

Greetings SAM Legislative Network 2017 (SAMLN17) Members!

[SAM Legislative Update 1 1/13/17](#) describes the happenings from the first 2 weeks of the session and offers some editorial about progress and what may happen with all of the budget discussions being debated. Please read this document to familiarize yourself with our progress.

Week 3 will have several bills heard that are being tracked by SAM. Please look carefully at the schedule and the planned testimony on the given bills. Thank you for using this information to keep your region's members informed and for agreeing to serve on the SAMLN17. The SAMLN17 now has over 70 members! Click [HERE](#) to see your colleagues who have joined SAMLN17.

## Highlights of Week 2 (Jan 9-13)

Click [HERE](#) to see SAMLN17 Schedule outlining the schedule of events and hearings on bills for the week. This schedule also outlines the stance of SAM (Proponent, Opponent, or Monitor) in the Comment section for each bill to be heard. This Schedule is also posted on the SAM website under '[SAM Legislative Network 2017](#)'.

MCASE has been working on advocacy strategies for Special Ed funding. Click [MCASE Special Ed Funding Advocacy Talking Points](#) to review the SAM/MCASE strategies for supporting the special ed funding bills. The House Education Committee took executive action to table [HB 31](#) (inflation for this biennium), [HB 32](#) (inflation and spec ed coop funding for this biennium), and [HB 33](#) (spec ed coop funding for this biennium). MCASE has formed an Advocacy workgroup and that group will be meeting at the SAM office to discuss strategies on Tuesday, 1/17/17.

Right before tabling the special education funding bills, the House Education Committee unanimously approved [HB 191](#) (inflation on all components of the school funding formula - \$57 million fiscal note) on Wednesday, 1/11/17. On Friday, 1/13/17, the House of Representatives passed [HB 191](#) 100-0 on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and then rereferred the bill to the House Appropriations Committee. The House appropriations Committee will hear [HB 191](#) on Tuesday 1/17/17.

[SB 5](#) (revise INTERCAP loan program) passed the Senate 42-8 and is scheduled for hearing on Wednesday 1/18/17 in the House Education Committee.

## Upcoming Week 3 (Jan 16-20)

Click [HERE](#) to review the SAMLN17 Legislative Schedule for the coming week!

A review will show we intend to give proponent testimony on [HB 14](#), [SB 69](#), [HB 119](#), [HB 191](#), [SB 103](#), [HB 2](#) (on BPE Budget), [SB 114](#), and [SB 115](#) this week. All of the details are on the schedule.

We may be setting up our first SAMLN17 "Call to Action" this week most likely related to [HB 191](#), so prepare yourself for getting a message to your legislator. We will request that you do that following the regulations about refraining from doing this during the school day with school equipment (read [SAMLN17 Rules of Conduct for Political Activity and Advocacy](#) to understand this). The General Information section below give you resources to accomplish your work.

## General Information

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*