

# SAMLN19 Legislative Update 6: Week 6 (Feb 11-Feb 16) 2-5-19



Hi SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) Members!

We are approaching the one-third mark of the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and Tuesday, 2/12/19 (Day 29) would be a good point to update our SAMLN19 with details of our progress. This **SAMLN19 Update Web Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 2/12/19 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm via [UberConference](#)**. You will receive an email with information to connect to the meeting. Rick and I will give you details of the successes accomplished and challenges ahead and we hope you can join us for this hour web meeting.

## Highlights of Week 5 (Feb 4 - Feb 9)

The House is meeting on Saturday, Feb 9 creating legislative day 27 for the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative session. At this point in the session. Week 5 was busy with hearings on SAM Followed Bills. Review [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 5 Feb 4-9 Revised 2-7-19](#) to see the week's activity.

**[HB 235](#)** Provide options, conditions for financing school health group plans, Dave Fern (D) was tabled in House Human Services in 2/1/19 on an 11-8 party line vote. An ongoing effort to revive this bill is underway with proposed amendments to gain support of the committee for reconsideration. We believe that with contacts to the House Human Services Committee that we may be able have them reconsider the amended bill. Click [HERE](#) to see the MT-PEC prepared talking points for this bill. You can use this info to do a **CALL TO ACTION to revive this bill**.

What To Do: Click [Message a Legislator](#), complete your contact info, "Send Message to" – click "Committees" radio button, choose "(H) Human Services" from the drop down menu, enter "HB 235", select "For" radio button, type or copy and paste a message asking the Committee to reconsider HB 235 and provide your reasons – like how having access to a Health Insurance Trust with extensive purchasing power and stability in health insurance premiums for your school employees would benefit your school district.

## Monday 2/4/19

### House Education Committee

**[HB 225](#)** Revise school laws related to inflation, preschool, and special education, Casey Scheiner (D). The hearing on this bill was about 40 minutes with several SAM members testifying on all parts of the bill. There were no questions from the committee. This was also a SAMLN19 Call to Action bill and many of our SAMLN19 members sent messages of support to the House Education Committee.

**[HB 303](#)** Eliminate compulsory education requirements, Greg DeVries (R) There were about 5 proponents the last of which was a minister with support from constituents around Jefferson City, where the bill sponsor is from. They appeared to be libertarians. There was one question from the committee. MT-PEC offered opponent testimony on this bill.

**[HB 354](#)** Restrict sexually explicit materials and sexually oriented businesses, Rodney Garcia (R). There were no proponents and the sponsors opening was difficult to follow to understand the need for the bill. MT-PEC offered opponent testimony on this bill.

Executive Action was taken on 6 K-12 education bills in the House Education Committee:

**[SB 10](#)** Revise school funding related to major maintenance aid, **passed** unanimously on a voice vote

**[SB 11](#)** Clarify age requirements related to the definition of pupil, **passed** unanimously on a voice vote

**[SB 16](#)** Revise school funding related to special education joint boards, **passed** unanimously on a voice vote

**[HB 27](#)** Generally revise special education funding (Sped inflationary increases) was amended slightly by the sponsor for clarity and **passed [15-2](#)**. A SAM advocacy priority.

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[HB 191](#) Provide for K-12 synchronous distance learning payment, **failed** 1-16 and then was **tabled**

[HB 247](#) Provide greater flexibility for school districts in financing major maintenance, **passed unanimously** as amended on a voice vote. A SAM advocacy priority.

## Senate Education Committee

[HB 61](#) Revise school data privacy laws, David Bedey (R). This bill has passed the house and is now being heard on the Senate side. Basic message to support student privacy while allowing test scores to be shared through the Montana University System so Montana students have an opportunity for admission and scholarships to the Montana University System.

## Wednesday 2/6/19

[HB 351](#) Encourage transformational learning, Wendy McKamey (R) had a great hearing in House Education Committee. This bill was an effort of SAM and MT-PEC to incentivize school districts who are implementing personalized, proficiency-based student centered learning in their classrooms, department or school. Thank you to Joe Steele and Sharyl Allen (SAM LPLP Transformational Learning Collegial Learning Network participants) for your great testimony for this bill.

## Thursday 2/7/19

[HB 27 \(Funk\)](#) – to inflate state special education funding – passed the House. 79 – 20. See the vote [HERE](#) .

[HB 27](#) has been rereferred to House Appropriations where it may sit and we will be putting pressure on leadership for them to schedule this to be heard.

[HB 159 \(Grubbs\)](#) – to fund k-12 public schools for the coming biennium – passed Senate Finance and Claims. 17 – 1 (Voting NO: Keenan). My prediction is [HB 159](#) will pass this session and could be on the governor's desk late next week or shortly thereafter.

## Upcoming Week 6 (Feb 11 - Feb 16)

[SAM Followed Bills 2-8-19](#) are up to 90 with 251 bill drafts being monitored. [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 2-8-19](#) describes the status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (17 bills), Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (4 bills), Oppose Privatization with Public Funds (0 bills), Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure (3 bills), and Support School Based Mental Health Services (2 bills).

Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 6 Feb 11-16 Revised 2-8-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings.

## Monday 2/11/19

MONTANA PUBLIC EDUCATION CENTER  
*Public Education Day*  
ON THE HILL  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

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Join your fellow Montana public school trustees and administrators at the Montana State Capitol in Helena on **February 11, 2019**, to advocate on behalf of our public schools and students. Bring your student trustee or student council leader! Following a roundtable with current and former educators who are now legislators, the group is set to meet with Governor Bullock! Lunch will be served. Please register to attend.

[HB 387](#) and [SB 92](#) will be heard in the House Education Committee on Monday, February 11. This means you will have an opportunity to tell legislators why providing Advanced Opportunities and CTE programming (HB 387) and school safety (SB 92) is so important to our students' success.

- **HB 387** is a bill developed and supported by the partners of MT-PEC. This bill would expand personalized opportunities for students to accelerate career and college readiness and reduce out-of-pocket costs for families.
- **SB 92** is a bill to meet the varying and individual needs of each district in addressing school safety through access to a vote and non-vote levy. This bill allows for the flexibility for districts to meet their specific needs in improving student and school safety, whether that be hiring SROs, counselors, implementing restorative justice programming or updating infrastructure safety needs.

We need a strong show of support from trustees, administrators and teachers for bills, like HB 387 and SB 92, that impact Montana's public schools. The successful passage of key bills depends upon your advocacy efforts. We can't do it alone. Use your voice - [Click HERE to register now!](#) (View the agenda and Capitol Shuttle map [HERE](#))





Tuesday 2/12/19

SAMLN19 Update Web Meeting will take place on Tuesday from 1:00 to 2:00 pm via [UberConference](#).



Wednesday 2/13/19

Here is the schedule for hearings ...

House Education Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
13-FEB-19	3:00 PM	137	<a href="#">HB 388</a>  	Generally revise education laws related to students with exceptional needs	<a href="#">Mary Caferro</a> (D) HD 81	1 SF. Support. Funding available for spec ed high need identified students
13-FEB-19	3:00 PM	137	<a href="#">SB 50</a>  	Revise administration of Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program	<a href="#">Edith (Edie) McClafferty</a> (D) SD 38	1 SF. Support. OPI oversee QEP

Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
13-FEB-19	3:00 PM	422	<a href="#">SB 130</a>  	Revise school election law	<a href="#">Daniel R Salomon</a> (R) SD 47	Support

Thursday 2/14/19 (Happy Valentines Day!) and Friday 2/15/19

Education Appropriations Subcommittee 8:45-12:00 Rm 472

Executive Action on Section E (Maybe Program 6 – OPI and Program 9 – Funding for K-12 Schools)

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Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage. We have produced the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 6 Podcast 2-8-19](#), 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*

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Please use the SAM website ([www.sammt.org](http://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](#)