

Hi SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) Members!

Highlights of Week 8 (Feb 25 - Mar 2)

The House met on Saturday, March 2 creating legislative Day 45 – the last day to transmit general bills for the 66th Legislative session. The schedule for Week 8 was changing continuously through Friday. Review [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 8 2-22-19](#) and [Podcast Week 8](#) to find out about the week's activity.

Bills Followed by SAM Signed by Governor Bullock This Week: [SB 11 \(Salomon\)](#) Clarify age requirements related to the definition of pupil to include 5-Year Olds, [HB 159 \(Grubbs\)](#) Generally revise education funding laws – both of these bills were supported by SAM. [HB 159 \(Grubbs\)](#) was signed by Governor Bullock on Wednesday, March 27 and provides .91% (FY 20) and 1.83% (FY 21) inflation added to the components of the school funding formula (no special ed component). On Thursday, March 28, OPI sent to school districts the [Preliminary FY2020 Budget Data Sheets](#) to assist our schools with beginning work on proposed budgets for the 2019-20 school year!

LC3270 is now [HB 638 \(Bedey\)](#) - Increasing K-12 special ed allowable cost payment – was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee. A hearing is yet to be scheduled but we will continue to follow this key special education bill. You will note that the bill provides one-time-only funding for the Special Ed Allowable Costs with inflation applied for FY 20 and FY 21 and then places this new amount as the base for beginning funding for the next biennium. The bill does not address the requested \$2 million to adjust the distribution formula and impacting Special Ed Coops positively for the future. We will continue to work to have HB 638 amended to include the Special Ed Coop adjustment.

On Friday, March 1, MT-PEC prepared an [Early Childhood Consensus Memo](#) in an attempt to revive discussions addressing the critical issue of early childhood education. This memo along with a bill draft ([Consensus Bill for Early Childhood Education](#)) has been shared with Governor Bullock and the following key legislators: Rep. Eric Moore, Rep. Casey Schreiner, Rep. Llew Jones. The bill, if adopted, would provide a public/private preschool option utilizing Head Start programming, and emphasizes enrollment of 4 year olds in a public preschool program under exceptional circumstances (funded through ANB) with assurances of quality for children throughout Montana. This Consensus Memo recommendation is aligned with SAM's [Resolution #04/14/16-02 Pre-School Programs](#) so we are advocating for this bill draft. Please review these documents and discuss this issue with your legislators.

Friday 2/22/19 (after Update 8 was sent)

- House Education Committee Executive Action Taken: [HB 171 \(Bedey\)](#) Create career and technical education and workforce development commission - Failed (monitored by SAM), [HB 303 \(DeVries\)](#) Eliminate compulsory education requirements - Failed (opposed by SAM), [HB 351 \(McKamey\)](#) Encourage transformational learning – Passed (supported by SAM), [HB 388 \(Caferro\)](#) Generally revise education laws related to students with exceptional needs - Passed as amended (supported by SAM), [HB 414 \(Karjala\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school meals - Passed as amended (monitored by SAM), [HB 420 \(Runningwolf\)](#) Encourage grow your own programs to address teacher shortage - Passed (supported by SAM), [HB 459 \(Beard\)](#) Provide support for rural school recruitment and retention - Passed (supported by SAM), [HB 466 \(Bahr\)](#) Fund an Indian language and culture course through MT Digital Academy - Failed (supported by SAM).
- Senate Education Committee Executive Action Taken: [SB 146 \(Salomon\)](#) Revise laws related to an inflationary adjustment for education - Tabled (supported by SAM)

Monday 2/25/19

House Education Committee

- Bill Hearing: [HB 601 \(Fuller\)](#) Transfer funds within OPI for school safety professional development grants

Senate Education Committee

Executive Action Taken:

- [HB 33 \(Windy Boy\)](#) Extend the Montana Indian Language Preservation Program – Bill Concurred
- [HB 247 \(Grubbs\)](#) Provide greater flexibility for school districts in financing major maintenance – Bill Concurred. Will be carried by Senator Salomon
- [SB 164 \(Thomas\)](#) Generally revise school safety laws – Bill Passed as Amended 5-3
- [SB 292 \(Webb\)](#) Revise laws related to financial administration of school districts - Passed unanimously
- [SB 297 \(Brown\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school elections involving property taxes –Tabled in Committee (Opposed by SAM)
- [SB 298 \(Brown\)](#) Referendum to revise laws related to school elections involving property taxes –Tabled in Committee (Opposed by SAM)

Tuesday 2/26/19

House Floor:

- [HB 351 \(McKamey\)](#) Encourage transformational learning – Passed and referred to House Appropriations Committee.
- [HB 388 \(Caferro\)](#) Generally revise education laws related to students with exceptional needs – Passed 2nd reading.
- [HB 414 \(Karjala\)](#) Generally revise laws related to school meals - Passed 2nd reading.
- [HB 420 \(Runningwolf\)](#) Encourage grow your own programs to address teacher shortage - Passed and referred to House Appropriations Committee.
- [HB 459 \(Beard\)](#) Provide support for rural school recruitment and retention shortage - Passed and referred to House Appropriations Committee.

House Appropriations Committee

Bill Hearing:

- [HB 387 \(Jones\)](#) Create advanced opportunity act for Montana students (CTE) – Support

House Judiciary Committee

Bill Hearings:

- [HB 619 \(Zolnikov\)](#) Revise student data privacy laws - Support
- [HB 413 \(Anderson\)](#) Address vaping in schools - Support

Wednesday 2/27/19

House Education Committee

Executive Action Taken:

- [HB 541 \(Kelker\)](#) Revise immunization notification requirements - Failed unanimously
- [HB 576 \(Bedey\)](#) Revise school finance laws related to gifts and endowments – Passed unanimously as amended

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- [HB 601 \(Fuller\)](#) Transfer funds within OPI for school safety professional development grants - Passed as amended (14-3)

Thursday 2/28/19

House Floor

- [HB 298 \(Pope\)](#) Revise funding for student with disabilities – Transmitted to Senate

Friday 3/1/19

House Floor

The following bills all passed 3rd reading:

- [HB567 \(Skees\)](#) Revise school finance laws related to gifts and endowments - Support
- [HB 576 \(Bedey\)](#) Revise school finance laws related to gifts and endowments - Monitor
- [HB 590 \(Fern\)](#) Revise criminal procedure laws related to sexual offenses - Monitor
- [HB 601 \(Fuller\)](#) Transfer funds within OPI for school safety professional development grants - Monitor
- [HB 619 \(Zolnikov\)](#) Revise student data privacy laws - Support

Upcoming Week 9 (Mar 4 – Mar 9)

[SAM Followed Bills 3-1-19](#) are up to 116 with 257 bill drafts being monitored. [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 3-1-19](#) describes the status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (21 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 (29 bills).

At the Transmittal Break, SAM has provided testimony 54 times in Committees on 39 different Bills. See the [2019 Legislative Session – SAM Testimony Log](#).

Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 9 Mar 4-9 Revised 3-1-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings.

Legislators will not meet Monday, March 4 through Wednesday, March 6 as both the House and Senate have adjourned for the transmittal break. The session will reconvene on Thursday, March 7th.

Monday 3/4/19, Tuesday 3/5/19, and Wednesday 3/6/19 – Transmittal Break

Thursday 3/7/19

Friday 3/8/19

Senate Education Committee

[SB 16 \(Salomon\)](#) Confirm Governor's appointees to the board of regents – Monitor

Saturday 3/9/19

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Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage. We have produced the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 9 Podcast 3-1-19](#), 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](#)