



## The Charter School Advocate

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

### 2018 SESSION – 18 DAYS UNTIL ADJOURNMENT

While one might think that with only 18 days until adjournment of the legislative session – it is not clear yet what the Governor and Legislature will agree upon in terms of federal tax conformity, bonding projects, supplementary spending, and a host of policy proposals.

In terms of K-12 education there are a number of differences between what the Governor has proposed and what the House and Senate have put into their respective bills.

#### So Where Do Things Stand?

Earlier last week **the House** merged the K-12 Education and Higher Education Omnibus Bills into one overall Education Bill that includes both finance and policy. It passed the bill later last week.

Meanwhile the Senate has taken a different approach. Just yesterday it passed a separate K-12 Education Policy Bill. Today, it is considering a super Omnibus Supplementary Finance Bill that includes all proposed new state funding for FY19, including K-12 funding – which is minimal.

At some point – very shortly – it is expected that a series of conference committees in some form or another will start the process of reconciling the differences between the Senate and House proposals.

In relation to K-12 Education, there are a number of finance and policy similarities and there are some key differences including: school safety funding for FY20 and beyond, the composition of a Special Education Work Group to make recommendations, lead remediation, and the inclusion of the STAR Rating System – *the Senate amended it out of their bill yesterday.*

Yesterday, Governor Dayton proposed a **one-time increase in school funding of \$137 million**. It would amount to a 2% increase on the general formula. Republican leaders dismissed the proposal and given that the House and Senate did not include earlier requests from the Governor, except for school safety funding the odds of this new proposal being funded is probably non-existent if one sought to place a bet. However, in the legislative process anything can happen even the most unlikely things - but do not expect that an unlikely thing is going to happen this year.

## **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD (PELSB) PROPOSED RULE**

PELSB proposed rule for the new Tiered License System is moving forward after the Board approved some amendments at their April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The next step in the rulemaking process is for the Governor to issue the Scope and Need Statement along with the proposed rule. After that there is the formal public comment and hearing process with an Administrative Law Judge, who will issue a ruling on the proposed rule.

### **MACS has identified a few concerns and questions about the proposed rule including:**

The definition of Innovative Programs, the approval process of Innovative Programs, and the requirement that all Tier 1 candidates must have a bachelor's degree to qualify.

We will be sharing more about the **proposed rule** and our concerns and question in a future edition of the ADVOCATE.