Friday, March 25, 2022

THE HOUSE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE
Friday, March 18th – The Committee heard:

- **HF 951**: Would prohibit the dismissal (exclusion, expulsion, suspension) of students K-3rd grade unless there is an ongoing serious safety threat and “non-exclusionary discipline measures” have been exhausted. *Passed and referred to the Education Finance Committee.*
- **HF 3402**: Would prohibit excluding students from recess as a disciplinary measure. *Passed and referred to the Education Finance Committee.*
- **HF 1362**: Would require schools to have a policy that provides accommodations for a parent who has a disability to participate in developing their child’s IEP. *Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus policy bill.*

Monday, March 21st – The Committee heard:

- **HF 341**: Would create the Student Data Privacy Act and require new restrictions on student privacy protections specifically on “technology providers” and school-issued devices provided for students. *Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus policy bill.*
• **HF 3937**: Would allow a school board and nonpublic school to enter into an agreement for nonpublic school student transportation. *Passed and was referred to the Education Finance Committee.*

**Wednesday, March 23rd**

• **HF 3401** — *A informational walk-through on the amended Governor’s Education Policy Omnibus Bill*

**THE HOUSE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 22nd** — The Committee heard:

• **HF 2742**: Would allow schools to serve students until they are 22 years old if they were enrolled in grades 9-12 between 2021-2023. *Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.*

• **HF 2031**: Would appropriate money to MDE for grants schools could use to expand emergency medical service programming. *Passed and referred to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.*

• **HF 3981**: Would create a legislative work group to evaluate alternatives to using only “free and reduced-price meal” eligibility to determine if a student can be counted when calculating general education compensatory revenue for schools. *Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.*

**Wednesday, March 23rd** — The Committee heard:

• **HF 951**: Would prohibit the dismissal (exclusion, expulsion, suspension) of students K-3rd grade unless there is an ongoing serious safety threat and “non-exclusionary discipline measures” have been exhausted. *Informational hearing, no formal motion was taken.*

**Thursday, March 24th** — The Committee heard:

• **HF 3979**: Would provide additional funding for “setting level 4” school mental health grants. *Passed and referred to the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee.*

• **HF 3580**: Would require general education basic revenue to be indexed to EL concentration and basic revenue. *Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.*

• **HF 3403**: Would establish a preliminary procedure for applicants to determine if a prior conviction or misconduct record would disqualify them from occupational or professional licensure. *Passed and referred to the Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Committee.*

**SENATE EDUCATION FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, March 21st** - The Committee heard:
• **SF 2952:** Would change the definition of teacher “shortage area[s]” to include more relevant fields of need. **Passed and was sent to Senate Finance Committee.**

• **SF 1316:** Would clarify that a school’s required and reported civics test results cannot be used to assess a student’s college and career readiness, identify a school for improvement, determine a school’s eligibility for state aid, evaluate teachers, or determine postsecondary remediation needs or grade retention / promotion. **Passed and was sent to Senate Finance Committee.**

**Wednesday, March 23rd - The Committee heard:**

• **SF 2291:** Would add “Certified Deaf Interpreter” (CDI) as an optional choice in the group of required certifications needed by American sign language / English interpretation employees at schools. **Passed and was referred to Senate Finance Committee.**

• **SF 3818:** Would establish a youth skill path program for employment-based training for secondary schools. **Passed and was referred to Senate Higher Education Committee.**

• **SF 4087:** Would eliminate limits on when postsecondary institutions can give information to high school students and parents, require secondary schools to annually report postsecondary participation rates, and require identical weighted GPA policies for concurrent enrollment and PSEO grades. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

• **SF 3744:** Would allow school boards to include additional learning activities to count for hours of instruction for high school students if a student is “actively engaged” and all other “relevant programmatic statutory requirements” are met. **Passed and sent to the Senate Floor.**

**OTHER EDUCATION BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

• **SF 4267 / HF 3979:** Would provide additional funding for “setting level 4” school mental health grants

• **SF 4222 / HF 4517:** Would increase Gen. Ed. Basic formula allowance by 5% (up 343$ to $7206 for FY23)

• **SF 4124 / HF 2657:** Would fully fund SPED services and eliminate the cross-subsidy

• **HF 4605 / SF 3818:** Would establish a youth skill path program for employment-based training for secondary schools

• **HF 4516 / SF 3373:** Would authorize the “Cambridge Assessment International Education” program to partner with schools (as another option to AP / IB), so participating students can earn college credits through those courses.

• **HF 4530:** Would create “Trauma-informed school incentive aid” to fund grants for professional development.

**NOTE:** Please keep in mind that when a bill is introduced, it does not mean it will be heard or will be enacted into law.
NEXT WEEK @ THE CAPITOL

Tuesday, March 29th: House Ed Finance Committee
HF1729 Would provide school lunch and breakfast for all students
HF3265 Would modify school lead testing and remediation / reporting requirements

Wednesday, March 30th: Senate Ed Finance and Policy Committee
SF 4113: Informational hearing on the Governor’s literacy plan

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROPOSED RULES FOR CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS [CSP] GRANTS

The US Department of Education has proposed significant rule changes for CSP Grants. The proposed rules would make it significantly harder for both new schools and schools seeking a CSP grant for expansion. Among the proposals would be requirement that a charter school have a collaboration agreement with a traditional school district, and document that the proposed school enrollment would not impact the desegregation efforts of the traditional school district(s).

Watch for more information next week about the proposed rules and how you can get involved in protesting these proposed rules.

"Unleashing education from convention" - is more than the MACS motto, it is a reminder of our purpose, our goals and it serves as a clarion Call To Action.
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