

SAMLN19 Legislative Update 13: Week 13 (Apr 1 - 6) 3-29-19

Greetings SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) Members!

Highlights of Week 12 (Mar 25 – Mar 30)

The schedule changed rapidly this week leading up to Monday, April 1st – 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 16th 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.

Because of the pending revenue bills transmittal being April 1, the activity in the House of Representatives and committees that are working on hearing policy bills was very active this week. Take a look at the run down of that activity below.

Monday 3/25/19

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

- [HB 290 \(Webb\)](#) Require child support cooperation for food stamp eligibility – Monitor
- [SB 239 \(Regier\)](#) Provide for moratorium on property taxes for broadband fiber and cable - Monitor. Possible help to broadband fiber for schools, proponent schools
- [HB 351 \(McKamey\)](#) Encourage transformational learning – Support. Incentivize Transformational Learning – Concurred 14-5.

- [HB 387 \(Jones\)](#) Create advanced opportunity act for Montana students – Support. Incentivize CTE Innovation – Concurred 16-3.

House Appropriations Committee

Executive Action:

- [HB 420 \(Runningwolf\)](#) Encourage grow your own programs to address teacher shortage - 2 RR. Support. MUS recruitment and retention flexibility for 2 & 4 yr campuses – Failed (10-12); Tabled in Committee.
- [HB 459 \(Beard\)](#) Provide support for rural school recruitment and retention - 2 RR. Support. Class 3 (70%) and 2 (30%) districts receive distribution - Failed (10-12); Tabled in Committee.

House Judiciary Committee

- [SB 132 \(Regier\)](#) Creating a student safety accountability act - Monitor. Have suggested amendment to include more than just public schools

Senate Education Committee

- [HB 414 \(Karjala\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school meals - 6. Support. Amended to provide direction to schools.

Tuesday 3/26/19

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

- [HB 2 \(Ballance\)](#) General Appropriations Act – Section E - Executive Budget for Program 6 (OPI) and Program 9 (School Funding)

House Taxation Committee

- [HB 646 \(Olsen\)](#) Provide tax credit for purchase of a gun safe – Monitor. Gun safety bill

Senate Highways and Transportation Committee

- [SB 350 \(Cohenour\)](#) Encourage lap-shoulder belts on school buses – Monitor.

Wednesday 3/27/19

House Education Committee

Executive Action:

- [HB 225 \(Schreiner\)](#) Revise school laws related to inflation, preschool, and special education – Support. Gov school funding bill w Inflation, SpEd, Preschool - Amend by Schreiner to strip all but preschool from the bill - Failed 7-10; Motion to table passed 10-7
- [HB 371 \(Windy Boy\)](#) Provide ongoing funding to the Montana Indian Language Preservation Program – Monitor - Motion to approve failed 7-10 and tabled
- [HB 648 \(Farris-Olsen\)](#) Create state program to incentivize school breakfast program – Support. Governor No Kid Hungry incentive bill. Motion to approve failed 7-10 and tabled
- [HB 667 \(Bachmeier\)](#) Create farm to school grant program – Support. Gov F2S grant program - Motion to approve failed 7-10 and tabled
- [HB 754 \(Vinton\)](#) Create study commission to review MUS restructuring – Not a SAM Followed Bill - Motion to approve passed 15-2
- [HB 759 \(Kerr-Carpenter\)](#) Provide for digital literacy and computer science coordinator - 6. Monitor - Motion to approve failed 7-10 and tabled
- HB 774 Motion to approve passed 8-7

- [HB 755 \(E. Moore\)](#) Generally revise pre-kindergarten laws - 1 SF. Oppose. Preschool-privatize with public funds & block BPE authority - Funk substitute motion to table passed 9-8

Bill Hearings:

- [HB 754 \(Vinton\)](#) Create study commission to review MUS restructuring – Not a SAM Followed Bill
- [HB 755 \(E. Moore\)](#) Generally revise pre-kindergarten laws - 1 SF. Oppose. Preschool-privatize with public funds & block BPE authority
- [HB 759 \(Kerr-Carpenter\)](#) Provide for digital literacy and computer science coordinator - 6. Monitor. Very late to add a position in competition with other Ed funding

House Appropriations Committee

- [HB 643 \(Knudsen\)](#) Extend state lands reimbursement block grant for schools - Support

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

- [HB 2 \(Ballance\)](#) General Appropriations Act – Section E - Executive Budget for Program 6 (OPI) and Program 9 (School Funding)

House Taxation Committee

- [HB 706 \(Winter\)](#) Revise individual income tax credit – Monitor

House Energy, Technology and Federal Relations Committee

- [HB 704 \(Grubbs\)](#) Establish a Montana solar schools grant program - 6. Monitor

Senate Education Committee

Executive Action:

- [HB 211 \(Jones\)](#) Address recruitment and retention of K-12 quality educators - Support. QEP for R & R Critical Shortage – Concurred 8-0
- [HB 295 \(Anderson\)](#) Create grant program to encourage work-based learning – Support. Incentivize Work-based Learning Innovation – Concurred 8-0
- [HB 298 \(Pope\)](#) Revise funding for students with disabilities - Monitor. ANB for Spec Ed up to 21. Excess cost to local district - Tabled

Thursday 3/28/19

Senate Floor Session:

- [HB 351 \(McKamey\)](#) Encourage transformational learning – Support. Incentivize Transformational Learning – Passed 2nd Reading 43-7
- [HB 387 \(Jones\)](#) Create advanced opportunity act for Montana students – Support. Incentivize CTE Innovation – Passed 2nd Reading 38-11
- [SB 12 \(Salomon\)](#) Revise school funding related to oil and gas production taxes – Support. Clean up bill EDIC – Not Concurred

House Floor Session:

- [HB 477 \(Funk\)](#) Enact firearm education laws for children – Support. Gun safety bill – Passed 3rd reading 61-35
- [HB 636 \(Jones\)](#) Revise laws related to protested taxes – Support. School district revenue from protested taxes – Passed 3rd reading 85-11

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House Appropriations Committee

- [HB 640 \(Morigeau\)](#) Generally revise laws related to childhood sexual abuse - Monitor

House Judiciary Committee

- [HB 745 \(Olsen\)](#) Enact a student online personal information protection act - Monitor

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

- [HB 2 \(Ballance\)](#) General Appropriations Act – Section E - Executive Budget for Program 6 (OPI) and Program 9 (School Funding)

Senate Energy and Telecommunications

- [SB 355 \(Bennett\)](#) Require net neutrality – 4 FT. Net Neutrality action resolution. Support testimony provided.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- [HB 567 \(Skees\)](#) Establish Montana school marshal program – Monitor. School Marshall Program
- [HB 590 \(Fern\)](#) Revise criminal procedure laws related to sexual offenses – Monitor

Friday 3/29/19

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

- [HB 662 \(Jones\)](#) Implement provisions of HB2, Sec E – Education – Monitor
- [HB 663 \(Jones\)](#) Implement provisions of HB2, Sec E – Education – Monitor
- [HB 664 \(Jones\)](#) Implement provisions of HB2, Sec E – Education – Monitor
- Each of these 3 bills are called companion bills to HB 2 and are available to the Committee to make changes to policy bills and appropriation bills to coordinate with HB 2. We are concerned that it is here that last minute antics to stuff policy into bills with an appropriation will happen in these companion bills. We have requested to be informed when amendments are being requested that would impact education so we will have the opportunity to provide input into critical areas of our SAM advocacy priorities that may be impacted by actions on these companion bills up to the last days of the session.

Upcoming Week 13 (April 1 – April 6)

[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. A bit lighter agenda in committee as a result of the April 1 transmittal deadline for appropriations bills.

Tuesday 4/02/19

Senate Energy and Telecommunications

- [SB 356 \(Funk\)](#) Revise the composition of the committee on telecommunications access services – Monitor

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House Judiciary Committee

- [SB 40 \(Smith\)](#) Require OPI to create and maintain electronic directory photograph repository – Monitor. School Safety

House Business and Labor Committee

- [SB 267 \(Sands\)](#) Generally revise laws related to private alternative adolescent programs board - Monitor

Wednesday 4/03/19

House Judiciary Committee

- [SB 304 \(Webb\)](#) Authorize concealed carry for legislators & sergeants-at-arms & their deputies – Monitor, gun bill

Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage. We have produced the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 13 Podcast 3-29-19](#), 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

Please use the SAM website (www.sammt.org) as a resource for all things legislative under ‘Advocacy’, then [2019 Legislative Session](#). All information for the SAMLN19 is posted on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage – including this first SAMLN Update.

General Information

Click on the items in [blue underline font](#) as they are links that will go directly to the item.

For a copy of the bills, click on the bill number (e.g. [HB 1](#)) or go to [LAWS](#).

All Bills being followed by SAM can be found on the [SAM Bills 2019](#).

[Contact a Legislator](#) (not ready yet at the time of this writing) site is on the [2019 Legislature](#) webpage. You can use the [Online Message Form](#).

You may also [Watch or Listen](#) to live and upcoming meeting and hearings. Just click on the meeting or hearing that is on the schedule.

[2019 SAM Legislative Session](#) webpage.

[SAMLN19 Rules of Conduct for Political Activity and Advocacy](#).

[SAMLN19 Effective Advocacy PowerPoint](#).

[SAMLN19 ‘How to Provide Testimony on a Bill’ Video](#).

[SAMLN19 Community Forum](#).

[Legislator Contact Info by School District](#)