

**MACTE Weekly Legislative Report, 5.16.16**  
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This week's report is short and has been delayed in the hopes that more complete information could be provided. The conference committee formed to work through the differences in the bills brought forward (three in E-12 education) has been meeting periodically for the past week. They spent the first three meetings primarily walking through all of the provisions in a side-by-side comparison of these very lengthy bills and then took testimony from selected commissioners for whom members had specific questions.

Yesterday evening (Sunday, 5.15.16), they began taking action on specific pieces of language agreed to by the chairs of relevant committees, starting with E-12 Education. Chairs Wiger and Loon reported having met three times and reached agreement on approximately 100 items in the bills. Only two of these have direct impact on teacher preparation and licensure – formation of a legislative study group to focus on the findings and recommendations of the OLA report on teacher licensure and formation of a career and technical educator licensing advisory task force.

The committee turned next to higher education, approving technical provisions for the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program as well as promotion of federal and teacher loan forgiveness programs. Still unresolved in higher education is funding for an OHE-led teacher diversity report which would address issues brought forward by the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota.

The committee is scheduled to meet again this evening (Monday, 5.16.16).