

# SAM Legislative Tid Bits 3-29-19

## Highlights of Week 12 (Mar 25 – Mar 30)

The schedule changed rapidly this week leading up to Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – the last day for transmittal of appropriation bills. Review [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 12 3-22-19](#) and [Podcast Week 12](#) to find out about the week's activity. The [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 12 Mar 25-30 Revised 3-28-19](#) will give you a broad overview of the work on bills followed in week 12.

A Call to Action was sent to the SAMLN19 on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> making a request to take action to oppose [HB 755 \(Moore\)](#) - Generally revise pre-kindergarten laws. The bill had its first hearing on Wednesday, March 27 at 3:00 pm in the House Education Committee. This was only 4 days from when the bill, if it were to become law, would need to pass the House on 3rd reading and transmit to the Senate. The rush to piece this bill together is one of the reasons for pausing to see whether this is good policy or not. The SAM Delegate Assembly Steering committee determined that this bill conflicts directly with the SAM action priority of Privatization with Public funds by creating a public funding stream dedicated to private preschools. The bill would also undermine the constitutional authority of the Board of Public Education by creating a new Department of Early Childhood under the executive and the Administrator of that department would determine the standards and teacher qualifications for serving 4-year olds (even though the BPE has already determined early childhood standards in Chapter 63 approved in 2016). SAM has a resolution in support of the authority and standards established by the Board of Public Education. Finally, the fiscal commitment of approximately \$17 million would go to both public preschool and to private preschool. SAM has a resolution in support of public preschool. Given all of these competing resolutions, the Steering Committee determined that SAM would stand in opposition to HB 755.

On Wednesday afternoon, SAM and MT-PEC partners provided opponent testimony on HB 755 in the House Education Committee. Click [HERE](#) to review the video of the testimony (HB 755 begins at 15:35 and SAM testimony is at about 16:18). An hour after the HB 755 was heard, the House Education Committee convened to take executive action on 8 bills including HB 755 and [HB 225 \(Schreiner\)](#) Governors K-12 funding bill including public preschool (which had been held in House Education Committee since being heard on February 4). The result was an attempt to amend HB 225 to only have language to implement public preschool (the original request of the Governor with full support from SAM and MT-PEC) failed 7-10, then was tabled on a 10-7 vote. When HB 755 was called by the chair, a substitute motion to table (non-debatable) passed 9-8 (mixture of D and R votes). So, with those 2 moves, the preschool bills for this session are tabled. We will continue to monitor and support any resurrecting of the HB 225 preschool bill language and will oppose any resurrecting of the HB 755 preschool bill language.

## Upcoming Week 13 (April 1-6) Update

[SAM Followed Bills 3-29-19](#) are up to 128 with 260 bill drafts being monitored. [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 3-29-19](#) describes the status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (21 bills), Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (5 bills), Oppose Privatization with Public Funds (1 bill), Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure (5 bills), Support School Based Mental Health Services (5 bills), and Other SAM Followed Bills (47 bills).

Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 13 Apr 1-6 Revised 3-29-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings.

The tools to follow everything during the legislative session are ready for all SAM members to view and use by clicking on the [2019 Legislative Session](#) under the 'Advocacy' tab on the SAM website ([www.sammt.org](http://www.sammt.org)).