

Farris Mathews Bobango PLC

Nashville - Memphis



Legislative Report
Tennessee Principals Association
April 30, 2010

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Tennessee Principals Association (TPA)

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Friday, April 30, 2010

Below is a legislative update which includes legislation of interest to public education and TPA. 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.

Highlights for the Week of April 26, 2010

Budget talks continue

As mentioned last week, the General Assembly’s focus for the remainder of the legislative session will be on state finances and ways to address the budget shortfall. Governor Bredesen has proposed a variety of revenue measures in both his original proposal and in recent appearances, where he suggested lifting the sales tax cap on certain individual items as opposed to reducing state workers’ pay. Presently, the state limits its sales tax to the first \$3,200 of purchases. Republicans have come out strongly against this idea and reportedly will release their own budget amendment next week.

It was originally suggested that the Republican plan would cut pre-k funding; however, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey said this week that pre-k was off the table.

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 May 3, 2010

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

Joint Education Subcommittee of Government Operations -- Monday at 1:30 pm - - LP 12

The subcommittee will conduct a limited audit review for the following: Energy Efficient Schools Council.
MEMBERS: Chair Sen. B. Watson (R), Vice Chair Rep. Cooper (D), Senators Barnes (D), Bunch (R);
Representatives Camper (D), Campfield (R).

Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee -- Tuesday at 1:00 pm -- LP 12

Please Note: The Committee will meet again on Wednesday (5/5/2010) to complete the calendar. Items #35-41 are bills pending fiscal notes. MEMBERS: Chair McNally (R), Vice Chair Henry (D), Secretary Burchett (R), Black (R), J. Haynes (D), Herron (D), Kyle (D), Norris (R), Overbey (R), B. Watson (R), Woodson (R).

6. [SB 2621](#) **EDUCATION: Extracurricular students: random drug testing.** Establishes that students participating in extracurricular activities may randomly be tested for illegal drugs without individualized reasonable suspicion as long as previous legal requirements are followed. Requires LEAs testing students for drugs to create policies and procedures for assisting and counseling students testing positive for illegal drug use. AMENDMENT: House Education amendment 1, Senate Education amendment 1 specifies that the student testing positive must receive an assessment to determine the severity of the problem, instead of merely counseling. Requires LEAs to provide notice of random testing to all parents or guardians of students involved in extracurricular activities, provide parents or guardians notice of when a student is selected, and receive a parent's or guardian's written consent to randomly test a student. House Budget Subcommittee amendment 1 specifies that any records concerning a student who tested positive for drug use must be confidential student records. Clarifies that no student will be suspended or expelled solely due to the positive test. Requires the principal or school counselor of the school to provide certain referral information to the student and to the student's parents or guardian. (HOUSE: HB 3200, Winningham; Set for House Finance Budget Subcommittee 05/05/2010.) FISCAL NOTE: Dated: February 9, 2010 Increase local expenditures - \$355,200/permissive.

39. SB [3125](#)
Burks

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Group medical health insurance - LEA support staff.

Authorizes group medical health insurance for support staff employees of LEAs, beginning January 1, 2011. AMENDMENT: Senate Education amendment 1 contains the same language as Council on Pensions and Insurance amendment 1 but has a different drafting code. Council on Pensions and Insurance amendment 1 amends Section 4 of the original bill. Requires LEAs to pay a percentage of health insurance premiums for support staff employees at a level set by the General Assembly. Changes the effective date of this provision to January 2012. Requires that the thresholds for LEA payment of premium payments for support staff be no greater than 10 percent in calendar year 2012, no greater than 15 percent in calendar year 2013, no greater than 20 percent in calendar 2014, and no greater than 25 percent in calendar year 2015. Council on Pensions and Insurance amendment 2 amends Section 7 of the original bill pertaining to the provision of support staff insurance. Beginning on January 1, 2011, requires LEAs to pay a percentage of health insurance premiums for support staff employees at a level set by the General Assembly. Changes the effective date of this provision to January 2012. Requires that the thresholds for LEA payment of premium payments for support staff be no greater than 10 percent in calendar year 2012, no greater than 15 percent in calendar year 2013, no greater than 20 percent in calendar 2014, and no greater than 25 percent in calendar year 2015. (HOUSE: HB 3193, Shaw; House Finance Budget Subcommittee 04/14/2010 set behind budget.) FISCAL NOTE: Dated: March 4, 2010 Increase local expenditures - exceeds \$911,200/FY11-12 and subsequent years*. Joint Committee on Pensions and Insurance: Senate Bill 3125 / House Bill 3193 authorizes the General Assembly to establish a minimum level of contribution by Local Education Agencies for the health insurance coverage for support staff. The level would be set annually in the General Appropriation Act. This bill continues the current authorization to set a minimum contribution level for teachers. The required contribution levels for teachers and support staff may be different. This bill, as introduced, would become effective upon becoming law; funding requirement for support staff may not take effect prior to January 1, 2011. The Council adopted an amendment to the legislation which would prohibit the adoption of a minimum contribution level for support staff until January 2012 and provides for a phase in of the contribution requirement over a five year period ending in 2016. Enactment of Senate Bill 3125 / House Bill 3193 would result in no fiscal impact on the State.

House Finance Budget Subcommittee -- Wednesday at 9:30 am -- LP 16

MEMBERS: Chair Tindell (D), Vice Chair Sargent (R), Armstrong (D), L. DeBerry (D), Fitzhugh (D), Harrison (R), McDaniel (R), Montgomery (R), Mumpower (R), Naifeh (D), Odom (D), Roach (R), Rowland (R), Shaw (D).

36. HB [3200](#)
Winningham

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Report produced by:

Stephen Smith
Farris, Mathews Bobango PLC
618 Church St, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37219
615-726-1200
ssmith@farrismathews.com

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