

Hi SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) Members!

## Highlights of Week 7 (Feb 18 - Feb 23)

The House is meeting on Saturday, Feb 23 creating legislative day 39 – the last day to introduce general bills for the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative session. Week 7 was busy with hearings on SAM Followed Bills and a schedule changed quickly leading up to transmittals on legislative day 45 – March 2, 2019. Review [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 7 Feb 18-23 Revised 2-21-19](#) to see the week's activity.

Bills Followed by SAM Signed by Governor Bullock This Week: [HB 61 \(Bedey\)](#) Revise school data privacy laws, [SB 10 \(Salomon\)](#) Revise school funding related to major maintenance aid, [SB 16 \(Salomon\)](#) Revise school funding related to special education joint boards – all of these bills were supported by SAM.

This week MT-PEC prepared a resource for your use that describes the [MT-PEC Recent Legislative Benefit to Public Schools](#). The resource shows by school district, the total increased annual funding and total annual property tax relief directly attributed to recent bills conceived, drafted and passed by the MT-PEC coalition.

## Monday 2/18/19

### House Education Committee

Executive Action Taken: [HB 351 \(McKamey\)](#) Encourage transformational learning - passed in committee as amended; [HB 398 \(Pierson\)](#) Require mental health and suicide prevention training in teacher preparation – was tabled in committee, [HB 177 \(Anderson\)](#) Allow school districts to use equalization aid for preschool programs – passed in committee, [HB 298 \(Pope\)](#) Revise funding for students with disabilities – passed in committee.

### Bill hearing:

- [HB 414 \(Karjala\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school meals – SAM will continue to monitor this bill with the amendment that was made to eliminate the school requirements and sanctions offered in gray bill during the hearing.

## Wednesday 2/20/19

### House Education Committee

Executive Action Taken: [HB 387 \(Jones\)](#) Create advanced opportunity act for Montana students – was introduced passed in committee.

### Bill hearings:

- [HB 420 \(Runningwolf\)](#) Encourage grow your own programs to address teacher shortage. Good hearing with testimony from several SAM members, OCHE, and SAM provided testimony representing MT-PEC. No opponents to this bill.
- [HB 459 \(Beard\)](#) Provide support for rural school recruitment and retention. SAM provided support testimony along with several rural school district SAM members. No opponents to this bill.
- [HB 466 \(Bahr\)](#) Fund an Indian language and culture course through MT Digital Academy. SAM provided support testimony. No opponents to this bill.

### House Appropriations Committee

Executive Action Taken: [HB 211 \(Jones\)](#) Address recruitment and retention of K-12 quality educators – passed 19-3. Good news.

### Bill hearings:

- [HB 218 \(Vinton\)](#) Generally revise laws related to CTE
- [HB 295 \(Anderson\)](#) Create grant program to encourage work-based learning

## Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

### Bill hearings

- [HB 247 \(Grubbs\)](#) Provide greater flexibility for school districts in financing major maintenance. This is a SAM priority bill and Rick Duncan provided support testimony.

## House Business and Labor Committee

Executive Action Taken: [HB 413 \(Anderson\)](#) Address vaping in schools – passed committee as amended causing vapor products to not be allowed on school property even as part of a lecture, demonstration, or educational forum.

## Thursday 2/21/19

A SAMLN19 Call to Action was sent concerning [SB 297](#) and [SB 298](#) asking members to contact the Senate Education Committee members expressing opposition to these bills. Thank you to all of you who sent this message to the legislators and to those who passed the call to action on to members in your region.

## House Business and Labor Committee

Executive Action Taken: [HB 413 \(Anderson\)](#) Address vaping in schools – passed unanimously as amended (see above).

## Friday 2/22/19

[HB 177 \(Anderson\)](#) Allow school districts to use equalization aid for preschool programs – scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on the House floor.

## House Education Committee

Executive Action Taken: None at the time of this publication.

## Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

Executive Action Taken: None at the time of this publication.

### Bill Hearings:

- [SB 146 \(Salomon\)](#) Revise laws related to an inflationary adjustment for education. Support
- [SB 292 \(Webb\)](#) Revise laws related to financial administration of school districts. Monitor
- [SB 297 \(Brown\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school elections involving property taxes. Oppose as outlined in the Call To Action.
- [SB 298 \(Brown\)](#) Referendum to revise laws related to school elections involving property taxes. Oppose as outlined in the Call To Action.

## Saturday 2/23/19

House and Senate floor sessions. Last day to introduce general bills.

## Upcoming Week 8 (Feb 25 – Mar 2)

[SAM Followed Bills 2-22-19](#) are up to 110 with 257 bill drafts being monitored. [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 2-22-19](#) describes the status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and

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Equitable School Funding (19 bills), Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (5 bills), Oppose Privatization with Public Funds (0 bills), Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure (4 bills), Support School Based Mental Health Services (5 bills), and a new category of Other SAM Followed Bills (26 bills).



Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 8 Feb 25-Mar 2 Revised 2-22-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings. The deadline for introducing general bills is Saturday, 2/23 and the transmittal deadline for those bills is a week later on Saturday, 3/2. This creates a flurry of bill activity. You may expect some necessary activity (support from you) happening over this next week.

## Monday 2/25/19



### House Education Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
25-FEB-19	3:00 PM	137	<a href="#">HB 541</a>  	Revise immunization notification requirements	<a href="#">Kathy Kelker</a> (D) HD 47	Not a SAM Followed Bill. Post Secondary
25-FEB-19	3:00 PM	137	<a href="#">HB 576</a>  	Revise school finance laws related to gifts and endowments	<a href="#">David Bedey</a> (R) HD 86	Monitor



### House Appropriations Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
25-FEB-19	3:00 PM	102	<a href="#">HB 298</a>  	Revise funding for students with disabilities	<a href="#">Christopher Pope</a> (D) HD 65	1 SF. Monitor. ANB for Spec Ed up to 21. Excess cost to local district



### House Judiciary Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
25-FEB-19	8:00 AM	137	<a href="#">HB 564</a>  	Revise medical exemption laws on immunizations	<a href="#">David Dunn</a> (R) HD 9	6. Oppose

### Senate Finance and Claims Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
25-FEB-19	8:00 AM	317	<a href="#">HB 237</a>  	Allow school district bond issuance for a term of up to 30 years	<a href="#">Jasmine Krotkov</a> (D) HD 25	4 FT. Support

### Senate Judiciary Committee



Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
25-FEB-19	8:00 AM	303	<a href="#">SB 304</a>  	Authorize concealed carry for legislators, & sergeants-at-arms & their deputies	<a href="#">Roger Webb</a> (R) SD 23	Monitor. NOTE: Meeting will begin at 8:00 AM

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Tuesday 2/26/19

House Judiciary Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
26-FEB-19	8:00 AM	137	<a href="#">HB 590</a>  	Revise criminal procedure laws related to sexual offenses	<a href="#">Dave Fern</a> (D) HD 5	Monitor

Wednesday 2/27/19

Thursday 2/28/19

Friday 3/1/19

Saturday 3/2/19

Last day to transmit general bills. Last day to request Appropriations Bills.

Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage. We have produced the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 8 Podcast 2-22-19](#), 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](#)