

MACTE Weekly Legislative Report, 5.04.15

Prepared by Cyndy Crist, MACTE Legislative and Policy Liaison

Action Moves to Conference Committees. With the omnibus education bills all passed off the floors of the House and Senate, attention will now turn to conference committees which will work through the differences between the bills to arrive at final omnibus bills for E-12 and higher education. Members have been named and bill numbers assigned for the final bills (the latter simply determines which bills will serve as the vehicles for discussions, not what will remain in the bill).

Higher Education. The final omnibus higher education bill will be SF 5. Conferees for the Senate are Bonoff, Clausen, Dziejdzic, Eken, and Miller. For the House they are Nornes, O'Neill, Gruenhagen, Christensen, and Pelowski. As previously reported, there are few items in this bill that specifically focus on teacher preparation and licensure, but the only one with the potential to impact all of our institutions is creation of a teacher shortage loan forgiveness program. Although a Senate bill on this subject initially got a favorable hearing, it was not included in the Senate omnibus bill. **As a result, at this time we are asking all of you to contact all ten members with the following message: Please include funding to create a teacher shortage loan forgiveness program in the final omnibus higher education bill. We believe this approach offers the greatest promise to improve the supply of teachers for Minnesota classrooms while maintaining Minnesota's high standards of teacher licensure.** Phone calls and emails are equally effective at this time. If you are a constituent of one of these legislators, or your college/university falls within his/her district, mention that first. However, at this point, these individuals are in effect representing all of the state, so contacting them all is valuable.

Here is their contact information:

Rep. Bud Nornes, [800.336.8017](tel:800.336.8017), rep.bud.nornes@house.mn

Rep. Marion O'Neill, [800.920.5875](tel:800.920.5875), rep.marion.oneill@house.mn

Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen, [800.341.0510](tel:800.341.0510), rep.glenn.gruenhagen@house.mn

Rep. Drew Christensen, [651.296.4212](tel:651.296.4212), rep.drew.christensen@house.mn

Rep. Gene Pelowski, [888.681.8226](tel:888.681.8226), rep.gene.pelowski@house.mn

Sen. Terri Bonoff, [651.296.4314](tel:651.296.4314), sen.terri.bonoff@senate.mn

Sen. Greg Clausen, [651.296.4120](tel:651.296.4120), <http://www.senate.mn/senatorclausenemail>

Sen. Kari Dziejdzic, [651.296.7809](tel:651.296.7809), <http://www.senate.mn/senatordziejdzicemail>

Sen. Kent Eken, [651.296.3205](tel:651.296.3205), sen.kent.eken@senate.mn

Sen. Jeremy Miller, [651.296.5649](tel:651.296.5649), sen.jeremy.miller@senate.mn

E-12 Bill Number and Conference Committee Members. The final omnibus education bill will be HF 844. Conferees are, for the House, Representatives Loon, Erickson, Kresha, Peterson, and Dettmer. For the Senate, they are Wiger, Johnson, Dahle, Stumpf, and Pratt. As discussions proceed, we will let you know as key issues arise that we believe warrant action by MACTE members.