

SAMLN19 Legislative Update 7: Week 7 (Feb 18-Feb 23)²⁻¹⁵⁻¹⁹



Hi SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) Members!

SAMLN19 Update Web Meeting took place on Tuesday and was attended by many of our SAMLN19 members. Click [HERE](#) to listen to the recording of the meeting if you missed it.

Highlights of Week 6 (Feb 11 - Feb 16)

The House is meeting on Saturday, Feb 16 creating legislative day 33 for the 66th Legislative session. Week 6 was busy with hearings on SAM Followed Bills. Review [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 6 Feb 11-16 Revised 2-13-19](#) to see the week's activity.

Monday 2/11/19

MT-PEC Public Education Day on the Hill

Thank you to everyone who participated in this advocacy opportunity. We heard directly from legislators that they appreciate the emails they receive from people in their districts. They had a few tips to follow when contacting them:

- Keep testimony concise.
- A personalized message will have more impact, so be sure to tell your story.
- Include some bill context instead of only including the bill number. (Ex: HB 27 – Generally revise special education funding)
- Remember that advocacy does not end after the session closes. Legislators ask that you please communicate with them outside of the session as it gives them a more comprehensive view of the issues.

House Education Committee

[HB 387 \(Jones\)](#) Create advanced opportunity for MT students (Incentivize CTE innovation) was heard by the committee. Thank you to SAM members Kris Kuehn, Sharyl Allen, Tim Johnson, and Mark Thane for providing testimony in support of this bill. No opponents spoke against the bill.

[SB 92 \(Salomon\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school safety (Allows school levy for safety) was heard by the House Education committee. This bill gives school districts flexibility to accomplish and prioritize school safety and security for their students Thank you to SAM members Steve Johnson, Larry Markuson, Darren Strauch and Rick Duncan for providing testimony.

House Appropriations Committee

Executive Action

[HB 186 \(Dunwell\)](#) Revise laws related to depression screening in public schools - Tabled

Tuesday 2/12/19

SAMLN19 Update Web Meeting took place from 1:00 to 2:00 pm via UberConference. Click [HERE](#) to listen to the recording of the meeting if you missed it.

House Appropriations Committee

[HB 27 \(Funk\)](#) Generally revise special education funding (Sped inflationary increases) – During the Appropriations committee hearing, Rep. Jones suggested a committee bill that would adopt Special Education in this interim and ongoing in the biennium. The suggestion passed unanimously. Thank you to SAM members Jan Cahill, Michelle Halberg, Shelley Dempsey, Sarah Novak, and Tim Miller for providing testimony.

Wednesday 2/13/19

House Joint Appropriations Education Subcommittee

The committee had two proposed budgets to consider - one from the Governor and one from OPI. The following were approved:

- National Board Certification Stipends
- K-12 BASE Aid Inflationary Increase
- Restore Transportation Payment
- Restore Data for Achievement Payment
- At Risk Inflation
- NRD Major Maintenance
- Debt Service Assistance
- Guarantee Account Adjustment
- Transfer Prog 6 Funds for School Safety 1,000,000
- Restore SB 261 Reductions (See below)
 - Secondary Vo-Ed (CTE)
 - Special Education
 - At-risk Student Payment
 - In-State Treatment
 - School Foods
 - Adult Basic Education
 - Gifted and Talented
 - Advancing Agricultural Education
- Make the entire funding for MTDA a separate line item, not OTO

Finally, Special Education inflationary funding was not approved by the committee, but the committee is going to draft their own bill to address Special Education funding.

House Education Committee

[HB 388 \(Caferro\)](#) Revise education laws related to students with exceptional needs. Support testimony provided by SAM.

[SB 50 \(McClafferty\)](#) Revise administration of Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program. Support testimony provided by SAM.

Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

Executive Action taken by the Committee

- [SB 130 \(Salomon\)](#) Revise school election law – The bill passed unanimously with an amendment to make a similar change to a statute that references the same deadline.
- [SB 132 \(Regier\)](#) Creating a student safety accountability act – Passed 5-3 as amended. The amendment did not include expansion to cover non-school related activities. (McClafferty, Borland, Webber voted no)
- [HB 127 \(Custer\)](#) Generally revise laws related to state payments to schools – Passed unanimously.
- [SB 35 \(Jones\)](#) Generally revise school safety laws - Passed unanimously.
- [SB40 \(Smith\)](#) Require OPI to create and maintain electronic directory photograph repository - Passed unanimously with an amendment to give DOJ access to photos.

- [SB139 \(Lang\)](#) Revise retiree return to work provisions in teachers' retirement system – Passed 7-1 with three amendments:
 - reports to be given to Education and SAVA interim committees
 - adds a termination date 6 years out and changes 25 year to 27 years (bill seeks 30 years) and requires OPI to verify that position was advertised
 - makes superintendent salary subject to 1/3 of salary in 19-29-731, MCA
- [SB140\(Smith\)](#) Establish the Montana dyslexia screening and intervention act - Passed unanimously with amendments.
- [SB197 \(Welborn\)](#) Generally revise education laws related to Montana youth challenge academy - Passed unanimously.

Thursday 2/14/19

[HB 159 \(Grubbs\)](#) K-12 school funding – passed second reading in the Senate 49-1 (Gordon Vance votes no). Hopefully we will see HB 159 pass on the third reading in the Senate on Friday (2/15/19).

[HB 175 \(Dooling\)](#) – state employee pay plan - second reading passed unanimously in the Senate

[SB 152 \(Barrett\)](#) – Repeal sunset on 6-mill university levy - passed the Senate

House Appropriations

Executive Action taken by the Committee

[HB 27 \(Funk\)](#) Generally revise special education funding (Sped inflationary increases) – Rep Jones made a substitute motion to table HB 27. When questioned about the policy of HB 27 being reflected in the bill coming from Joint Appropriations on Education regarding special education, Rep Jones made clear that he could not guarantee that the policy of HB 27 would be reflected in the forthcoming bill.

Friday 2/15/19

House Education Committee

[HB 420 \(Runningwolf\)](#) Encourage grow your own programs to address teacher shortage – Support Testimony provided by MT-PEC

[SB 12 \(Salomon\)](#) Revise school finding related to oil and gas production taxes

Upcoming Week 7 (Feb 18 - Feb 23)



[SAM Followed Bills 2-15-19](#) are up to 99 with 253 bill drafts being monitored. [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 2-15-19](#) describes the status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (18 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 7 Feb 18-23 Revised 2-15-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings.





Monday 2/18/19

House Education Committee

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Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
18-FEB-19	3:00 PM	137	HB 414  	Generally revise laws related to school meals	Jessica Karjala (D) HD 48	Monitor. May Oppose due to concern about Legislature imposing rules on the BPE

Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee



Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
18-FEB-19	3:00 PM	0	SB 212  	Revise resident nonbeneficiary student laws	Susan Webber (D) SD 8	Monitor, MUS bill
18-FEB-19	3:00 PM	422	HB 153  	Generally revise education laws related to gifted and talented programs	Kathy Kelker (D) HD 47	Monitor. Gifted & Talented

Tuesday 2/19/19



House Business and Labor Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
19-FEB-19	8:30 AM	172	HB 413  	Address vaping in schools	Fred Anderson (R) HD 20	Support

House Taxation Committee



Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
19-FEB-19	9:00 AM	152	HB 462  	Revise administration of tax increment financing districts	Tom Burnett (R) HD 67	Monitor

Senate Taxation Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
19-FEB-19	8:00 AM	405	SB 239  	Provide for moratorium on property taxes for broadband fiber	Jason W Ellsworth (R) SD 43	Monitor. Possible help to broadband fiber for schools

Wednesday 2/20/19

House Education Committee





Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
20-FEB-19	3:00 PM	137	HB 420  	Encourage grow your own programs to address teacher shortage	Tyson T Runningwolf (D) HD 1	2 RR. Support. MUS recruitment and retention flexibility for 2 & 4 yr campuses

Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
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20-FEB-19	3:00 PM	422	HB 247  	Provide greater flexibility for school districts in financing major maintenance	Bruce Grubbs (R) HD 68	4 FT. Support. SAM Priority Bill
20-FEB-19	3:00 PM	422	HB 33  	Extend the Montana Indian Language Preservation Program	Jonathan Windy Boy (D) HD 32	Monitor

Thursday 2/21/19

Friday 2/22/19

Saturday 2/23/19

Last day to transmit bills.

Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage. We have produced the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 7 Podcast 2-15-19](#), 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](#)