

Hi SAMLN17 Members!

The session now has over 2575 bill draft request under consideration. SAM is tracking 286 bill drafts (81 are bills and 205 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 80 members! Click [HERE](#) to see your colleagues who have joined SAMLN17. At this point in the Session we (Pat and I) have provided testimony on 19 bills that are progressing through the process.

Highlights of Week 4 (Jan 23-27)

Click [HERE](#) to see SAMLN17 Schedule for Week 4 updated on 1/26/17. Note this schedule was modified during the week as hearings were added. This Schedule is also posted on the SAM website under '[SAM Legislative Network 2017](#)'.

[SB115](#) (Revise stipends for nationally board certified teachers) passed out of Senate Education Committee on a 5-3 vote Monday afternoon, and passed 2nd reading in the Senate 34-15 on Friday. The bill has been referred to Senate Finance and Claims Committee. This is one of 2 remaining bills that could help with teacher recruitment and retention. This is a watch bill for potential "Call to Action".

[SB114](#) (Revise postsecondary scholarships to address teacher pipeline) 'failed' on a tied vote in the Senate Education Committee on Monday, but stays on the table in the Committee for now. This may be a blast motion bill if as the funding elements become more mature later in the session.

[HB119](#) (Revise quality educator loan assistance program) the third teacher recruitment/retention bill, passed out of the House Monday on 3rd reading 98-2 and has been transmitted to the Senate. This bill is being carried by the Chair of House Education, Rep. Berglee, we hope it will stay in place and that some funding can be found as the budgeting process become more mature later into the session.

[SB5](#) (Revise INTERCAP loan program) came out of House Education Committee Monday afternoon on a unanimous voice vote, 17-0 and passed 2nd reading on floor of the House [94-6](#) on Friday. It is scheduled for 3rd reading on Monday, 1/30 and appears to be headed to the Governor's desk for signature. This bill provides specific funding flexibility for schools. This would be an early victory!

OPI made 2 presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education. From a document shared by OPI late Monday, it appears that Superintendent Arntzen will be asking for about \$2M in Special Education one time only (OTO) funding for inflation. The Superintendent has characterized this as support of special education, happening after three Special Education funding bills (HB 31, HB 32, HB 33), were tabled in House Education almost 2 weeks ago with no testimony support from OPI leadership.

[HJ1](#) (Request study of funding for education programs for special needs students moved out of House Education Committee on Wednesday afternoon on a 17-0 vote and passed 2nd reading in House on Friday [81-19](#). It is scheduled for 3rd reading on Monday, 1/30.

[SB124](#) (Extend school district bond term) is another flexibility bill that came out of Senate Education, [8-0](#), on Wednesday. It has not yet been scheduled for 2nd reading in the Senate. The bill extends the school district bonding term from 20 years to 30 years.

Some bills that had hearings this week, but have not had a vote in Committee are:

- [HB 66](#) (Revise school funding related to facilities) was heard on Monday 1/23 in the House Education Committee and SAM was a proponent because the bill addresses school facilities funding. The bill is one of the approaches addressed by the School Funding Interim Commission.
- [HB 250](#) (Require county and school district approval for adoption of TIF provision) was heard in the House Local Government Committee on Tuesday 1/24. SAM provided proponent testimony for addressing this flexibility for school districts.
- [HB 14](#) (Bonding Program) Quality Schools Grants Program Program requests were heard on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning with introductions, updates, projects, and appropriations with quality schools projects heard in rank order. SAM is a Proponent for Quality Schools Grant Program School Projects but believes the transfer of \$11.4 million from school trust lands to fund \$5.4 million in school projects is unconstitutional.
- [HB178](#) Provide ANB funding for 19 year olds
- [HB248](#) Revise anti-bullying laws
- [HB265](#) Create a school suicide prevention competitive grant program
- [SB135](#) Generally revise laws related to first aid training in schools
- [HB292](#) Revise school funding laws related to inflation and 6th grade per-ANB amount
- [HB167](#) Encourage school-community partnerships for arts education
- [HB227](#) Provide funding for middle grades career and technical education
- [HB67](#) Generally revise Teachers' Retirement System
- [SB121](#) Provide that volunteer positions are not reportable to TRS
- [HB294](#) Encourage accessible playgrounds statewide

You can see the SAM stance on each of these bills by reviewing the [SAMLN17 Schedule for Week 4 revised 1-26-17](#)

Upcoming Week 4 (Jan 23-27)

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

Monday House and Senate Education Committee meetings will have us providing Proponent testimony on [HB 119](#) (Revise quality educator loan assistance program), [HB 191](#) (Provide inflationary increase for ANB funding), and [HB 274](#) (Allow ANB funding for students with disabilities up to age 22). We will also provide support for [HB 116](#) (Increase funding for gifted and talented education). Please know that the SAM Resolutions for funding for special needs are prioritized with Special Ed Inflation and Spec Ed Coop funding as a 1st priority, and funding for 19-22 year olds and gifted and talented funding secondary to our 1st priority – so we will outline that in our testimony.

[SB 115](#) (Revising stipends for national board certified teachers) will be heard in the Senate Finance and Claims Committee on Tuesday and we will be proponents.

[SB 143](#) (Revise retiree return to work provisions in the teachers' retirement system) will be heard in the Senate State Administration Committee on Wednesday and we will provide proponent testimony for this increased flexibility to return to work in shortage areas.

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