

Hi SAMLN17 Members!

The session is now in full swing with over 2540 bill draft request under consideration. SAM is tracking 356 drafts (74 are bills and 282 drafts). Click [SAM General Bills](#) on the 2017 Legislative Session/SAM Bills 2017 webpage to review all of the bills and drafts and to see the stance of SAM (Proponent, Opponent, or Monitor) being taken on the bills that will be heard in Committees in the past and this coming week. The SAMLN17 now has over 75 members! Click [HERE](#) to see your colleagues who have joined SAMLN17.

Highlights of Week 3 (Jan 16-20)

Click [HERE](#) to see SAMLN17 Schedule. Note this schedule was modified during the week as hearings were cancelled or moved. This Schedule is also posted on the SAM website under '[SAM Legislative Network 2017](#)'.

MCASE Advocacy Work Session on Tuesday 1/17 engaged 35 MCASE members who are working to coordinate the advocacy effort for special education funding – this was a great session! Click [MCASE Special Ed Funding Advocacy Talking Points](#) to review the SAM/MCASE strategies for supporting the special ed funding bills.

[HB 191](#) (inflation on all components of the school funding formula - \$57 million fiscal note) -- On Friday, 1/13/17, the House of Representatives passed [HB 191](#) 100-0 on 2nd reading and then rereferred the bill to the House Appropriations Committee. The House Appropriations Committee heard the bill on Tuesday, 1/17 and the [fiscal note for this bill](#) indicated that there would be a \$54.1M impact on the state budget, but OPI staff stated to the committee that there could be an additional \$9M to be added to the fiscal impact as future calculations are made. The bill will be up for 3rd reading in the House on Friday, 1/20 after coming out of House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, 1/18, [22-0](#). It is expected to pass and be headed to the Senate!

[HB119](#) (revise quality educator loan assistance program) passed out of House Education Committee on Wednesday 1/18, 17-0, will be up for 2nd reading on Friday 1/20 in the House. We (SAM and partners) raised concern about the intent of the bill to target schools that truly have critical shortages and received clarification from bill Sponsor Rep Berglee on the record that the Board of Public Education in consultation with OPI will develop the criteria for eligibility to provide flexibility year to year. An ongoing concern, as is that this bill has no appropriation at the moment. SAM and partners are working to find a way to take care of this problem.

[SB 5](#) (revise INTERCAP loan program) passed the Senate 42-8 and was heard on Wednesday 1/18 in the House Education Committee. Executive Action by the committee is expected on Friday 1/20.

SAM provided proponent testimony on [SB 69](#), [HB 119](#), [HB 191](#), [SB 103](#), [SB 114](#), and [SB 115](#) this week -- the details are on the schedule.

[SB 69](#) (create task force to study public employee health benefits) was tabled in Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee on Wednesday 1/18.

[HB 119](#), [SB 114](#), and [SB 115](#) are bills that assist in the recruitment and retention of quality educators for our schools.

Upcoming Week 4 (Jan 23-27)

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

[HJ 1](#) (Request study of funding for education programs for special needs students) will be heard on Monday 1/23 in the House Education Committee with SAM providing Proponent testimony due to our advocacy priority for special education funding.

[HB 66](#) (Revise school funding related to facilities) will be heard on Monday 1/23 in the House Education Committee and SAM will be a proponent because the bill addresses school facilities funding. The bill is one of the approaches addressed by the School Funding Interim Commission.

[SB 124](#) (Extend school district bond term) will be heard on Monday 1/23 in the Senate Education Committee and SAM will be a proponent because it addresses the challenge of school facilities funding. The bill extends the school district bonding term from 20 years to 30 years.

[HB 250](#) (Require county and school district approval for adoption of TIF provision) will be heard in the House Local Government Committee on Tuesday 1/24. SAM will provide proponent testimony for addressing this flexibility for school districts.

[HB 14](#) (Bonding Program) will hear Quality Schools Grants Program Program introductions, updates, projects, and appropriations with quality schools projects heard in rank order. SAM will be a Proponent for Quality Schools Grant Program School Projects.

Much more happening with executive action on bills heard in committee and floor action on bills that are moving in the session. We will be reporting changes in the SAMLN17 Legislative Schedule as they occur.

General Information

Please use the SAM website (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