The Charter School Advocate

Friday, February 25, 2022

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.
  o This bill passed and was sent to floor.
• SF 362: This bill would modify graduation requirements to include either economics or "personal finance."
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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:**
  o HF 3401: MDE Education Bill Updates
  o 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:**
  o Discussion about teacher training for reading

• **Wednesday, March 2nd – House Education Policy Committee:**
  o HF 1808: School counselor provisions modified and mental illness training required
  o HF 3634: Student mental health screening required
  o HF 3265: School lead testing and remediation requirements modified
  o HF 3655: Substance misuse awareness and prevention education

• **Thursday, March 3rd - House Ed Finance Committee:**
  o 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.
Our mailing address is:
Minnesota Association of Charter Schools
161 St. Anthony Avenue, Suite 1000
St Paul, MN 55103

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list