

Hi SAMLN17 Members!

Lots happened this week and will happen next week. 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. At this point in the session we (Pat and I) have provided testimony 36 times on bills that are progressing through the process.

## Highlights of Week 6 (Feb 6-10)

Click [HERE](#) to see SAMLN17 Schedule for Week 6 updated on 2/7/17. 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](#)'.

Progress on Bills we are tracking:

- [HB 191](#) (Provide inflationary increase for ANB funding) - was amended in the Senate Finance and Claims Committee to change inflation % in years of the biennium from 1.37% FY18 and 1.00% FY19 to 0.5% FY18 and 1.87% FY19 (though the total % is the same at 2.37% for the biennium, the magic of compound interest amounts to \$6.7 million less in state funding by making this change), and today (2/10) passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in House 95-5. This bill with all seven components of the funding formula still receiving inflationary increases appears to be headed as amended to the Governor! More to come on the appropriation of the funding.
- [HJ 1](#) (Request study of funding for education programs for special needs students) passed out of the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday (2/8), so it is headed to the Senate.
- [HB 119](#) (Revise quality educator loan assistance program) passed out of the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday (2/8), so it is headed to the Senate. This bill would help with recruitment and retention as the timing of the report of what schools are eligible to offer loan repayment would be moved up in time to allow schools to advertise as such. Still needs an appropriation.
- [HB 253](#) (Inflationary increase for special education allowable cost payment) was heard in (H) Ed. **This is a SAM Action priority bill**, providing inflation on the special ed component of the school funding formula by putting it in the formula. Good hearing with support from the MCASE Advocacy group.
- [HB 134](#) (Revise school funding related to facilities) was heard on Wednesday in (H)Ed. This is a School Funding Interim Commission bill addressing school facilities which is a SAM priority. We believe a final blended version of this bill and [HB 66](#) will result a new bill that will be the actual potential headway for school facilities in the 2017 session.
- In House Education Committee on Thursday, [HB 227](#) and [HB 270](#) were considered for Executive Action. Chair of House Education, Rep. Berglee, noted the intent was to combine the two bills into one. HB270 was amended as such and then both bills were tabled. I believe the Committee will revisit the amended HB270 on Monday. The amendments provide \$1M to 9-12 programs (which presently OTO), getting them back to where they are today and adds \$850,000 for 6-8 programs. These are annual funding amounts, so multiply by 2 for the biennium and would be ongoing and not one time only (OTO) into the future if the bill becomes law.





## Upcoming Week 7 (Feb 13-17)

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





First, we are announcing once again, the Caucus Day on the Hill is scheduled for Monday (2/13) and we need your voice to touch base with legislators on the number of bills we are working on. Click [HERE](#) to review the agenda and register.

**Monday** Committee meetings will hear the following bills during the Caucus Day on the Hill at 3:30 PM following a meet and greet with members of the House and Senate Education Committees...

### House Education Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
13-FEB-17	3:00 PM	137	<a href="#">HB 381</a>  	Require school districts to address suicide prevention and response	<a href="#">Dennis R Lenz</a> (R) HD 53	<b>Monitor</b>
13-FEB-17	3:00 PM	137	<a href="#">HB 382</a>  	Generally revise mental health education for teachers	<a href="#">Dennis R Lenz</a> (R) HD 53	<b>Monitor</b>



### Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
13-FEB-17	3:00 PM	422	<a href="#">HB 232</a>  	Revise laws for dual enrollment at community colleges	<a href="#">Kenneth L Holmlund</a> (R) HD 38	<b>Monitor</b>
13-FEB-17	3:00 PM	422	<a href="#">HB 248</a>  	Revise anti-bullying laws	<a href="#">Kimberly Dudik</a> (D) HD 94	<b>Monitor</b>

We are also aware that on Monday, the House Education Committee is planning to look at the special education funding bills by bringing off the table [HB 31](#), [HB 32](#), [HB 33](#) and consider also [HB 253](#)! In discussion with members of the House Education Committee and the legislative staff, it appears that the intention of the Committee will be to pull everything with special ed funding into [HB 32](#) (this is the bill we would want because it has both inflation and special ed coop adjustment in the language). Then amend the bill to reduce the appropriation to a \$1.5 million boost each year of the biennium, for \$3 million total; then tweak the percentages to direct 1 million more to coops. We believe that results in about a 1.1% increase in the Instructional Block Grant and the Related Services Block Grant! At this point, this is only an educated anticipation of what may come out of the committee, but we wanted you to be aware.







### Tuesday ...

#### House Judiciary Committee





Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
14-FEB-17	8:00 AM	137	<a href="#">HB 385</a>  	Provide for the Montana school safety act	<a href="#">Seth Berglee</a> (R) HD 58	<b>Opponent</b>

Wednesday ...

## House Education Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
15-FEB-17	3:00 PM	303	<a href="#">HB 375</a>  	Provide state funding for tribally controlled schools	<a href="#">Greg Hertz</a> (R) HD 12	Proponent
15-FEB-17	3:00 PM	303	<a href="#">HB 376</a>  	Establish public charter schools	<a href="#">Jonathan Windy Boy</a> (D) HD 32	Opponent
15-FEB-17	3:00 PM	303	<a href="#">HB 423</a>  	Create special needs education savings accounts	<a href="#">Seth Berglee</a> (R) HD 58	Opponent

## Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
15-FEB-17	3:00 PM	422	<a href="#">SB 226</a>  	Generally revise summer school bus transportation laws	<a href="#">Jill Cohenour</a> (D) SD 42	Proponent
15-FEB-17	3:00 PM	422	<a href="#">SB 227</a>  	Revise state school transportation reimbursement laws	<a href="#">Jill Cohenour</a> (D) SD 42	Proponent

Note the mix of Proponent and Opponent stances on the bills listed. Please take some time to review those bills to understand the importance and relationship to SAM's priorities.

The SAMLN17 can expect a **CALL TO ACTION** during this next week to **Oppose** [HB 385](#), [HB 376](#), [HB 423](#)! We may also have a CALL TO ACTION on the result of the work in special ed funding. SAMLN17 members will get a specific request at the right time during the week to request your legislative contacts to oppose these bills that are in our action priorities of SAM advocacy.

That is a glimpse of the most important info. We will be reporting changes in the SAMLN17 Legislative Schedule as they occur.

## 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*