

SAMLN19 Legislative Update 4: Week 4 (Jan 28-Feb 1)₁₋₂₅₋₁₉



Hello SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) Members!

Highlights of Week 3 (Jan 21-25)

SAM has participated in the discussions of bill language incentivizing transformational learning (LC0595), incentivizing recruitment and retention (HB 211), innovative CTE funding (LC0226), and a bill that allows loans for school facilities and major maintenance projects with debt payment paid through the Major Maintenance Subfund (HB 247). You can expect to see each of these efforts come forward as bills in the coming weeks.

The [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 3 Jan 21-25 Revised 1-18-19](#) has details of the testimony and actions of SAM during week 3. Testimony was given to represent SAM's support for – SB 10, SB 50, and SB 110 in the Senate Education Committee and HB 27 in the House Education Committee. HB 27 on special education funding was the first Call To Action Bill of the SAMLN19 for this session to support the SAM priority special education bill. Thank you to our SAM members who provided testimony to the committee and to all of the SAMLN19 members who made contact with the House Education Committee members.

Additionally, the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee heard the Executive Budget recommendations for Program 6 (OPI Activities) and Program 9 (Distribution to Schools) of section E. On Thursday, Supt Arntzen presented the OPI budget requests in Program 6 to the committee. SAM participated through one voice of MT-PEC giving testimony to support the Executive Budget for Program 6 with an additional indication to support the Montana Digital Academy becoming a budget line item into the future rather than one time only distribution as it has been treated in the last 3 legislative sessions. On Friday, OPI presented the budget requests for Program 9, a request of a little over \$1 billion for funding our schools for the next biennium. Program 9 Executive budget includes inflation on all parts of the funding formula, restoring the components of the formula lost in the 2017 session and 2017 special session, and voluntary ANB funded preschool up to half time. Many SAM members were present to give testimony in support of the Program 9 requests. SAM participated through one voice of MT-PEC giving testimony to support the Executive Budget for Program 9. The Subcommittee will meet in workshop format next week to begin making decisions on these important budget items for our schools.

In other progress this week, SB 159 (inflation applied to most components of the funding formula) has passed the House on 1/23 on 2nd reading 97-3 and is referred to House Appropriations Committee for hearing. Senate Education Committee took executive action to table both SB 6 (Revise school funding related to school safety) and SB 118 (Revise laws related to online learning opportunities).

Upcoming Week 4 (Jan 28-Feb 1)

[SAM Followed Bills 1-25-18](#) now are up to 65 with 248 bill drafts being monitored. Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 4 Jan 28-Feb 1 Revised 1-25-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings. A couple of bills – SB 35 (Revise school safety laws) and HB 235 (Provide options, conditions for financing school health group plans) will receive support testimony. HB 235 is a bill that was crafted through the efforts of SAM and MT-PEC to provide an incentive for school districts to join a health insurance trust that will provide best cost options and best premium options for schools in the future. This is a SAM Priority bill under recruitment and retention of quality educators and school funding to support the benefit of health insurance for our schools.

The Montana Principals Conference 2019 is in Helena on Sunday – Tuesday this week so many SAM members will be here during this legislative week!

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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](#)

Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage. We will also produce a SAMLN19 Update 4 Podcast, 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