

Farris Mathews Bobango PLC

Nashville - Memphis



Legislative Report
Tennessee Principals Association

April 16, 2010

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Tennessee Principals Association (TPA)

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Friday, April 16, 2010

Below is a legislative update which includes legislation of interest to public education and TPA. If no companion bill is listed, one has not been filed. Hyperlinks to the full text of each bill were added for your convenience. To utilize this feature, hold down the "control" key while clicking on the link with your mouse. This update is current through April 9, 2010.

Highlights for the Week of April 12, 2010

House committee complete business

The House Education Committee closed subject to the call of the chair this week addressing the remainder of the education-related bills before the committee. As reported last week, the Senate Education Committee is closed as well. Below are the highlights of this week's House committee.

Elected superintendents

The sponsor of the elected superintendent legislation took the bill "off notice" for the year, after the issue died in the Senate Education Committee last week. "Off notice" means the bill is removed from the committee's list of bills for consideration. An attempt could still be made on the floor of the House to revert to elected superintendents, through an amendment on another piece of legislation, but the chances for passage are minimal.

TCAP testing window

The House Committee followed the action of the Senate Education Committee last week in addressing TCAP testing. As reported, the legislation, as amended, requires the local board of education to adopt a policy by which student scores on the TCAP tests (grades 3-8) must comprise no less than 15 percent or more than 25 percent of the student's final grade for the spring semester in the subject areas of math, reading/language arts, science and social studies. In addition, the bill specifies that beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the TCAP testing window for grades three through eight will be two weeks and begin no earlier than the first Monday occurring on or after April 22 and administered only after the completion of 150 days of instruction.

Home stretch

As committees close, the General Assembly is entering the final phase of the legislative session, where the focus will be on the Budget and legislation that has found its way to the House and Senate floor. There is still much work to be done on the Budget, as tax collections continue to fall behind projections. This week, Governor Bredesen proposed lifting the sales tax cap on certain items, stating the other alternative would be to reduce salaries for state workers. Republicans quickly balked at that idea and stated they will develop their own proposal, which will make additional cuts.

Be sure to review the calendars below for upcoming activity pertaining to public education. All contact information for committee members and other legislators may be found on the General Assembly website – www.capitol.tn.gov. You can also watch committee hearings and floor session live through video streaming.

Calendars of Interest

Week of April 19, 2010

Numbers in the left column indicate placement of bill on calendar.

Senate Floor -- Monday at 4:00 pm -- Senate Chamber

82nd Legislative Day.

12. SB [3432](#)
Tracy **EDUCATION: Civic classes to be taught in high school.** Requires the course of instruction in all public schools on the high school level to contain courses and content to educate children in the United States government. AMENDMENT: Senate Education amendment 1 changes "requires" to "urges". (HOUSE: HB 3762, West; House Education 03/17/2010 recommended. Sent to Calendar & Rules.) FISCAL NOTE: Dated: February 3, 2010 Increase state expenditures - not significant.
24. SB [3875](#)
Stewart E. **EDUCATION: LEA textbook requirements - broad caption.** Changes the date by which the director of schools and the chair of the board of each LEA must certify to the commissioner that all children enrolled in that LEA have been furnished all required textbooks. Requires the "parent" instead of the "mother" of a child enrolled within a model teen learning center to participate in the center's program of child care and instruction. Broadly captioned. AMENDMENT: Senate Education amendment 1 deletes all language after the enacting clause of the original bill. Prohibits persons who have been adjudicated as a mental defective, been judicially committed to or hospitalized in a mental institution, has had a court appoint a conservator for reasons of mental illness, developmental disability, or other mental defect, or has within seven years of the application date, been found by a court to pose a immediate substantial likelihood of serious harm because of mental illness from receiving a teaching license or entering an approved teacher training program. House Education K-12 Subcommittee amendment 1 requires that no person can teach if that person has ever been committed to a mental institution, adjudicated with mental ability issues, or has a record of mental ability issues. (HOUSE: HB 3794, Winningham; House Education 04/14/2010 deferred to call of chair.) FISCAL NOTE: Dated: February 19, 2010 Increase state expenditures - not significant. Increase local expenditures - not significant.

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