

MACTE Weekly Legislative Report, 5.09.16
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Little Information, Big Correction. Although it's been a busy week at the capitol, there's very little to report with regards to the various education bills passed this session. As a result, this will be a short report.

But before I give you an update, I have to apologize for an error in the last report that was both very small and very large. By accidentally reversing two numbers, I gave you the wrong number for the omnibus supplemental budget bill to be taken up by the legislature. It is, in fact, HF 2749. I hope that anyone looking up the bill was able to take my transposed numbers and description and find the correct bill.

Conference Committee Named. As of today, members of the conference committee to take up HF 2749 have been named. Not surprisingly for a bill that rolls all areas of funding into a single bill, the members consist primarily of chairs of key finance/budget committees/divisions. **House conferees** include Jim Knobloch, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee; Jennifer Loon, chair of the Education Finance Committee; Pat Garafolo, chair of the Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance Committee; Matt Dean, chair of the Health and Human Services Finance Committee; and Denny McNamara, chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee. **Senate conferees** include Richard Cohen, chair of the Finance Committee; Chuck Wiger, chair of the Education Budget Division; Tom Saxhaug, chair of the State Departments and Veterans Budget Division; Tony Loury, chair of the Health and Human Services Budget Division; and Michelle Fischbach, ranking minority member of the Health and Human Services Budget Division.

Next Steps. The schedule is very fluid, but as of Monday, 5.09, three meetings of the conference committee for HF 2749 have been scheduled: Monday, 5.09 to begin reviewing side-by-side comparisons of the House and Senate bills; the morning of Tuesday, 5.10, to hear a presentation from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) about joint budget target setting in other states; and later Tuesday morning, 5.10, to continue bill review and discussion. In addition, the Senate policy bills have been woven in with the Senate supplemental budget bill and the House combined education and other appropriations bills, so all issues in the areas covered by these bills will be addressed by this one conference committee. We have heard unofficially that they may form working groups to address each broad area in the bill but there have been no official announcements to date. We will let you know as we learn more.