

# SAM Legislative Tid Bits 4-5-19

## Highlights of Week 13 (April 1-6)

The schedule changed rapidly this week – as much as three times per day – with the April 1 transmittal for appropriation bills and the start of the last month of the session! Review [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 13 3-29-19](#) and [Podcast Week 13](#) to find out about the week's activity. The [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 13 Apr 1-6 Revised 3-29-19](#) will give you a broad overview of the work on bills followed in week 13.

**Preschool Discussions This Week ...** There are currently three companion bills to HB 2 in Senate Finance and Claims ([HB 662](#), [HB 663](#), [HB 664](#)) that if passed will implement provisions to HB2, Sec E - Education. We have been monitoring these bills carefully and listening to the explanation by several legislators on how they intend to handle these companion bills. Amendments to these Companion bills will be posted [HERE](#), of which only [one currently exists for HB 662](#) around K-12 CTE. It is in the Companion bill amendments that the policy of intent to use the funding to develop preschool under language like was in HB 225 or language like was in HB 755 would be revealed. This is similar to the implementation of HB 261 and HB 9 at the end of the 2017 session that happened mostly without any hearings on the final determinations at the end of the session. SAM will continue to monitor this closely and request input if input is allowed.

**Special Education Funding News ...** The Senate passed (39-9) [HB 638 \(Bedey\)](#) Increasing K-12 special ed allowable cost payment, on 3rd reading on Thursday, so it looks like this will be approved and headed to the Governor for signature. When signed, the bill provides the inflationary increase of .91% for 2019-20 and 1.83% for 2020-21 to the special ed allowable cost payment and places the new appropriation as part of the ongoing base for of the next legislative session. This will then complete the budget data sheets provided to school districts by showing the special ed allowable cost payment with inflationary increases for the biennium (instead of the 2017 special ed allowable cost payment indicated on the budget data sheets sent out by OPI on Feb 28 after HB 159 became law). This bill has no adjustment to the distribution formula that would have assisted the Special Ed Coops.

**HB 2 (Appropriations Bill) News ...** On Thursday, [HB 2](#) Appropriations bill for all funding, sailed through the Senate and passed on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading [27-22](#). The Senate only added 3 amendments to the House version of the bill and none of the amendments impacted education. HB 2 will now go back to the House for consideration as amended. This bill is way ahead of schedule and is likely to be held until some of the policy bills with appropriations make it through the session, so the bills that pass with appropriations can be considered in the HB 2 appropriations.

**Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Advocacy Priority News...** We continue to track [HB 211 \(Jones\)](#) Address recruitment and retention of K-12 quality educators (critical shortage loan repayment bill), as it lingers in Senate Finance and Claims Committee after passing the House (2/23/19) and the Senate Education Committee (3/27/19). As amended, this bill provides essential attention to recruitment and retention efforts in our SAM action advocacy priorities, so we are working to keep this bill moving to meet the deadlines imposed as the session draws closer to the end.

## Upcoming Week 14 (April 8-13) Update

[SAM Followed Bills 4-5-19](#) are up to 132 with 264 bill drafts being monitored. [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 4-5-19](#) describes the status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (25 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).

SAM has implemented the advocacy effort as of 4-5-19 by providing testimony 89 times on 50 different bills at this point in the session – See the [SAM Testimony Log 2019 Legislative Session 4-5-19](#) to review this work in Committee hearings.

Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 14 Apr 1-6 Revised 4-4-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings. A bit lighter agenda in committee as a result of the April 1 transmittal deadline for appropriations bills.

SAM will be keeping watch on the Senate Finance and Claims Committee this week to determine how companion bills to HB 2 ([HB 662](#), [HB 663](#), [HB 664](#)) are handled and if preschool will manifest itself here.

Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage. We have produced the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 14 Podcast 4-5-19](#), giving you the opportunity to listen to what is happening for your convenience. I hope this background is helpful to you as you share information with your colleagues in your area!

*Kirk*