



Friday, February 25, 2022

The Charter School Advocate

THIS WEEK @ THE CAPITOL

HOUSE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, February 21st – The Committee heard two bills:

- **HF 3260:** Would require school boards to prohibit “malicious and sadistic conduct” involving “race, religion, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, and sexual exploitation” via a written policy posted in each school building and require a process discussing this policy with students, parents, and school employees.
 - ***This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.***
- **HF 3378:** Would amend the school student bullying policy statute (121A.031) by requiring schools to annually certify that the anti-bullying policy was discussed with all appropriate stakeholders and included in a three-year training cycle. It also would prohibit employer retaliation against school employees for making complaints under this statute and establishes a civil penalty to the district for failure to comply with this statute.
 - ***This bill passed Committee and was referred to the Education Finance Committee.***

Wednesday, February 23rd – The Committee heard three bills:

- **HF 3243:** Would require the commissioner of education to establish a task force and “foundational blueprint for a statewide computer science program” serving elementary and secondary students.
- **HF 550:** This is a student-written bill that would require the commissioner of education to provide a “scientifically accurate” climate justice model program and for all Minnesota

school districts and charter schools to implement it by 2024-25 for elementary and secondary students.

- **HF 3434:** Would alter social studies graduation requirements to include ethnic studies (without increasing the amount of credit needed to graduate) beginning in 2023-24 for 9th grade students. It would also require elementary and middle schools to provide ethnic studies instruction by 2025-26.
 - **All three bills passed Committee and referred to the Education Finance Committee.**

HOUSE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 22nd – The Committee heard three bills:

- **HF 3587:** Would provide funding for full-service community schools.
- **HF 786:** Would fund after-school community learning program grants. It would also modify several provisions in the “after-school community learning programs statute” including eligibility qualifications for applicants, the objectives of the program, the grant proposal requirements, and monitor / reporting requirements.
- **HF 1083:** Would create two school positions at the Department of Education focused on addressing mental health needs for both students and teachers / other school staff.
This was received from the Education Policy Committee.
 - **All three bills were laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

Wednesday, February 23rd – The Committee heard three bills:

- **HF 3088:** Would sustain the increased funding of the Minnesota Math Corps for fiscal year 2024 and later.
- **HF 3300:** Would appropriate \$33 million dollars for K-5 licensed teachers to complete the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). The bill would increase grant funding through FY 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- **HF 3344:** Would appropriate money for grants to the Minnesota Science Teachers Association and the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics to extend “pedagogical and content professional development” for teachers.
 - **All three bills we laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

SENATE EDUCATION FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, February 21st – The Committee heard three bills:

- **SF 1525:** Would allow parents to exit the public school system and instead use state funds to pay for tuition at another recognized educational institution, such as a private school. It would establish education savings accounts as a mechanism for transferring state funds.
 - **This bill was passed as amended and sent to the Senate Finance Committee.**

- **SF 3107:** Would increase the maximum earnings from a school district, for school board members who are employed by that school district, from \$8000 to \$20000.
 - ***This bill passed and was sent to floor.***
- **SF 362:** This bill would modify graduation requirements to include either economics or “personal finance.”
 - ***This bill was laid over.***

Wednesday, February 23rd – The Committee heard three bills:

- **SF 702:** Would modify reading instruction requirements by deleting the word “balanced” instruction to re-enforce the importance of science-based reading instruction to all stakeholders.
 - ***This bill passed and was sent to floor.***
- **SF 3057:** Would suspend the reporting requirements of the world’s best workforce temporarily unless or until all children are at 90% reading proficiency. It would also require school boards to “adopt a comprehensive plan to support and improve teaching and learning” to increase reading proficiency during this period.
 - ***This bill passed and was sent to floor.***
- **SF 3164:** Would reorganize the Regional Centers of Excellence at MDE to add literacy and dyslexia specialist positions and prioritize literacy with a focus on “science of reading” and LETRS approaches and training.
 - ***This was passed and sent to the Senate Finance Committee.***

OTHER EDUCATION BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

NOTE: Please keep in mind that when a bill is introduced, it **does not mean** it will be heard in Committee or will be passed into law.

- **HF 3727: INCREASE SPED AID FOR FY23:** Special education aid paid in current year portion increased
- **HF 3723 / SF2988: MODIFYING SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS:** requiring school districts to offer a course in government and citizenship
- **HF 3634: MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING:** “A school district or charter school must develop a plan to conduct mental health screenings on students in kindergarten through grade 12.”
- **SF 3322: MODIFY OPEN MEETING LAW:** Law simplifies requirements for open meeting law as it relates to interactive technology
- **SF 3297 / HF 2751: ESTABLISHES LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP ON SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION BILLING**
- **SF 3293: SHORT-CALL SUBSTITUTE TEACHER EMERGENCY LICENSING**

MORE LEGISLATORS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENTS

- **Senator Karla Bigham** –(DFL - 54) – 1 charter school in District
- **Senator Scott Newman** (R - 18) – 5 charter schools in District
- **Senator Jerry Newton** – (DFL- 37) – 2 charters in District (running for a new house seat)

- **Senator Melissa Lopez Franzen** – (DFL - 49) – 5 charters in District
- **Senator David Tomassoni** (I – 6) - 2 charter schools in District
- **Representative John Poston** - (R – 9A) – 1 charter school in District
- **Representative Sondra Erickson** – (R – 15A) – no charters in District
- **Representative Jeremy Munson** (R – 23B) - no charters in District
- **Representative Dale Lueck** (R – 10B) - 1 charter school in District

House Members Seeking Senate Seats:

- **Representative Cal Bahr** (R-31B) - 2 charter schools in District
- **Representative Steve Green** (R – 2B) - 1 charter school in District
- **Representative Glenn Gruenhagen** (R-18B) - 4 charter schools in District
- **Representative Tony Jurgens** (R-54B) - no charters in District
- **Representative Kelly Morrison** (DFL – 33B) - no charter schools in District

NEXT WEEK @ THE CAPITOL - FEBRUARY 28-March 4

- **Monday, February 28th – House Education Policy Committee:**
 - **HF 3401:** MDE Education Bill Updates
 - **HF 3251:** Deaf / Hard of Hearing Education - A charter school serving at least 90 percent of deaf / hard of hearing students may give enrollment preference to a student whose primary disability is deaf / hard of hearing.
- **Monday, February 28th - Senate Education Committee:**
 - Discussion about teacher training for reading
- **Wednesday, March 2nd – House Education Policy Committee:**
 - **HF 1808:** School counselor provisions modified and mental illness training required
 - **HF 3634:** Student mental health screening required
 - **HF 3265:** School lead testing and remediation requirements modified
 - **HF 3655:** Substance misuse awareness and prevention education
- **Thursday, March 3rd - House Ed Finance Committee:**
 - **HF 1408:** Interpreter requirements modified.

"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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