



Legislative Update

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SESSION BEGINS!

The 2019 legislative session began at noon on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Both chambers swore in newly elected members, adopted organizing resolutions and selected officers. Senate President Pro Tem David Schatz and House Speaker Elijah Haahr gave opening speeches. Senate and House leaders will be working to complete committee rosters now that the session has started, so that committee work can begin.

SENATE DEBATES RULES AND ADDS MEMBERS TO SEVERAL COMMITTEES

The Senate spent longer than expected on January 10 debating a rule change contained in Senate Resolution (SR) 19 (Schatz). The resolution changed the rule specifying Senate committees by adding additional members to several committees. The resolution increases the size of the Senate Appropriations Committee from 11 members to 13. The resolution also adds one additional member to the Development and Progress Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

The original resolution also would have changed Senate procedure in Rule 88 to allow a Senator to withdraw a motion at any time before it is finally voted on, even after it has been amended. After lengthy discussion, Sen. Schatz offered SA 1 to remove this change, leaving the current rule in place. Rule 88 currently requires consent of the Senate to withdraw a motion once it has been amended. SR 19 was eventually adopted by the Senate after SA 1 was adopted.

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.

REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND YOUR MNEA LEGISLATIVE FORUM!

The 2019 legislative session will begin this week, and the Association faces many policy challenges. Tax and revenue shortages, anti-worker bills, vouchers, charter school expansion and other problematic legislation will return for debate by legislators. The Association needs you to help build positive local relationships and shared understanding with legislators to help shape policy in ways that help all students and support educators.

Missouri NEA’s regional legislative events will continue in 2019. 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!

LEGISLATIVE FORUM SCHEDULE:

Mid-Missouri Legislative Forum	January 17
Jefferson County/Southeast Legislative Forum	January 24
Kansas City Regional Legislative Forum	January 31
St. Louis Legislative Forum	March 7

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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