of SCS/SB 990 (Hegeman) on May 3. The bill is now Truly Agreed To, and the final version will be prepared and delivered to the Governor for his approval or veto.

The bill revises the process by which a school district may be added to the territory of a community college district. Currently, a petition signed by voters in the district must be submitted to the school board of the school district, and then an election is held.

The bill allows the community college board of trustees to propose attaching the school district to the community college district, levy the tax rate of the community college district in the attached district and call an election on the proposal. Election costs are borne by the community college. The House adopted HA 1 (Alferman) to revise the timing of the application of the community college tax levy in the annexed district.

CORPORATE INCOME TAX CHANGES

The House Ways and Means Committee heard SS#2/SB 674 (Koenig) on April 30. The committee voted to approve an HCS version of the bill on May 3. The bill makes two primary changes that are projected to have little net effect on state revenues. The bill requires a single-sales factor corporate income allocation method and disallows other corporate income allocation methods. This portion is expected to increase revenues by about \$144 million per year. The bill also cuts the corporate income tax rate from 6.25% to 3.5%. This change is expected to reduce state revenues by about \$135 million per year. Some question remains about whether the fiscal impact of the combined provisions may actually reduce state revenues, despite the projections of the current fiscal note that show relatively little net effect.

OMNIBUS TAX BILL

The Senate Ways and Means Committee heard HCS/HB 2540 (Haahr) on May 1. 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.

SCHOOL RETIREMENT

The House approved SB 892 (Walsh) on May 2. The bill has returned to the Senate for consideration of the House changes. The bill pertains to various public retirement systems. Two amendments were added that affect school retirement:

HA 2 (Bondon) to add HB 2184 to revise the contribution rate provisions for the Kansas City school retirement system to improve system funded status.

HA 5 (Black) to add HB 2335 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 60% 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.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The committee met on April 30 to select a new chair and co-chair. The committee selected Sen. Gary Romine as chair and Rep. Dean Dohrman as co-chair. The committee also discussed interim activities and will study information technology and computer coding programs and opportunities, training needs for school resource officers and funding issues affecting historically black colleges and universities.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee voted on May 1 to approve the following bills heard previously:

SCS/HB 2238 (Mathews) to establish the Social Innovation Grant Program. The SCS version limits the scope of the grant programs.

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.

SCS/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. The SCS adds SB 1096 (Romine) to enact enabling provisions for districts relating to career and technical education. The Association supports the bill.

The committee met again on May 3 and voted to approve the three bills heard on May 1:

HB 1275 (Kendrick) to establish a work-study program within the Department of Higher Education.

HB 2129 (Cookson) to require thirty minutes of instruction regarding decisions on organ donation during high school.

SCS/HB 2360 (Redmon) regarding the list of public safety officers whose children and spouses are eligible for a survivor's and disabled employee's educational grant.

HOUSE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee heard three bills on April 30:

SB 582 (Walsh) to require school districts to report breaches of data containing personal information of students to parents, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the State Auditor. The Association supports the bill. The committee voted to approve the bill after the hearing was completed.

HB 2565 (Morse) to change the definition of "free and reduced price lunch pupil count" in the funding formula by specifying that the pupil count for school districts choosing the USDA Community Eligibility Option shall be calculated by the food and nutrition services section of DESE.

HB 2705 (Rone) to allow a school district or charter school to enter into an alternative special needs services agreement with the parents of certain students with disabilities enrolled in a public school. The agreement would allow an independent provider to provide alternative special needs services that results in financial savings for the school or the state. The Association is concerned that this approach may not be consistent with the provisions of the federal IDEA and may not adequately protect a student's right to a free and appropriate public education.

The committee also voted to approve the following bills heard previously:

HB 2529 (Morse) to modify the definition of average daily attendance in the school foundation formula by removing the two days of lowest attendance for each district.

HCS/HB 2625 (Lyle Rowland) to create new provisions relating to educational services for neglected or delinquent children. DESE is required to annually collect the contracts that school districts have with private providers serving students in state custody and placed in facilities in those districts. DESE also is required to monitor the educational services provided to those students and annually report to

the legislature and to the state agencies that place those students. The HCS ensures that pupil assessments are not included in APR results for the resident districts.

HCS/HB 2458 (Christofanelli) to create full-time virtual school open enrollment and new provisions regarding career and technical education. The HCS removes the virtual education portion of the bill and is similar to HB 1660 (Swan).

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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