

Hi SAMLN17 Members!

## Highlights of Week 13 (March 27-31)

Week 13 finished in a race to transmit appropriations and revenue bills by today's deadline. The Senate heard 27 House bills beginning at 10:00 am this morning and concluded their work for the day around noon. None of the House bills heard in the Senate had anything to do with education. There are no Senate hearings scheduled for this afternoon. Both the [House](#) and [Senate](#) are scheduled for floor sessions tomorrow, April 1.

[HB2](#) General Appropriations Act, was amended and voted out of Senate Finance and Claims and is expected to go to the floor of the Senate next week – likely a lengthy process. The companion bill to HB2 is [HB647](#) (Generally revise education funding, implement general appropriations bill), has passed the House today 96-4 on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. HB647 needs to be coordinated with HB2. There are some conflicts between these bills such as HB647 removes the Data for Achievement Payment, but HB2 funds it. This not unexpected, but the coordination needs to occur.

## Upcoming Week 14 (April 3-7)

The only education related bill that is scheduled for a hearing next week right now [HB390](#) (Generally revise school funding laws), is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5 in Senate Education. This bill addresses two separate issues 1) property taxes are reduced when an anticipated enrollment increase does not materialize, 2) temporarily redirecting and statutorily appropriating technology funding to e-rate broadband matching funds.

Important bills needing Executive Action next week are [SB307](#) (Revise K-12 school funding laws to address facilities), in House Education and [HB376](#) (Establish public charter schools), in Senate Education. We are expecting SB307 to be acted upon on Monday and HB376, no later than Wednesday.

Several bills have been returned to the House from the Senate with amendments:

- [HB248](#) Revise anti-bullying laws
- [HB298](#) Emphasize sexual abuse awareness and prevention in elementary schools
- [HB381](#) Require school districts to address suicide prevention and response
- [HB355](#) Revise laws related to school district transportation

One bill has been returned to the Senate from the House with amendments:

- [SB143](#) Revise retiree return to work provisions in the teachers' retirement system

No schedule of Committee hearing is provided in this update because only HB 390 is scheduled. That may change as this week transpires.

## General Information

Click [SAM Bills Still Active](#) to review the bills SAM is tracking that are still alive. You can follow the bills that are SAM advocacy priorities by clicking on the priority area ...

- [SAM School Funding Bills](#)
- [SAM Privatization with Public Fund Bills](#)
- [SAM Recruitment & Retention Bills](#)
- [SAM Special Ed Funding Bills](#)
- [SAM Facility and Technology Infrastructure Bills](#)

You are also able to see the bills that have successfully made through the session and signed by the governor, just click [SAM Bills Signed by Governor](#). All references to past info and what lies ahead, can be found on the [SAM Legislative Network 2017](#) webpage.

Please use the SAM website ([www.sammt.org](http://www.sammt.org)) as a resource for all things legislative under ‘Announcements’, then ‘[2017 Legislative Session](#)’. All information for the SAMLN17 is posted under ‘[SAM Legislative Network 2017](#)’ on the webpage – including this first SAMLN Update.

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 tracked by SAM can be found on the [SAM Bills 2017](#) webpage under [SAM General Bills](#).

[Contact a Legislator](#) site is on the [Legislative Session](#) webpage. You can use the [Online Message Form](#).

You may also watch or listen to [Live & Upcoming](#) meeting and hearings. Just click on the meeting or hearing that is on the schedule.

There has been much discussion on when and how it is allowable to advocate as a SAM member and school district employee, please read [SAMLN17 Rules of Conduct for Political Activity and Advocacy](#) to understand this.

Before giving testimony on a bill, please view [SAM "How To" Video - Providing Testimony at a Legislative Hearing](#).

Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAM Legislative Network 2017](#) website. Contact us if you have questions. We hope this background is helpful to you as you share information with your colleagues in your area!

*Kirk and Pat*