

SAMLN19 Legislative Update 14: Week 14 (Apr 8 - 13) 4-5-19

Happy Friday SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) Members!

Highlights of Week 13 (April 1 – April 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 2nd 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.

Monday 4/1/19

House Education Committee

Executive Action:

- [SB 35 \(Thomas\)](#) Generally revise school safety laws –Support - Passed 15-2
- [SB 60 \(Salomon\)](#) Generally revise laws related to financial aid programs – Monitor - Passed 14-3

- [SB 92 \(Salomon\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school safety – 1 SF. Support. Allows school levy for safety - Passed 16-1 (Grubbs)
- [SB 139 \(Lang\)](#) Revise retiree return to work provisions in teachers' retirement system - 2 RR. Monitor – Passed 12-5
- [SB 140 \(Smith\)](#) Establish the Montana dyslexia screening and intervention act - Monitor. School district required Dyslexia screening and programming – Passed 16-1 (DeVries)
- [SB 164 \(Thomas\)](#) Generally revise school safety laws – Monitor – Failed 5-12 and Tabled

House Appropriations Committee

- [SB 8 \(Reiger\)](#) Generally revise laws related to participation in extracurricular activities - Monitor

Tuesday 4/2/19

House Judiciary Committee

- [SB 40 \(Smith\)](#) Generally revise laws related to participation in extracurricular activities – Monitor

House Business and Labor Committee

- [SB 267 \(Sands\)](#) Generally revise laws related to private alternative adolescent programs board – 5 MH. Monitor

Senate Energy and Telecommunications

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

Wednesday 4/3/19

House Judiciary Committee

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

Senate Judiciary Committee

- [HB 477 \(Funk\)](#) Enact firearm education laws for children - 6. Support. Gun safety bill

Thursday 4/4/19

Senate Floor:

- [HB 576 \(Skees\)](#) Revise school finance laws related to gifts and endowments - Support. Flexibility for school districts - Passed 37-11
- [HB 638 \(Bedey\)](#) Increasing K-12 special ed allowable cost payment - 1 SF. Support. Spec Ed Approp Cmte Bill with OTO inflation. - Passed 39-9

Friday 4/5/19

Senate Floor:

- [SB 35 \(Thomas\)](#) Generally revise school safety laws – 6. Support
- [SB 92 \(Salomon\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school safety – 1 SF. Support. Allows school levy for safety
- [SB 139 \(Lang\)](#) Revise retiree return to work provisions in teachers' retirement system - 2 RR. Monitor

House Education Committee

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- [HB 774 \(Windy Boy\)](#) Create computer coding student employment pilot program - Monitor

Senate Judiciary Committee

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

Senate Taxation Committee

- [HB 636 \(Jones\)](#) Revise laws related to protested taxes - Support. School district revenue from protested taxes

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

- [HB 4 \(Bartel\)](#) Appropriations by Budget Amendment - 1 SF. Support preschool development grant and striving readers funding

Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

- [HB 643 \(Knudsen\)](#) Extend state lands reimbursement block grant for schools - 1 SF. Support

Upcoming Week 14 (April 8 – April 13)

[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.

Monday 4/8/19

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

- [HB 295 \(Anderson\)](#) Create grant program to encourage work-based learning - 1 SF. Support. Incentivize Workbased Learning Innovation

House Taxation Committee

- [SB 239 \(Ellsworth\)](#) Provide for moratorium on property taxes for broadband fiber and cable - 6. Monitor. Possible help to broadband fiber for schools, proponent schools, so we may be supporting this bill.

Tuesday 4/9/19

Wednesday 4/10/19

Thursday 4/11/19

Senate Judiciary Committee

- [HB 745 \(Olsen\)](#) Enact a student online personal information protection act – Monitor. META and the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee are researching this bill and this may change our activity on the bill to support instead of monitor. That work is going on right now.

Friday 4/12/19

Saturday 4/13/19

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

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](#)